

The UK Experience

Nik Lomax

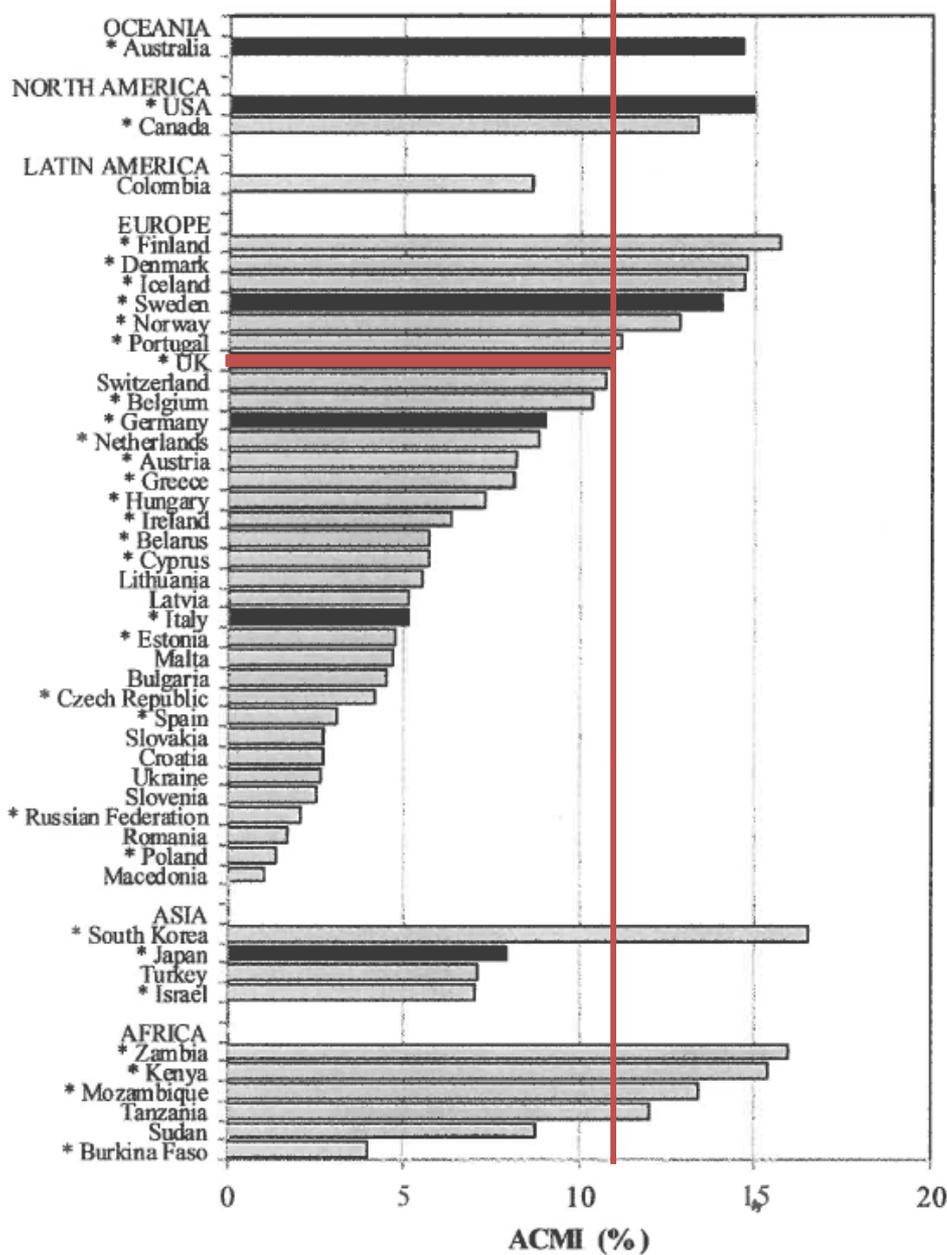
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A meeting to celebrate the publication of
'Internal Migration in the Developed World:
Are we becoming less mobile?'

