

Section «History»

What makes people move? – Internal Migration in Sweden, 1967-2003.

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Abstract. This paper investigates internal migration in Sweden over the period 1967-2003 for the different Swedish counties, called *län*. The question in focus is why people leave their secure and well-known environment and move to another part of the country which is automatically associated with risks. Based on the push-and-pull theory several economic and geographic factors are taken into account to explain the migration pattern. In focus of the explanation are regional labor market indicators as wages, unemployment and growth. As control variables serve, inter alia, distance, population density, common borders and county categories. The time span contains a change of the structural composition of the economy which might increase the attractiveness of several regions.

This paper consists besides the theoretical illustrations of an empirical investigation. I make use of the upcoming HILD data base, which arranges an overview of Swedish wage data. It is expected that economic gains are the main driving force behind migration. The paper inserts into research applying regional labor market data which is weakly developed for former periods. The results are proofed to fit in developments in other European countries. Swedish distinctive features are exposed and explained.

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