

Determinants of interregional mobility in Russia: evidence from panel data[∇]

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Abstract

The paper studies determinants of internal migration in Russia. Using panel data on gross region-to-region migration flows in 1992-99, we estimate the effect of economic, political and social factors. Although overall migration is rather low, it turns out that its intensity does depend on economic factors even controlling for fixed effects for each origin-destination pair. People move from poorer and job scarce regions with worse public good provision to ones that are richer and more prospering both in terms of employment prospects and public goods. Migration is however constrained by the lack of liquidity; for the poorest regions, an increase in income raises rather than decreases outmigration. Our estimates imply that up to a third of Russian regions are locked in poverty traps.

JEL Codes: P23, J61, P36, R23

Keywords: internal migration, liquidity constraints, gravity model, Russia's transition

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Non-technical summary

Interregional labor mobility is one of the key issues in Russia's transition to market economy. To transform its economy, Russia has to reallocate resources from inefficient enterprises established under the Soviet system to new sectors. This problem has an important regional dimension: Russia has inherited a geographically concentrated industrial structure. Many towns and even regions rely upon a single industry or, in some cases, a single enterprise. Intersectoral reallocation of resources therefore requires *interregional* mobility of factors. Since Russia still lacks mature capital market institutions, capital mobility is very low; capital does not reallocate to regions with cheap and qualified labor. This is why geographical labor mobility is vital to successful transition.

In this paper, we use panel data on region-to-region gross migration flows for 1992-99 to estimate what determines interregional migration in modern Russia. We study the characteristics of the source region that induce people to leave and the factors that attract people in the destination areas. We test whether migration is explained by differentials in income, unemployment, poverty, education, life expectancy, conflict, public good provision, or inertia and legacies inherited from the Soviet time. In other words, we estimate whether people 'vote with their feet.'

We find that although the inertia and legacies do account for a substantial share of migration, current economic performance and public goods provision also matter a great deal. Internal migration depends upon income per capita, unemployment rate, poverty and public goods provision in the intuitive way, even controlling for legacies, inertia, and macroeconomic shocks. Our analysis implies that there is a Tiebout-type competition between Russian regions. Regional policies that improve living standards, create jobs and improve public goods provision, attract migrants. These effects are not large but substantial relative to average migration rate. However, the overall migration rates are low both compared to other countries and to the Soviet time. We show that liquidity constraints are an important barrier to mobility. While the effect of income on outgoing migration is negative on average, it is positive for poor regions. Although lower income makes people more *willing* to leave, it also makes them less *able* to overcome the liquidity constraints and go. About a third of Russian regions are locked in poverty traps which explains lack of convergence between rich and poor regions. Hence, development of financial markets is crucial for strengthening the Tiebout competition between Russian regions.

1 Introduction

In this paper, we study what determines the gross migration flows in modern Russia. We test whether migration is explained by differentials in income, unemployment, poverty, education, life expectancy, conflict, public good provision etc. or inertia and legacies inherited from the Soviet time. In other words, we estimate whether people ‘vote with their feet’, i.e. whether there is any degree of Tiebout competition between Russian regions.

Interregional labor mobility is crucial for Russia’s successful transition. To transform its economy, Russia has to reallocate resources from inefficient enterprises established under the Soviet system to new sectors. This problem has a regional dimension: Russia has inherited a geographically concentrated industrial structure. Many towns and even regions rely upon a single industry or, in many cases, a single enterprise.¹ Intersectoral reallocation of resources therefore requires *interregional* mobility of factors. Since Russia still lacks capital market institutions, including market infrastructure and good corporate governance, capital mobility is limited. Capital cannot move to the regions with cheap and skilled labor. This is why geographical labor mobility is vital for restructuring.

However, interregional migration in Russia is low by international standards, moreover, it is also lower than it used to be in the Soviet Union. The interregional differentials in real income, wage and unemployment rates are quite large, and what is more important, are not decreasing over time. The lack of convergence indicates that labor force does not reallocate from the backward regions. Certain Russian regions seem to be locked in poverty traps. To understand the nature of the traps, one has to study the barriers to geographical mobility and check if migration responds to economic performance and policy in the regions.

To estimate the incentives and barriers to move, we need to distinguish responses to current economic performance from inertia and legacies. The latter are very important: interregional migration in Russia is influenced by the huge regional distortions that have been accumulated during the Soviet regime. First, there are legacies of the Soviet government’s ethnic policies. Central government used to move whole nations by force (Crimean Tartars, Chechens and Ingushes, Jews, Volga Germans etc.). The political liberalization allowed these people back home, which has become a major determinant of the post-communist migration flows. The

¹ According to the Expert Institute (2000) and World Bank (2001), about 24.5 mln Russians (out of 146 mln total) reside in mono-towns (i.e. settlements where the largest enterprise accounts for more than 50% of employment). Using a nationally representative survey of households RLMS, Friebel and Guriev (2000) estimate that the average share of four largest employers in total local employment is 59 per cent.

second issue is the rise of nation states and republics both within Russia and in former Soviet republics that drives many native Russians back to Central Russia (Zayonchkovskaya, 1994). In some of the ethnic republics and the newly independent states, the share of migrants to Russia during the 1990s accounted for tens of percent of the labor force.

The third source of distortions is the Soviet system of restricting mobility from rural areas and small towns to metropolitan areas (through so-called *propiska*). The controls imposed on migration to major cities resulted in significantly faster growth of population in uncontrolled cities (Gang and Stuart, 1999). Soviet government has also been expelling criminals and the (voluntarily) unemployed from major cities, what led to significant differentials in living conditions, in particular in crime levels (Shelley, 1984). All these legacies have created a large potential for migration from northeast of Russia to the European part of the country.² As Fig.1 shows, northern and eastern regions have lost substantial shares of population that moved to the southwestern regions.

In order to estimate how much the internal migration depends on current economic performance controlling for long-term migration trends (including those due to Soviet legacies), we (i) study the gross region-to-region flows, and (ii) use panel data. This methodology allows distinguishing between migration induced by current living standard differentials and the long-term trends in migration (inertia or legacy); the latter are controlled for by using fixed effects.

The paper proceeds as follows. In Section 2 we discuss related literature and provide some basic facts on the internal migration in Russia. Section 3 describes empirical strategy (Subsection 3.1), the dataset (Subsection 3.2) and the results (Subsection 3.3) of econometric analysis. Section 4 concludes.

