

## Mapping circular migration with register statistics

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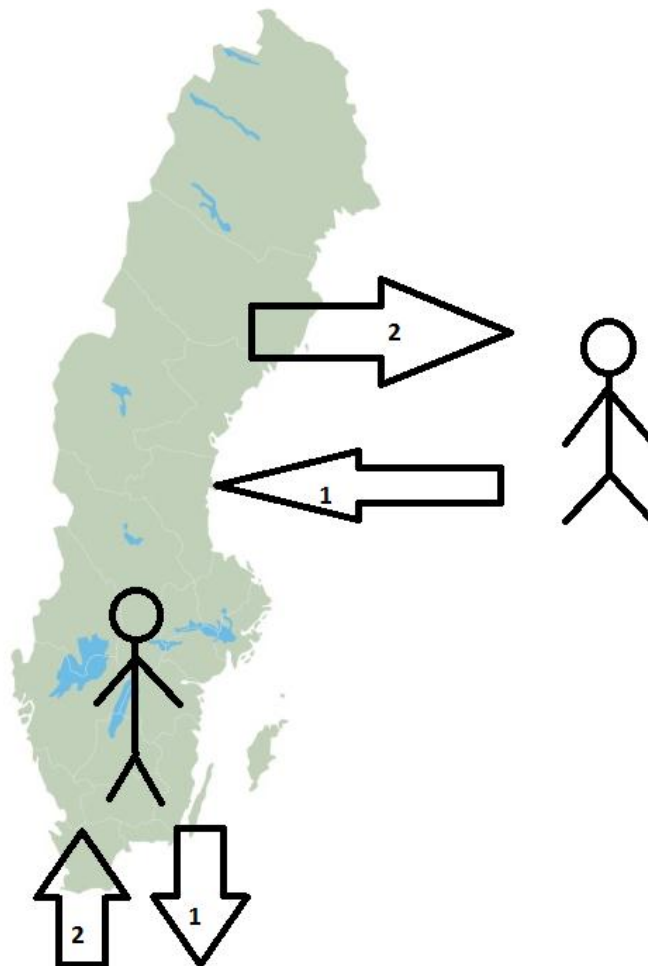
### Introduction

In July 2009 the Swedish Government decided to appoint a Parliamentary Committee to examine circular migration. The Committee was tasked with mapping out circular migration and identifying the factors that influence migrants' opportunities to move between Sweden and their countries of origin.

### Data material and method

Statistics Sweden has contributed with migration data from the national population register. The results of the mapping was published in May 2010 and is the focus of this paper. A broad definition where a circular migrant is a person that has moved across a national border at least twice since 1969 was adopted.

Figur 1 Simple sketch of the broad definition of circular migration



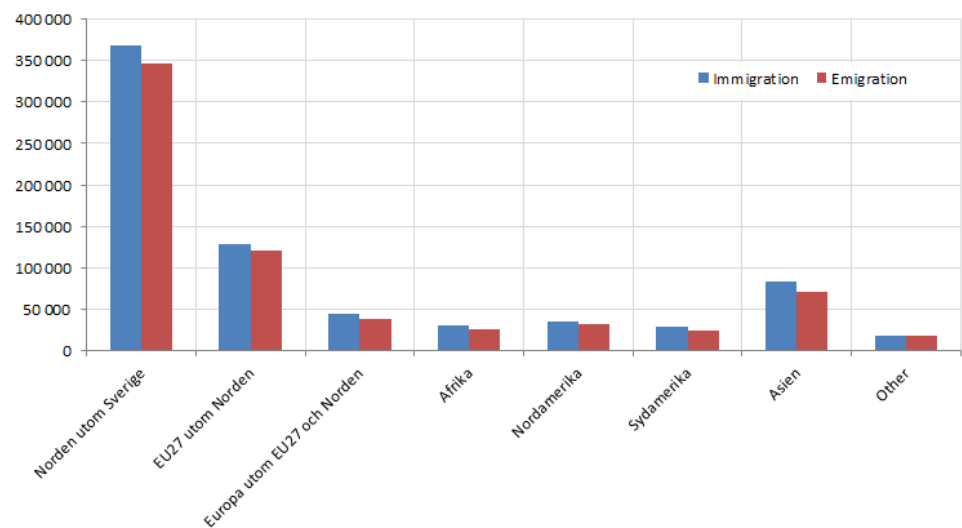
The statistics over migration is dependent on national registration. All persons with the intention of staying in Sweden for a year or more are obliged to register at the authorities. The statistics is therefore limited to a certain time space and people moving to Sweden for a shorter period than a year is not included in the study. Persons moving from Sweden are also obliged to deregister at the authorities when planning to be abroad for a year or more.

