

LUND UNIVERSITY  
Department of Economic History  
SWEDEN

# Immigration, Integration and Return Migration:

## The Swedish Experience.

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# The importance of return migration

- Return migration was for long a neglected issue within migration research
- Return rates among labor migrants frequently higher than 50 %.

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- Return rates among labor migrants frequently higher than 50 %
- Large social, economic and cultural impact

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**∅ Focus on temporary protection**



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**New labor migration flows**

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**Shortage of high-skilled workers**

**New labor migration flows**

**Population aging**



# Rates of return migration have decreased since the early 70s

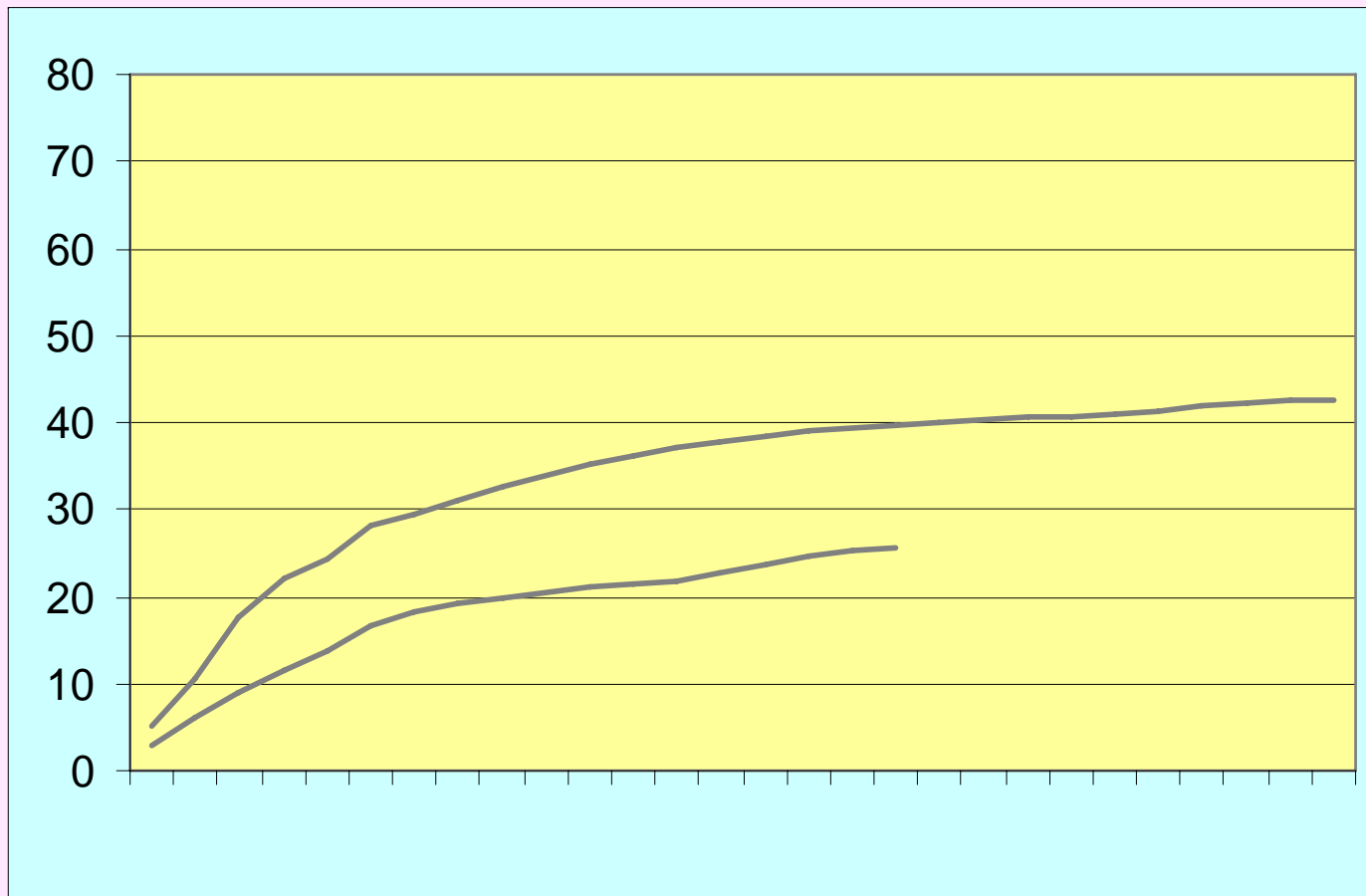
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- Restrictions on labor immigration
- Increased refugee immigration
- Ø Gradual change in the composition of immigrant populations

