A Spatial Comparison of Short and Long Term Migration Trends in China

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Abstract

China's floating population, those individuals who have migrated between counties or provinces for a period of longer than 6 months, accounts for 79 million individuals. If intracounty migration is also included, the number jumps to 145 million individuals, or over 11% of the total population. The distance that migrants travel can be used as a barometer of regional inequalities. This is based on the assumption that all else being equal, an individual will choose a job in the closest location that is a region in which they have a higher probability of achieving a higher income. In most cases, the closer one moves to the coast, the greater the probability of securing permanent employment. For this study, the coast was defined as the provinces that border the Sino-Japan Sea, Yellow Sea, and South China Sea, with the distance that such people were able to travel from their place of permanent registration used to determine the significance of their migration as a result of relocation.

Definitions

Short-term migrants: Those individuals who are residing at their current location for less than 6 months, but have been away from their permanent household registration for more than 6 months. Long-term or permanent migrants: Those individuals who have resided at their current location for more than 6 months, but have been away from their permanent household registration for more than 6 months. If an individual moves to another county within the province, they are still defined as a short-term migrant. If an individual moves from one province to another in the same country, they are defined as a long-term migrant.

Introduction

This study draws from the 2000 Chinese census data as well as the National Bureau of Statistics of China and compiled on a county level with geographic information. The study is used to illustrate the significance of the floating population and its role in China's economy and development. The analysis was conducted with ArcGIS software and was based on the 2000 Chinese census data. The study was conducted to better understand the significance of the floating population and its role in China's economy and development.

Methods

As illustrated in figure 1 and 2, long-term migration has become an issue of concern for many counties in China. However, no other data set allows such migration patterns to be so easily observable. This study used the National Bureau of Statistics of China and compiled on a county level with geographic information. The study is used to illustrate the significance of the floating population and its role in China's economy and development. The analysis was conducted with ArcGIS software and was based on the 2000 Chinese census data. The study was conducted to better understand the significance of the floating population and its role in China's economy and development.

Discussion

The most significant findings from this study are that long-term migration is most likely to be found in the provinces of Guangdong, Zhejiang, and Fujian, as these provinces account for over 45% of all long-term migrants. The second highest number of long-term migrants is found in the provinces of Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai, which account for over 15% of all long-term migrants. It is also important to note that the majority of long-term migrants are found in the coastal provinces, which account for over 55% of all long-term migrants. This is likely due to the availability of employment opportunities in these areas. The third highest number of long-term migrants is found in the provinces of Henan, Anhui, and Jiangxi, which account for over 10% of all long-term migrants. These provinces are likely to have a substantial number of both short and long-term migrants. The fourth highest number of long-term migrants is found in the provinces of Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, and Gansu, which account for over 5% of all long-term migrants. These provinces are likely to have a substantial number of both short and long-term migrants. The fifth highest number of long-term migrants is found in the provinces of Hubei, Hunan, and Shaanxi, which account for over 3% of all long-term migrants. These provinces are likely to have a substantial number of both short and long-term migrants.

Results

The results of this study are that long-term migration is most likely to be found in the provinces of Guangdong, Zhejiang, and Fujian, as these provinces account for over 45% of all long-term migrants. The second highest number of long-term migrants is found in the provinces of Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai, which account for over 15% of all long-term migrants. It is also important to note that the majority of long-term migrants are found in the coastal provinces, which account for over 55% of all long-term migrants. This is likely due to the availability of employment opportunities in these areas. The third highest number of long-term migrants is found in the provinces of Henan, Anhui, and Jiangxi, which account for over 10% of all long-term migrants. These provinces are likely to have a substantial number of both short and long-term migrants. The fourth highest number of long-term migrants is found in the provinces of Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, and Gansu, which account for over 5% of all long-term migrants. These provinces are likely to have a substantial number of both short and long-term migrants. The fifth highest number of long-term migrants is found in the provinces of Hubei, Hunan, and Shaanxi, which account for over 3% of all long-term migrants. These provinces are likely to have a substantial number of both short and long-term migrants.

Conclusions

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