

Reasons for moving to Spain's Costa Blanca: A comparison between British and German retired migrants

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- Last year, 1/3 of all European retirees registered in a Spanish town did it in the Costa Blanca.
- In 16 municipalities, foreigners are more than Spaniards.
- Most old-age pensioners are British or German in many towns, e.g., Calp 80%
- **Motivation seems to be the key to understand this kind of mobility known as leisure migration or international retirement migration.**

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METHODOLOGY

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- Both qualitative and quantitative research.
- 10 in-depth interviews to key informants.
- A personal in-home survey with a sample of 667 interviews to German and British retired citizens.
 - Confidence Level: 99% (2σ)
 - Confidence Interval: +/- 5%
 - Systematic sampling with random grid position.
 - 12 towns.

WHO ARE THEY?

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Methodology

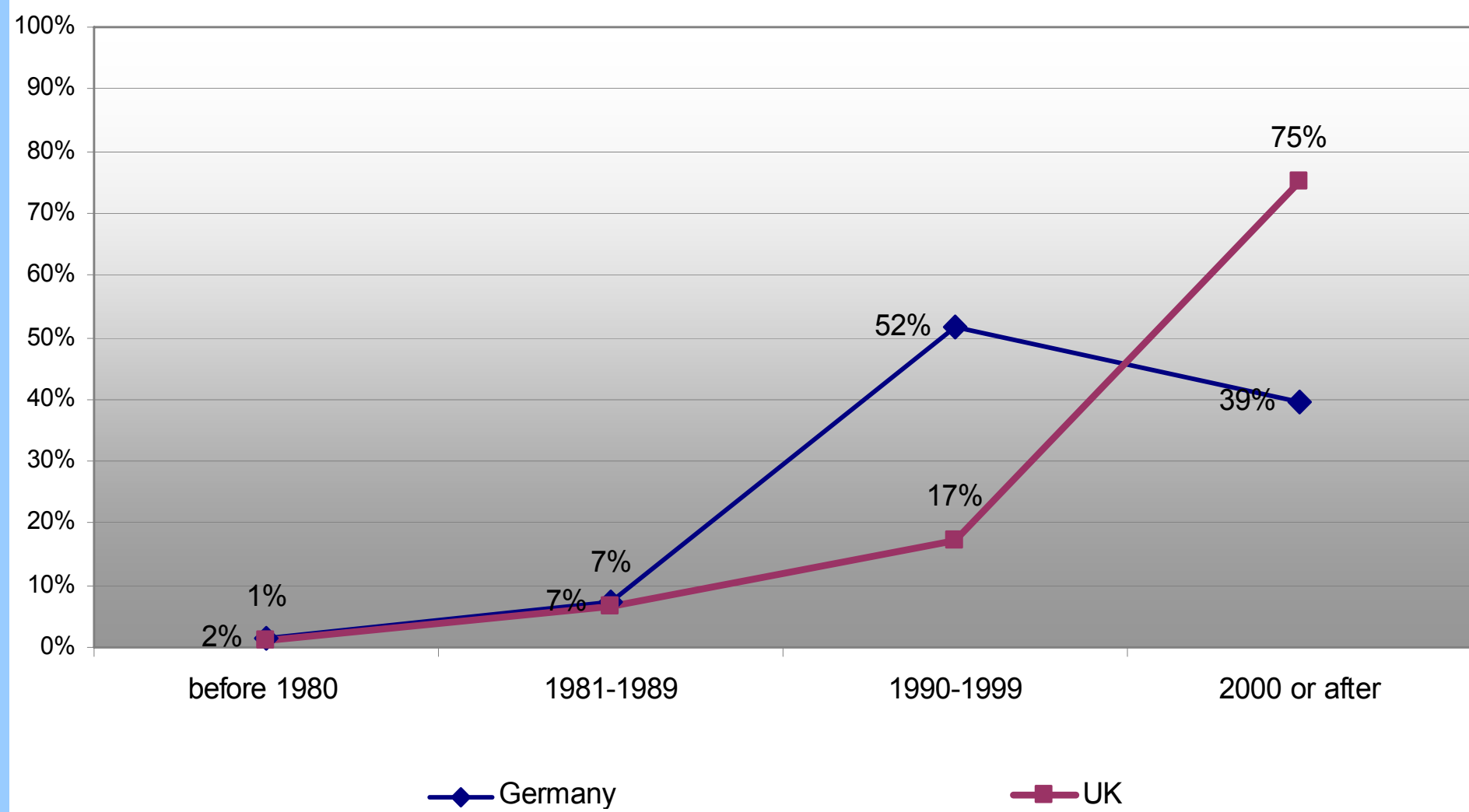
Results

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- We estimate:
 - 50,000 German retirees.
 - 156,000 Britons.
- Average age: 62.6 years old.
 - German older than Britons.
- High education level: higher in British population.