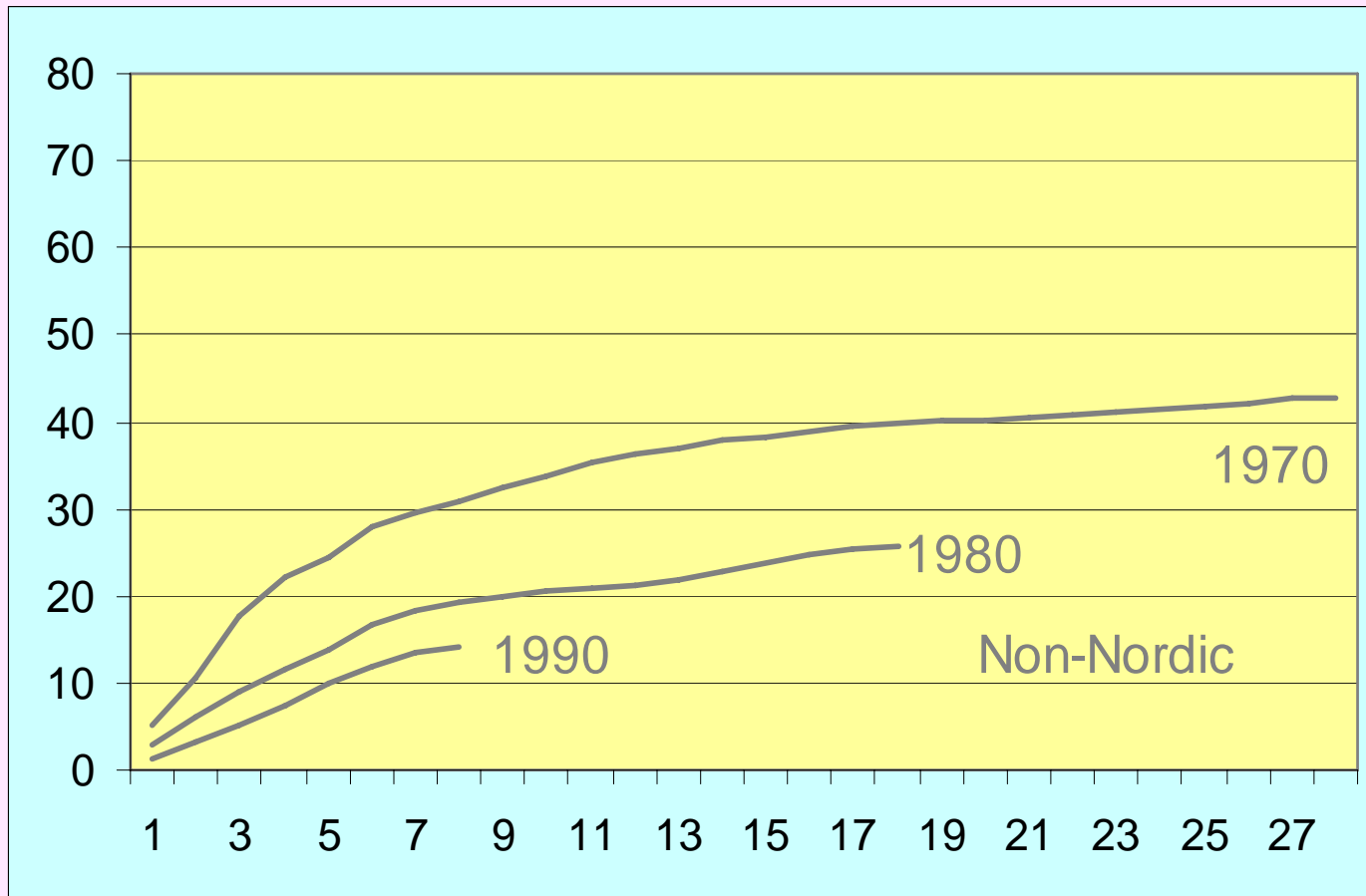


# Accumulated rates of return migration from Sweden by immigration cohort and years since immigration



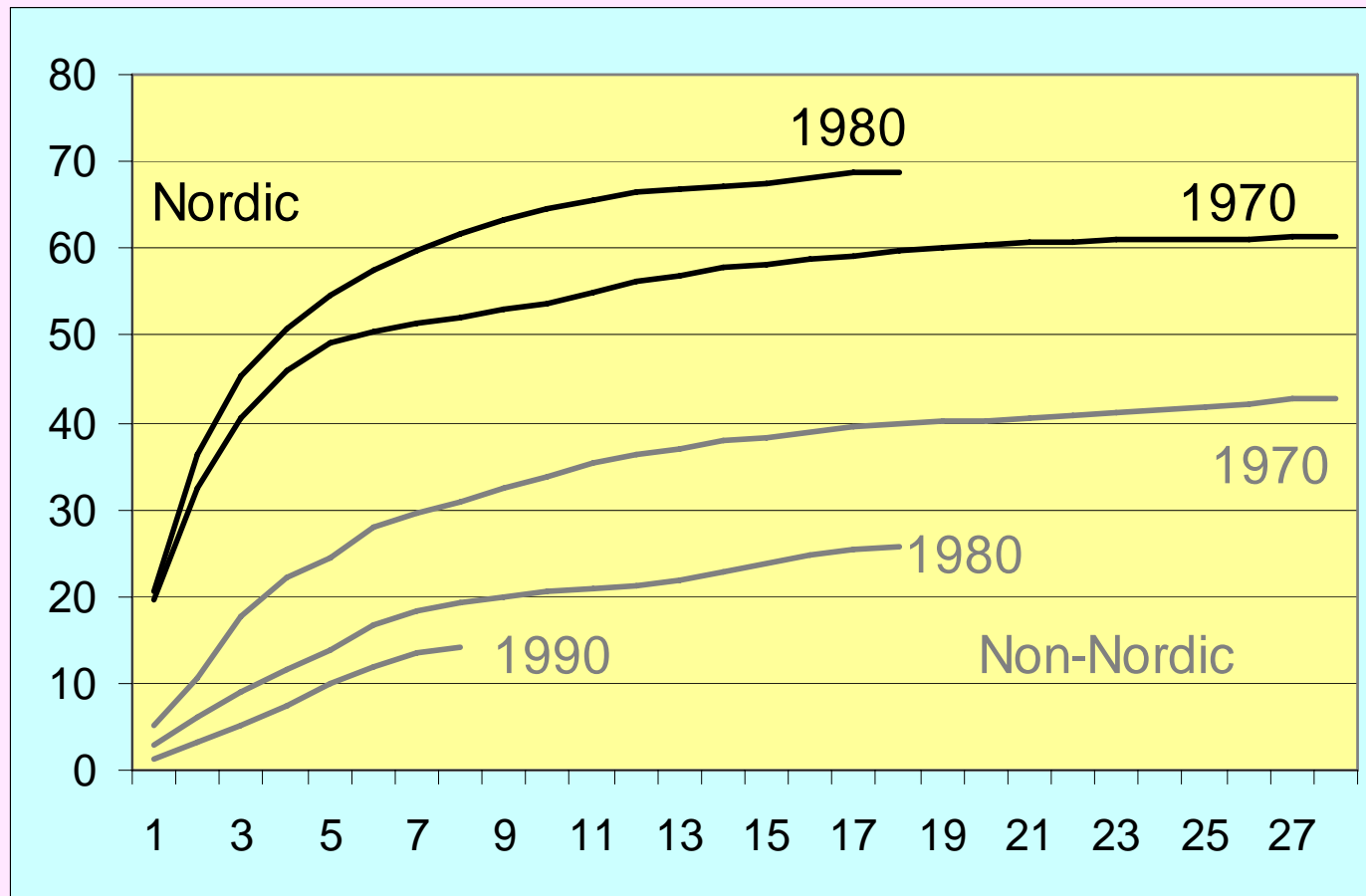


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# GDP per capita 1970-2000, Finland and Sweden



# GDP per capita 1970-2000, Norway and Sweden

1990 international dollars

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<b>Voluntary migration</b>		
<b>Forced migration</b>		