The mapping focused first on all persons that during the period 1969-2009 has met the conditions to qualify as circular migrants and second on the circular migrants that were registered as living in Sweden on 31 December 2009.

### Results

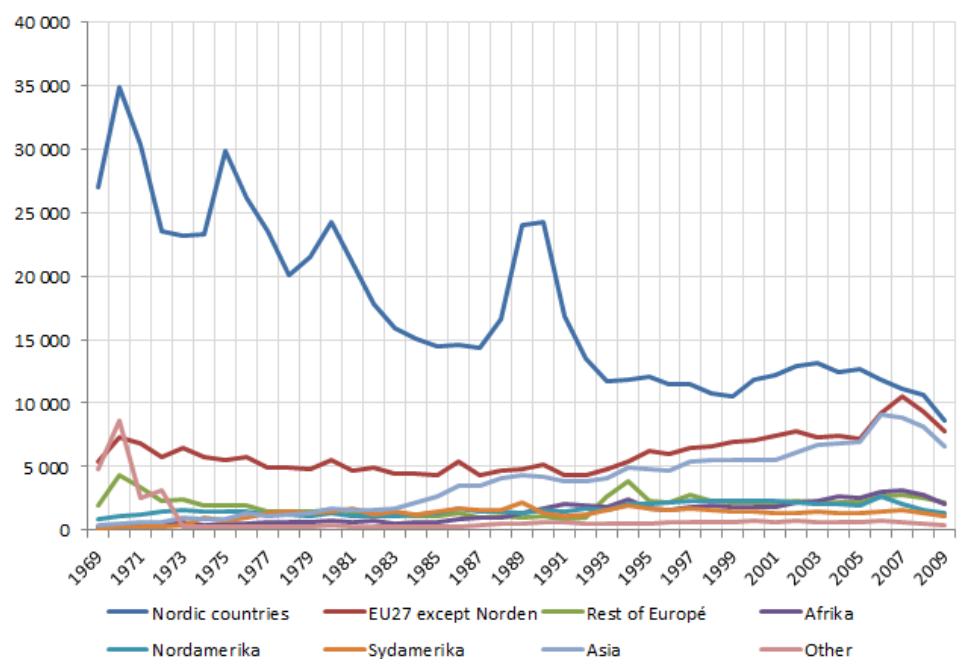
The statistics shows that more than 2 000 000 circular moves involving Sweden was made between 1969 and 2009. Women and men have generally made equally many circular moves and the most moves were done by persons in the working ages. A large part of the circular migrants are persons born in Sweden. Among the foreign born migrants Nordic background is the most common.

