

Inter-state Migration and Socio-demographic Changes in Malaysia

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Abstract: Internal migration has an important role in population redistribution and development. It is instrumental in the redistribution of human resources and productivity improvements. Migration is multi-dimensional in nature, involving temporal and spatial dimensions. This paper uses the 2 per cent sample data from the 1991 and 2000 population censuses to examine the levels and patterns of inter-state and inter-regional migration, characteristics of migrants, the reasons for migration and the pull factors that drive migration. The paper concludes with a discussion of the impact of migration on socio-demographic changes and its policy relevance.

Key words: Inter-state migration, migrants, regional, development

JEL classification: J61

1. Introduction

Migration is influenced by socio-economic development, and has an important role in development (Petersen 1958; Yap 1976; Sternstein 1976; Anh Dang, Goldstein and McNally 1997; Harris 2005; Appleyard 1989). People move to 'better' places based on rational decisions. Hence, out-migration from a resource scarce locality to one that offers better opportunities will presumably benefit both the sending and receiving areas. Migration has great relevance for development policy and practice (Eversole 2008). To underscore its importance, the Program of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994 devoted two chapters on issues pertaining to migration: one on international migration and another on internal migration and urbanisation.

Migration is multidimensional in nature. Much of the migration research has focused on migration patterns in terms of selectivity, the motivation to migrate, the push and pull factors, the impact of migration and the spatial and temporal aspects (Lundholm and Malmberg 2006; Rayer and Brown 2001; Darvish 1990). Attention has also been directed to the policy context of migration (Pastor 1985; Baydar *et al.* 1990; Eversole 2008; Wiest 1981).

A number of migration studies have been conducted on Malaysia. These include the studies on the effects of government policies on migration by Baydar *et al.* (1990) and Chitose (2003), and works on gender and migration by Chattopadhyay (1997; 1998) and Menon (1987).

Besides the decennial population censuses that collect limited information on migration, the Department of Statistics conducts a migration survey annually and publishes a brief report on each of these surveys. The latest survey in 2012 recorded a total of 756,300 migrants, or 2.6 per cent of the total population, an increase of 0.1

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percentage point over the figure for the previous year. Intra-state migrants made up 61.3 per cent, followed by inter-state migrants at 28.5% and the remaining being international migrants at 10.3 per cent (DOSM, 2013).

This paper used the 2 per cent sample data from the 1991 and 2000 population censuses to examine the levels, trends and patterns of internal migration. This is followed by discussion on the causes and consequences of internal migration in Malaysia between 1991 and 2000. The focus of this paper is on inter-state and inter-regional rather than intra-state migration as the short distance move may not have as large an impact on the sending and receiving areas and on the migrants themselves. Key questions to be addressed include the reasons for the high concentration of migration in the Klang Valley since the 1970s, and migration selectivity in terms of age, education and ethnicity. Migration impact on socio-demographic changes and policy issues will also be examined.

2. Data and Methods

Data for this paper were taken from the 2 per cent sample of the 1991 and 2000 population censuses of Malaysia which are available from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) International, a University of Minnesota project dedicated to collecting and distributing census data from around the world. Micro data for the 2010 population census for Malaysia are not available as yet.

Internal migration can be estimated from the place of origin (at birth or place of residence 5 years ago) and place of destination at various geographical levels. Information on length of stay in the current locality was not collected in the 1991 and 2000 rounds of the Malaysian censuses, limiting migration analysis to two points in time – at birth and 5 years prior to the census date. Internal migration can take the form of inter-regional, inter-state and inter-district migration, intra-regional, intra-state and intra-district migration. While the different streams of rural urban migration are also of interest, no analysis can be made as the 2 per cent sample data do not provide information on the urban-rural location of the previous place of residence.

In this analysis, in-migrants are defined as those who were born or lived in another state five years ago, and out-migrants as those living away from their state of birth or their state of residence five years ago. In the 2000 population census, information on previous state of residence was not available for 7.2 per cent of the population, and these were assumed to have come from another state. The number of net migrants is the difference between in-migrants and out-migrants in each state or region. Net migration ratio for each state is estimated by dividing the number of net-migrants by the total population of the state times 100.

3. Trends and Patterns in Inter-state Migration

Up until the 1970s, internal migration in Peninsular Malaysia was characterised by bipolar place of destination – with the Klang Valley serving as the major destination and Pahang a distant second (Figure 1). The Klang Valley has emerged as the administrative, commercial, industrial and educational hub in the country. The main attraction of Pahang then was the Felda land schemes. On the other hand, Perak registered the largest net out-

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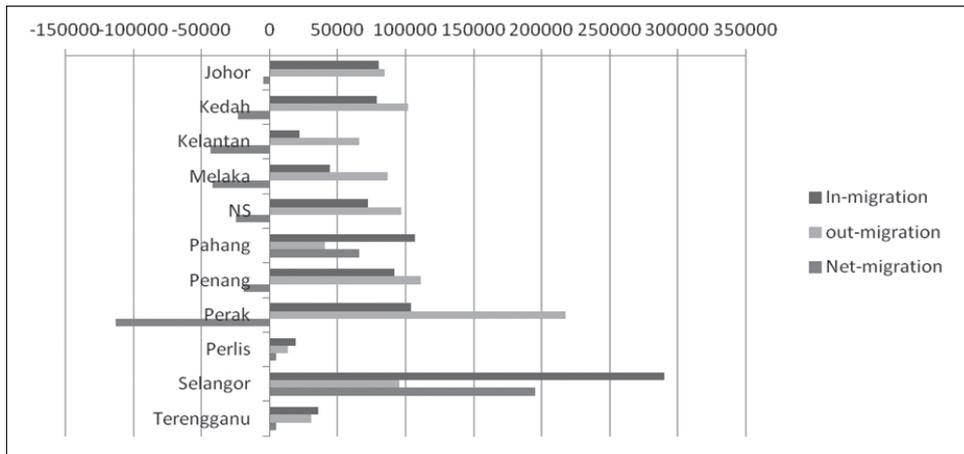


Figure 1. Number of life-time in-migrants, out-migrants and net migrants in 1970s
 Source: DOSM (1975).

migration. Since the 1980s, inter-state migration has been directed to the Klang Valley, comprising Kuala Lumpur and the adjacent districts in Selangor, as the only region with a net gain of migrants.

Overall, about one in five persons enumerated in the 1991 and 2000 population censuses were living outside their state of birth, hereinafter referred to as life-time migrants. This figure probably represents an under-estimate, as some return migrants would be enumerated as non-migrants. About half of the population in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur were born in other states. In contrast, less than 5 per cent of the population in Kelantan and Sabah and Sarawak were born in other states.