2 Literature

Although worker mobility is central to restructuring of formerly planned economies, lack of data made studying labor mobility in transition economies rather difficult. *Job* flows in large and medium-sized industrial enterprises have been studied relatively well (see, e.g. a survey in Brown and Earle, 2003). As for the *worker* flows, there are only a few papers on Central and East European countries and virtually none on Russia and CIS. A survey by Filer et al. (2001) suggests that geographical mobility has been low in all transition countries because of

² Heleniak (1999) estimates that among 9 mln people residing in Russian North, about 2 mln should be considered potential migrants.

administrative barriers and underdevelopment of housing markets. Boeri and Flinn (1999) explained lack of worker mobility in transition economies by low monetary returns to job changes and by market segmentation of job offers. A survey by Svejnar (1999) concludes that while most labor markets in transition countries have been rather flexible, the geographical mobility was lower than expected given huge and often growing regional differentials.

While the low level of geographical labor mobility in Russia has been recognized by many authors, there has been almost no direct evidence. First, it is hard to measure mobility since there are large informal flows. Second, it is hard to compare interregional mobility in Russia and Central European countries simply because of different size of regions. The indirect measures suggest that internal migration in Russia is indeed low. The interregional job flows in Russia are much lower than in other transition countries (see Faggio and Konings, 1999, and Konings' calculations cited in Friebel and Guriev, 2000). Also, regional disparities in income and unemployment are large and not decreasing over time (see Table A2 in the Appendix).

The official migration data (the dataset is described in the next section) also suggest that interregional mobility is lower in Russia than in other countries of similar size. As shown in the Table A1 (in the Appendix), only 2 per cent of population change their residence within Russia borders annually since 1991 (including intraregional mobility) compared to about 3-4 per cent in Soviet Union during 1980s. In developed countries, these measures are considerably higher (see Table 1 below). In 1981, Canada, and the US had the internal migration rates in the range of 17 to 19 per cent (Greenwood, 1997).

Table 1. Internal migration in 1998, percent of total population

Korea	11.8
Finland	10.0
Australia	7.9
Norway	6.5
Switzerland	6.1
Japan	4.9
Netherlands	4.0
Hungary	4.0
Czech Republic	1.9
Russia	1.8

Sources: National Statistical Yearbooks (cited in Besstremyannaya, 2001).

Official data do not cover informal migration. To estimate the latter, we have used a nationally representative survey of Russian households RLMS (see Zohoori et al., 1998). RLMS includes a question ‘are you going to move in the next 12 months?’ If people have answered positively and are not found in the same community after a year, they should have moved or passed away. Using the average national age-adjusted death rate, we obtained a rough estimate for the total outmigration of about 3.5 per cent in 1996. Hence, the informal migration is about as large as the official one.

Official migration data also do not include commuting which has become an (imperfect) substitute for migration in some transition countries (see Filer et al., 2001). Boeri et al. (1996) estimate the commuting distance that pays off in transition economies to be at most 30 kilometers. While this distance is long enough to travel to another region in Central Europe, this is of course too short for Russian regions many of which stretch for thousands of kilometers.³

There have been a few econometric studies of interregional migration in Russia. Using cross-section Russian regional data on gross migration flows in early transition, Brown (1997) has shown that migration responded to average wages and prices. She found that higher wages and higher rate of apartment privatization increased both immigration and outmigration. This suggests that potential migrants may be liquidity constrained, and underdevelopment of financial and housing markets may be a serious barrier to mobility. Indeed, if there were no liquidity constraints, higher wages should reduce rather than increase outmigration. This finding is consistent with a survey of potential migrants in Heleniak (1997) where housing market imperfections and financial constraints are named to be the most important barriers to migration from the Russian North.

Korel and Korel (1999) did a similar study for 1998. The cross-section OLS regression analysis has shown that average income, housing prices and geography (from northeast to southwest) are significant determinants of mobility but unemployment rate is surprisingly not significant. As noticed by Gerber (2000), this study has a number of methodological weaknesses, like simultaneity problems and double counting for some regions (*autonomous okrugs* that are parts of other regions).

³ See, however, World Bank (2001) on commuting in Central Russia where people work in neighboring regions coming back home for weekends only. There is little evidence on the magnitude of this phenomenon which is somewhat similar to informal temporary migration. It is not negligible: according to Zayonchkovskaya (2001), in the town of Vyazniki 300 kilometers from Moscow (the major destination), about 25 per cent of population is involved in commuting; her survey of 5 regional capitals (Irkutsk, Barnaul, Moscow, Smolensk, and Stavropol) provides an estimate of 11 per cent.

Gerber (2000) took a step further in the empirical analysis of Russian migration. Instead of analyzing cross-section data, he built a panel dataset of net migration flows in Russian regions from 1993 to 1997. His results indicate that labor market conditions have an impact on migration similar to one in the market economies. Poor economic situation in a region makes people seek more attractive regions with higher real wages, lower unemployment and lower proportion of insolvent enterprises. These results remain valid after controlling for public goods provision, including availability of housing, crime rates, urbanization and geography, which are also significant and have intuitive signs. However, this paper also suffers from certain methodological problems. The author applies random effects model, which is marginally applicable in only one specification out of five. Also, unobserved heterogeneity of regions may well be correlated with other regressors; fixed effects should therefore be more applicable. In this paper, we address these problems; also, we study gross region-to-region flows rather than net flows.

Internal migration in modern Russia is also discussed in sociology literature (see Zayonchkovskaya, 2001). This literature uses case studies and small surveys to analyze the reversal of flows of highly qualified labor force from neighboring CIS countries. The literature identifies two ‘problem zones’ in Russia: the North (where outmigration makes several regions non-sustainable) and the South-West where the labor market cannot accommodate fully the incoming migrants. The literature also looks at the age profile of migrants and explains the low mobility of the 1990s by reduced migration opportunities for the young. The young that have always been the most mobile age group have been hit badly during the transition by financial and housing markets imperfections.

3 Empirical analysis.

3.1 Hypotheses

Our empirical analysis is based on the so-called ‘gravity model’ which is very common in the migration literature (e.g. Greenwood, 1997). The gravity model is similar to Newton’s law of universal gravity: the number of people M_{ij} ‘attracted’ by a given region i from another region j increases with the size of each region P_i, P_j and decreases with the distance between the two regions (D_{ij}). In the econometric form, this simple equation can be written as

$$M_{ij} = G \cdot \frac{P_i^\alpha \cdot P_j^\beta}{D_{ij}^\gamma},$$

where G is a constant, and parameters α, β, γ are to be estimated. Newton's law of gravity assumes $\alpha=1, \beta=1, \gamma=2$. Certainly, there is no reason to believe that α, β and γ should be the same in the case of migration.