LSE | 11 Jan 2018



Context

- 6.8 million individuals changed address 2010-2011
- The UK occupies an **intermediate** rank in terms of overall migration intensity
- below the USA, Australia and **Sweden**
- but above Germany, Japan and Italy

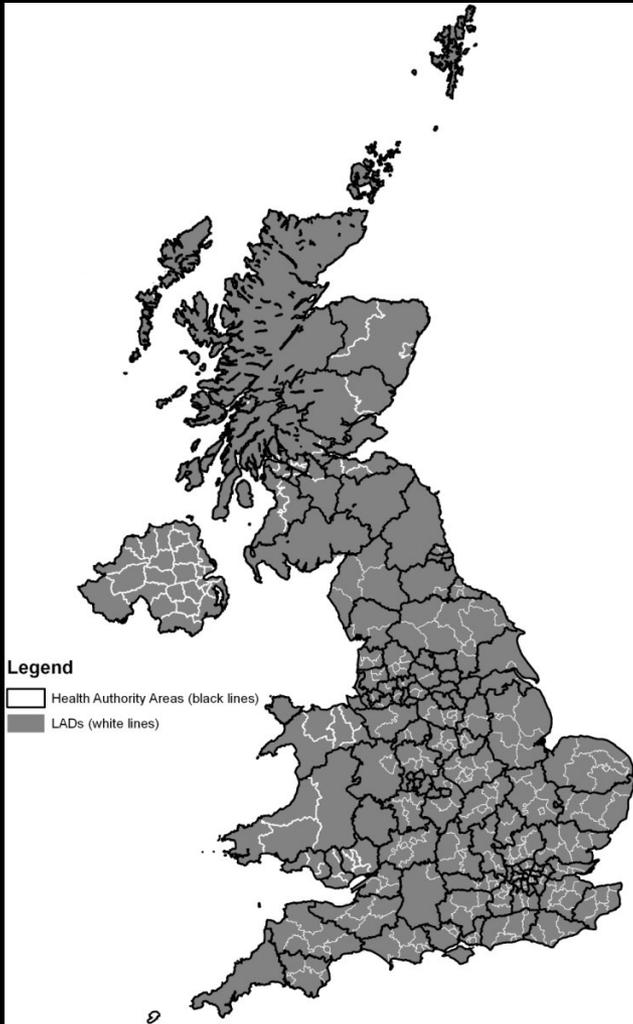
Figure 4.1 Aggregate Crude Migration Intensities (ACMI) for countries collecting one-year migration data.

Source: Modified after Bell *et al.* (2015b) and extended and updated using data from the IMAGE Repository.

Data

- There is **no** source of readily available data that allows us to monitor *total* migration in the UK consistently over long periods of time
- Census:
 - Every 10 years
 - Nearly full enumeration
 - Rich detail
- Longitudinal Study:
 - links census records and vital statistics
- National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR):
 - 80 consistent areas from 1976
- Patient Register Data Service (PRDS):
 - A more recent addition, local authority scale

