Refugee immigration to Sweden: a comparison of observed and projected numbers

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Introduction

• High numbers of refugees
• Changes in immigration policies
• Other factors outside of Sweden

Aim of the study

• Evaluation of the assumptions about the immigration of refugees made between 2012 and 2018
Population projection for Sweden

- Published in April every year
- Every 3rd year, new assumptions are made
- Years in between, update for the next 5-10 years
- In report
  - Age, sex
  - Swedish born/foreign born
  - Up to 2070
- In database at webpage
  - Age, sex
  - 7 birth country groups
  - Up to 2120
Assumptions on migration

- Swedish born
- Nordic born
- Born in the European Union (EU)
- Born outside of EU/Nordic countries by reason for residence permit
  - Asylum (main applicants and family to main applicants)
  - Work
  - Studies
  - Family reunification
  - EU-citizens
Assumptions on refugee immigration

• Short run
  • 5 to 10 years
  • Updated every year
  • Input from the Swedish Migration Agency
• Long run
  • 10+ years ahead
  • New assumptions every third year
Asylum seekers and granted permits, 1990–2011

Numbers. 31/12 each year

Source: The Swedish Migration Agency
Immigration of refugees, 1990–2011

By country of birth, 31/12 each year. Five most common countries of birth during 1990–2011.
Observed vs. projected refugee immigration 2012 – 2018
Observed and projected immigration due to asylum, 2012-2018
Numbers, 31/12 each year
Difference between observed and projected immigration due to asylum, 2012-2018

Percentage. 31/12 each year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migration during…</th>
<th>Projection published in year…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>-5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>-46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>-58%</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>-60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>-65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>-49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Cells marked in red indicate lower than -20%, cells marked in green indicate higher than 20%
Concluding remarks

• First underestimation, changed assumptions overestimated due to policy changes and more restrictive immigration rules
• In 2017 and 2018, with lower and more stable immigration, projections closer to observed numbers
• Same pattern as earlier years with high inflow of refugees
• Used in long term assumptions on refugee immigration
• Although still difficult to predict when and in what extent
Thank you for your attention!

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