The population censuses collected information on the place of residence 5 years prior to the date of enumeration, hereinafter referred to as recent migrants. The main report of the 2000 population census stated that 4.8 per cent of the total population in Malaysia had moved to a different state between 1995 and 2000, a decline from 6.6 percent recorded for the 1986-1991 period. However, an examination of the data showed that in the 2000 census, the place of previous residence was not known for 7.2 per cent of the population compared to 1.9 per cent in 1991. The proportion with unknown previous residence is even higher in some states such as Selangor and Kuala Lumpur (13-14 per cent), Sarawak (10 %) and Sabah (7.0 %). Given the rapid rate of population growth in Selangor between 1991 and 2000, the exclusion of those with unknown place of previous residence in the analysis has led to under-reporting of inter-state migration in the census report. Assuming that most people with unknown previous place were migrants, about 11.6 per cent of the population in 2000 were 5-year inter-state migrants, an increase from 8.9 per cent in 1991. Figure 2 shows that the proportion of recent migrants to the state population was highest in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur (around 22-25 % in 2000) and lowest in Kelantan (3-4 %). It is worth noting that the proportion of recent migrants to the state population had more than doubled in Johor, from about 6 per cent in 1991 to 13 per cent in 2000. More significantly, of the five-year migrants in 2000, close to half

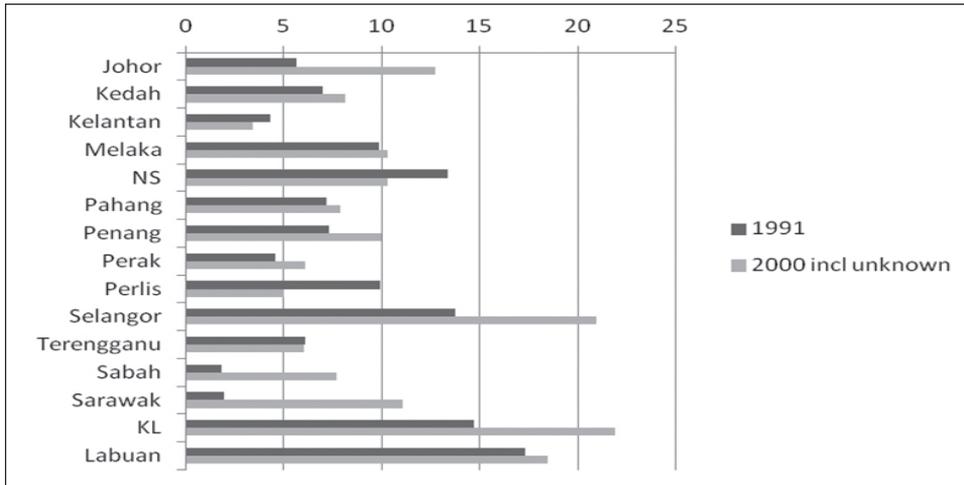


Figure 2. Percent of population living in other states from 5 years ago, 1991 and 2000
 Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 1991 and 2000.

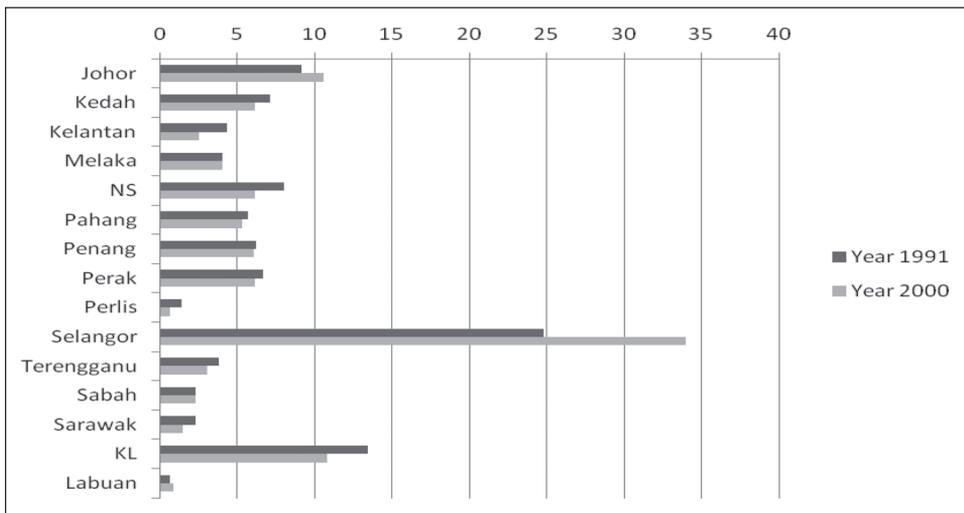


Figure 3. Percent distribution of recent migrants by receiving states
 Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 1991 and 2000.

had come to the Klang Valley (comprising Kuala Lumpur and the four adjacent districts in Selangor), as shown in Figure 3.

Among the internal migrants, with the exception of Sabah/Sarawak and East Coast in Peninsular Malaysia, inter-state migrants predominated intra-state migrants, especially in the Klang Valley and Negeri Sembilan/Melaka regions. This could be explained by the ease of moving across the states with the opening of new highways, and any part within

Table 1 . Migration status, Peninsular Malaysia, 1991 and 2000

Region	Year	Same major, same minor administrative unit	Same major different minor administrative unit	Different major administrative unit	Abroad	
					Abroad	Total
Kedah Perlis	1991	87.9	4.3	7.4	0.4	100
	2000	93.8	2.1	3.8	0.2	100
Penang	1991	87.8	4.1	7.5	0.6	100
	2000	88.9	4.3	4.9	1.9	100
Perak	1991	91.3	3.6	4.6	0.5	100
	2000	94.1	1.9	3.1	1.0	100
KL- Selangor	1991	80.7	3.2	14.5	1.6	100
	2000	86.0	3.0	9.3	1.7	100
NS- Melaka	1991	83.1	3.5	12.6	0.9	100
	2000	89.3	2.0	7.0	1.6	100
Johor	1991	87.0	5.4	5.8	1.7	100
	2000	90.8	2.7	4.3	2.1	100
East Coast	1991	86.0	6.1	6.1	1.8	100
	2000	93.2	2.7	3.2	0.9	100
Sabah Sarawak	1991	82.2	11.0	2.1	4.9	100
	2000	90.4	5.8	1.1	2.7	100

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 1991 and 2000.

