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Experiences with using data from the 2010 round of censuses for measuring migration

Migration in the Greater Zurich Region 1970-2010

Note by the Statistics Canton of Zurich¹, Switzerland

Abstract

Between 1970 and 2010, the type of immigration in Switzerland and the Greater Zurich Region has changed. Especially the last decade, due to the economic structural change and the agreement on the free movement of persons between Switzerland and the EU, mostly high-qualified persons from the EU/EFTA-States migrated in. This phenomenon is often described as new migration.

The paper presents Statistics Canton of Zurich's experience with the Federal Population Census Data 1970-2000 harmonized with the Structural Survey 2010 carried out by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) using the example of an analysis in order to identify new migration in Switzerland and the Greater Zurich Region.

I. Background

The Statistics Office Canton of Zurich publishes facts & figures from various FSO data sources as the Labour Force Survey, Earnings Structure Survey, Business Census, Population Census, etc. and addresses a variety of aspects of the socio-economic situation of migrants (www.statistik.zh.ch, www.bfs.admin.ch).

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II. Data source

The new census in Switzerland

From 1850 to 2000, every 10 years the census provided important information on the structure of the population in Switzerland. In 2010, a fundamental change took place: the census is conducted and evaluated on an annual basis in a new form by the FSO. In order to ease the burden on the population, the information is primarily drawn from population registers and supplemented by sample surveys. Only a small proportion of the population (about 5 per cent) is now surveyed in writing or by telephone.

Thus, Switzerland now has a modern statistical system which makes it possible to observe on a continuous basis the structures and development of population and households, as well as of buildings and dwellings: Only necessary information that is not contained in a register still has to be collected with additional sample surveys: a) an annual structural survey of 200,000 people for which cantons and cities can enlarge the sample for their area; b) thematic surveys of 10,000 or 40,000 persons (five themes, a different one each year); c) an Omnibus survey of 3,000 persons on current issues.

The Structural Survey of the Federal Population Census

In the structural survey, a small proportion of the population is surveyed in writing. The survey complements the information from the registers and provides additional statistics on the structure of the population. The first results are available one year after the reference day.

Characteristics of the structural survey are: a) provides information on the themes of population, households, families, housing, employment, mobility, education, language and religion; b) written sample survey of 200,000 persons; c) participation by internet or by completing written questionnaire; d) conducted annually (reference day: 31 December); e) geographic aggregation levels: Switzerland, major regions, cantons and communes with more than 15,000 inhabitants; f) the results can be aggregated from 3 to 5 years. This facilitates geographically smaller-scale evaluations (after 5 years for communes with more than 3000 inhabitants); g) cantons and cities can enlarge the sample.

The following analysis is based on the Federal Population Census Data 1970-2000 harmonized with the Structural Survey 2010 carried out by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO). The harmonized data set includes the permanent resident population aged 15 and over.

III. Migration in the Greater Zurich Region 1970-2010

In OECD comparison, Switzerland has one of the highest proportions of immigrants. In 2010, 1.84 million persons or 28% of the permanent resident population aged 15 and over were foreign-born (Zurich: 33%), 1.4 million or 22% (Zurich: 24%) were permanent resident foreigners (do not have a Swiss passport).

The high proportion of foreign population is the result of several historical migration flows (Lerch 2012). At the beginning of the 1970s immigration from Italy and Spain dominated. However, in the 1970s, due to an economic crisis, many emigrated back. In the 1980s, the main source of immigration moved in the direction of Yugoslavia, Turkey and Portugal. Since 2000 mostly citizens from the North-EU/EFTA-States migrate into Switzerland. The proportion of citizens outside of Europe immigrating to Switzerland has continuously

