



Responding to policy challenges : Estimating migration flows

(Seventh UN Coordination Meeting on International migration)

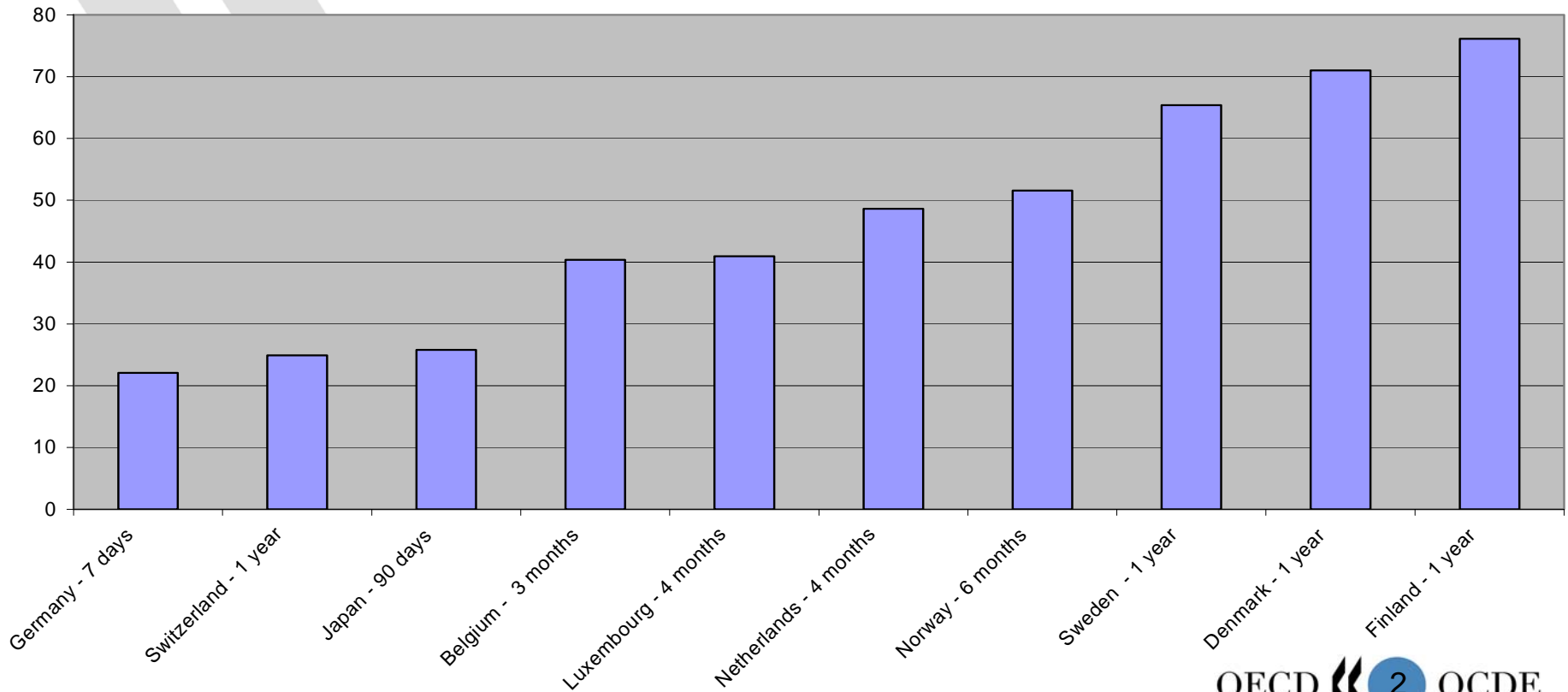
20 November 2008

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The (wretched) world of national statistics

Chart 1. Estimated retention rate (1992-2001) by intended stay criterion for entry into the population or foreigners' register
(retention rate=net migration as a percentage of the inflows)





What has been available:

- National flow statistics by nationality, sex, age
 - No clear idea of their comparability across countries
 - No possibility of adding up movements across countries
 - No information on the types of movements or their characteristics
 - Modality of entry
 - Duration / renewability of permit

What is required:

- Flow statistics that are
 - Internationally comparable
 - Provide disaggregations according to dimensions that are of interest to policy
 - Country of origin, sex, age
 - Category of entry (labour, family, humanitarian, etc.)
 - Possibility of settlement
 - Changes in status
 - Irregular movements
 - Skill level