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*Probability of return migration from Sweden by income category. Odds ratios.*

**Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia 1968-1989.**

Odds ratio

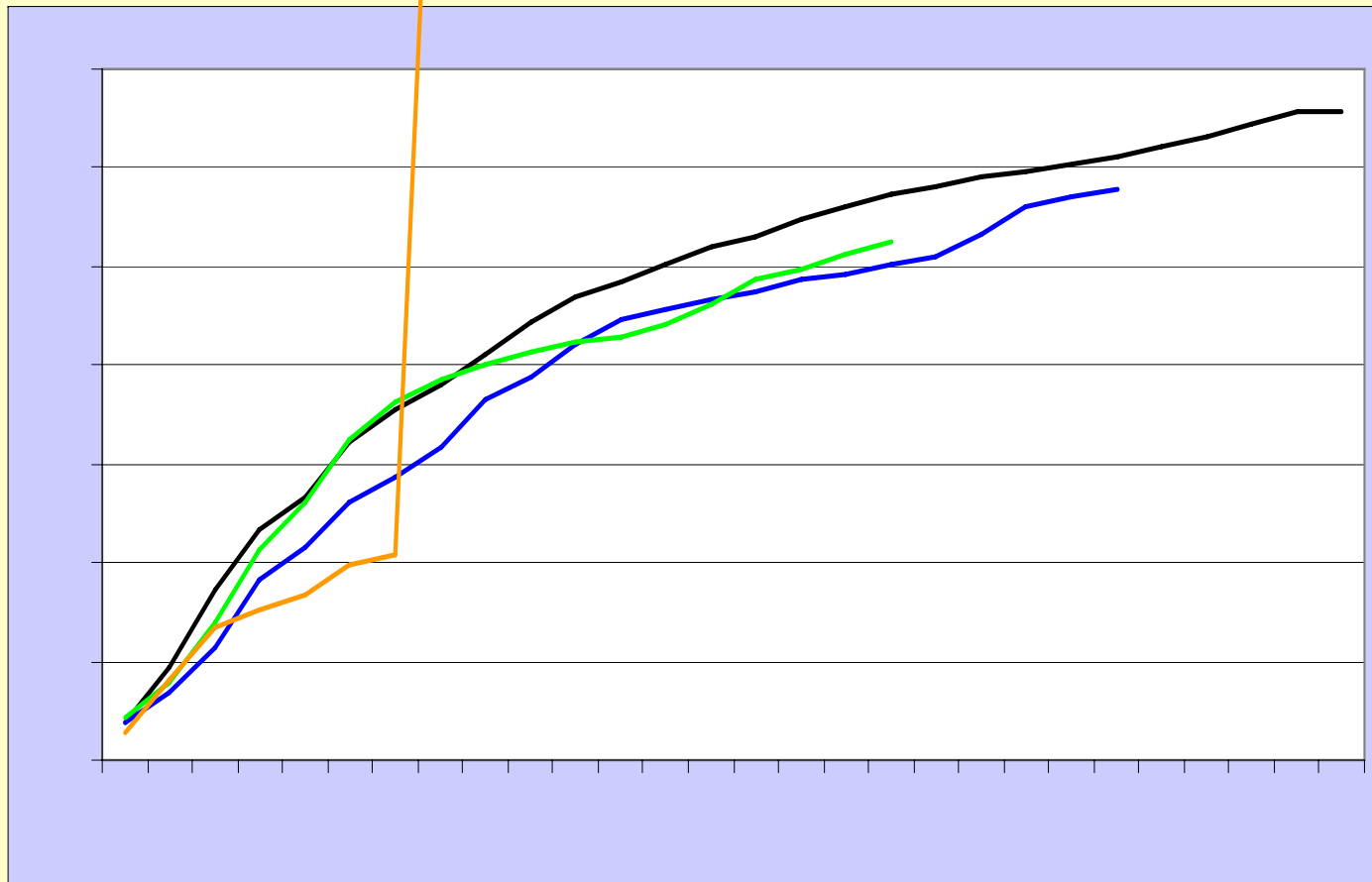
P-value