A simple example is a country of N regions that have different populations $P_i, \sum_{i=1}^N P_i = P$, but are identical in terms of other characteristics. In this case the incentive to move is simply the preference for variety. Assume that every year a small share s of population randomly chooses next residence out of all the regions, including their current residence. Therefore, if transportation costs are small and fixed, number of people migrating from region i to region j is proportional to the population size in either region and parameters of the gravity model are $G = s/P, \alpha = 1, \beta = 1, \gamma = 0$.

Controlling for regions' sizes also helps to take into account the problem of intra-regional migration. Larger regions tend to have higher rates of intra-regional relative to inter-regional migration. This is certainly important in Russia where several regions are larger than most European countries in terms of area, and some – in terms of population. In our dataset, intra-regional migration exceeds inter-regional migration in several regions. To account for the endogeneity of intra-regional migration, one could use polychotomous logistic model to normalize flows by dividing probability of migration to probability of non-migration (Greenwood, 1997). Since the migration rates are very low in Russia, the results would be similar.

Distance influences migration decisions through costs of moving that include transportation costs, costs of search and information acquisition, psychological costs of leaving the place of birth and close relatives and friends. Apparently, these costs increase with physical distance ($\gamma > 0$). Taking into account modern information and transportation technologies, one should not, however, expect that γ to be very large. Since all these costs increase slower than linearly, γ should be below 1. It was found that distance elasticity of migration γ declines over time (Greenwood, 1997, p. 667).

The gravity model as stated above is certainly not realistic. Regions differ in terms of economic development and public goods provision. Migrants should take into account the difference between their utility at the current place of residence and potential utility they will get in the place where they move. Thus, the gravity model should be extended by adding different characteristics of the origin and destination areas. The modified model assumes G to

depend on characteristics of i and j , rather than being a universal constant. Modified gravity models are usually specified in a logarithmic form:⁴

$$\ln M_{ijt} = c + k'Y_{it} + \lambda'Y_{jt} + \eta_{ij} + \delta_t + \xi_{ijt} \quad (1)$$

Here Y_{it} and Y_{jt} are characteristics of the source and host regions that may change over time, such as logarithm of per capita real income, unemployment rate, poverty level, crime level, development of housing market, provision of public goods e.g. roads, healthcare (doctors per capita and hospital beds per capita), public transportation (buses per capita) etc.

As Table A1 indicates, population mobility in Russia has been decreasing during the 1990s. One could assume that this was happening along with the convergence in income and unemployment levels. However, this has not been the case: Table A2 shows no sign of convergence either in real income or in unemployment rates. One of the possible explanations of low mobility and lack of convergence is liquidity constraints. To test the hypothesis that liquidity constraints are an important barrier to mobility, we include both income and squared income in our regression. People with higher income are less likely to be *willing* to leave, since there other regions are less attractive to them, however, their *ability* to leave is higher. The liquidity effect is stronger for poorer people and regions; it should disappear once the income level is sufficiently high. Hence, for low income levels the marginal effect of additional ruble (in real terms) of income on mobility should be less negative than for high incomes. Therefore the negative coefficient at the squared income implies that liquidity constraints are important. Moreover, for the very lowest income levels the liquidity effect should be stronger than the effect of returns to mobility, so that the marginal effect of income may even become positive (similarly to Ghatak et al., 1996, who suggest that a higher wage gap between receiving and sending regions increases migration only if potential migrants do not face borrowing constraints).⁵

To control for long-term trends in migration, inertia and legacy, we include fixed effects η_{ij} for each pair of regions. Suppose that the Soviet government moved an ethnic group from region j to region i . Then migration from region i to j will be influenced by this event: when political liberalization started, people were allowed to go back (and sometimes even claim their property). Another example is a presence of the federal program of housing construction

⁴ The log specification cannot deal with trivial observations. The alternatives include Poisson model or negative binominal model. For the simplicity's sake, we use log specification, treatment of zero observations is described below; the other methods provide very similar results.

⁵ A better test of the liquidity effect is to study the incomes of the lowest quantiles of region's population. However, regional income distribution data are not available.

in a particular central region for people resettled from a particular northern territory (these programs, however, have usually been poorly financed and have had a negligible effect on migration, see Regent, 1999). We also include time dummies δ_t to control for macroeconomic and global shocks.

The equation (1) allows to test whether current migration flows depend upon changes in living standards and public goods provision controlling for long-term trends in migration (i.e. whether Tiebout competition works). Then, in order to understand the long-term determinants of migration, we estimate a GLS regression with between-effects:

$$\ln M_{ij.} = b + \gamma \ln D_{ij} + k' Y_i + \lambda' Y_j + \mu' X_i + \nu' X_j + \xi_{ij} \quad (2)$$

Here $\ln M_{ij.}$ and Y_i are the averages of $\ln M_{ijt}$ and Y_{it} over time, respectively. D_{ij} is the distance between two regions. X is a matrix of regional variables that do not change over time or change very slowly, including population (in logarithms), climate, geography, education, demographic and ethnic structure, urbanization, resource potential, reform indicators, conflict.

3.2 Data

The main source of data is the official dataset on migration between 89 Russian regions from 1992 to 1999. For each pair of regions and each year, we know how many people migrated from one region to the other one during the year. These data are collected by the Interior Ministry's registration authorities (formerly in charge of *propiska*). Propiska is the registration at the local police department that Soviet government used for restricting migration. The registration is still required for getting access to official jobs, social benefits, and public goods such as kindergartens, schools and healthcare. In most regions, registration is awarded to all applicants, although in some (Moscow, Sakha-Yakutiya republic, Krasnodarskiy and Stavropolskiy krays) the authorities still can deny registration even though this is against federal legislation.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the only available dataset on region-to-region migration flows in Russia. It has a number of shortcomings. We do not have full time series for 12 regions. Ten of them are administratively parts of other regions and have to be excluded from the analysis. We have also excluded Chechen Republic since there was a full-scale civil war for more than a half of our time period. Its neighbor region Ingush Republic was also

removed from the analysis since many data series are absent. Our unbalanced panel therefore includes only 77 regions.

The map in Figure 1 (see Appendix) shows the net migration to a region which is the number of immigrants less the number of emigrants for the ten-year period from 1990 to 1999 as a percentage of 1990 population. Northern and Eastern areas of Russian Federation are net sources of emigrants, while the regions in the Central and Southern parts are major receiving areas.

