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Department of Economic History
SWEDEN

Immigration, Integration and Return Migration:

The Swedish Experience.

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The importance of return migration

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

1990s: An increased interest

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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

- Restrictions on labor immigration

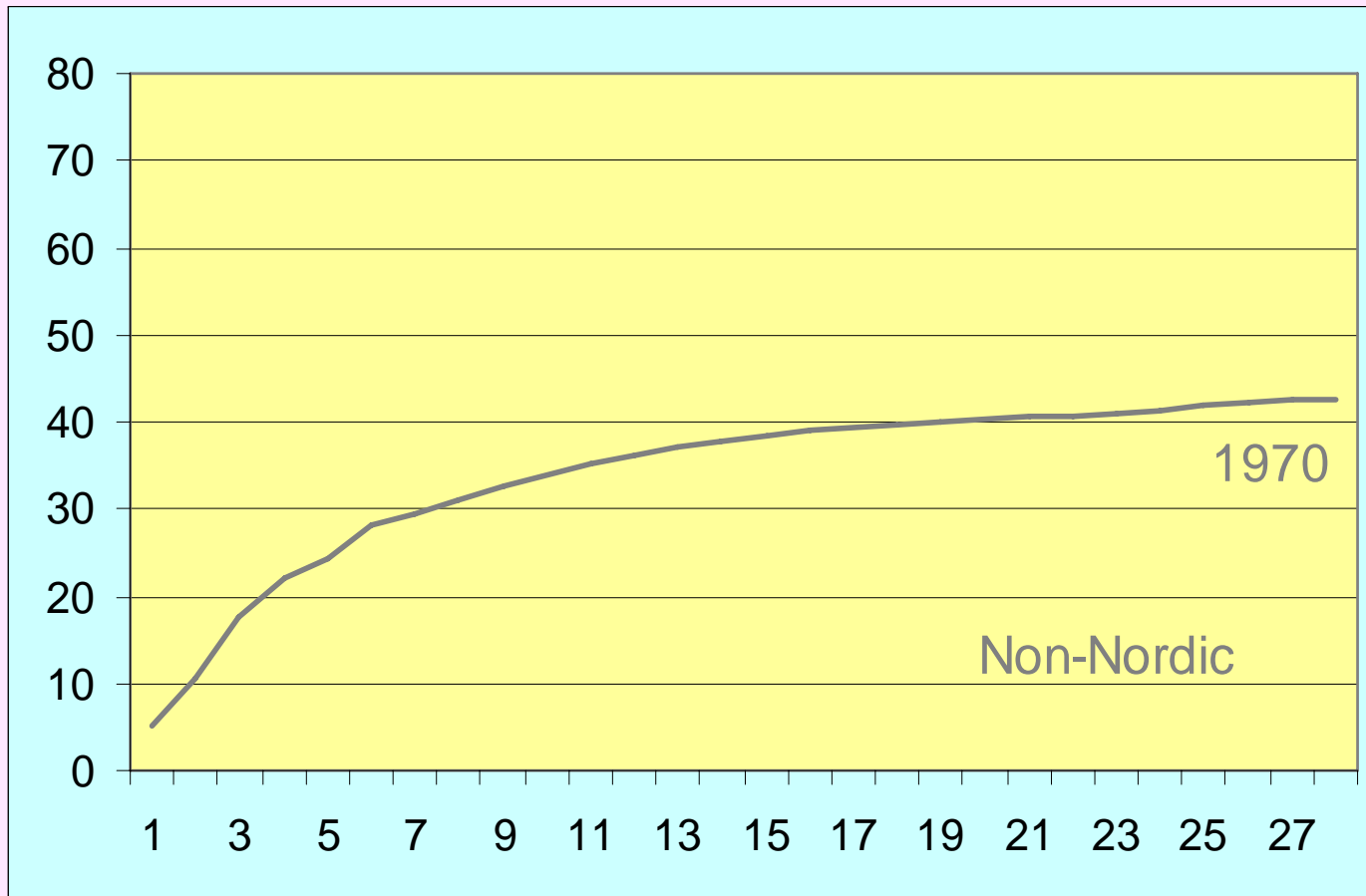
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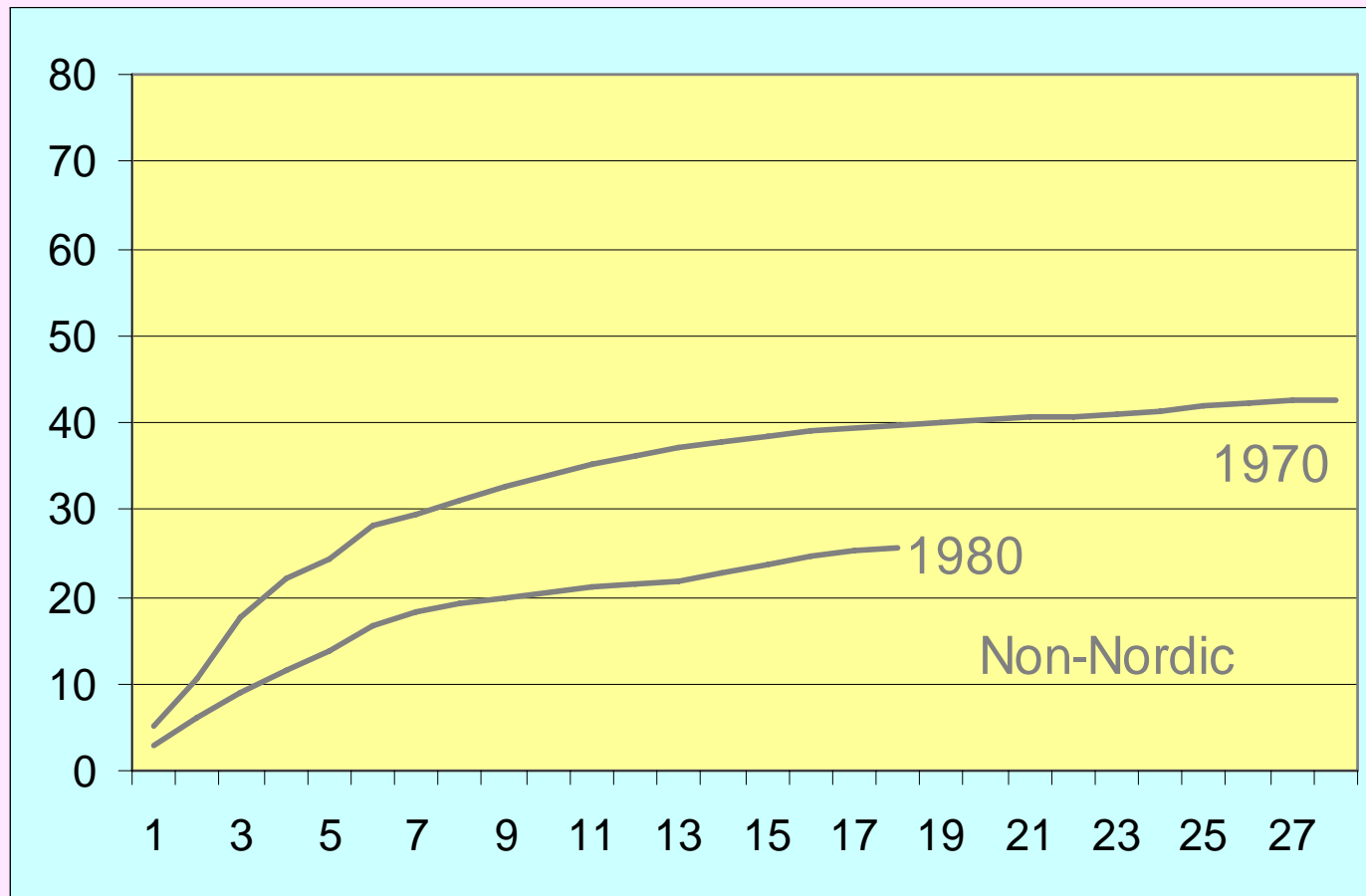
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- Restrictions on labor immigration
- Increased refugee immigration
- Gradual change in the composition of immigrant populations

