

DETERMINANTS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION IN CONTEMPORARY RUSSIA¹

Research issue to be addressed:

In 1990s under crucial transformation of socio-economic and political situation in Russia a new migration emerged. In 1990s migration flows in Russia shrunk more than twice (see picture 1). In this time directions of internal migration has also changed: “centripetal” flows became the main destination of migration within the country, i.e. population movements from the northern and the eastern regions to the central and south-western regions, so vice versa to the prior migration tendencies (see picture 2). The migration flows has altered significantly — they shifted towards middle- and old-age population groups (see picture 3). Factors of migration, determining directions, structure and scales of internal migration in Russia, have also considerably changed.

Current level of internal migration mobility in Russia is rather low. In contemporary Russia internal migration has not become a powerful tool to eliminate interregional social and economic differentiations, so as in developed countries. E.g.: an average American changes his place of residence about 13 times during his life, an average Briton moves 7 times during his life, but an average Russian — only 2 times.

At the same time there is a considerable interregional variation of unemployment levels and other indicators of socio-economic development in Russia. Regions with relatively advantageous labor market often neighbor crisis regions. For instance, in 2003 in the Lipetsk region an amount of the unemployed per one vacancy equaled 0,8, while in the neighboring Tambov region this index was more than 8,4 (see picture 4).

The forthcoming impetuous decline of population in the working ages in Russia (not as a result of demographic “wave” but as a steady tendency) will be observed from the 2007 on, and according to forecasts will exceed 15 mln. in 2007—2015 (see picture 4).

It demands a new state policy, focusing on the development of interregional mobility which provide reallocation of population according to the needs of labor market.

All this issues postulate importance of the research contemporary determinants of internal migration in Russia. Another essential problem to be solved by governmental migration policy is the increase of migration mobility of the population in Russia. At the same time works in this area are rather rare up to present days in Russia.

¹ This paper presents preliminary outcomes of scientific project of Russian Foundation for Basic Research “Econometrics analysis of factors of internal migration in Russia” (project № 05–02–02048a).

Methodology and data to be used:

In this paper we focus on the influence of the main migration factors on interregional movements in Russia in the beginning of the XXI century, using the “pull-push theory” as a basis.

An econometric migration model analyzing determinants of internal migration in Russia is suggested. The suggested model is based on extended Lowry-Rogers model of internal migration (see Aleshkovski, Iontsev, 2005).

We have tested following regression models:

– for analysis of “pull” factors of the specific region:

$$\log(IM_j) = \alpha \log(Pop_j) + \boldsymbol{\beta}' \cdot \mathbf{X}_j + \varepsilon_j,$$

where IM_j — number of in-migrants to the region j from other regions of Russia, \mathbf{X}_j — vector of different parameters of life conditions in the region j , $\alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta} = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)$ — regression coefficients, ε_j — residuals.

– for analysis of “push” factors of the specific region:

$$\log(OM_j) = \gamma \log(Pop_j) + \boldsymbol{\delta}' \cdot \mathbf{Y}_j + \varepsilon_j,$$

where OM_j — number of out-migrants from the region j to other regions of Russia, \mathbf{X}_j — vector of different parameters of life conditions in the region j , $\gamma, \boldsymbol{\delta} = (\delta_1, \dots, \delta_m)$ — regression coefficients, ε_j — residuals.

Statistical basis for the research were the current statistics data of Russian Federal State Statistical Service, data of the Federal Migration Service of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and results of All-Russian Census 2002. We have examined migration flows in 88 regions of the Russian Federation in 2003 (except Chechen Republic).

Results:

The study conducted had shown that migration flows in Russia do follow certain objective laws, and the main internal migration factors mainly corresponding to those in developed countries. Our research has confirmed the hypothesis that at the present moment the main migration determinants (both “pull” and “push”) in Russia are economic.

Main determinants of number of incoming internal migrants to the specific region j from other regions of Russia are: number of population in the region j ; unemployment rate in the region j ; average wage in the industrial sector and poverty level in the region j ; «capital» status of region (dummy-variable, «1» — for Moscow and Moscow region, «0» — other regions).

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Main determinants of number of outcoming internal migrants from the specific region j to other regions of Russia are: number of population in the region j ; unemployment rate in the region j ; average wage in the industrial sector and poverty level in the region j ; ecological situation in the region j .

Conducted study have also proved that in contemporary Russia exist the so-called “poverty trap”, which noticeably restricts internal migration.

According to our study, in contrast to developed countries, in Russia internal migration is not a powerful tool to level intraregional differentiations, which wholly depends on the current governmental policy and would be rather essential taking into account Russian demographic crisis.