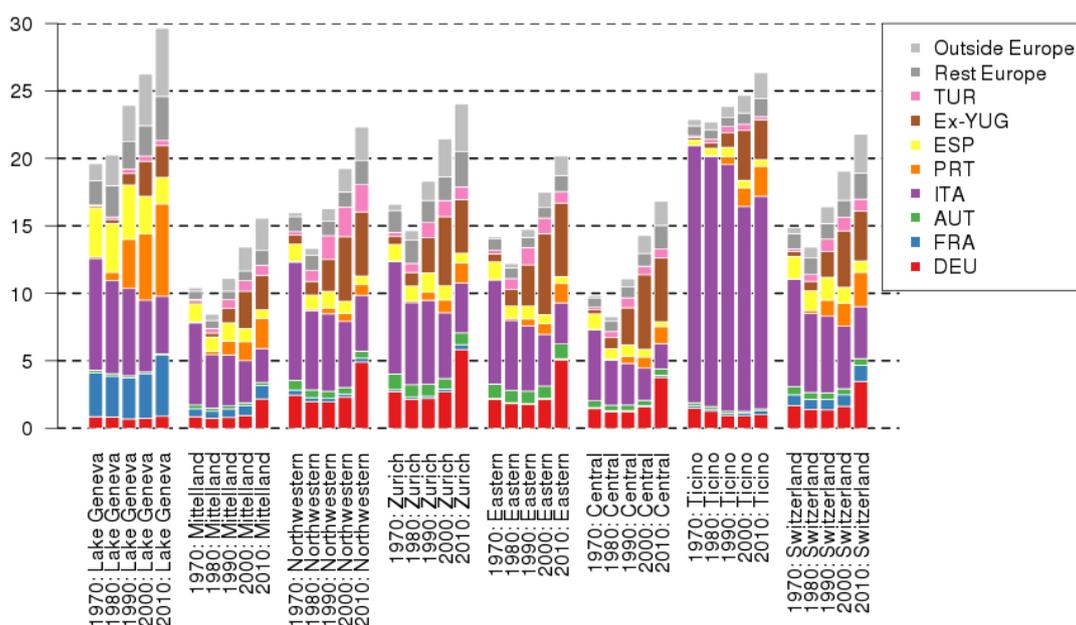
increased. Based on this immigration, the Swiss permanent resident population increased the last 40 years by approximately two million.

Growth and profound change of the foreign population in the Greater Zurich Region

Since 1970, the proportion of foreign citizens aged 15 and over in the Greater Zurich Region has increased from 17% to 24%. In comparison, the number of Swiss nationals rose by 24% to 876'400 and the number of foreign citizens clearly stronger by 98% to 277'300 persons.

The growing spectrum of countries of origin of the foreign population is a characteristic for the development of the last decades. As of 1970, 75% of the foreign population in the Greater Zurich Region originated from neighboring countries. This proportion has dropped to 45% in 2010 (figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of foreign population by nationality 1970 to 2010
Swiss Regions, 1970-2010, permanent resident population aged 15 and over, in %

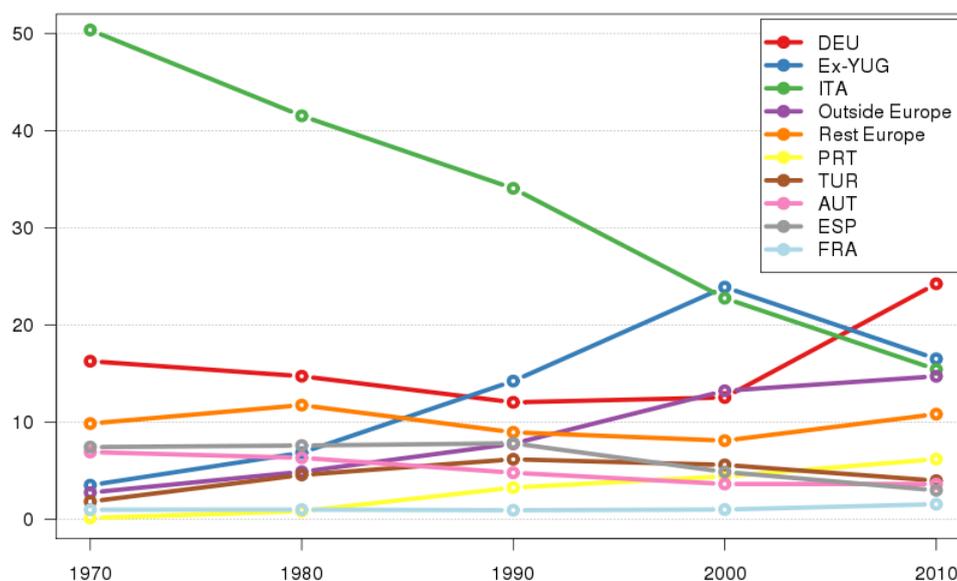


Source: Federal Population Census 1970-2000 and Structural Survey 2010. Analysis: Statistics Canton of Zurich

Nevertheless, the different structures of the foreign population between major Swiss regions are characterized by nationality groups, which are geographically, linguistically and culturally close to them. In the Lake Geneva Region dominate foreign residents from France and Portugal, in Ticino from Italy and in Zurich from Germany (figure 1).