Data

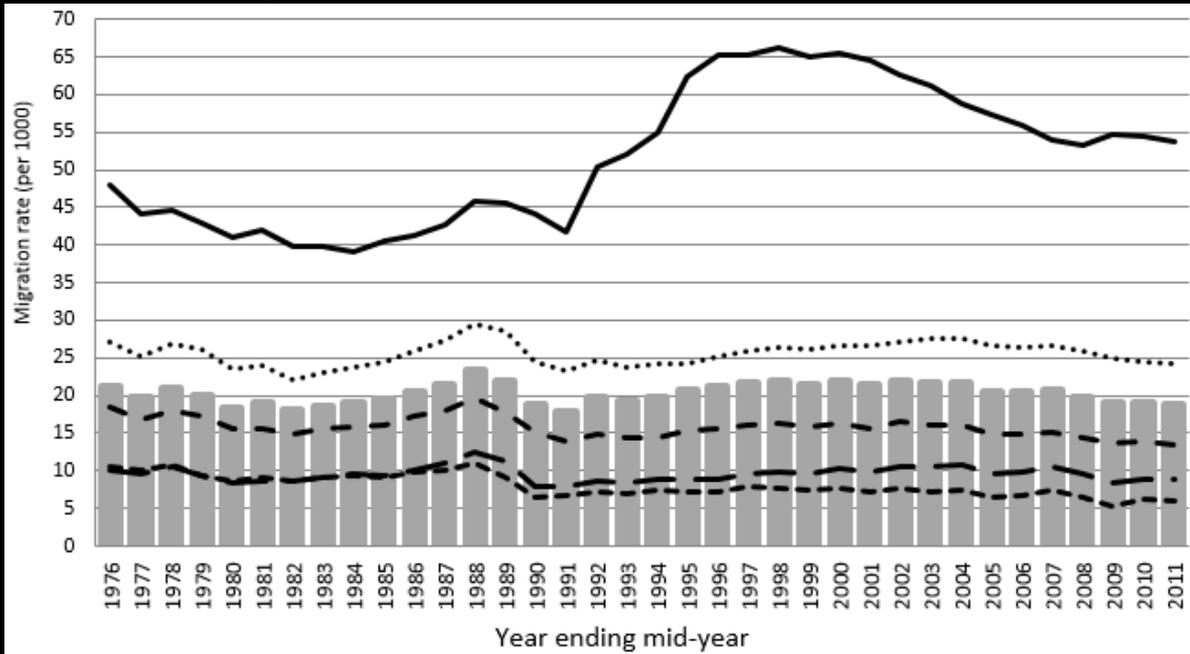


Source: Lomax (2013)

- 1976 onwards – moves between regions and between health areas *within* regions
- 2000 onwards – moves between local authority districts
- Census – one year migration question from 1961
 - From 1971 – total migration by distance for each ten year period