Peninsular Malaysia can be reached within a few hours. However, the distance decay proposition is partially supported, as inter-state migrants tend to be more likely to come from neighbouring states.

Place of birth and place of residence five years ago were cross-classified by current state or region to examine the inter-state or inter-regional migratory flow. Tables 2 and 3 show that the largest proportion of life-time migrants and recent migrants to Kuala Lumpur-Selangor region in 1996-2000 had come from Perak, and largest proportion of migrants from Kuala Lumpur-Selangor had gone to Negeri Sembilan-Melaka region. This indicates that inter-state migrants tend to be more likely to move short distance rather than long distance, probably due to a close network that has been established through regular visits prior to the move. The Kuala Lumpur-Selangor region had attracted 466,400 life-time migrants from Perak, but in turn sent only 38,900 life-time migrants in the opposite direction.

In 1991 and 2000, Kuala Lumpur and Selangor were the only regions with a net gain of life-time migrants, while all other states had a net loss, with Perak registering the heaviest net loss, at 22.3 per cent of the state population in 1991, and 27 per cent in 2000 (Figures 4 and 5). In terms of 5-year migration, the Kuala Lumpur-Selangor region was again the main destination for inter-state migrants, but three other regions – Penang, Negeri Sembilan-/Melaka and Johor – also registered a net gain as at 2000. Perak and the East Coast region continued to be the main senders (Figures 6 and 7). Data also show

Table 2. Life-time inter-regional migration, 2000

Region/state of birth	Current region/state									
	Kedah-Perlis	Penang	Perak	KL-Selangor	NS-Melaka	Johor	East Coast	Sabah-Sarawak		
Kedah-Perlis	1,493,100	96,900	52,150	136,800	16,000	27,950	50,800	9,250		
Penang	78,000	915,100	29,150	92,650	8,200	14,800	14,800	3,450		
Perak	56,750	75,500	1,680,700	466,400	32,400	66,550	70,650	11,200		
KL-Selangor	17,300	13,250	38,900	3,058,850	60,750	40,450	63,850	11,650		
NS-Melaka	10,850	5,950	17,950	294,850	1,071,750	70,900	38,100	6,650		
Johor	10,650	7,850	16,900	184,700	81,150	1,997,950	50,000	11,250		
East Coast	23,150	17,900	30,700	299,700	40,800	83,650	2,942,250	16,000		
Sabah-Sarawak	8,750	7,800	8,550	68,650	14,100	22,650	14,750	3,792,850		
From										
Kedah-Perlis	87.9	8.5	2.8	3	1.2	1.2	1.6	0.2		
Penang	4.6	80.3	1.6	2	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.1		
Perak	3.3	6.6	89.6	10.1	2.4	2.9	2.2	0.3		
KL-Selangor	1	1.2	2.1	66.5	4.6	1.7	2	0.3		
NS-Melaka	0.6	0.5	1	6.4	80.9	3	1.2	0.2		
Johor	0.6	0.7	0.9	4	6.1	85.9	1.5	0.3		
East Coast	1.4	1.6	1.6	6.5	3.1	3.6	90.7	0.4		
Sabah-Sarawak	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.5	1.1	1	0.5	98.2		
In-migrants	205,450	225,150	194,300	1,543,750	253,400	326,950	302,950	69,450		
Out-migrants	389,850	241,050	779,450	246,150	445,250	362,500	511,900	145,250		
Net migrants	-184,400	-15,900	-585,150	1,297,600	-191,850	-35,550	-208,950	-75,800		

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000.

Table 3. Recent (5-years prior to the census) inter-regional migration, 2000

Previous region/state	Current region/state									
	Kedah-Perlis	Penang	Perak	KL-Selangor	NS-Melaka	Johor	East Coast	Sabah-Sarawak		
Kedah-Perlis	1,603,700	20,850	8,400	21,600	4,050	6,000	5,900	4,150		
Penang	16,350	1,069,250	6,400	12,250	2,000	4,250	2,900	1,500		
Perak	11,850	13,550	1,806,550	51,350	5,050	12,250	7,900	4,350		
KL-Selangor	13,800	9,100	21,100	4,164,600	35,600	20,600	23,200	9,850		
NS-Melaka	2,850	1,650	3,650	33,000	1,252,050	16,150	9,700	2,100		
Johor	3,400	2,600	6,450	34,550	17,800	2,163,850	12,950	3,500		
East Coast	7,650	5,800	9,500	65,150	14,250	26,450	3,155,650	7,700		
Sabah-Sarawak	4,000	3,500	3,150	31,700	7,100	11,250	10,550	3,966,300		
From										
Kedah-Perlis	96.4	1.9	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1		
Penang	1.0	94.9	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0		
Perak	0.7	1.2	96.9	1.2	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1		
KL-Selangor	0.8	0.8	1.1	94.3	2.7	0.9	0.7	0.2		
NS-Melaka	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.7	93.6	0.7	0.3	0.1		
Johor	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	1.3	95.7	0.4	0.1		
East Coast	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.1	1.2	97.7	0.2		
Sabah-Sarawak	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3	99.2		
In-migrants	59,900	57,050	58,650	249,600	85,850	96,950	73,100	33,150		
Out-migrants	70,950	45,650	106,300	133,250	69,100	81,250	136,500	71,250		

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000.

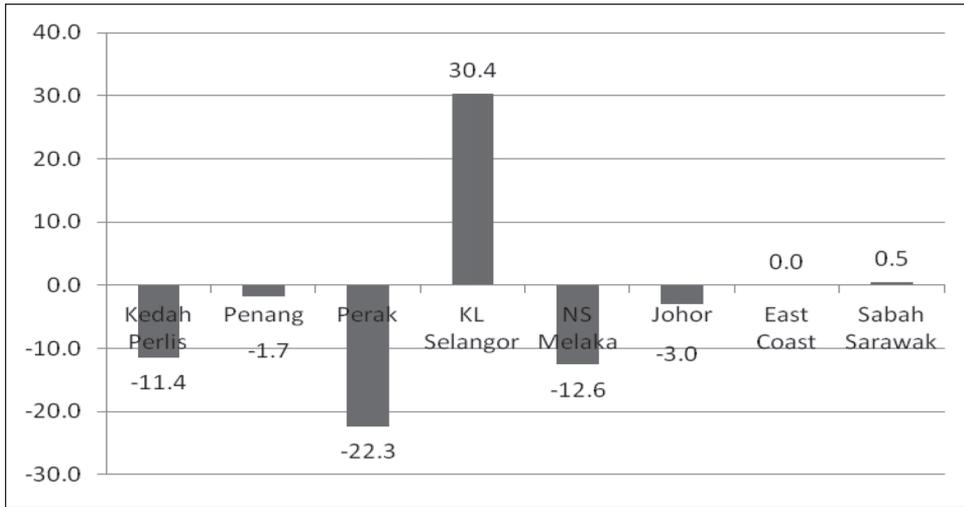


Figure 4. Life time net migration ratio, 1991

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 1991.

