

# MIGRATION (I)

- **Migration** is a movement of people which involves a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence. **Emigrants** leave a country. **Immigrants** enter a country. In LEDCs most people move from rural to urban areas. In MEDCs migration is often the other way around. Some people move of their own free will. Refugees are migrants who are forced to move.

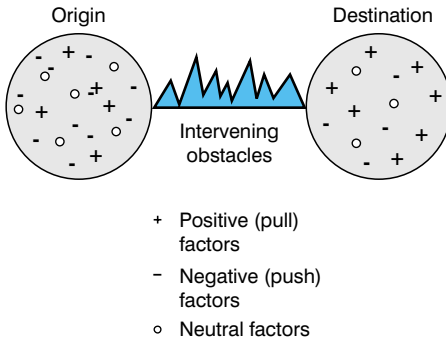
## Push–pull factors

- Migration occurs for many different reasons. People moving for a new job or for a better standard of living are economic migrants. Moving to join other members of the family or to get better medical, welfare or educational facilities are social reasons for migration. **Refugees** migrate because of political reasons, e.g. persecution, or because of environmental disasters.
- Migration can be explained by **push** and **pull factors**. Push factors are the disadvantages of a migrant's existing home. Pull factors are attractions of the new location. There are obstacles to migration such as the cost of moving or family connections.

| Push factors from countryside  | Pull to towns and cities  |
|--|---|
| Land shortage owing to inheritance laws, sub-division of land and population pressure. | Prospects of a higher standard of living.   |
| Unemployment in agriculture.   | More opportunities in industry and services.  |
| Poverty and crop failure.  | Higher wages in urban jobs.   |
| Debts in rural areas, especially among tenant farmers.                                 | Less interest on loans.   |
| Natural disasters.   | Fewer natural disasters.  |
| Poor medical facilities.   | Better medical facilities, clinics and hospitals.   |
| Lack of educational opportunities.   | Greater number and better quality of schools.   |
| Poor transport, housing, water, electricity, and sewage disposal.                      | Prospect of better services.  |
| Traditional way of life with limited social facilities for young people.               | Attraction of the bright lights of the city.<br>Media, entertainment, television and radio are all more accessible. |

*Rural–urban migration in LEDCs: push and pull factors*

## MIGRATION (2)



*Lee's model of migration*

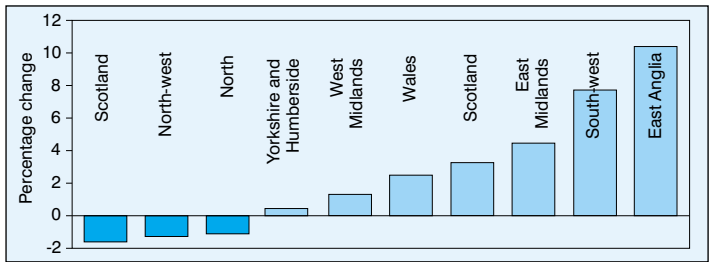
- Young adults between the ages of 15–40 who are better educated are most likely to migrate. In South America women are most likely to migrate, whereas in Africa a typical migrant is male.

### Migration in LEDCs

- **Rural–urban migration** in LEDCs has caused rapid **urbanisation**. Farming in rural areas is often unprofitable and the countryside frequently suffers drought and flooding. Medical facilities are poorer in rural areas and infant mortality is often quite high. Malnutrition is common too. In urban areas there is a greater range of services and greater opportunities for paid employment.
- Rural–urban migration in LEDCs has led to the growth of **shanty towns** in urban areas. The rapidly increasing urban population puts great pressure on housing and services. The migrants provide industry with cheap labour. The rural areas suffer because of the subsequent fall in birth rate and food production. They gain some benefit from the money sent back by migrants living in urban areas.

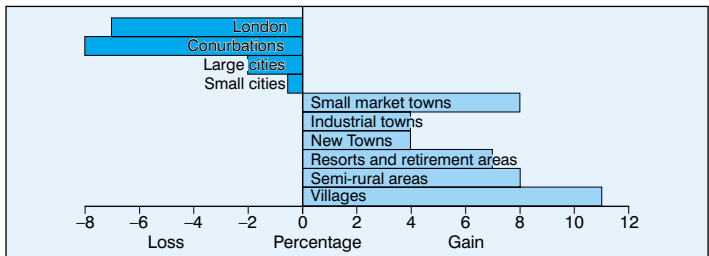
## Migration in MEDCs

- Migration in MEDCs is largely urban–rural. This shift is called **counterurbanisation**. Rural areas experience a **net migrational gain**, whereas urban areas, particularly large conurbations suffer a **net migrational loss**. In the UK in addition to counterurbanisation there has been migration from North to South.