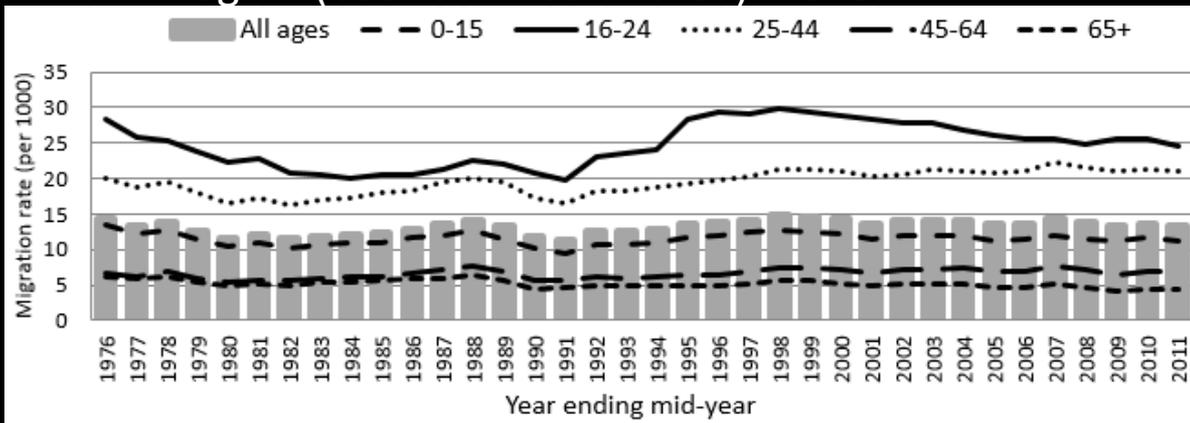
Long term migration trends

Between Region moves



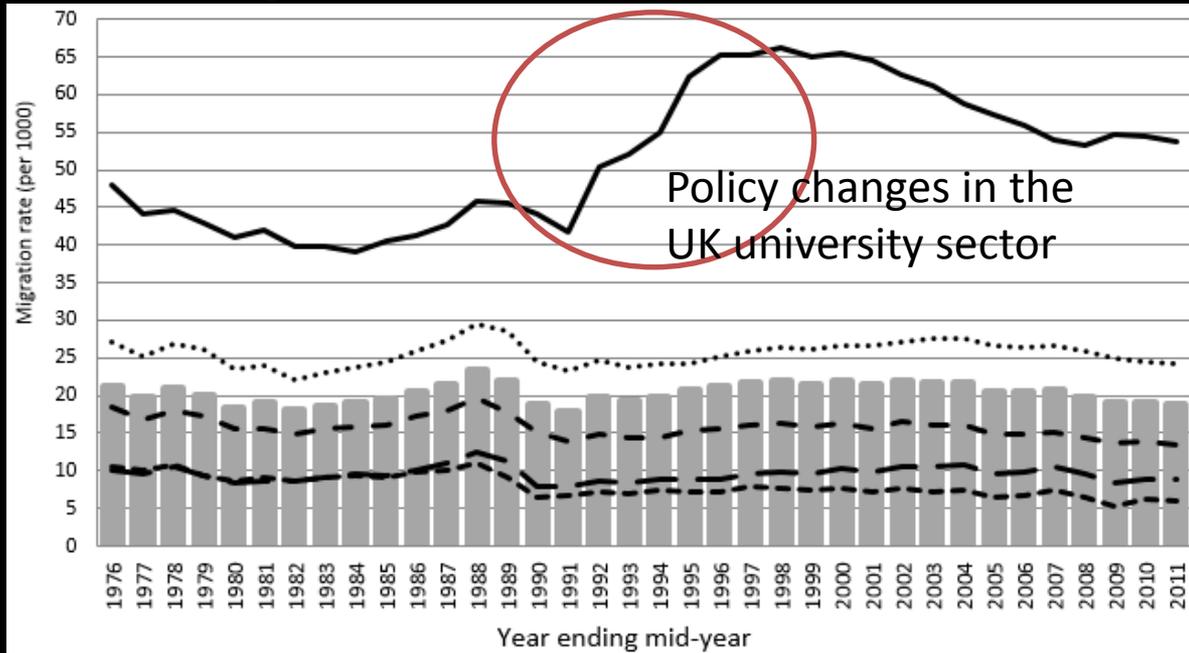
- Little evidence to support a hypothesis of long-term decline
- Fluctuation with economic cycle