Figure 2: Proportion of foreign population 1970 to 2010

Greater Zurich Region, 1970-2010, permanent resident population aged 15 and over, in %



Source: Federal Population Census 1970-2000 and Structural Survey 2010. Analysis: Statistics Canton of Zurich

Looking at the nationality mix in the Greater Zurich Region (figure 2), we observe a decline of the proportion of Italian (1970: 50%, 2010: 15%), Austrian and Spanish (1970: 7%, 2010: 3%) citizens. Other nationality groups increased, especially those from Germany (1970: 16%, 2010: 24%), Ex-Yugoslavia (1970: 4%, 2010: 17%), Portugal (1970: 1%, 2010: 6%) and Outside of Europe (1970: 3%, 2010: 15%).

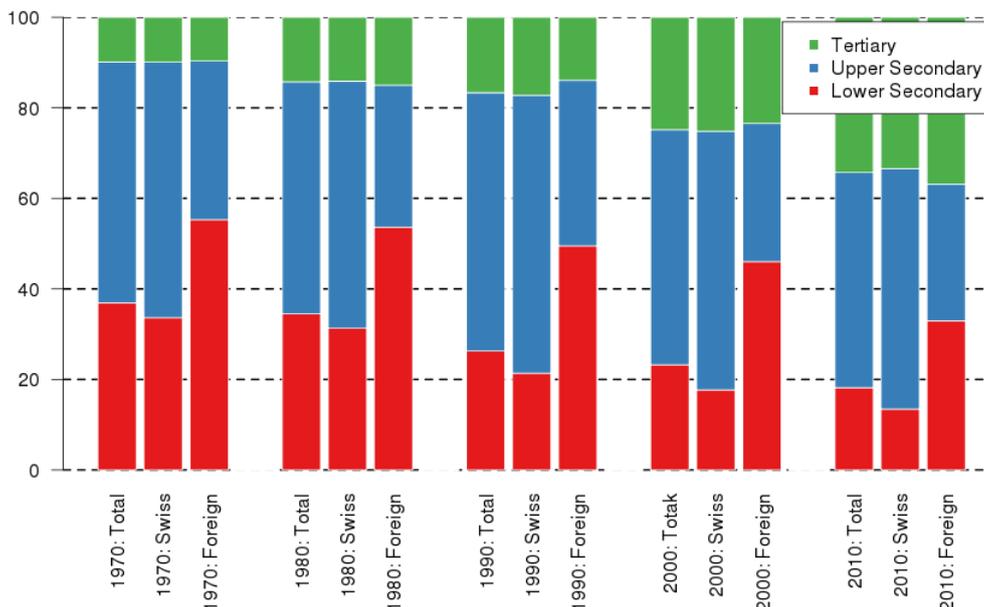
First and second generation foreigners

Behind the increase of the proportion of foreign population lies a profound change of the foreign population structure (figure 3). Between 1970 and 2010, a strong increase of second generation foreigners (foreign citizens born in Switzerland) was registered (+284%), while the number of first generation foreigners (foreign born, foreign citizens) only rose by +41%. Between 2000 and 2010, the second generation foreigners declined (-7%).

By the year 2010, the second generation in the Greater Zurich Region account for 9% of the foreign population aged 15 and over. Of course, the longer a nationality group is present in Switzerland (old immigration), the higher is the proportion of the second generation foreigners in the respective nationality group. For instance, the proportion of second generation foreigners in the Italian or Spanish nationality group is 35% resp. 24%, while in the German and French nationality group only 3% resp. 1.7% (figure 3).

economy remained largely unaffected.

