



The impact of restriction of movement between municipalities during the COVID-19 epidemic in Slovenia on internal migration data

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COVID-19 timeline in Slovenia (1st wave)

- 4 March: first confirmed case
- 12 March: epidemic declared (partial lockdown)
- 26 March: 61 daily cases (peak-epidemic)
- 29 March: government decree on the **restriction of movement between municipalities** in order to limit the spread of Covid
- 30 April: decree lifted
- 31 May: epidemic (1st wave) over
 - (in total 1.473 cases, 108 deaths according to <https://covid-19.sledilnik.org/en/stats>)



Decree on the restriction of movement between municipalities

- Adopted 29 March, came into force on 1 April
- With few exceptions, a person could not travel to a municipality where they did not have registered residence
- As many people actually live(d) where they were not registered, many chose to register where they were (most chose this as temporary residence with 2 years' validity – a simple online procedure)
- Some chose to spend the lockdown in their holiday homes and registered temporary residence there
- Few changes of permanent residence (need for new ID documents, which were difficult to obtain during the lockdown)



The impact of the restrictions on internal migration (1)

- 2020Q1* total internal migration up 38% from 2019Q1
 - migrations between municipalities up 45%
- 13% of all 2020Q1 registrations in new municipalities immediately after the adoption of the decree (and 2% even on the Sunday when the decree was adopted)
- 2020Q2 total internal migration up 73% from 2019Q2
 - migrations between municipalities up 88%
- 29% of all 2020Q2 registrations in the first week of April

* All migration data for 2020 are provisional.



The impact of the restrictions on internal migration (2)

- Redistribution of population: about 2.6% population migrated to another municipality in 2020H1 (1.6% in 2019H1)
- Largest increase in remote/mountain municipalities with many holiday homes (up to 7% in 2020H1 – Kranjska Gora)
- Decrease more evenly spread out



The impact of the restrictions on internal migration (3)

- Most of these registrations most likely true to actual situation at the time of registration
- Many probably delayed registrations of migrations sometime in the past and are likely to convert to permanent changes in the future (improved register quality)
- Others likely not true after lockdown, especially those in holiday homes (and as will most likely not be deregistered, will expire in 2 years' time automatically → some reverse internal migration expected in spring 2022)



Conclusion

- Some changes reflect actual situation, albeit registered with a delay (improved register quality)
- Some changes mean poorer register quality (for a limited time?)
- New partial lockdown started in mid-October (2nd wave, epidemic declared on 19 October): restricted movement between municipalities (as of 27 October) is not expected to have much impact on internal migration
- Other possible migration-related impacts of the pandemic:
 - international migration of foreign citizens affected mostly indirectly (economy), 2020H1 only showing the first signs of change (increasing share of women)
 - (return) immigration of nationals (temporary?)



Thank you!

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