The official registration data count every single person who moved. If the official data report zero migration from region i to region j in year t , we substitute zero by half a person in order to be able to keep the logarithm finite. Zero observations constitute only 0.3% of the panel.

The other region-level indicators (Y and X in the equations (1) and (2)) are obtained from Russia's Federal Committee for Statistics (Goskomstat), mainly from Goskomstat (2000). Real income is calculated in logarithms of the number of consumer baskets (conventional 25-good basket used by Goskomstat) the average regional income can buy. In 1999, the basket cost \$21 on average. Unemployment rate is calculated according to the ILO definition. Poverty is measured as the share of population with income below subsistence level. Natural resource potential index and distribution of population by city size in 1996 are provided by the Renaissance Capital investment bank (Ahrend, 2000). The evaluation of the general socio-political conflict in Russian regions is constructed by the Moscow Center for Study and Resolution of Conflicts at our request. Crime rate is approximated by the number of homicides per 100 000 population, the measure that suffers the least from underreporting relative to other types of crime (Andrienko, 2001). Distance between regions is proxied by the distance between geographical centers of the regions in kilometers. Distance for intra-regional migration is measured as a half of the regional 'radius' based on the area of the region and assuming circular shape. The data on ethnic and demographics structure of population come from the 1989 Census.

Exact definitions and descriptive statistics of all variables used in the empirical analysis are presented in Table A3 in Appendix.

3.3 Results

The results of fixed effects GLS estimations (equation (1)) are reported in Table A4.

Hausman test is rejected at the 1% level in all specifications so that the random effect model is not valid.

The first two columns present the results of the regressions for the whole sample. The first regression includes only income while the second one includes both income and squared income. The other four are run for various subsamples to check robustness of the results. The number of observations varies from 14 to 40 thousands. All results for indicators of economic performance (income, unemployment and poverty) are significant and robust.

Economic performance and labor market conditions measured by the purchasing power of average income and unemployment rate are significant both in host and source regions. Outmigration rises with higher unemployment rate and immigration grows with lower unemployment rate. Coefficients show, that if the unemployment rate in a region increases by 1 per cent, *ceterus paribus*, then 0.7 per cent more people leave this region and at the same time 1 per cent less people come.

Economic performance also matters: on average, higher real income attracts migrants and reduces outflows of migrants. The most interesting results are the ones related to the non-linear effect of income presented in the second column. The greater is the income in the host region, the stronger the marginal effect – the coefficient at the squared income at the host region is positive. This may be explained by a non-trivial fixed cost of moving – if income differential is too small, only a few people are willing to move, but once the income differential covers the fixed costs, more people respond to gross returns to mobility.

The effect of income in the source region on migration is negative on average, but its magnitude is significantly weaker for poorer regions. Indeed, the coefficient at income is -0.081 while the coefficient at the squared income is negative and equals -0.044 (both coefficients are significant at 5 per cent level). The marginal effect of income on mobility is therefore $-0.081 - 2*0.044*(income - 1.18)$. Hence, an increase in income increases outgoing mobility for incomes below certain threshold level and decreases it otherwise. This result is similar to what Banerjee and Kanbur (1981) have found for inter-regional rural-urban migration in Indian states. As discussed above, this result is consistent with the liquidity constraint hypothesis.

To find the threshold level of income at which the liquidity constraints become less important than the effect of returns to mobility, one should calculate the peak of the estimated quadratic function: $0.5*(-0.081 \pm 0.014)/(0.044 \pm 0.018) + 1.18 = 0.26 \pm 3$. This estimate is too crude, so we have also used an alternative approach. Instead of including squared income, we ran the regression for various subsamples of poorest regions. It turned out that for the the subsample

of 35% or less observations with lowest income, higher income increases outgoing mobility (reported in the column (5) of Table A4). The 35% percentile corresponds to incomes below 2.98 consumer baskets (log income below 1.04). Once we take the 40%, the coefficient at income becomes insignificant. For the sample of the richest 65% and for the whole sample it is negative and significant (see columns (1) and (6) of Table A4). The result is striking: roughly one third of Russian regions are locked in the poverty traps. In 1999, 28% Russian population resided in regions with income below the threshold level. In Figure 1, these regions are marked with bars; the height of the bar shows the gap between the regional income and the threshold level.

The share of privately owned apartments is positively correlated with immigration and negatively (except for the regression for the European part) with outmigration. This may reflect the higher utility of being able to own a home. On the other hand, this may be related to the progress of reforms in the region (assuming that the mobile part of population prefers economic reforms). This result is at odds with the evidence from cross-section data in Brown (1997), where apartment privatization increases outgoing mobility (which may be explained by the need to sell an apartment to finance the move). This suggests that cross-section analysis may sometimes be misleading.

The next set of results deals with different measures of public goods provision within a region. According to the famous Tiebout hypothesis, people ‘vote with their feet’ for better provision of local public goods. *Ceteris paribus*, agents prefer a region with better public goods provision. This hypothesis appears to hold for public healthcare and infrastructure. Greater per capita number of buses, hospital beds, road density, telephones decrease population outflow. At the same time more doctors, hospital beds, roads, and telephones stimulate migration inflow. The magnitude of these effects is substantial: one standard deviation change in each variable results in a 5 to 10 per cent change in the migration rates. The counter-intuitive results are those for the railroads density: the density of railroads positively influences outmigration and decreases immigration; one has to keep in mind, however, that the change in the railroads in 1992-99 was almost exclusively about closing the old railroads rather than constructing new ones. The effect of crime rates on the inflows is insignificant. Surprisingly, higher crime rates significantly reduce outflow; once we control for poverty, however, the sign becomes intuitive (positive).

Table A4 does not present time dummies. These are shown in the Figure 2, along with the overall intra-Russia migration rates in these years. Despite the remaining interregional gaps

in income and unemployment, migration has been declining over time. A possible explanation is based on the existence of poverty traps. Apparently, those who were both willing and able to migrate, have migrated in the early years. The remaining potential migrants may be too poor to afford the move.

To check whether the results are robust, we ran the regression for several subsamples (columns 3 to 6 in Table A4).⁶ The third regression presents results for the subsample of the 48 regions that belong to the European part of Russia. The fourth regression includes poverty level. Unfortunately, this reduces the sample to only 6 years (the poverty data have been collected since 1994). All regressions show that results are quite robust but there are some minor changes. The fifth column shows results for migration from the 35% observations with lowest incomes, while the sixth regression is run for the rest of sample. These regressions confirm the importance of liquidity constraints. For the poor regions, the effect of income is positive, significant and quite large: a 10% raise in real income increases outgoing migration by 1.6%

It is interesting to test what part of variation is explained by the current economic variables and public goods provision. It turned out that both fixed effects and time-varying indicators explain substantial shares of the variation in migration. In the regressions with five thousand fixed effects and seven time dummies only, the R^2 -within was 0.13, compared with 0.16 when another 24 time-varying variables are included.