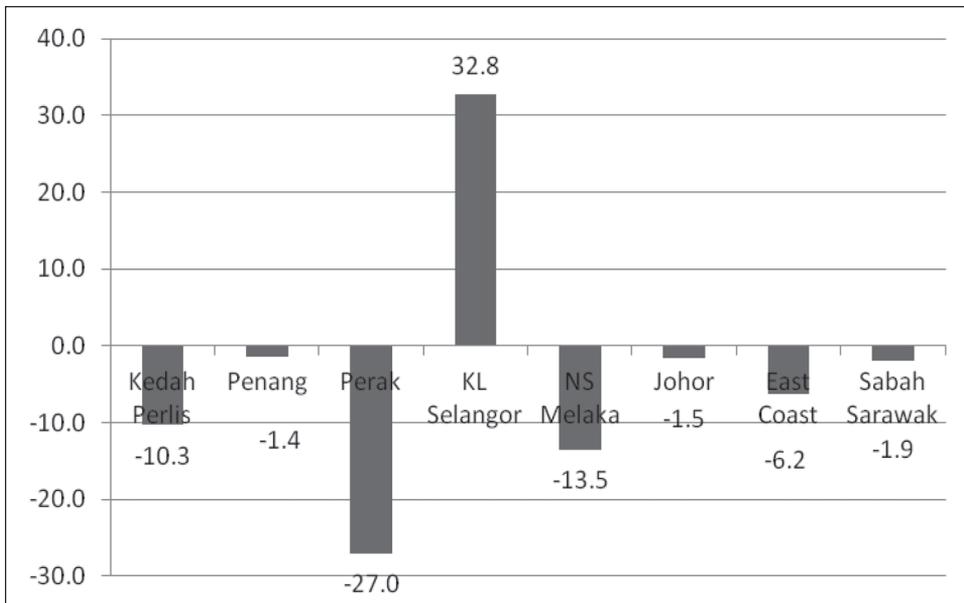


Figure 5. Life time net migration ratio, 2000

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000.

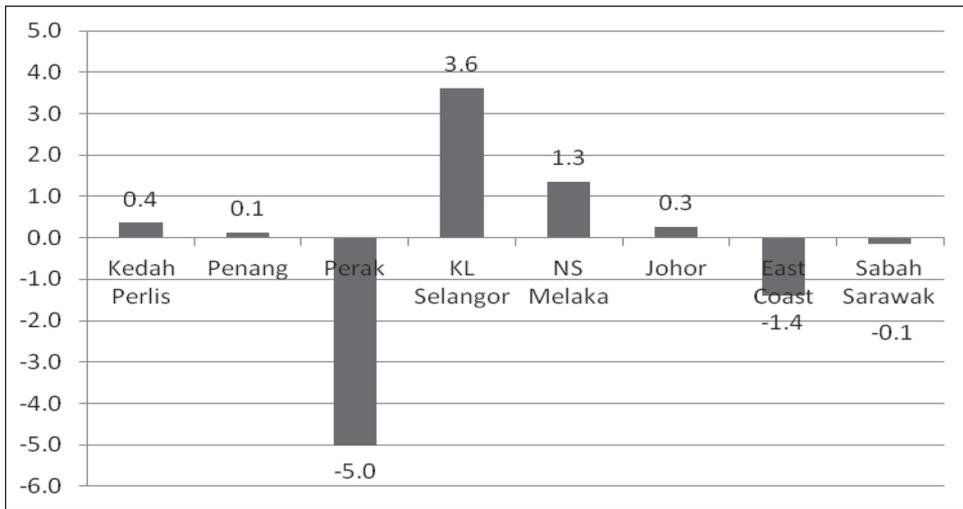


Figure 6. Five-year net migration ratio, 1991

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 1991.

that there were more people coming over from Sabah/Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia rather than the other way round (Tables 2 and 3).

4. Migration Selectivity – Characteristics of Migrants

Consistent with migration theory and findings of most migration studies, the propensity to move is much higher among the young compared to the old, and it is also higher among the higher educated compared to the lesser educated segments of the population. Among those aged 20-29 years, women outnumber men in migration. This can be explained by the concentration of factories that employ many female workers in the large urban centres. Moreover, more young women than men are enrolled in institutions of higher learning, which are mostly located in the large urban centers. In 2000, women aged 15-29 made up 29.5 per cent of all the migrants, compared to 27.8 per cent of men in the same age group. However, men aged 30-39 years made up 21 per cent of all the migrants as compared to 16.2 per cent of women in the same age group.

The higher propensity to move among the higher educated is indicated in Figure 8. Migrants, especially those who moved long distance, have higher educational attainment than non-migrants (Figures 9 and 10).

Responding to the policy measures for restructuring society and the creation of a *Bumiputera* Industrial and Commercial Community, the migration rate of the Malays has been much higher than that of the non-Malays. However, it should also be mentioned that most Chinese and Indians were already settled in the urban areas since the 1980s, and this may explain their lower propensity to move.

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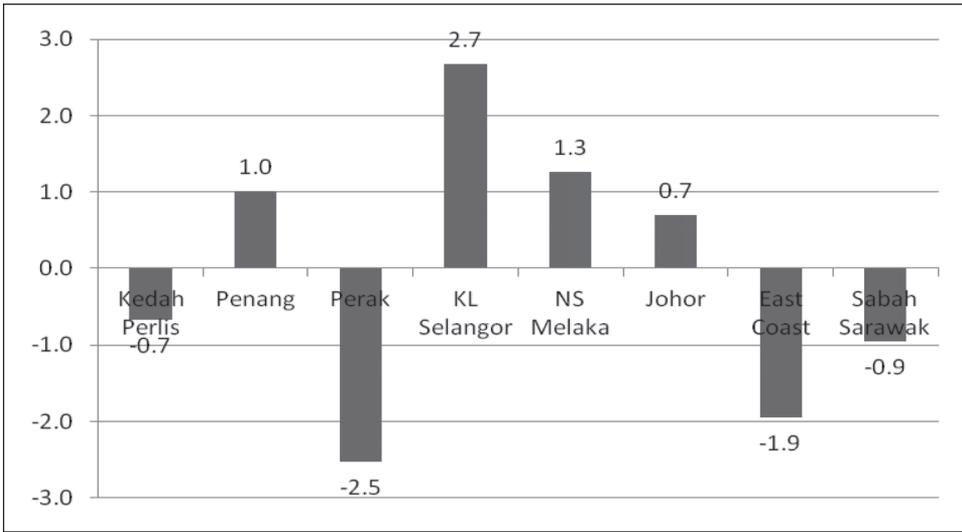


Figure 7. Five-year net migration ratio, 2000

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000.