One of the possible approaches to combat this problem is an increase of interregional mobility within the country. In own viewpoint, governmental policy on the federal and regional levels should focus on encouragement of the interregional movements, so interregional reallocation of the labor force taking into account contemporal economic problems.

State migration policy measures should be concentrated first of all on eliminating of economic barriers of migration, i.e. on providing individuals with funding for moving to a new location, and also on solving a problem of employment and accommodation of migrants in a new place of residence. The state policy should deal with development of hypothecary and rental programs at the dwelling market, favour creation of interregional labour exchange system and forming the All-Russian available vacancies database. Other than that principles of freedom of movement and choosing the place of residence and location within Russia by population must be kept undeviatingly.

APPENDIX

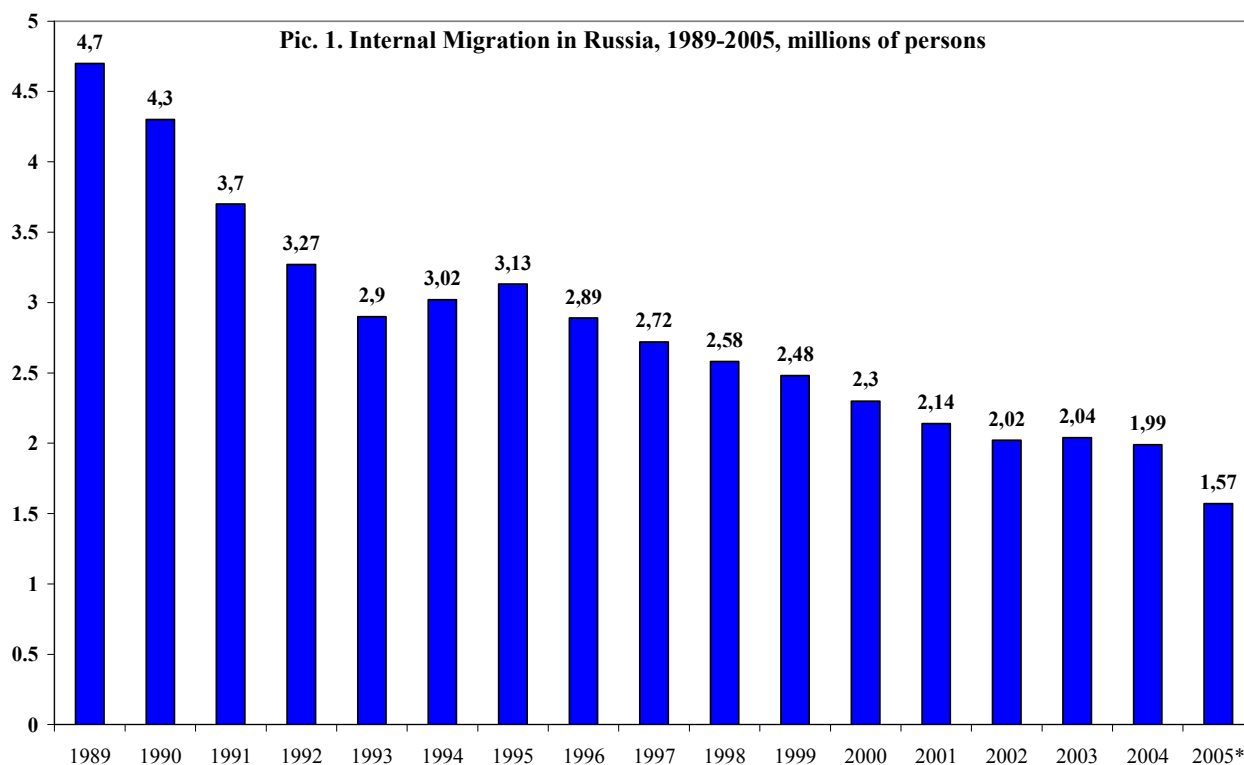


Table 1

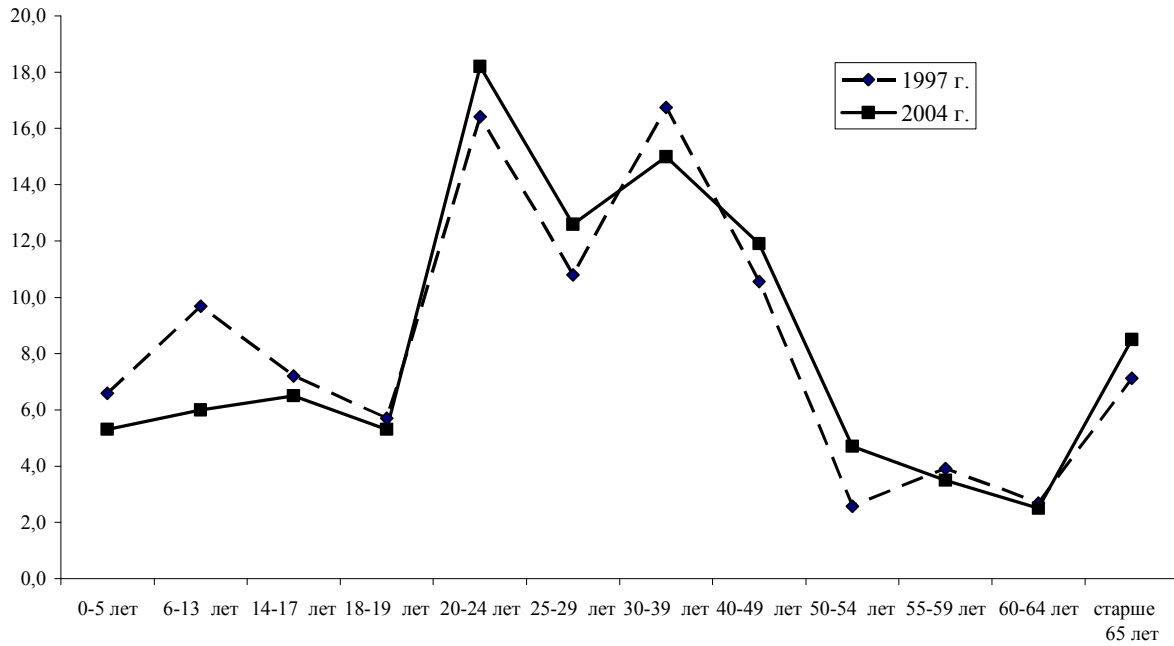
*Migration increase by economic regions,
1979–1988 and 1989 – 1999, thousands*

Economic region	1979–1988	1989–1999
Russian Federation	1819	3217
<i>North</i>	40	-618
North-West	443	238
Central	1025	1212
<i>Volgo-Vyatka</i>	-226	192
<i>Central Black Earth</i>	-142	542
<i>Volga</i>	-21	802
North Caucasus	64	865
<i>Ural</i>	-558	383
Western Siberia	812	266
<i>Eastern Siberia</i>	42	-213
<i>Far East</i>	333	-863

Source: Demographic factor in regional socio-economic development (Perm' region example) / Ed. by professor Vladimir Iontsev. M.: TEIS, 2004. P. 21.

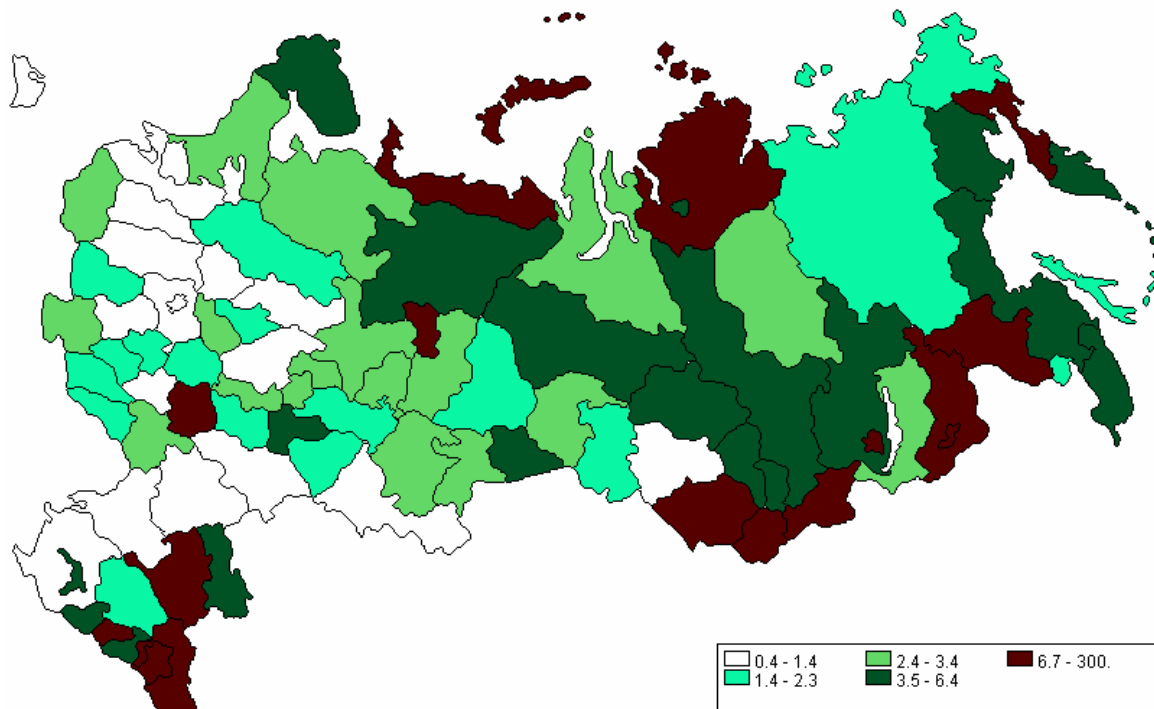
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Рис. 2. Возрастные коэффициенты интенсивности внутренней миграции по прибытию, Россия, 1997 г. и 2004 г.