Besides estimating the determinants of migration controlling for region-to-region fixed effects, we have also estimated the between-effects model (equation (2)). Results of the six regressions are reported in Table A5 in Appendix.

All regressions show that population in both sending and receiving regions is a significantly positive determinant of migration flows. As expected, larger regions send and attract more migrants. Elasticities of migration with respect to the population of both sending and receiving regions are close to 1 in almost all specifications.

Elasticity of migration with respect to distance is negative and significant, with its absolute value being approximately equal to 1. This suggests that at least to a certain extent, low mobility in Russia is related to huge distances. Indeed, as a thought experiment, let us reduce

⁶ We have also tried different specifications for the whole sample. We have estimated a dynamic migration model using Arellano-Bond linear, dynamic panel data estimator for autoregressive model in first differences assuming endogeneity of some explanatory variables. Results are similar. Table A6 presents the Poisson estimations which are also similar except for the regression for the European part of Russia.

Russia's territory by 50 times to make it comparable with Japan (with population lower by 15 per cent), Norway or Finland. Then internal mobility of Russians will increase sevenfold and exceed Japanese mobility by the factor of 2, Norwegian mobility by 50%, and will be higher than the mobility in Finland (which is among the highest in EU). At the same time, this exercise may be misleading: other countries of similar size (US, Canada and Australia) do have much higher internal migration rates. Also, USSR had the same geographical problems and still had high migration rates.

Other geographical variables also play an important role. Migrants tend to move to regions with access to sea and largest rivers. Availability of port provides the region with 15-20 per cent additional migrants. This may be related to better opportunities of entrepreneurship.

Educational level significantly increases both incoming and outgoing flows, but outflow is more sensitive than inflow. An additional year of education increases outmigration by 40 per cent.

The last set of results describes the impact of the progress of reforms in a region. Small business privatization approximated by the share of privatized firms in trade and services seems to favor both migration inflows and outflows. On the other hand, government subsidies per 100 rubles of agricultural production reduce both inflows and outflows significantly. These results suggest that state intervention cannot attract labor force but can make people in those regions less mobile.

How do our coefficients compare to estimates for other countries? We are aware of five similar studies, most of which are using Poisson model or extended Negative Binomial model accounting for overdispersion, or extra-Poisson variation: Shen (1999) for China, Congdon (1988) for Greater London, Boyle and Halfacree (1995) for England and Wales, Fik and Mulligan (1998) for the US, and Devillanova and Carcia-Fontes (1998) for Spain.

Unfortunately, population size and distance are the only variables common to all of these studies. Our estimates of elasticities of migration with respect to population (from 0.9 to 1.6 in the core models) are above the ones from these studies, 0.4-0.8 for Spain provinces and 0.3-0.9 in China. Our result on distance elasticity (-0.9 in the core model) is very close to distance elasticity of labor migration in US, (-0.8 -1.1) and slightly below that in Spain and China, (-1.1). Some studies include income and unemployment, results being similar to ours. In Spain, income in origin area has a negative effect on outmigration. Also, negative sign for

unemployment in destination is reported for London and positive impact of the ratio between unemployment in origin to that in destination is found in Spain.

4 Concluding remarks

The main goal of this paper is an empirical analysis of internal migration in Russia. We use a panel dataset of gross migration flows between Russian regions. Our methodology allows distinguishing the effect of current economic performance and public goods provision in the regions from the long-term trends in migration due to inertia and Soviet-time legacies. The empirical analysis shows that although overall internal migration is low in Russia, it does depend on income per capita, unemployment rate, poverty and public goods provision in the intuitive way, controlling for fixed effects (for each pair of host-source regions) and macroeconomic shocks. This has important policy implications for Russia's regional policy and fiscal federalism. Indeed, our analysis suggest that there is Tiebout competition between Russian regions. The impact of economic performance of the region on migration is not trivial. Regional policies that improve living standards, create jobs and improve public goods provision, do attract migrants. These effects are substantial relative to average migration rate. Our empirical analysis shows that liquidity constraints are an important barrier to migration. The population of the poorest regions cannot leave simply because they are unable to finance the cost of moving. For these regions, income growth increases rather than decreases outgoing migration. The financial constraints effectively attach the population to the region, reducing outside options and wages. We estimate that a third of Russian population is locked in such poverty traps.

We have also found that elasticity of migration to distance is as high as in other countries (i.e. close to one), so the effect of the geography on the interregional labor reallocation should not be underestimated.

Two caveats are due. First, we use official data that do not account for informal migration. Informal migration is at least as high in Russia as the official one. What is more important, it may be not proportional to official migration; e.g., the informal migration is higher in places where one needs authorities' permission to register. Hence the analysis of official migration may be biased. Second, we study regional rather than individual data. This implicitly assumes that migrants are representative of their region, which is unlikely. These two problems cannot be resolved without migration data from a nationally representative survey of potential and actual migrants that (to the best of our knowledge) does not exist.

In our future research, we are going to extend our analysis in several directions. First, to deal with possible endogeneity problems, we will look for good instrumental variables. Another extension is to carry out more accurate dynamic panel data analysis by running GMM system estimation with joint weak endogeneity of some explanatory variables introduced by Arrelano and Bond (1991). Third, we are going to break the region-to-region migration flows into rural and urban categories and study the determinants of mobility to and from rural and urban areas. Even in the developing countries, rural-urban migration accounts for only 30 per cent of total migration (Lucas, 1997). One should expect that in Russia that is already an industrialized country the urban-urban and urban-rural migration plays an important role, especially given that our research shows that education and access to finance should make urban population more mobile.

5 References

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Appendix.

Table A1. Migration in Russia, percent of mid-year present-in-area population

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total arrivals	4.1	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9
Out of which										
From Russia	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.7
Out of which										
Same region			1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
Other regions			1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Other countries	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
N/A	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total departures	3.6	3.2	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8
Out of which										
Within Russia	2.7	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7
Out of which										
Same region			1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
Other regions			0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Other countries	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
N/A	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table A2. Segmentation of the labor market and real income per capita

Unemployment rate (ILO definition)

Year	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
1990	77	4.1	1.8	0.7	11.5
1991	77	4.1	1.8	0.7	11.5
1992	77	5.2	1.6	2.0	14.5
1993	77	6.1	1.9	3.3	17.5
1994	77	8.6	2.3	4.6	18.0
1995	79	11.0	5.6	5.4	43.1
1996	79	11.1	4.8	5.5	32.2
1997	79	13.8	6.6	4.8	58.2
1998	79	15.3	6.3	4.7	51.1
1999	79	15.4	6.4	5.6	51.8

Real income per capita: Number of 25-product baskets that the regional monthly income can buy.