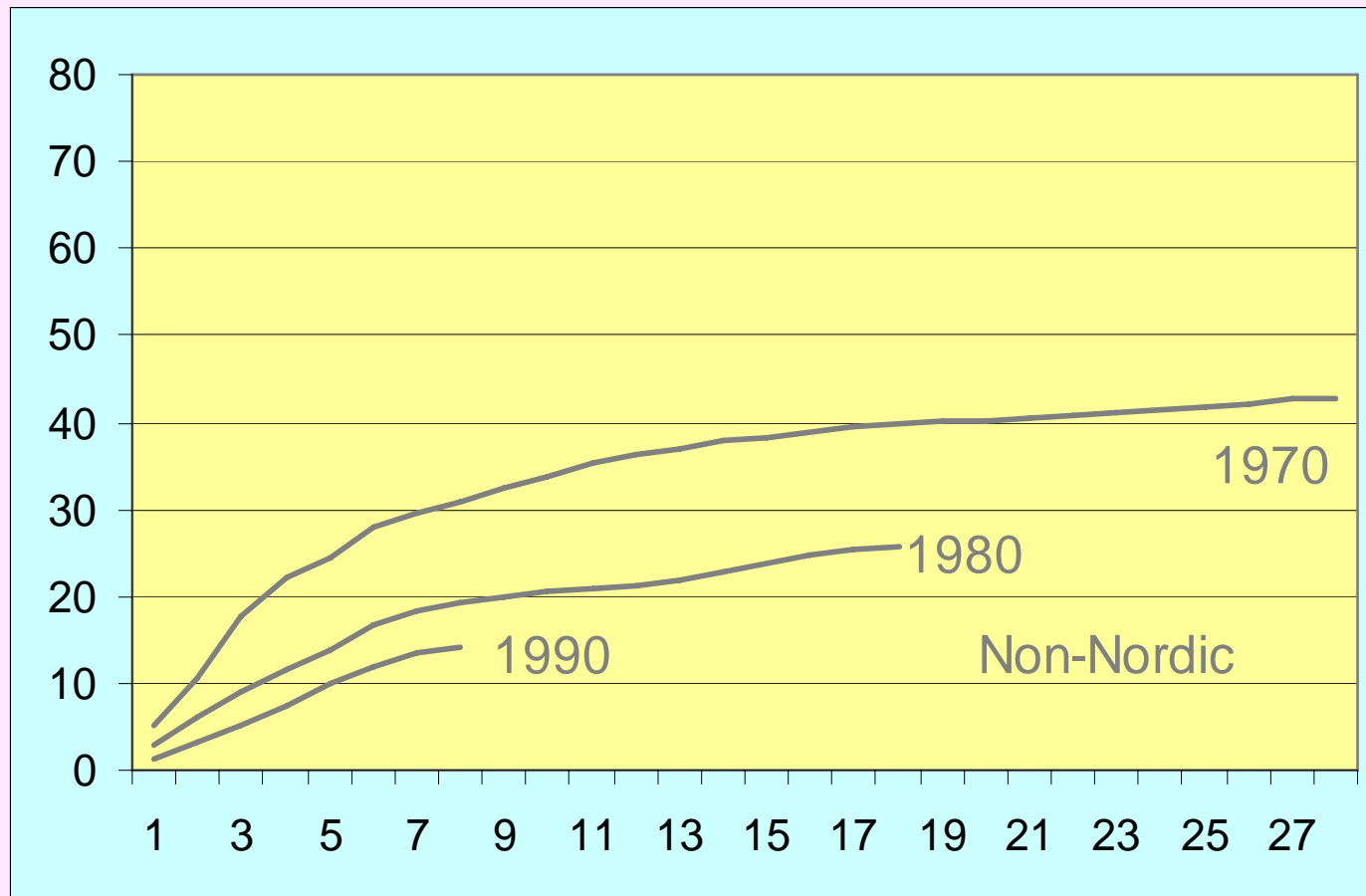
Accumulated rates of return migration from Sweden by immigration cohort and years since immigration