Within Region (between health area) moves



Long term migration trends

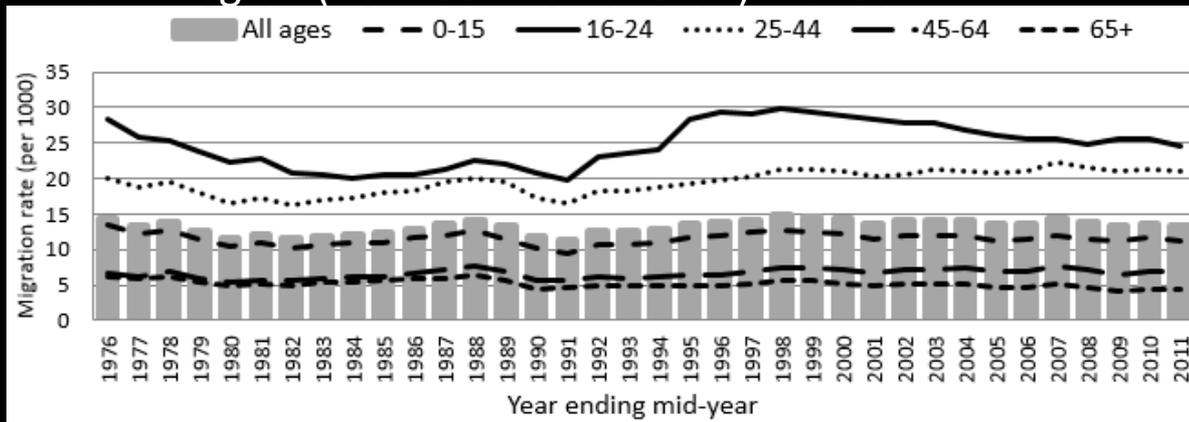
Between Region moves



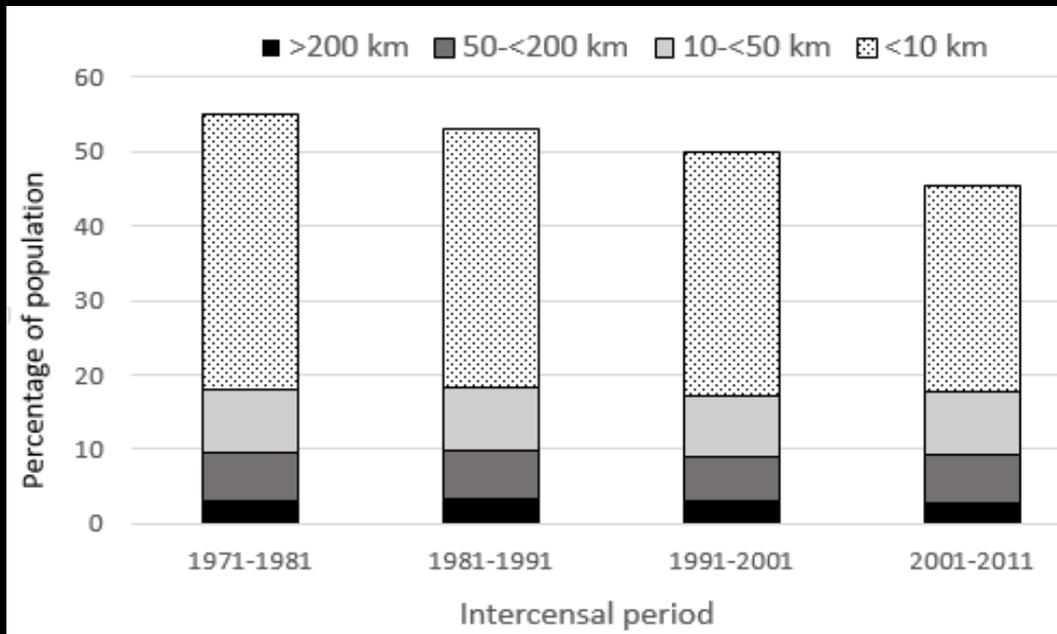
Age 16 to 24

- expansion of numbers participating in higher education
- introduction of the student loan system in 1990
- Further Education and Higher Education Act in 1992 granted university status to 48 polytechnics