Estimated on the basis of Rosstat Data (Demographic Yearbook of Russia 2002. Moscow, 2004).

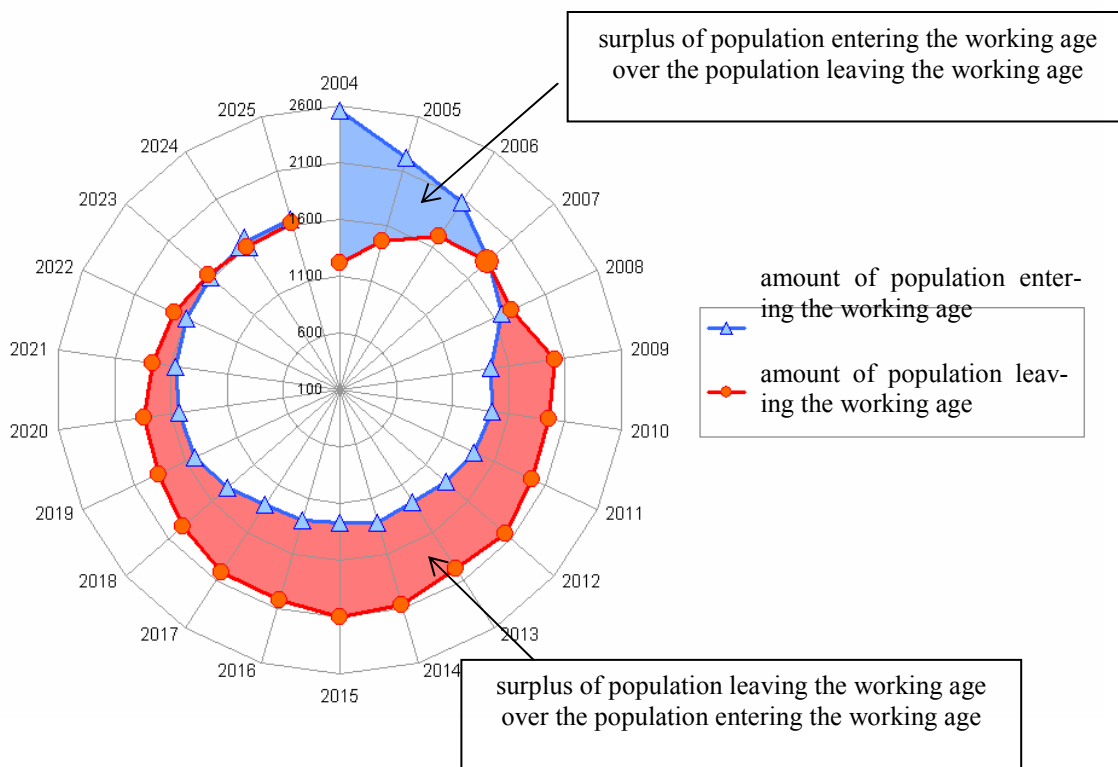
Picture 3. Number of officially unemployed persons counting upon available vacancies, 2003



Estimated on the basis of Rosstat Data (Regions of Russia 2004. Moscow, 2005).

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Picture 3



Source: *Population and economic-demographic development in Russia* / Ed. by. A. Sagradov. M.: Max Press, 2004. P. 85.

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Notes on the Authors

Professor ***Vladimir A. Iontsev***

Head, Department of Population

Faculty of Economics, Moscow State 'Lomonosov' University, Room 458

119992, Russia, Moscow, Leninskie gory, GSP-2

Tel.: +7 (095) 939-29-28, Fax: +7 (095) 939-08-77

iontsev@econ.msu.ru

Ivan A. Aleshkovski

Master Program in Demography Student,

Deputy Head of Student Union of the Moscow State University

Faculty of Economics,

Moscow State 'Lomonosov' University,

119992, Russia, Moscow, Leninskie gory, GSP-2

Tel.: +7 (095) 939-29-28, Fax: +7 (095) 939-08-77

aleshkovski@yandex.ru

