Immigration and Population Profiles of City Regions in England and Wales

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Introduction

• Value of the Census as a ‘stock-taking’ exercise undertaken once a decade (till 2011 anyway)
• Local population profiles from the Census reflect the net impact of migration, both internal and international
• The scale of migration to & from the UK has increased greatly since the 1990s, especially the inflows (see next slide)
• One very direct way of gauging the impact of international migration is via Census data on residents born outside the UK
• Those data can show the total size of the immigrant stock and its geographical distribution
• Census data can also show the characteristics of this stock, now helped by the much larger set of immigrant-related questions in 2011
Context of increasing immigration

Total immigration to the UK, 000s

- The graph shows the total immigration to the UK from 1991 to 2011, measured in thousands. The y-axis represents the number of immigrants, and the x-axis represents the years from 1991 to 2011.
- Immigration to the UK has increased significantly over the years, with a sharp rise starting in the late 1990s.
- The highest immigration is observed around the year 2006.
Research aim and argument

- This paper is primarily concerned with labour-market impacts: has immigration swelled the size and quality of the workforce of economically stronger places more than of the weaker ones?
- It uses a 5-way classification of the 38 CURDS City Regions of England and Wales reflecting differences in economic strength as well as separating the ‘immigration gateway’ type.
- Using country-of-birth data, it confirms the primacy of Gateway CRs for all immigration groups, but elsewhere shows contrasting relationships with economic strength (e.g. +ve EU; -ve Africa).
- Socio-demographic profiles of non-UK-born (as single group numerically dominated by Asia & Africa) suggest a ‘preference’ for the economically weaker CRs.
- This pattern is paralleled by the population profiles of all residents, suggesting a reinforcement of domestic contrasts.
- Is this relationship just the result of earlier immigration or is it continuing? Evidence from immigration flow data for 2001-2011.
In the 1990s CURDS defined City Regions (CRs) so that each includes a single Regional City (which all include a majority of the features of a city that serves a wider region) and with boundaries minimising migration and commuting flows across them.

For this study their boundaries have been adjusted to the best-fit post-2009 geography of local and unitary authorities.
Analytical framework (2): 5-way typology of 38 City Regions

- Gateway CRs (London + 2 neighbouring CRs) had the highest rates of immigration 2001-03 and form the major dynamo.
- At the other end of the size spectrum but with the highest employment rates are 13 Small CRs.
- In between are 22 CRs divided into Stronger, Moderate & Weaker based on their 2000-01 within-UK migration in/out ratios.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>type</th>
<th>CRs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gateway</td>
<td>Brighton, London, Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stronger</td>
<td>Bristol, Derby, Leeds, Northampton, Norwich, Portsmouth, Preston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Bradford, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Plymouth, Sheffield, Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaker</td>
<td>Birmingham, Cardiff, Coventry, Hull, Leicester, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Stoke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population profiles 2011 by CR typology: place of birth

- This paper is primarily concerned with labour-market impacts: has immigration swelled the size and quality of the workforce of economically stronger places more than of the weaker ones?
- It uses a 5-way classification of the 38 CURDS City Regions of England and Wales reflecting differences in economic strength as well as separating the ‘immigration gateway’ type.
- **Using country-of-birth data, it confirms the primacy of Gateway CRs for all immigration groups, but elsewhere shows contrasting relationships with economic strength.**
### Population profiles 2011
**by CR typology: place of birth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CR type</th>
<th>% total population</th>
<th>E&amp;W=100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stronger</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaker</td>
<td>90.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England &amp; Wales</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![National group distribution = 100](#)
Population profiles 2011 by CR typology: immigrant residents

- Socio-demographic profiles of non-UK-born (as a single group dominated by Asia & Africa) suggest a ‘preference’ for the economically weaker CRs
Population profiles 2011 by CR typology: all residents

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- It uses a 5-way classification of the 38 CURDS City Regions of England and Wales reflecting differences in economic strength as well as separating the ‘immigration gateway’ type
- Using country-of-birth data, it confirms the primacy of Gateway CRs for all immigration groups, but elsewhere shows contrasting relationships with economic strength (e.g. +ve EU; -ve Africa, Asia)
- Socio-demographic profiles of non-UK-born (as single group dominated by Asia & Africa) suggest a preference for the economically weaker CRs

- This pattern is paralleled by the population profiles of all residents
Migration & population profiles 2011 by CR typology: all residents

- By comparing the 2011 population profile of all residents in CRs, the impacts of immigration are put into a labour market context.
- The exceptional scale of immigration impact on Gateway CRs produces disadvantage (e.g. English language difficulty) but also advantage (e.g. better qualifications). Elsewhere the higher the share of non-UK born residents, the higher the disadvantage.
A continuing process?

• Using country-of-birth data, it confirms the primacy of Gateway CRs for all immigration groups, but elsewhere shows contrasting relationships to economic strength (e.g. +ve EU; -ve Africa, Asia)
• Socio-demographic profiles of non-UK-born (as single group dominated by Asia & Africa) demonstrates the ‘preference’ for the economically weaker CRs
• This pattern is paralleled by the population profiles of all residents

• Is this relationship just the result of earlier immigration or is it continuing?

  We plan to use the Special Migration Statistics on people arriving in the year before the 2011 Census, when available, and also Area Tables of characteristics by year of arrival

  In the meantime, we use migration inflow data for 2001-2011 based on NINO registrations:
International migration 2001-2011 by CR typology: ‘who goes where?’

- Gateway’s dominance is universal, but lowest for those from A12
- A12 immigrants have clear preference for stronger-economy CRs, as do migrants from other parts of the ‘global north’
- Non-Gateway immigrants from Africa/Asia are the opposite
Newest data gives a first look at the national profile of immigrants streams: qualification levels by place of birth

The chart shows the proportion of those aged 16(+) from the top ten non-UK nationalities (and UK nationals) that are qualified at level 4(+): there is not a simple relationship with the type of the country of birth.
Concluding summary

- Has immigration swelled the size and quality of the workforce of economically stronger places more than of the weaker ones?
- As regards size, NO: The economically weaker CR types have gained more from overall immigration
- BUT if the migrant streams from different parts of the world are separated, immigrants from Asia/Africa prove more likely to go to CRs with weaker economies (unlike internal migrants), whereas the ‘global north’ immigrants do ‘target’ the stronger CRs more
- THEREFORE, away from the exceptional Gateway CRs, international migration does not have ‘equilibrating’ effects, in that the migrants with labour market strength tend to move more to the stronger-economy CRs than to weaker-economy ones, reinforcing the former’s initial advantage
- We look forward to the 2011 Census’s sub-national data on highest qualifications by country of birth (due November 2013), as well as more tables by year of arrival and also the SMS