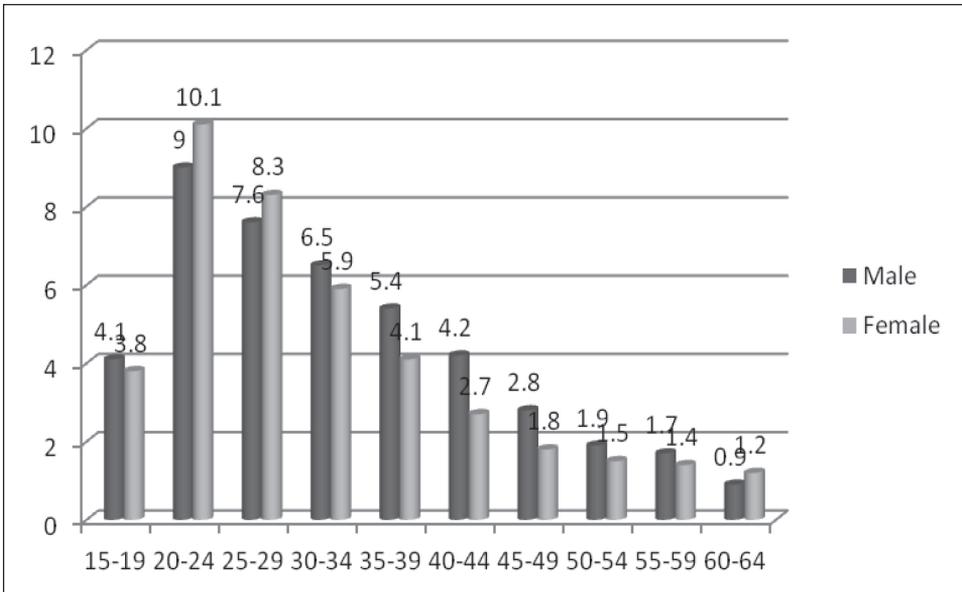


Figure 8. Percent of population that had moved within the 5 years before the 2000 population census, by age and sex

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000.

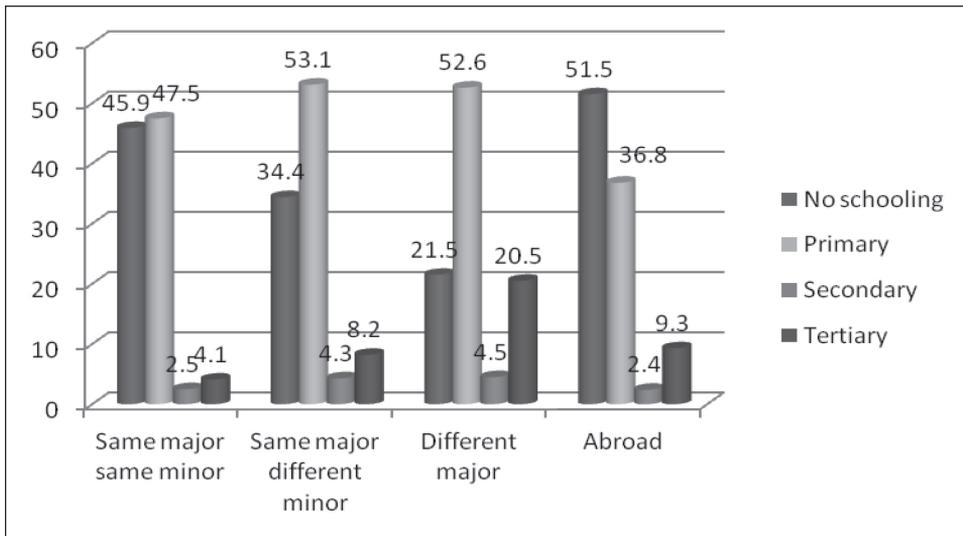


Figure 9. Educational level by migration status (1996-2000)

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000.

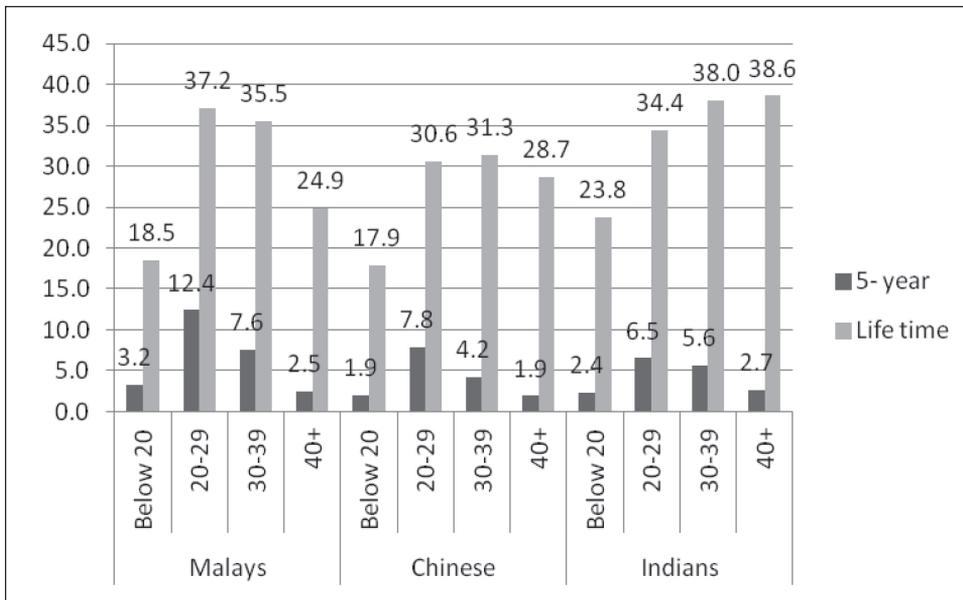


Figure 10. Life-time and recent (5 years preceding the census) migrants as percent of total population by age and ethnic group.