Within Region (between health area) moves



Distance of migration



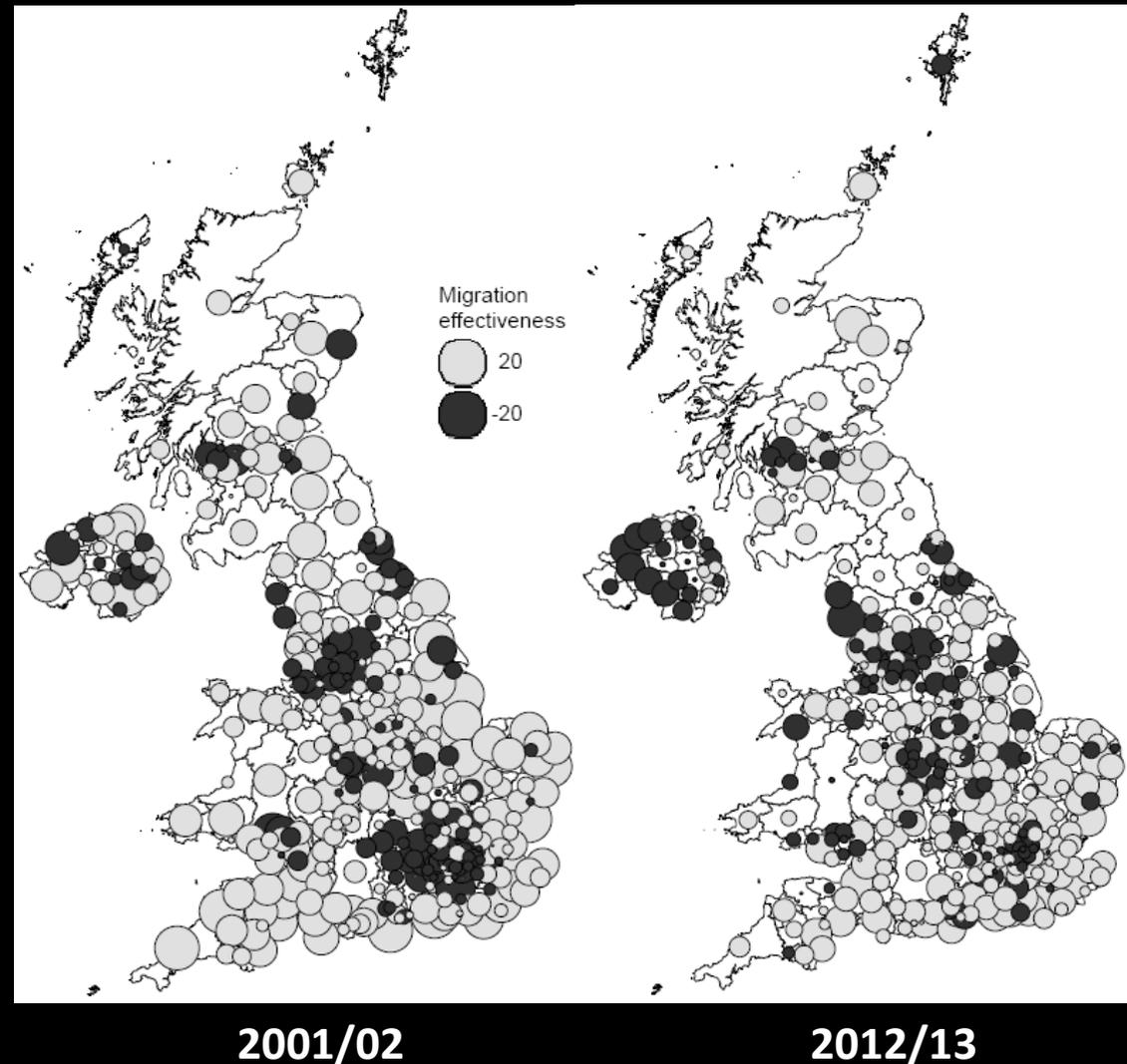
- migration propensity declined consistently over the four decades from a rate of 55% in the 1970s to 45% in the 2000s
- almost entirely explained by decline in the rate of moves taking place over less than 10km, which dropped from 36.9% in the 1970s to 27.5% in the 2000s