Year	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
1990	76	8.4	3.2	4.0	25.6
1991	76	7.7	3.0	3.6	23.3
1992	76	3.6	1.2	1.7	10.0
1993	76	3.5	1.0	2.1	7.7
1994	76	2.9	0.9	1.7	7.6
1995	79	3.1	1.4	0.9	12.5
1996	79	3.5	1.9	1.3	16.2
1997	79	4.3	1.8	1.8	15.4
1998	79	3.0	1.4	1.3	12.5
1999	77	3.5	1.7	1.5	14.3

Table A3. Descriptive statistics of the variables.

Var	Definition	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Migration (log)	Number of people migrated from one region to another	40501	4.5	1.5	-0.7	11.2
Life expectancy	Life expectancy from birth, years	40501	65.9	2.1	55.3	72.3
Conflict	General socio-political conflict indicator	40501	8.5	6.3	0.2	46.6
Income (log)	December average income in 25-good-basket	40501	1.2	0.3	0.2	2.8
Unemployment	Unemployment rate, per cent (ILO methodology)	40501	10.5	4.9	2.8	31.2
Poverty	Share of population with income below subsistence level	30266	30.8	13.1	11.5	88.8
Share of men	Share of men as of beginning of 1991	40501	47.3	1.4	45.1	50.4
Share of young	Share of young people from 0 to 15 years of age as of beginning of 1991	40501	24.7	3.2	19.4	35.5
Share of old	Share of old people, men from 60 and women from 55 years of age as of beginning of 1991	40501	18.7	4.4	7.1	25.7
Apartment privatization	Share of privately owned apartment	40501	35.2	14.9	1.0	73.0
Homicides	Homicide rate per 1.000 population	40501	0.19	0.07	0.04	0.42
Buses	Number of buses per 100.000 population	40501	83	19	32	156
Doctors	Number of doctors per 1.000 population	40501	9	8	1	73
Hospital beds	Hospital beds per 1.000 population	40501	1.3	0.1	0.8	1.9
Railroad density	Railroad density km per 10.000 km ²	40501	170	121	0.5	586
Highway density	Highway density km per 1.000 km ²	40501	108	75	1.5	327
Telephones	Number of telephones per 100 households	40501	35	11	18	105
Population (log)	Population as of beginning of 1990, thousands	39069	7	1	5	9
Distance (log)	Distance between two regions, km	39069	7.6	1.1	3.2	9.5
Education	Average years of education of population above 15 years of age	39069	9.3	0.3	8.7	10.1

ELF	Ethno-linguistic fractionalization	39069	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.8
Large cities	Share of population residing in cities with more 500.000 population	39069	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.6
Rural population	Share of rural population	39069	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6
Resource potential	Resource potential index	39069	1.0	0.5	0.4	2.7
Temperature in January	Average temperature in January, degrees centigrade	39069	-13	7	-37	-1
Temperature in July	Average temperature in July, degrees centigrade	39069	18	2	12	25
Dummy for port	Dummy for regions with major ports	39069	0.2	0.4	0	1
Subsidies to agriculture	Budget subsidies per 100 rubles of agricultural production as of 1995	39069	10	5	1	29
Small privatization	Share of privatized businesses in trade, catering and household services as of 1996	39069	82	33	20	306
Price regulation	Proportion of goods and services with regulated prices as of 1996	39069	16	9	3	69

Table A4. Regression results: GLS fixed effect regressions for migration.

Migration and income are in logs, including squared log of income. Therefore, the respective coefficients are elasticities of migration with respect to income. The squared income is adjusted for 1.18 (the mean income for the entire sample) to reduce correlation between income and squared income.

Significance levels: *** - 1%, ** - 5%, * - 10%. Index 'i' denotes source region and 'j' denotes destination.

Variable	Core 92-99	Main 92-99	Main for European Part 92-99	Main with poverty 94-99	Core for poorest 35% 92-99	Core for richest 65% 92-99
Unemployment i	0.007***	0.007***	0.008***	0.005***	0.012***	0.006***
Unemployment j	-0.010***	-0.011***	-0.014***	-0.006***	-0.008***	-0.012***
Income i	-0.080***	-0.081***	-0.037**	0.046**	0.161***	-0.163***
Income j	-0.001	-0.0001	0.057***	-0.144***	-0.039	0.018
(Income – 1.18) ² i		-0.044**	-0.017	-0.049***		
(Income – 1.18) ² j		0.063***	0.067**	0.065***		
Poverty i				0.0004		
Poverty j				-0.002***		
Life expectancy i	-0.020***	-0.020***	-0.019***	-0.029***	-0.0016	-0.024***
Life expectancy j	-0.0012	-0.0019	0.020***	-0.003	-0.012**	0.007*
Socio-political conflict i	-0.001	-0.0006	0.002**	-0.0004	0.005***	-0.003***
Socio-political conflict j	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.001	-0.004***	-0.004***	-0.002***
Apartment privatization i	-0.003***	-0.003***	0.004***	-0.002**	-0.008***	0.0002
Apartment privatization j	0.003***	0.003***	0.004***	0.003***	0.002*	0.004***
Homicides i	-0.385***	-0.373***	0.129	0.363***	-0.441**	-0.493***
Homicides j	0.014	-0.003	0.067	-0.056	-0.327	0.174
Buses i	-0.003***	-0.003***	-0.003***	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.003***
Buses j	-0.0002	-0.0003	-0.001*	0.0003	-0.0007	0.000
Doctors i	0.015***	0.015***	0.020***	0.014***	0.027**	0.015***
Doctors j	0.009**	0.008*	-0.026***	0.047***	0.024***	-0.005
Hospital beds i	-0.34***	-0.342***	-0.160**	-0.104*	-0.0733	-0.565***
Hospital beds j	0.235***	0.239***	0.222***	0.123**	0.131	0.311***
Railroad density i	0.0004*	0.0004*	0.001***	0.001***	-0.01***	0.001***
Railroad density j	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.002***
Highway density i	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.001***	-0.001*	-0.003***	-0.001***

Highway density j	0.003***	0.003***	0.002***	0.002***	0.003***	0.003***
Telephones i	-0.003***	-0.003***	0.001	-0.002***	-0.003	-0.001
Telephones j	0.002***	0.002***	-0.004***	-0.001	0.003**	0.002**
Const	6.413***	6.435***	4.686***	6.567***	6.989***	6.726***
Number of obs.	40501	40501	16388	30266	14198	26303
Number of groups	5329	5329	2116	5327	3911	5183
R-squared between	0.159	0.159	0.222	0.194	0.142	0.195

Table A5. Regression results: GLS between-effects regressions for migration.