Some concepts

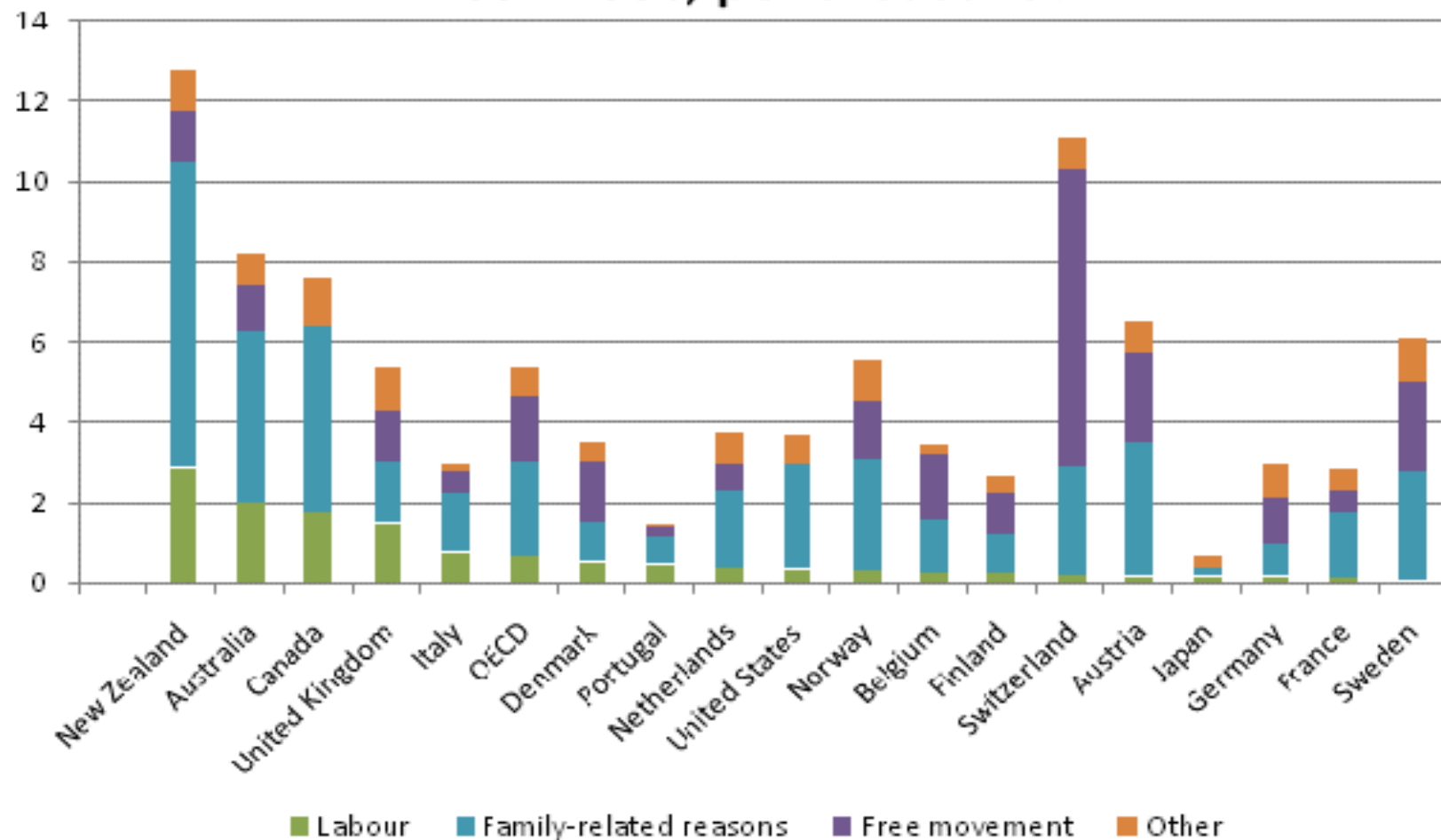
- Discretionary vs non-discretionary migration
- Temporary vs permanent migration
 - A temporary permit does not imply a temporary migration
 - In the world of migration, the right of permanent residence upon entry is exceptional
- Demand-driven vs supply-driven labour migration
- Selection of labour immigrants
- Low-educated vs low-skilled
 - Personal qualifications vs job requirements



What we have done:

- Ignored UN statistical recommendations
- Focused on regulated flows (+ free movement)
- Tried to estimate permanent-type movements
- Attempted a categorical approach to immigration flows
- Incorporated changes in status, that is, the flows are into the permanent resident population, not necessarily cross-border movements

Figure 2. Permanent-type international immigrant flows by category of entry, 2002-2006, per thousand.



Using the estimates

- Hypothesis : an increase in migration which leads to 3% percent increase in OECD work force (+15M) yields \$300 B in benefits (approx 20K per immigrant worker).
- How can 3% increase be achieved?
 - Increase current OECD permanent labour migration from 500K to 2M per year (Australian labour migration rates, equal spousal participation, no outflows)=> takes five years.
- Achieving same effect with temporary migration (assume 2 year stay) => annual flows required after five years = 7.5 million per year.

National vs OECD “standardised statistics” (2006)

| Country | OECD standardised | National | Difference | % Difference |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Japan | 87 600 | 325 600 | -238 900 | -73 |
| Germany | 216 000 | 558 500 | -342 500 | -61 |
| United Kingdom | 343 200 | 451 700 | -108 500 | -24 |
| Canada | 251 600 | 251 600 | 0 | 0 |
| United | 1 266 300 | 1 266 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Italy | 204 300 | 181 500 | 22 800 | 13 |
| France | 169 000 | 135 100 | 33 900 | 25 |
| OECD (18 countries) | 3 241 900 | 4 001 900 | -760 000 | -19 |

What's missing

- Temporary labour migration
- Changes in status – a growing area
- Specific movements
 - Intra-corporate transfers
 - Cross-border service provision
 - High-skilled vs low-skilled