*Probability of return migration from Sweden by income category. Odds ratios.*

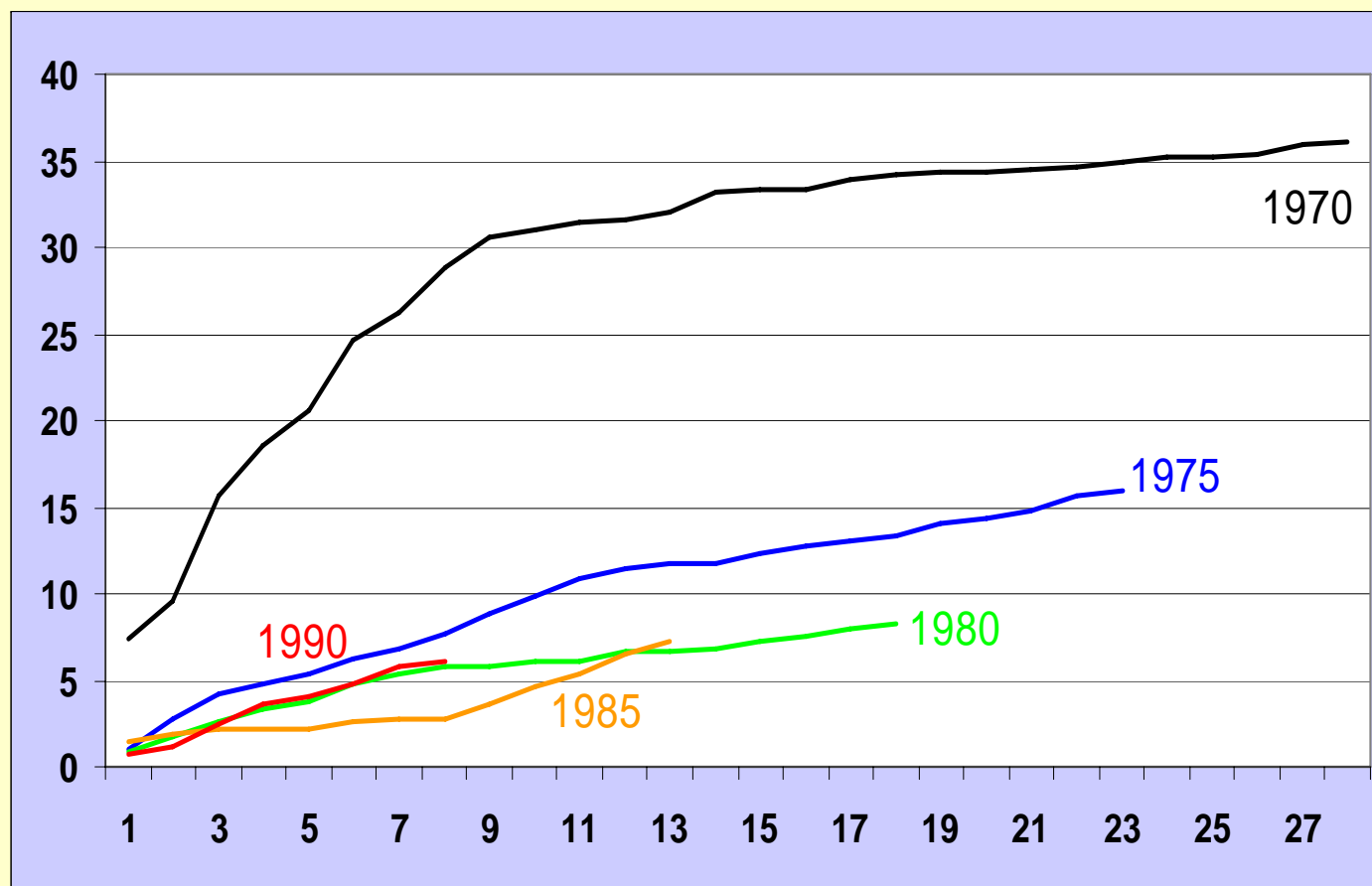
**Germany and the United States 1968-1996.**

Income category	Odds ratio	P-value
Low	1.00	(reference)
Medium-low	1.34	0.01
Medium	1.87	0.00
Medium-high	2.63	0.00
High	4.69	0.00