Population change by region, 1981–91.

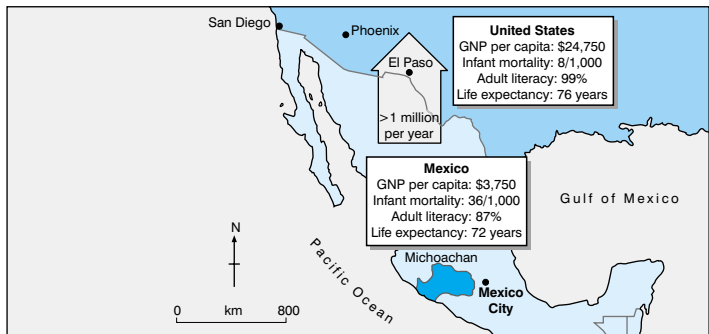
- Counterurbanisation is the result of three factors. More people own cars. This allows people to live in rural areas but commute to work in urban areas. Many people think that rural areas offer a better quality of life, with less pollution, traffic congestion and lower levels of crime. Increasing numbers of people are moving to the countryside and coastal areas when they retire.



Population change according to type of area in England and Wales

## International migration

- Population movement between countries is called **international migration**, e.g. from Caribbean countries and the Indian sub-continent to the UK. This is less common than **internal migration** because of the distances involved and political restrictions. There is a lot of illegal migration between poor and rich countries, e.g. between Mexico and the USA.
- In the mid 1990s there were about 50 million refugees, half of whom were forced to leave their country. The vast majority of these refugees were in LEDCs. Most refugees are victims of war, or ethnic and religious tensions. Other important factors are food shortages and natural disasters.
- Migration brings advantages and disadvantages to both the sending and the receiving countries. The movement of people from LEDCs may reduce population pressure. However, the countries may lose the better educated or more skilled people. Migration also produces an unbalanced population structure. The MEDCs obtain cheaper labour and increased knowledge of new cultures and foods. However, racial tension can develop as migrants compete with the native population for jobs.



*Global movement of political refugees*

## Migration (1–4)

- 1** Why is going away on holiday or commuting to work not considered migration? (1)
- 2** How may the inheritance laws in many LEDCs encourage migration? (1)
- 3** People who migrate from a rural area to a large urban area a long distance away tend to move in a series of shorter stages. Why is this? (1)
- 4** What is depopulation? (1)
- 5** Rising sea level caused by global warming has forced many people to leave Bangladesh. Is the reason for this migration social, economic, environmental or political? (1)
- 6** Why are better educated or more highly skilled people more likely to migrate from rural areas? (1)
- 7** What is counterurbanisation? (1)
- 8** Give one reason why more Italians have emigrated to Germany than Spaniards. (1)
- 9** Why is there so much illegal migration from Mexico to the USA? (1)
- 10** What is gentrification? (1)
- 11** Name two advantages for a country where large number of migrants have settled. (2)
- 12** Why is there a greater number of refugees in LEDCs? (3)
- 13** Why can migration be described as a 'selective process'? (3)
- 14** Why have many counties along the south coast of England seen a big increase in population in recent years? (2)

- 1 There is no permanent or semi-permanent change of residence. (1)
- 2 Land is divided equally among children. Over a number of generations the small farms become uneconomic. (1)
- 3 There are fewer obstacles to a migrant over a short distance. (1)
- 4 The decline in population because of migration. (1)  
This is different to a natural population decrease where death rate exceeds birth rate.
- 5 Environmental. (1)
- 6 They have enough money to make the move. (1)
- 7 The movement of people from urban to rural areas. (1)  
Remember that this is most evident from conurbations and larger urban areas. Small urban areas may still be increasing in population.
- 8 Italy is closer. (1) Migration studies suggest that as distance increases the number of migrants decreases.
- 9 There is a great difference in the standard of living between the two countries. (1) GNP per head in the USA is over six times that of Mexico.
- 10 The process by which better-off people move into working class areas of cities. (1) This is the opposite of counterurbanisation.
- 11 Increased supply of labour. (1) Increased knowledge and appreciation of different cultures. (1) Indian and Chinese restaurants are enjoyed by many people in the UK.
- 12 There is greater political instability. (1) Strong tribal loyalties can lead to ethnic hostilities. (1) Many LEDCs lie in the Tropics where the risk of natural hazards is higher. (1)
- 13 Migrants are often of a particular type. (1) Migrants are largely of one gender. (1) Younger people are more likely to migrate. (1)
- 14 It is part of the North-South shift in population. (1) The coast is attractive and winters tend to be milder, so many people retire there. (1) The counties of South-west England, e.g. Devon and Cornwall, have seen sizeable increases in population for these reasons.

**TOTAL**