

The Changes of the Age Structures of Regional Migration in Finland after the 1980s and the Municipality of Residence Act

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The aim of this paper is to examine how much the age group-specific in-migration rates at the peak of the cycle wave 1992 to 2000 differed from the corresponding figures of the peaks of the cycle waves 1977 to 1985 and 1985 to 1989 in different area zones. The biggest problem in this work is that the migration concept is very different in the statistical data in 1977 to 1993 and 1994 to 2006 because of the coming into force of the Municipality of Residence Act in 1994. The changes in migration rates may have been due to the new act and not to actual differences in migration rate. This study aims to find out how the migration rates would have changed between 1977 and 2000 if the migration concept of 1977 to 1993 had been effective after 1994 as well. Here it is spoken the old migration rates when I consider of the migration rates calculated with the concept of 1977 to 1993.

To conduct the study it is necessary to predict the old in-migration rates of young people in 1994 to 2000 in different area zones. Prediction is made by means of those models that were obtained by examining separately or jointly the factors connected to the old in-migration rate of young people in 1977 to 1989.

First, regression analysis was used to estimate models that explain the old in-migration rate of young people aged 20 to 24 in 1977 to 1989 in different area zones. From the different estimated models the best ones were selected using as the criterion the significance of the t value for each explanatory variable. From these the models with the highest F and R values were then selected for the becoming use. When good models with estimated parameters have been selected to explain the old in-migration rate of those aged 20 to 24 in 1977 to 1989, then at least two models from them have to be chosen to be used for predicting the old in-migration rate of those aged 20 to 24 in 1992 to 2000.

Because we do not know the old in-migration rate of young people in 1994 to 2000, we have used in its place the age group-specific migration rate that most correlates with it in 1977 to 1989 to ensure the suitability of the prediction model.

To compare the old in-migration rates of different time periods they were always examined after the same number of years from the starting year of the downward cycle. The starting year is the year when the last general decline before the upward cycle occurred in net migration of urban areas. Eight to nine years after the starting year of the downward cycle the old in-migration rate was higher for young people in the upward cycle of the 1990s than in the upward cycle of the early 1980s in all area zones. In more developed zones the difference in young people's old migration rates was greater than in the other zones.

The old rate of migration in Finland has risen in the upward cycle of 1992 to 2000 clearly higher than in the upward cycle of 1977 to 1985 and the same phenomenon could be seen in all area zones. However, retirement-age people clearly differ in their migration behaviour from this general tendency. 23.04.2006