Distance of migration

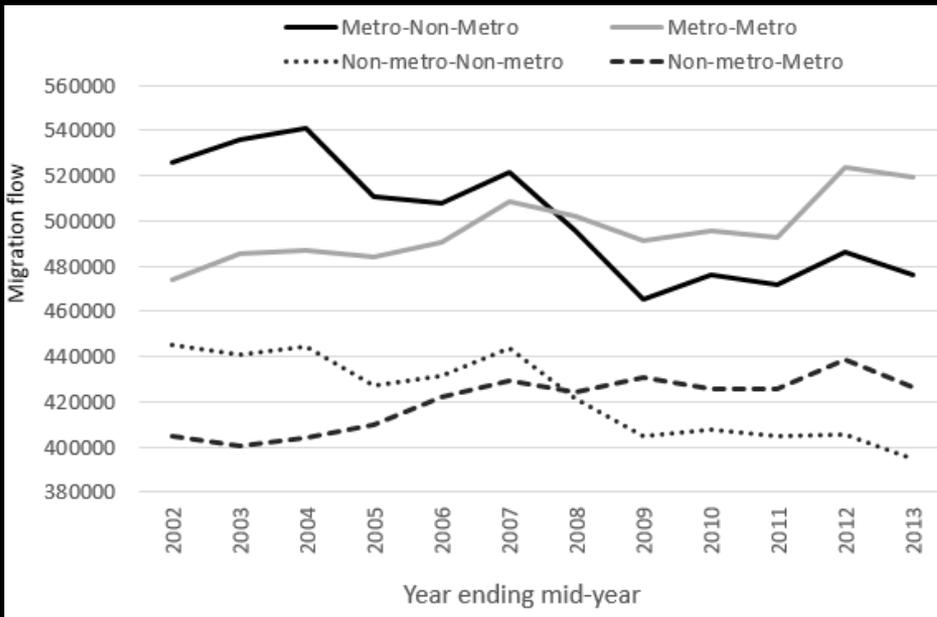
- Median distance of UK migration is 3km (Stillwell and Thomas 2016)
- Short distance migration often termed **residential mobility**
- Decline in short distance migration particularly evident in the most recent decade
- Potential explanation:
 1. relationship between commuting and migration
 2. Increase costs of buying and selling homes

Recent patterns: LA scale

- Decline in ME across most LADs, suggesting a weakening of the counterurbanisation process
- London region has undergone a substantial shift in ME pattern; while London boroughs almost uniformly had negative ME scores in 2001/02, by 2012/13 the losses were limited to central London, with Outer London boroughs showing a positive ME score



Recent patterns: metro/non-metro



- Moves from metro to non-metro have declined overall
- moves from non-metro to metro have increased
- number of people moving between metro areas has increased
- number of people moving between non-metro areas has decreased

Summary 1/3: Long term (longer distance) trends

- There is **little evidence** to support a long-term decline in the relatively long-distance migration either between regions or between health areas within regions in England and Wales
- Fluctuations in the time series of migration are accounted for partly by cyclical changes in national economic prosperity as well as varying conditions in labour and housing markets and changing locational preferences amongst certain groups rather than any pronounced fall in the underlying propensity to move home

Summary 2/3: Long term (shorter distance) trends

- Shorter-distance migration (under 10km) has declined in each decade since the 1970s
- People have become more mobile as far as commuting to work is concerned. They may well be less concerned to move short distances to be nearer their place of work. The idea of a 'job for life' no longer exists, with a proportion of people shifting employer (and potentially employment location) every few years without necessarily involving a change of home
- At the same time, the costs of buying and selling homes, together with the costs of moving, have increased substantially over the last 40 years

Summary 3/3: Some substantial recent changes

- Evidence of decline in migration rates and effectiveness since 2001/02
- Decline in relatively long term trend for counterurbanisation as metro to non-metro moves fall
- Increase in metro-metro moves
- Rise of city living and an urban renaissance?

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References

- Champion, A.G. and Shuttleworth, I. (2016a) Is longer-distance migration slowing? An analysis of the annual record for England and Wales, *Population, Space and Place*, Published online in Wiley Online Library DOI: 10.1002/psp.2024
- Champion, A.G. and Shuttleworth, I. (2016b) Are people moving address less? An analysis of migration within England and Wales, 1971-2011, by distance of move, *Population, Space and Place*, Published online in Wiley Online Library DOI: 10.1002/psp.2026
- Stillwell, J. and Thomas, M. (2016) How far to internal migrants really move? Demonstrating a new method for the estimation of intra-zonal distance, *Regional Studies, Regional Science*, 3(1): 28-47
- Note: all figures used in this presentation, unless otherwise cited, are from Champion, T., Cooke, T. and Shuttleworth, I. eds., (2018). *Internal Migration in the Developed World: Are we becoming less mobile?* Routledge.