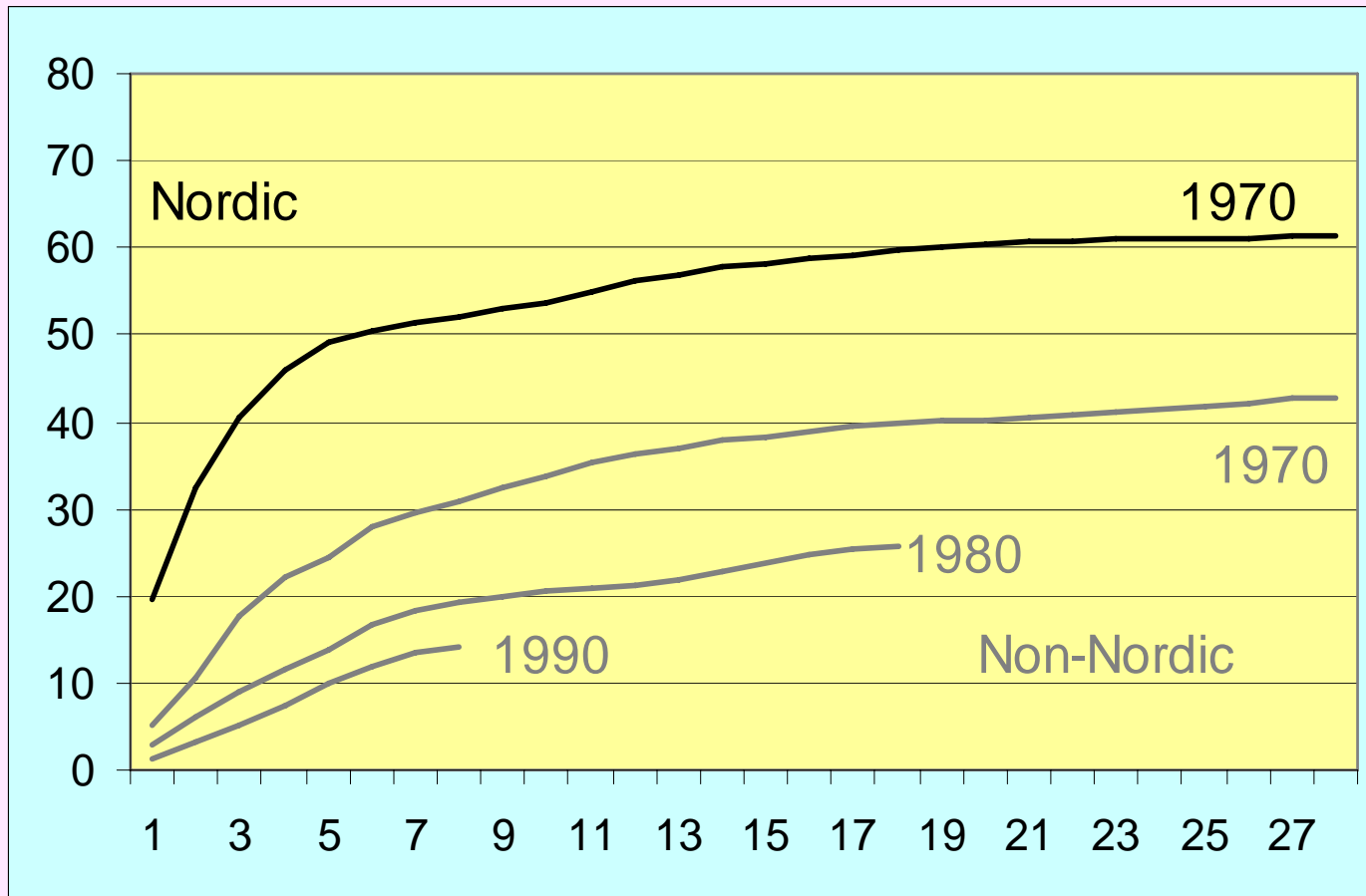
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