Variable	Core 92-99	Main 92-99	Main for European Part 92-99	Main with poverty 94-99	Core for poorest 35% 92-99	Core for richest 65% 92-99
Distance	-0.922***	-0.922***	-1.38***	-0.921***	-0.916***	-0.909***
Education i	0.432***	0.45***	-0.363	0.41***	0.367***	0.719***
Education j	0.133	0.113	-0.277	0.214**	0.393***	0.198**
Unemployment i	0.052***	0.057***	0.088***	0.041***	0.068***	0.03***
Unemployment j	-0.005	-0.010	0.069***	-0.011	-0.005	-0.008
Income i	-0.105	0.008	-0.276	0.619***	0.853***	-0.518***
Income j	0.152	0.033	0.372*	0.749***	0.102	0.076
(Income-1.18) ² i		-0.272*	-2.42***	-0.597***		
(Income-1.18) ² j		0.288**	-1.25*	-0.1058		
Poverty i				0.014***		
Poverty j				0.016***		
Life expectancy i	-0.18***	-0.172***	0.144***	-0.141***	-0.023	-0.141***
Life expectancy j	-0.133***	-0.142***	-0.025	-0.125***	-0.048***	-0.085***
Socio-political conflict i	0.008**	0.004	0.014	0.005	-0.013***	0.003
Socio-political conflict j	-0.009**	-0.005	-0.022**	-0.005	-0.004	-0.013***
Log population i	1.609***	1.608***	0.40**	1.418***	1.159***	1.483***
Log population j	0.923***	0.924***	0.817***	0.968***	0.774***	0.785***
Initial share of men i	0.173***	0.174***	0.802***	0.22***	0.42***	0.273***
Initial share of men j	0.116***	0.115***	0.548***	0.141***	0.192***	0.16***
Initial share of young i	-0.106***	-0.107***	-0.03	-0.117***	-0.17***	-0.072***
Initial share of young j	-0.056***	-0.056***	0.076**	-0.065***	-0.036*	-0.026
Initial share of old i	-0.105***	-0.106***	0.203***	-0.09***	-0.074***	-0.052**
Initial share of old j	-0.048**	-0.046**	0.164***	-0.038*	-0.004	-0.016
Apartment privatization i	0.013***	0.013***	0.014***	0.012***	0.001	0.01***
Apartment privatization j	0.015***	0.014***	0.011**	0.012***	0.008***	0.01***
Homicides i	-2.319***	-2.191***	4.453***	-1.628***	-0.648	-1.721***
Homicides j	-2.008***	-2.144***	0.815	-1.662***	-1.005***	-1.622***
Buses i	0.003***	0.003***	-0.001	0.002*	0	0.003***
Buses j	-0.0004	-0.001	-0.003**	-0.0006	-0.001	-0.0004
Doctors i	-0.085***	-0.082***	0.0144	-0.067***	-0.026***	-0.063***
Doctors j	-0.004	-0.007	0.002	-0.009	0.006	0.01

Hospital beds i	0.362***	0.391***	-2.438***	0.25*	-0.734***	0.441***
Hospital beds j	-0.367***	-0.396***	-2.081***	-0.380***	-0.254*	-0.359***
Railroad density i	0.0004*	0.0004*	-0.0002	0.0003	-0.0003	0.000
Railroad density j	0.001***	0.001***	-0.0005	0.001**	0.001***	0.001***
Highway density i	0.0004	0.0004	0.0003	0.001*	-0.0001	0.0006
Highway density j	0.0006	0.0007	0.003***	0.001***	0.0001	0.0004
Telephones i	-0.020***	-0.022***	0.009**	-0.019***	-0.021***	-0.018***
Telephones j	-0.018***	-0.015***	0.006	-0.014***	-0.018***	-0.017***
Ethno-linguistic fractionalization i	-0.532***	-0.494***	1.214***	-0.492***	-0.193	-0.561***
Ethno-linguistic fractionalization j	-0.129	-0.168	0.597*	-0.290*	-0.33**	-0.281*
Big cities i	0.38***	0.319***	-0.668***	0.301***	-0.218	0.289***
Big cities j	0.096	0.161	-0.353*	0.098	0.065	0.087
Rural i	1.904***	2.034***	-2.986***	1.734***	1.351***	1.855***
Rural j	1.038***	0.902***	-2.241***	0.778***	0.766***	0.791***
Resource potential i	0.192***	0.169***	0.358***	0.245***	0.101	0.1**
Resource potential j	0.235***	0.259***	0.328***	0.236***	0.29***	0.281***
Temperature in January i	-0.034***	-0.034***	-0.06***	-0.032***	-0.038***	-0.031***
Temperature in January j	-0.024***	-0.024***	-0.046***	-0.017***	-0.029***	-0.024***
Temperature in July i	-0.043***	-0.047***	-0.099***	-0.039***	-0.061***	-0.049***
Temperature in July j	-0.036***	-0.031***	-0.046**	-0.026**	-0.037***	-0.048***
Dummy for port i	0.147***	0.142***	0.286***	0.118***	0.128**	-0.0335
Dummy for port j	0.193***	0.198***	0.222***	0.145***	0.162***	0.185***
Subsidies to agriculture i	-0.001	-0.002	-0.022***	-0.001	-0.011**	-0.009***
Subsidies to agriculture j	-0.002	-0.002	-0.016***	0.0004	-0.012***	-0.003
Small privatization i	0.001**	0.001**	0.003	0.001***	0.002***	0.001
Small privatization j	0.001***	0.001**	-0.0003	0.001***	0.001**	0.001**
Price regulation i	0.0002	-0.0001	-0.002	-0.001	-0.005***	-0.002
Price regulation j	-0.001	-0.0004	0.0004	-0.001	-0.003**	-0.002
Const	1.5987	1.6418	-64.114***	-6.931	-26.068***	-14.172***
Number of obs.	39069	39069	15488	28850	13942	25127
Number of groups	5041	5041	1936	5039	3811	4899
R-squared within	0.765	0.766	0.78	0.756	0.766	0.754

Table A6. Regression results: Poisson fixed effect regressions for migration.

