**International net migration in the context of English & Welsh regional population demography, 2002-2013**

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**Introduction**

International net migration is a hot political issue in the UK. In the 2015 UK General Election, UKIP, an anti-immigration party, was able to secure more than four million votes. The Conservative government had repeatedly promised to reduce international net migration to the ‘tens of thousands’, and since the 2015 election to restrict in-migration flows by renegotiating the UK’s relationship with the EU.

This poster puts international migration in context, both showing both international and internal migration flows in each of the English regions, and in Wales, in the context of overall population structure.

**Data**

Mid-year estimates of population sizes are produced by the UK Office for National Statistics in order to construct Small Area Population

Estimates (SAPE) for each local authority within England and Wales. These estimates, contained within table MYEB2 of the Components of Change data, are used to construct SAPE, and include estimates of population sizes, and internal and international in-migrations and out-migrations, for each year from 2002 to 2013, and for each single year of age, from birth to 89 years old, with aggregated counts for ages 90 years and above. Internal migration is defined as any movement originating from and terminating at any local authority in the UK; international migrations are those which originate or terminate outside of the UK over the same period.

**Figures and Colour Scheme**

The population structure and migrant flows are shown for each year from 2002 to 2013, and for each English region and Wales. The figures are arranged as ‘small multiples’ (Tufte 2001 [1983]), also known as ‘trellis plots’ (Cleveland 1993). The vertical axis is population count and the horizontal axis is age in single years. The overall population structure is represented as a grey polygon the zero line. In-migrations are represented as red polygons also above this line, and out-migrations by blue polygons below this line. Darker shades indicate international migration flows, and lighter shades internal migration flows. Grey rectangles are added indicating the start and end of the working age range. The figure was produced using the R package ggplot2 [ref], and the R script used to produce this and other figures is available on Github.

**Discussion**

The figures highlight a number of important demographic features, such as: the transition of the 1948 ‘Baby Boomers’ from working age to retirement; high rates of young adult international migration in London; the slightly older population peaks in the South East compared with London; and the relatively old and small population sizes in Wales and the North of England; and a broad symmetry between in-migration and out-migration flows. Except for London, they also show internal migration to be much larger at all ages than international migration.