Figure 4: Foreign population by education level 1970 to 2010
 Greater Zurich Region, 1970-2010, permanent resident population aged 25 and over



Source: Federal Population Census 1970-2000 and Structural Survey 2010. Analysis: Statistics Canton of Zurich

Qualification structure

In the Greater Zurich Region, every third person aged 25 and over has a degree on tertiary level. The level of education reflects the characteristics of the migration flows towards the Greater Zurich Region (figure 4).² In 1970, the majority of the foreign population was low-qualified. With the increasing demand of high-qualified labor force, the proportion of the foreign population with an education on upper secondary and tertiary level has continuously increased, especially between 2000 and 2010.

Between 1970 and 2010, the proportion of high-qualified of the population aged 25 and over increased from 10% to 34%, while the proportion of low-qualified dropped from 27% to 18%. The new migration has also contributed to this development. The proportion of low-qualified has also dropped in the foreign population, but is still much bigger, while their proportion of high-qualified (37%) exceeded Swiss citizens (33%) in 2010.

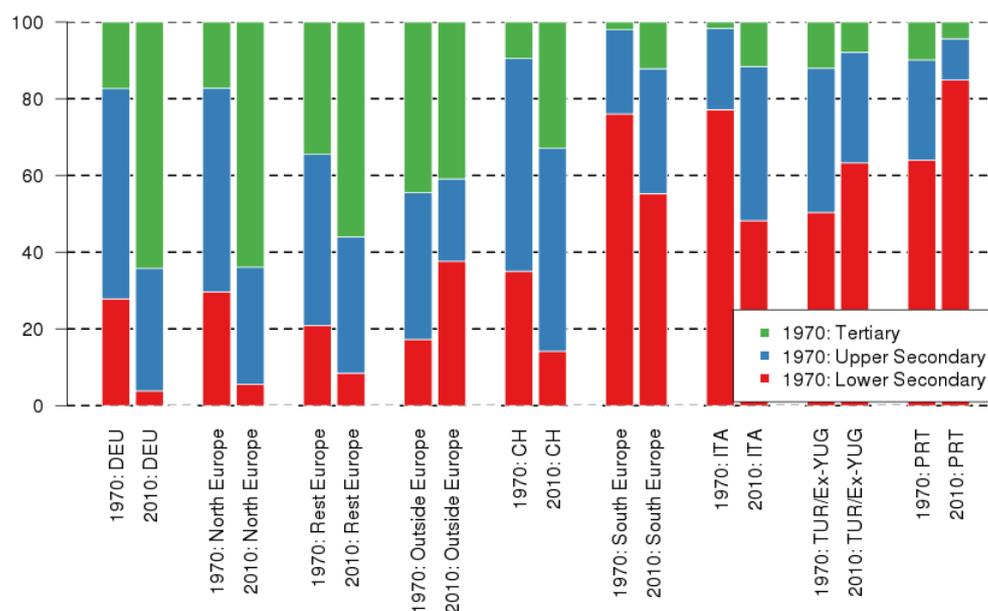
Differences in the qualification structure

The qualification level among the foreign nationals varies strongly between their regions of origin. While

² The classification of the education level is based on the highest level of educational attainment.

from Portugal and Turkey furthermore mainly low-qualified persons immigrate, the immigration from Germany and France always was characterized by a higher education level. With 64%, the biggest proportion of the high-qualified is found among the foreign population groups from North-Europe-States, in contrast to 12% among the work force from South-Europe-States (figure 5).³

Figure 5: Structure of education by groups of country of citizenship 1970-2010
Greater Zurich Region, 1970-2010, permanent resident population aged 25 and over, in %