Variable	Core 92-99	Main 92-99	Main for European Part 92-99	Main with poverty 94-99	Core for poorest 35% 92-99	Core for richest 65% 92-99
Unemployment i	0.014***	0.014***	0.017***	0.011***	0.007***	0.016***
Unemployment j	-0.009***	-0.009***	-0.011***	-0.006***	-0.003***	-0.012***
Income i	-0.040***	-0.036***	-0.058***	0.041***	0.057***	-0.063***
Income j	0.091***	0.085***	0.073***	0.021***	0.018***	0.084***
(Income 1.18) ² i		-0.024***	0.028***	-0.0313***		
(Income 1.18) ² j		0.063***	-0.009*	0.097***		
Poverty i				0.0007***		
Poverty j				-0.001***		
Life expectancy i	-0.028***	-0.027***	-0.039***	-0.032***	-0.032***	-0.028***
Life expectancy j	0.019***	0.018***	0.035***	0.013***	-0,002	0.03***
Socio-political conflict i	-0.002***	-0.002***	0,0001	0.0004***	-0.002***	-0.002***
Socio-political conflict j	0.001***	0.001***	-0.002***	-0.001***	-0.002***	0.003***
Apartment privatization i	0.002***	0.002***	0.002***	0.002***	0.001***	0.002***
Apartment privatization j	0.001***	0.001***	0.001***	0.002***	-0.001***	0.002***
Homicides i	-0.027*	-0.012	0.015	0.412***	0.532***	-0.336***
Homicides j	-0,013	-0.044***	0.12***	-0.397***	-0.868***	0.366***
Buses i	-0.001***	-0.001***	-0.001***	-0.001***	-0.002***	-0.001***
Buses j	0.0006***	0.0004***	0.001***	0.0002***	-0,0001	0.0006***
Doctors i	0.014***	0.014***	0.009***	0.006***	0.038***	0.012***
Doctors j	0.005***	0.004***	-0.008***	0.019***	0.005***	0.002***
Hospital beds i	-0.079***	-0.082***	-0.028**	-0.043***	-0.167***	-0.031***
Hospital beds j	0.155***	0.16***	0.033**	0.209***	0.265***	0.112***
Railroad density i	0.0003***	0.0002***	0.000	0.001***	0.003***	0.0003***
Railroad density j	-0.001***	-0.001***	-0.002***	-0.001***	0.002***	-0.002***
Highway density i	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.001***	0.0001*	-0.001***	-0.002***
Highway density j	0.002***	0.002***	0.002***	0.0003***	0.003***	0.002***
Telephones i	0.002***	0.002***	0.003***	0.002***	-0.001***	0.003***
Telephones j	-0.003***	-0.003***	-0.008***	-0.006***	-0.004***	-0.001***
Number of obs.	40496	40496	16388	30123	13588	25906
Number of groups	5328	5328	2116	5184	3305	4786

Figure 1. Net migration, total for 1990-99 as % of 1990 population (color) and gap between regional income and the threshold level (bar).

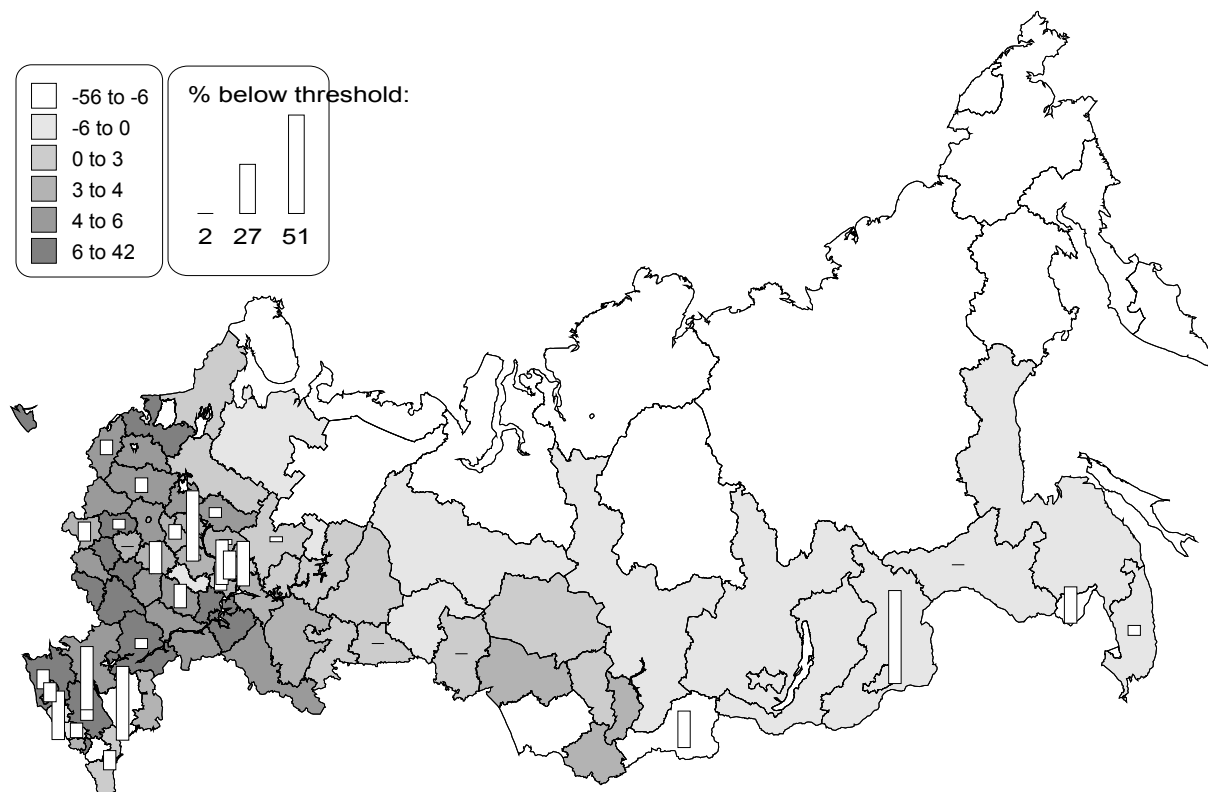


Figure 2. Evolution of migration over time: the intra-Russia migration rates in 1992-99 and time dummies in the core regression. Since the regression is run for the log migration, the graph presents $\exp(\text{year dummies})$.