**Figur 2 Foreign born circular migrations by continent of birth**



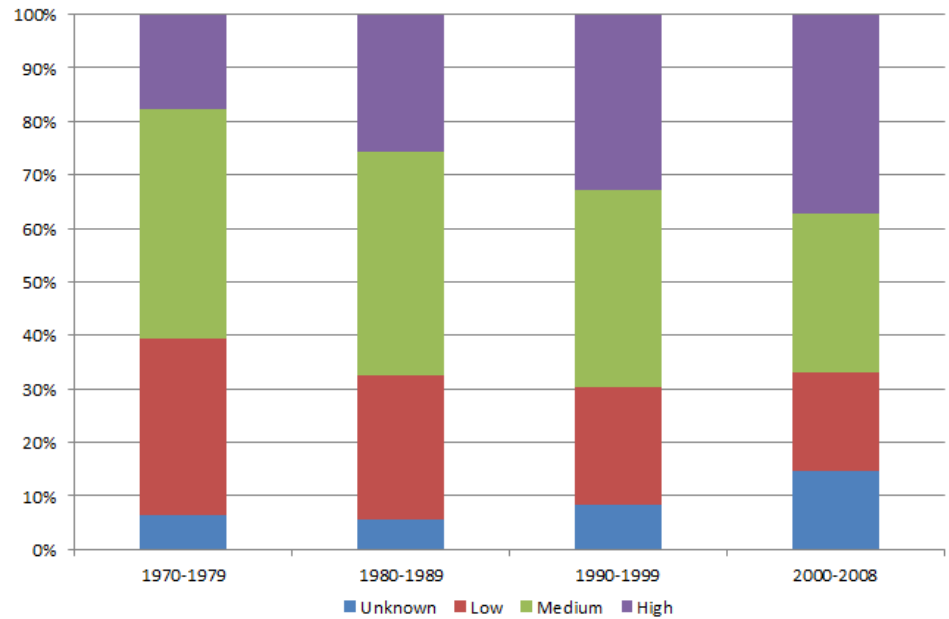
The geographical vicinity is clearly of great importance but globalization has also made its mark. Until the 1990:s the Nordic circular migration dominated. Now it has decreased slightly and migration from the EU and countries like India and China has increased.

**Figur 3 Number of circular migrations by continent of birth and year, foreign born persons**



At December 31, 2009 it was over 280 000 people living in Sweden that counts as circular migrants under the broad definition. Of these, approximately 81 000 people were foreign-born. The average level of education of foreign-born is higher for those who immigrated in the 2000s than those who had their last immigration in previous decades.

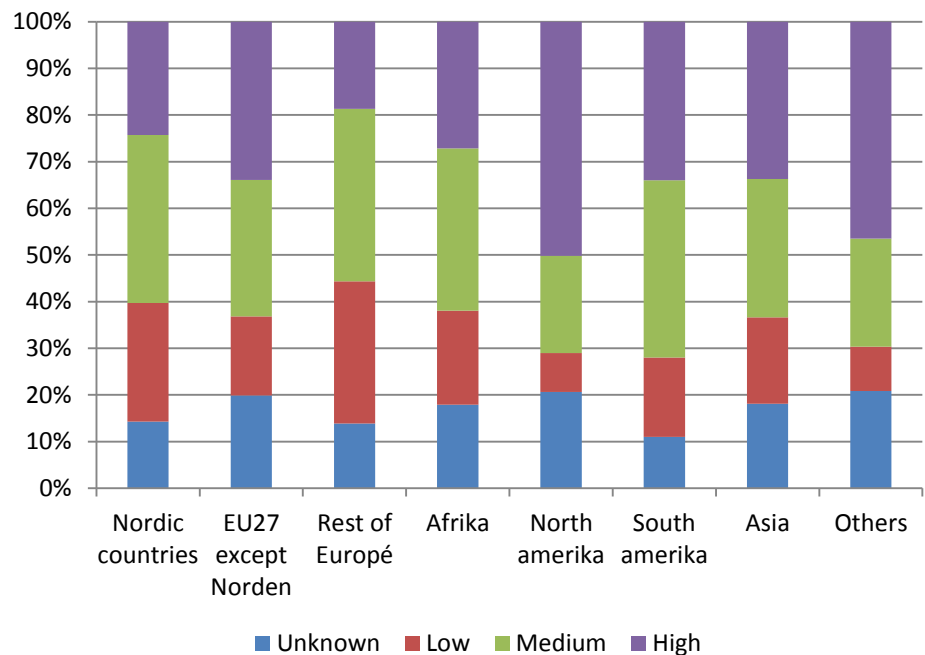
**Figur 4 Foreign born circular migrants by level of education and decade of last immigration**



Note: People immigrated in 2009 is excluded because of high share of unknown education level.

The level of education is the highest for circular migrants born in North America and lowest for Europeans born outside the Nordic countries and EU27.

**Figur 5 Level of education by continent, percentage**



Note: People immigrated in 2009 is excluded because of high share of unknown education level.

### References

SOU 2010:40: Delbetänkande av kommittén för cirkulär migration och utveckling