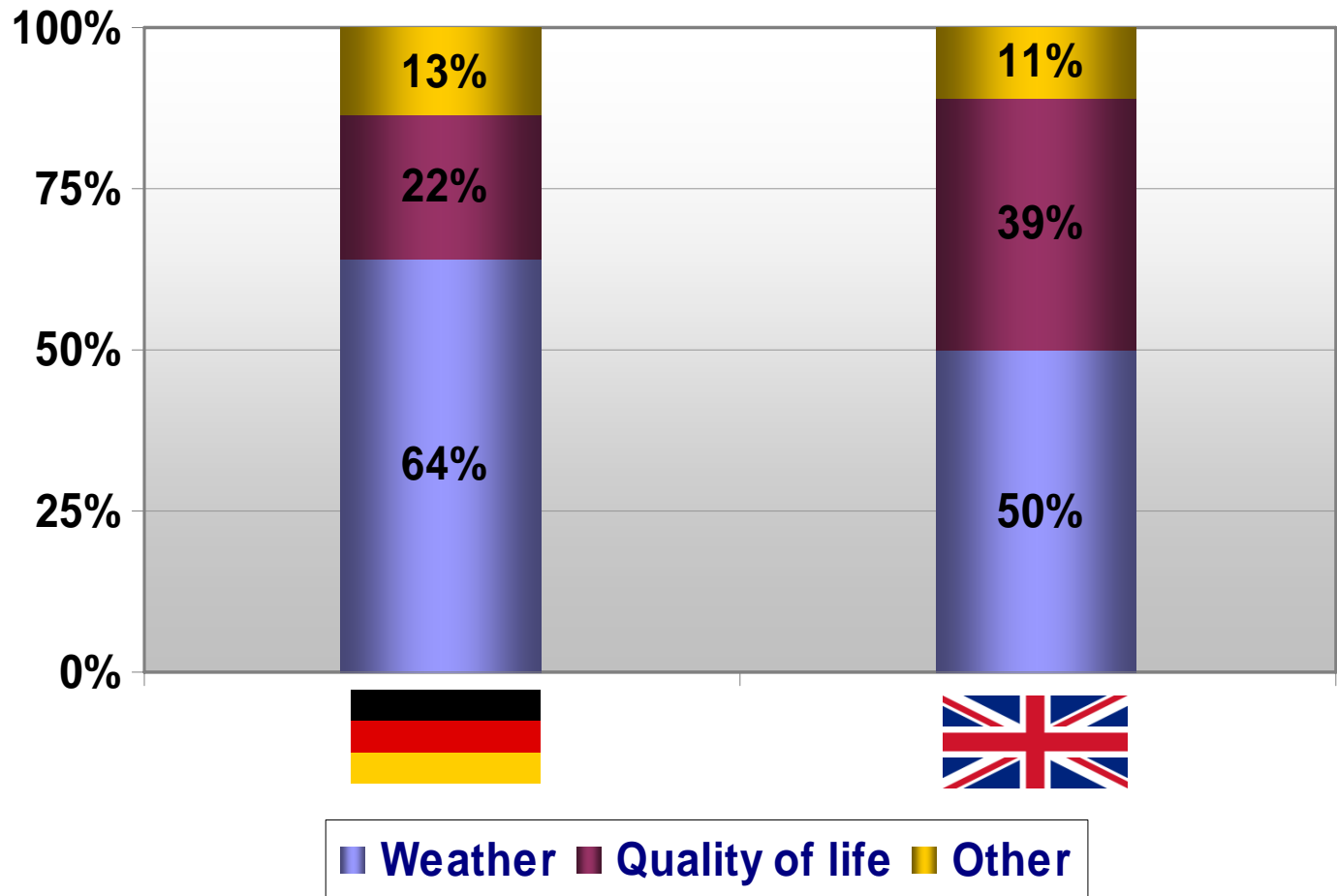
WHO ARE THEY?

When did they move to the Costa Blanca?



WHY DO THEY MOVE?

What is their main reason for living on the Costa Blanca?



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QUALITY OF LIFE

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Mediterranean lifestyle?

- Relaxed life
- Valuable environment
- Social relationship factors:
 - »Associations (British +)
 - »Cultural events (=)
 - »Neighbourhood relationships (Germans +)
- Health services (British +)
- Sports facilities (British +)



QUALITY OF LIFE

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- ④ Urbanisation process:
 - Unplanned, non-sustainable
 - Low quality of houses
 - Overcrowded spaces
- ④ Culture and language difficulties.
- ④ German opinions about public services more negative than English.

CONCLUSIONS

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- ❶ Socio-cultural aspects become a pull factor as important as the geographical conditions of the destination.
- ❷ New requirements and facilities in the future.
- ❸ Consequences for local economy, culture and environment are both positive and negative.

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