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Factors connected to moving from urban to areas with universities among persons at family formation age during 2003 to 2008

The most typical employed long-distance mover in Finland in the past few years has been a person around the age of 25 that moves between larger urban areas. This article, therefore, examines the moves by such persons from urban areas to larger urban areas (urban area with university) and connected regional factors.

Indicators of the general economic situation in the area have been found to be connected to moving to cities. Such indicators are unemployment and economic growth. In addition, consideration of the labour market structure has been considered important. Churning is one of the most important factors. Ideally, churning is preponderance of mobility of labour in proportion to the relative amount of job generation and loss. Sometimes churning has, in practice, meant preponderance of recruitment from long distances compared to recruitment from short distances. In this study, the above-mentioned factors are used as explanatory variables for the moves of persons at family formation age. In addition, the study examines the connection between the share of industrial workers and highly educated persons, and changes in the amount of recently retired persons and out-migration to urban areas with universities among persons at family formation age.

The study analyses the migration flows of persons aged 25 to 29 in 2003 to 2008. The examined migration flows are migrations to urban areas with universities from urban areas with universities and from other urban areas. The method of the study is regression analysis of panel data using within estimation.

Different factors were connected to out-migration to urban areas with universities from urban areas with universities and from other urban areas in a statistically significant manner. In urban areas with universities, positively correlating factors for out-migration were the churning rate, the share of little educated people, and the change in the number of people approaching retirement. In other urban areas, these factors did not explain the migration and, in addition, only the change in the number of persons retiring had a similar estimate of the parameter as in the other analysed migration flow. In other urban areas, migration to urban areas with universities was only explained in a statistically significant manner by unemployment and growth in employment. As expected, unemployment had a positive effect and growth in employment had a negative effect on migration to urban areas with universities. Unemployment and growth in employment did not explain moves between urban areas with universities.