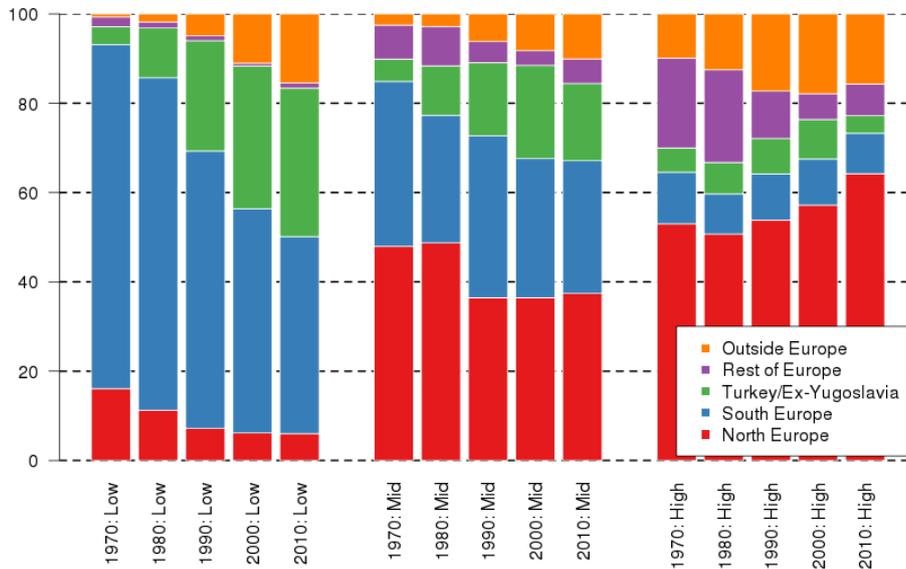


Source: Federal Population Census 1970-2000 and Structural Survey 2010. Analysis: Statistics Canton of Zurich

In 2010, 37% of the foreign population aged 25 and over have attained a tertiary education. Thereof, two thirds are citizens from North-Europe-states. In contrast, 33% of the foreign population is low-qualified, almost half of them originating from South-Europe-states (figure 6).

³ **North Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom. **South Europe:** Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain. **TUR/Ex-YUG:** Turkey, Ex-Yugoslavia, **Rest of Europe:** Czech Republic and Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, other European States, **Outside of Europe:** Other.

Figure 6: Nationality mix by level of education 1970-2010
 Greater Zurich Region, permanent resident population aged 25 and over, in %



Source: Federal Population Census 1970-2000 and Structural Survey 2010. Analysis: Statistics Canton of Zurich

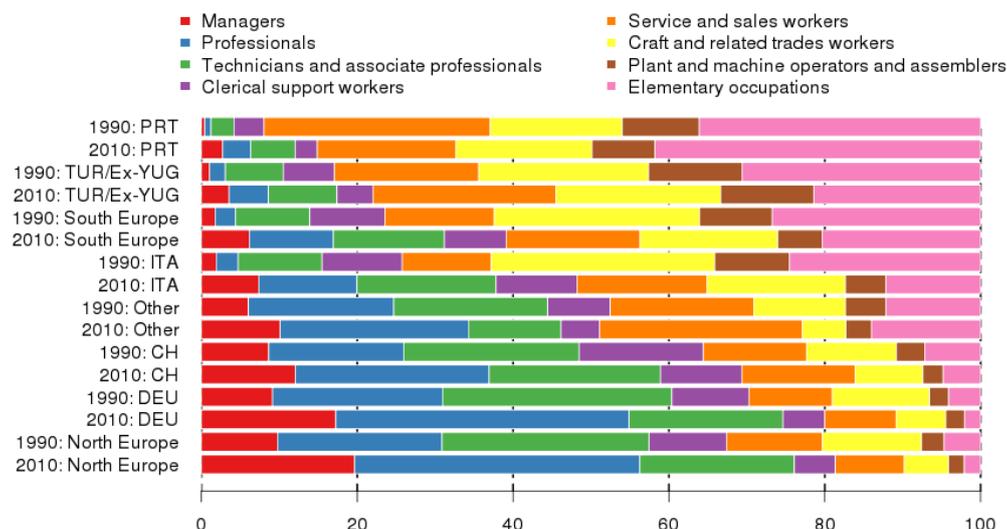
Occupations

The new migration and the resulting differences between nationality groups are also reflected in the performed occupations of the foreign population. Strongly affected from the growing population group of high-educated North-Europeans are the knowledge-intensive occupations like managers, professionals and Technicians.

In 2010, 76% of the North-Europeans in contrast to 31% of the South-Europeans in the Greater Zurich Region occupied knowledge-intensive jobs like manager, professionals and Technicians (figure 7). While the migration from Portugal, Turkey and Ex-Yugoslavia is still characterized by a high proportion of lower qualified occupations, the migration from Italy and Spain has moved towards higher qualified job.

Figure 7: Employed population by occupation group 1970 to 2010

Greater Zurich Region, 1970-2010, permanent resident population aged 15 and over, in %



Source: Federal Population Census 1970-2000 and Structural Survey 2010. Analysis: Statistics Canton of Zurich

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All analysis was carried out with the open-source software «R», mainly with the R-package «survey».