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000.

5. The Pull Factors

Rapid industrialisation in Selangor was one of the main reasons for the influx to the Klang Valley. The Ninth Malaysia Plan noted that about one-third of the approved manufacturing projects for the period 2001-2005 were located in Selangor. This region is also the site for the federal capital as well as business/commercial and educational hub. In 2000, 28.3 per cent of all the jobs in the country were in KL/Selangor, and as many 38.9 per cent of the 2.7 million legislators, senior managers, administrators, professionals, technicians and clerks lived in KL/Selangor, up from 33.2 per cent of the 1.7 million in 1991 (Figure 11).

Figure 12 shows that net in-migration ratio and household income of the states are highly correlated. In 2005, the average monthly household income in KL/Selangor (at more than RM5,000) was much higher than that of all other regions, and was lowest in Perak and the East coast states. This supports the hypothesis that people tend to move to localities with better economic prospects.

Housing development, better infrastructure and amenities (including hospitals, entertainment outlets, well developed road networks, ports and airports), and the central location of the region are some other pull factors to the Klang Valley. Chain migration with the existing network, and the preference for the bright lights of the cities further encourage and facilitate migration to the cities.

The location of institutions of higher learning has a strong bearing on migratory flow. With the rapid expansion of higher education, many young people are leaving home to pursue their degree courses and stay put upon graduation. While there has been decentralisation of the institutions of higher learning, most universities and colleges, are concentrated in the Klang Valley and in the bigger towns.

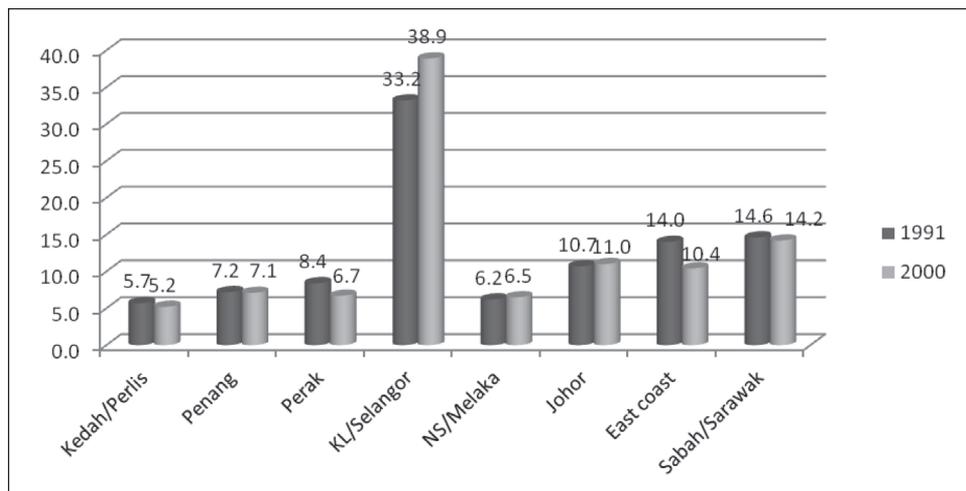


Figure 11. Percent distribution of legislators, senior managers, administrators, professionals, technicians and clerks by region of residence

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 1991 and 2000.

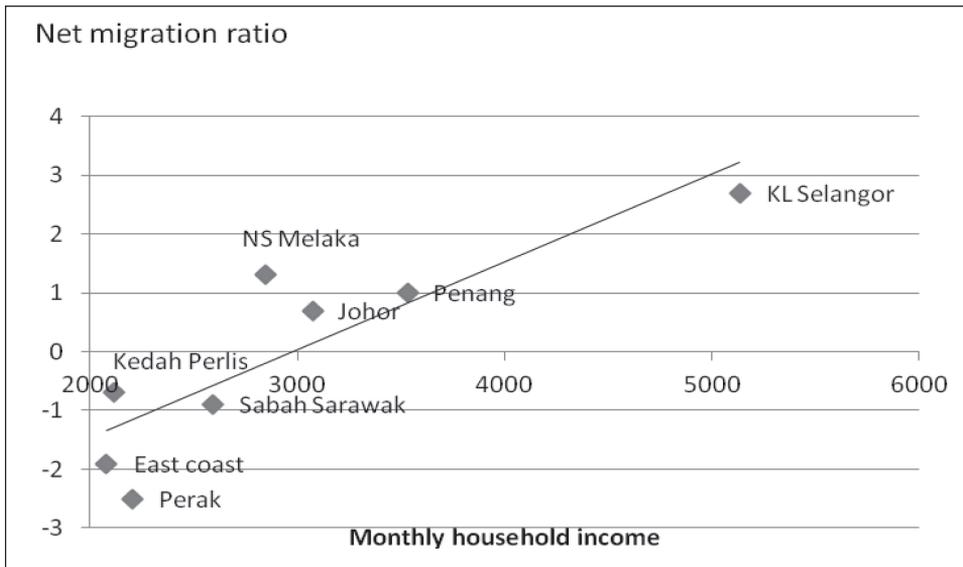


Figure 12. Scatter plots between net migration ratio and income

Sources: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia of 1991 and 2000 and Malaysia (2006).

6. Socio-demographic Impact of Inter-state Migration

In the preceding section, the close association between migration and household income (as measure of development) was highlighted. The causality between the two may not be clear. While migrants may be attracted to localities with abundant economic opportunities and the livability of the new location, it is also likely that migration which is selective of the more resourceful, has expedited the development of the receiving region. On the other hand, the stayers in the less developed and deserted regions may also benefit from remittances sent by their migrant family members, notably the children. Data from a household survey conducted by this author in year 2000 in four districts which experienced heavy out-migrations show that 54 per cent of the 1022 heads of households had received remittances from their children. Of these, the sum received ranged from RM50 to RM311,200 a year, with a mean of RM2,457 and standard deviation of RM3,026. According to Eversole (2008), remittances may be a significant source of economic inflows to poor countries and regions, but their actual development impact (positive or negative) is tied to the migration processes that generate them.

Migration and fertility decline have resulted in smaller household size. Between 1991 and 2010, the average household size fell from 4.8 to 4.2 persons. Migration has also resulted in the continuing breakdown of the extended families, from 26 per cent to 20.5 per cent during the same period, while the nuclear and single member families increased correspondingly from 60 per cent and 8 per cent to 62.8 per cent and 8.3 per cent respectively (DOSM 2005; 2013).

