

# Employment Opportunities and Internal Migration Flows in Iran

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## ***Abstract:***

Existing literature suggest that migration and employment opportunities are closely interconnected. In the one hand, spatial differences in employment opportunities are one of important factors that motivated migration decision-making. On the other hand, Migration usually is a mechanism for redistribution of working- age population and existing employment opportunities in an area can influence its' population density. The object of this paper is to address the question that to what extend interprovincial migration flows in Iran influenced by employment opportunities? In other words, how differential unemployment rate across provinces shape internal migration flows in Iran? National census data during 1956-2011, has been used for examining aggregate trends in migration and employment rate of provinces. In addition 2011 census micro-data used for a detailed analysis of this relationship. Findings indicate a direct relation between net migration of provinces and their unemployment rate. Provinces with lower unemployment rate are migration-receiving and those with higher unemployment rate are migration-sending provinces. Of 30 provinces of Iran, 12 provinces including Tehran, Isfahan, Yazd, Mazandaran, Razavi Khorasan, Golestan, Gillan, Ghom, Boushehr, Semnan, Markazi, and Ghazvin have a positive net migration. Tehran has highest and Ghazvin has lowest positive net migration. Other 18 remaining provinces have a negative net migration rate.

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immigrant

Emigrants net migration

The Proportion of  
The net migration The Proportion of  
to province Emigrates to  
population(percent) Immigrant(percent)

	numbers	percent	numbers	percent			
Total	4774046	100	4774046	100	0	0	100
Azarbajejan sharghi	158424	3.32	302157	6.33	-143733	-3.99	52.43
Azarbajejan gharbi	121623	2.55	148442	3.11	-26819	-0.93	81.93
Ardabil	79331	1.66	134723	2.82	-55392	-4.51	58.88
Isfahan	299943	6.28	231320	4.85	68623	1.51	129.67
Ilam	37292	0.78	48428	1.01	-11136	-2.04	77.01
Bushehr	91596	1.92	76016	1.59	15580	1.76	120.5
Tehran	1438406	30.13	823379	17.25	615027	4.58	174.7
Chahar mahal bakhteiari	48705	1.02	65638	1.37	-16933	-1.97	74.2
Jonubi Khorasan	50244	1.05	60449	1.27	-10205	-1.6	83.12
Razavi Khorasan	305305	6.4	274451	5.75	30854	0.55	111.24
Shomali Khorasan	51484	1.08	76865	1.61	-25381	-3.13	66.98
Khuzestan	170450	3.57	278662	5.84	-108212	-2.53	61.17
Zanjan	80132	1.68	96087	2.01	-15955	-1.65	83.4
Semnan	71778	1.5	63715	1.33	8063	1.37	112.65
Sistan baluchestan	66792	1.4	138124	2.89	-71332	-2.97	48.36
Fars	165694	3.47	199540	4.18	-33846	-0.78	83.04
Ghazvin	96758	2.03	94934	1.99	1824	0.16	101.92
Ghom	120688	2.53	97282	2.04	23406	2.24	124.06
Kordestan	71493	1.5	130382	2.73	-58889	-4.09	54.83
Kerman	87427	1.83	114071	2.39	-26644	-1	76.64

Kermanshah	80819	1.69	199947	4.19	-119128	-6.34	40.42
Kohkiluya buierahmad	28647	0.6	43757	0.92	-15110	-2.38	65.47
Golestan	125742	2.63	97613	2.04	28129	1.74	128.82
Gilan	202385	4.24	177705	3.72	24680	1.03	113.89
Lorestan	75131	1.57	143921	3.01	-68790	-4.01	52.2
Mazandaran	198520	4.16	163076	3.42	35444	2.21	121.73
Markazi	136621	2.86	130353	2.73	6268	0.46	104.81
Hormezgan	104492	2.19	104735	2.19	-243	-0.02	99.77
Hamadan	108342	2.27	197846	4.14	-89504	-5.25	54.76
Yazd	99782	2.09	60428	1.27	39354	3.97	165.13

+3	Total		Urban	
Province Name	Unemployment Rate	موازنه مهاجرتي	Unemployment Rate	موازنه مهاجرتي
Azarbajejan sharghi	9.6	-4	1.8	11.1
Azarbajejan gharbi	8.9	-0.9	-2.3	8.7
Ardabil	11.4	-4.5	-9.6	12.8
Isfahan	10.5	1.5	1.3	10.8
Ilam	27.2	-2	-29.6	26.5
Bushehr	9	1.8	-17.3	9.2
Tehran	8.4	4.6	7.3	8.5
Charmahal bakhteiari	18	-2	-30	16.1
Jonubi Khorasan	16.3	-1.6	-18.1	14
Razavi Khorasan	8.2	0.6	1	8
Shomali Khorasan	8	-3.1	-42.4	9.5
Khuzestan	19.3	-2.5	0.9	18.5
Zanjan	9.4	-1.7	-5.9	12
Semnan	8.4	1.4	-20.5	8.6
Sistan Baluchestan	31.5	-3	0.8	21.3
Fars	11.3	-0.8	1.1	10.9
Ghazvin	10.8	0.2	4.9	11.3
Ghom	8.1	2.2	6.3	8.3
Kordestan	20.2	-4.1	-0.5	21.5
Kerman	21	-1	1.1	17.1
Kermanshah	23.2	-6.3	1.3	22.9
Kohkiluie Buyerahmad	19.6	-2.4	-10.1	15.1

<b>Golestan</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	
<b>Gilan</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-47.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	
<b>Lorestan</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>27.1</b>	
<b>Mazandaran</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>10.7</b>	
<b>Markazi</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>10.4</b>	
<b>Hormozgan</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>	
<b>Hamadan</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12.4</b>	
<b>Yazd</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	