# Accumulated rates of Greek return migration from Sweden by immigrant cohort and years since immigration

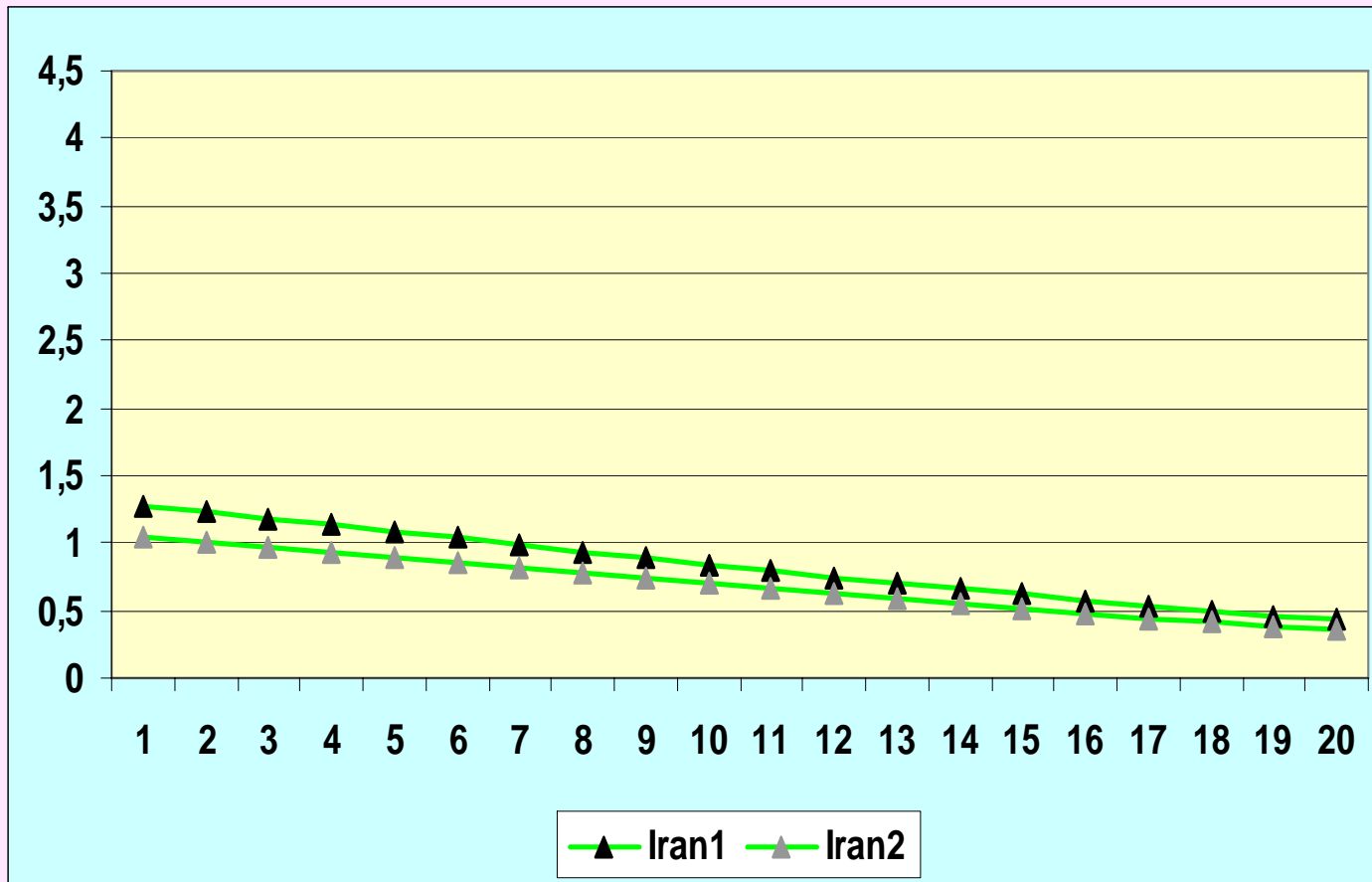


# Accumulated rates of Turkish return migration from Sweden by immigrant cohort and years since immigration





Conditional probability of return migration from Sweden 1990-1996  
by years since immigration, country of origin and immigration cohort.  
Cohort 1 = 1973-84. Cohort 2 = 1985-1990