Traditionally, the primary form of support for care and support for old parents is co-residence with adult children (DaVanzo and Chan 1994; Chan, 2007; Jones 2007; Teh *et al.* 2013). Out-migration of adult children has eroded and will continue to erode family care for the growing number of older people in Malaysia.

Migration also exerts a significant impact on the labour market. An analysis of the 2000 population census data shows that life-time migrants were much more likely than non-migrants to work, and as wage/salary workers rather than being self-employed. The differential in labour market participation between migrants and non-migrants is especially notable among the women (Figure 6).

Internal migration has resulted in unequal population growth and redistribution across states and regions. During the inter-census period 1991-2000, the population of Selangor grew at a phenomenal rate of 6 per cent per annum. In contrast, three states (Perak, Kelantan and Perlis) had a growth rate of less than 1 per cent per annum. Consequently the proportion of population in Selangor to the national population increased from about 12 per cent in 1980 to 19 per cent in 2010, while many states registered a decline, with this being most pronounced in Perak. The increase in the proportionate share of the population in Sabah was mainly due to international rather than internal migration. At the lower geographical level such as district and mukim, while the population had grown rapidly in some, others had experienced depopulation.

Internal migration has affected the age sex composition of the population of the sending and receiving region/state. This is borne out by the sharp contrast in changes depicted by the population pyramids in 1970 and 2010 for Selangor (with rapid increase

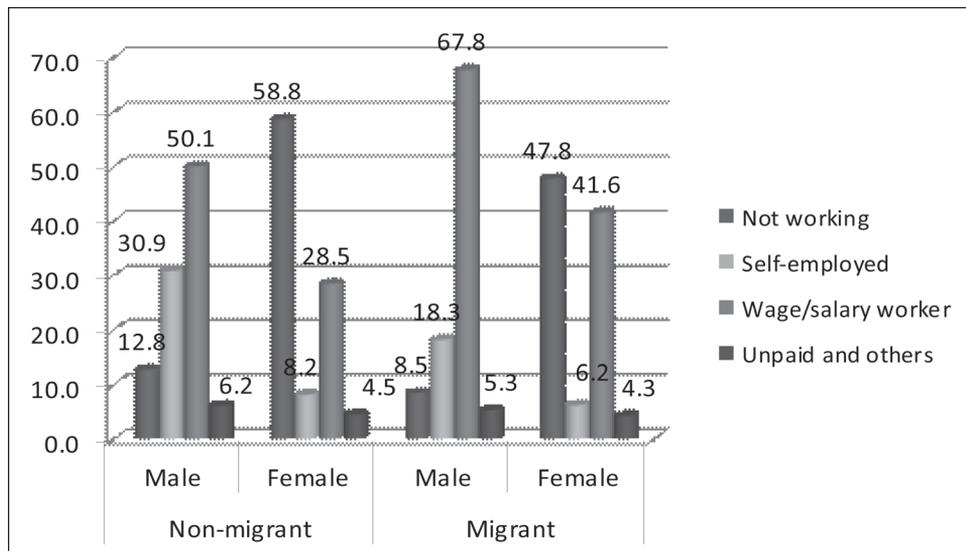


Figure 13. Employment status among persons aged 20-60 by life-time migration status and gender

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000.

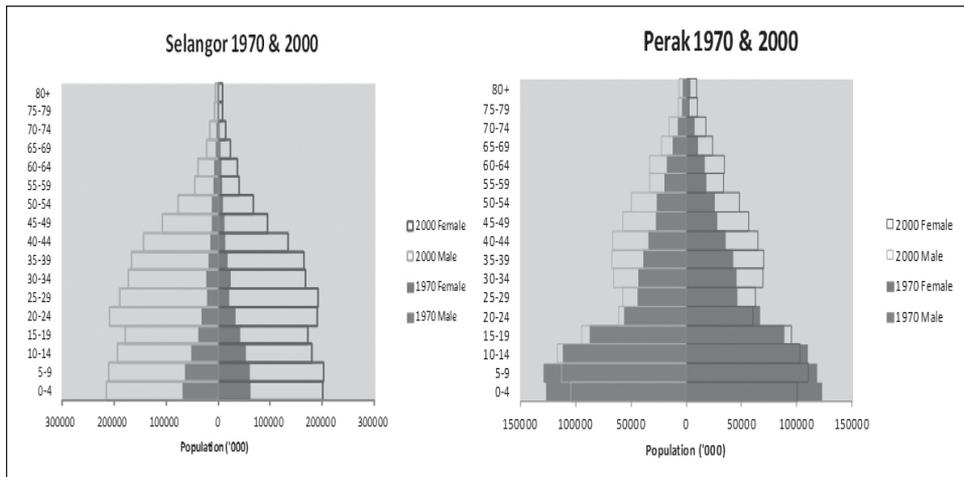


Figure 14. Population pyramid, Selangor and Perak, 1970, 2000

Source: Constructed based on published data of the 1970 and 2000 population censuses of Malaysia, 2000.

and concentration in the prime working age), and Perak (showing a decrease in the young age population and an ageing population) (Figure14).

With the exception of Kelantan and to a lesser extent Kuala Lumpur, the rate of growth of the urban population was much higher than the rate of natural increase, signifying the important role of migration in urban population growth. Decomposition of the components of urban population growth between 1991 and 2000 shows that migration accounted for about 33 per cent, and this was highest in Selangor (48.7%), followed by Johor (39.3%), while it had a negative impact on urban population growth in five states, most notably in Kelantan (-170%) (Table 4 based on Tey 2005). In 2000, urban population grew at a much higher rate of natural increase (Figure 15). In contrast, the rural population in eight states had registered a negative growth, with Melaka taking the lead at -5.1% per annum (Figure 16).

Migration has resulted in rapid urbanisation of all the ethnic groups. In 2010, about 90 per cent of Chinese and Indians were living in urban areas, up from about 35 – 47 per cent in 1970. The urbanisation level of the Malays had also increased from merely 15 per cent to close to 70 per cent during the same period. Consequently there has been a significant shift in the ethnic composition of the urban population. While the Chinese made up 58.5 per cent of urban population in 1970, their proportionate share has declined to 28.9 per cent in 2010 (although part of this decline is due to their lower fertility level). On the other hand, the Malay share of the urban population has gone up to 47 per cent from 27.6 per cent. Hence, migration has been instrumental in achieving the objectives of the New Economic Policy of restructuring the society to do away with the identification of race with location and vocation.

Migration has played an important role in transforming the country from a rural agrarian society to an industrialised urban society. In 1990, 26 per cent of the workers

Table 4. Components of urban population growth, 1991-2000

State/territory	Natural increase	Reclassification	Migration
Johor	44.6	16.1	39.3
Kedah	67.5	0.0	32.5
Kelantan	270.0	0.0	-170.0
Melaka	25.9	77.8	3.7
N.Sembilan	38.0	24.0	38.0
Pahang	41.8	29.1	29.1
Perak	90.0	15.0	-5.0
Perlis	68.6	74.3	-42.9
P. Pinang	68.2	18.2	13.6
Selangor	33.3	19.7	48.7
Terengganu	88.9	37.0	-25.9
KL	142.9	0.0	-42.9
P. Malaysia	48.9	20.0	31.1
Sabah	28.8	35.0	36.3
Sarawak	44.0	12.0	40.0
Malaysia	45.8	20.8	33.3

Source: Tey (2005)

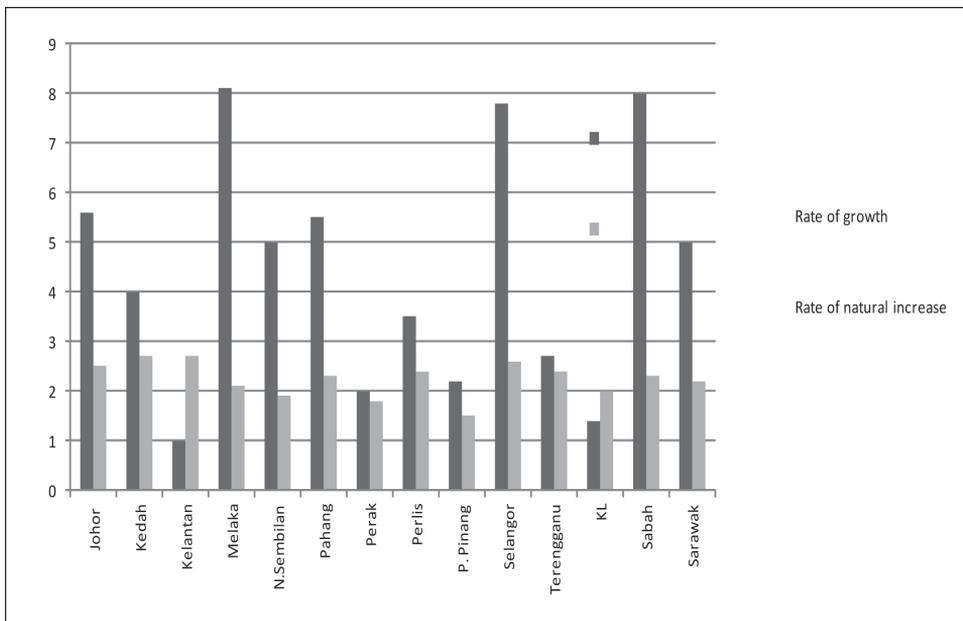


Figure 15. Urban areas- annual rate of growth and natural increase (1991-2000)

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000.

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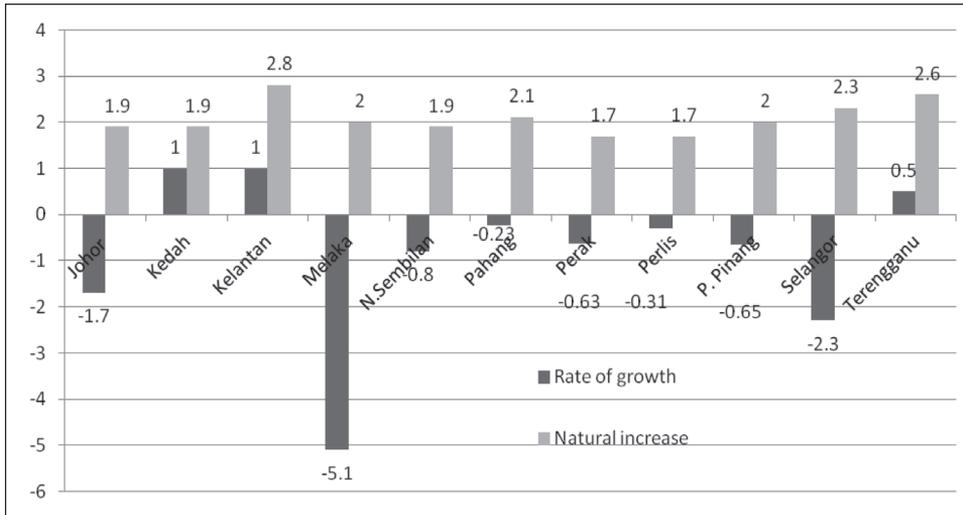


Figure 16. Rural areas - annual rate of growth and natural increase (1991-2000)

Source: Computed from the 2 per cent sample data of the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 1991 and 2000.

were employed in the agricultural sector, but this declined to 11.1 per cent in 2012, while the share in the services and manufacturing sectors increased from 47.3 per cent and 19.9 per cent to 53.6 per cent and 28.9 per cent respectively over the same period. Labour mobility into the more productive sector and lucrative jobs has also contributed to poverty reduction. The incidence of poverty had declined to 3.8 per cent in 2009 from 16.5 per cent in 1990 (Jomo and Wee 2013).

7. Conclusion

While internal migration has resulted in agglomeration and economies of scale, it has also led to regional disparity and land abandonment in the rural areas. However, it should be mentioned that the rural residents have also benefitted from migration through remittances. Rapid urban population growth has resulted in escalating property prices and urban poverty. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that despite the heavy in-migration, Selangor managed to achieve zero squatter settlement by resettling the squatters to low cost housing. Urban growth has also given rise to pollution, traffic congestion, environmental degradation and rising crimes.

Malaysia does not have a direct policy on internal migration, but economic policies (e.g. development of *Bumiputera* Commercial and Industrial Community) under the Malaysia Plans, as well as the regional corridor development do have a significant impact on migration. In 1999, the seat of government was shifted from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya and the Multimedia Super Corridor was created to reduce overcrowding and congestion in the Klang Valley. There are a number of urban management policies and

these include the National Urbanisation Policy, National Physical Policy, National Housing Policy, and strategies for managing urban growth while enhancing productivity and efficiency of small towns and rural areas.

More efforts are needed to promote the integration of migrants at the place of destination. The impact and effectiveness of population redistribution policies/ programmes also need to be evaluated.

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