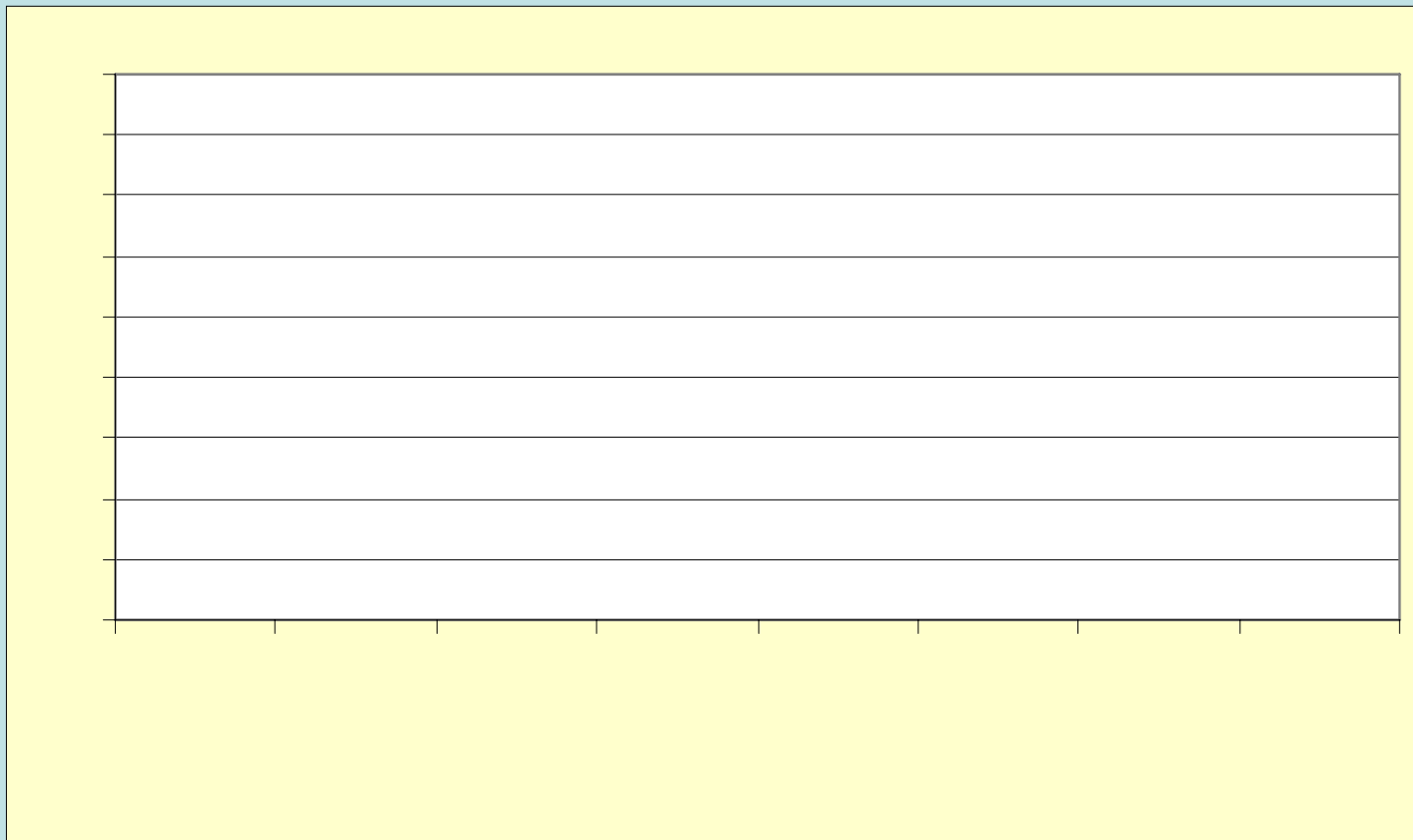








*Unemployment rates 1989-1996, Chile, Poland and Sweden. Percent of the workforce*



# Conclusion

- Return migration highly sensitive to economic circumstances
  - refugee return migration too!
  - political *as well as* economic security needed for return migrants

# Conclusion

- Immigration *and* return migration generally positively selected
- development potential!

# Conclusion

- Low impact of migration on age structure of host societies
- Return migration decreases the effect of immigration on age structure of host societies



# Conclusion

- Temporary residence models lead to economic inefficiency
  - hampers economic integration of immigrants
  - may even hinder return migration