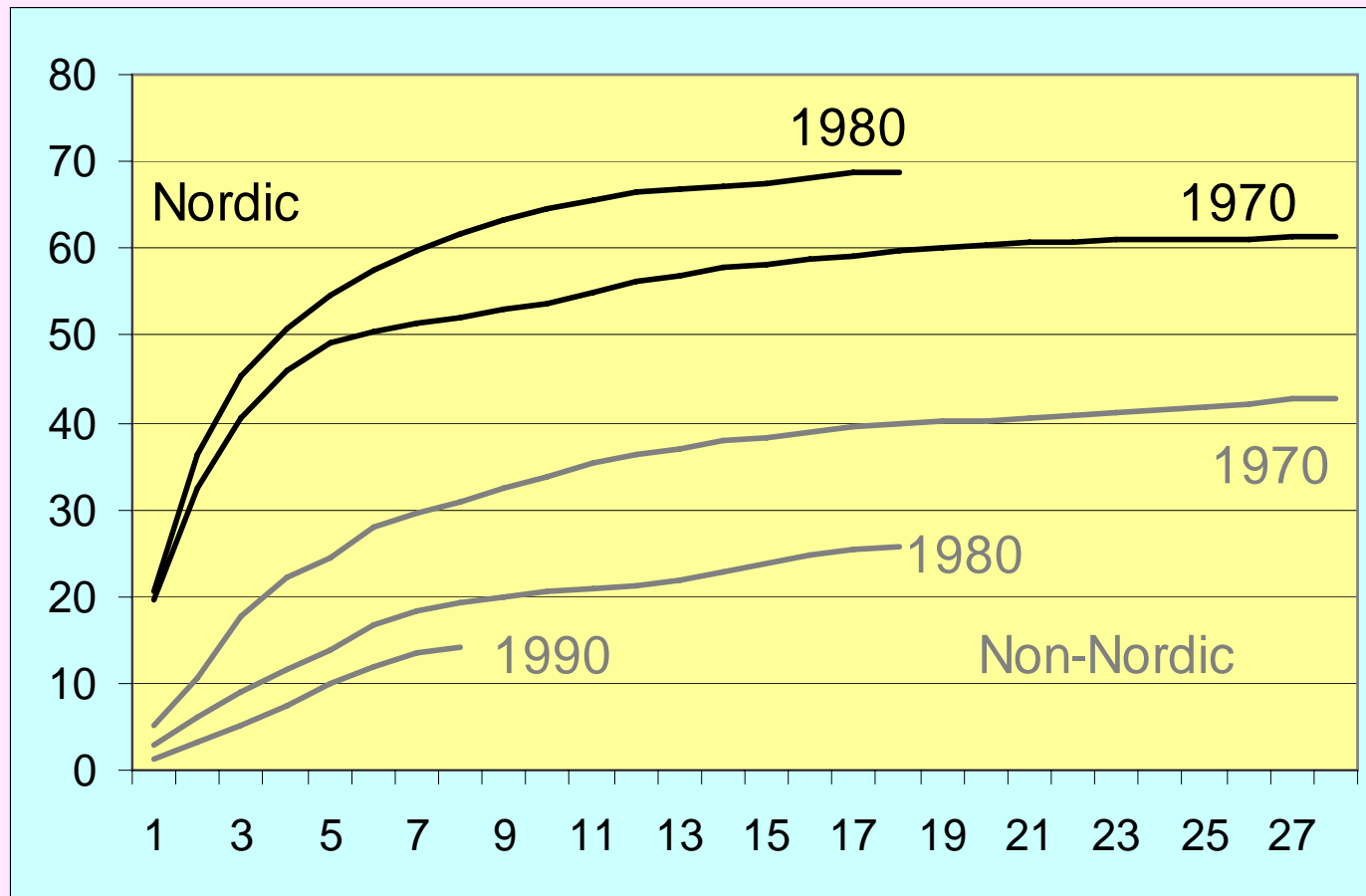
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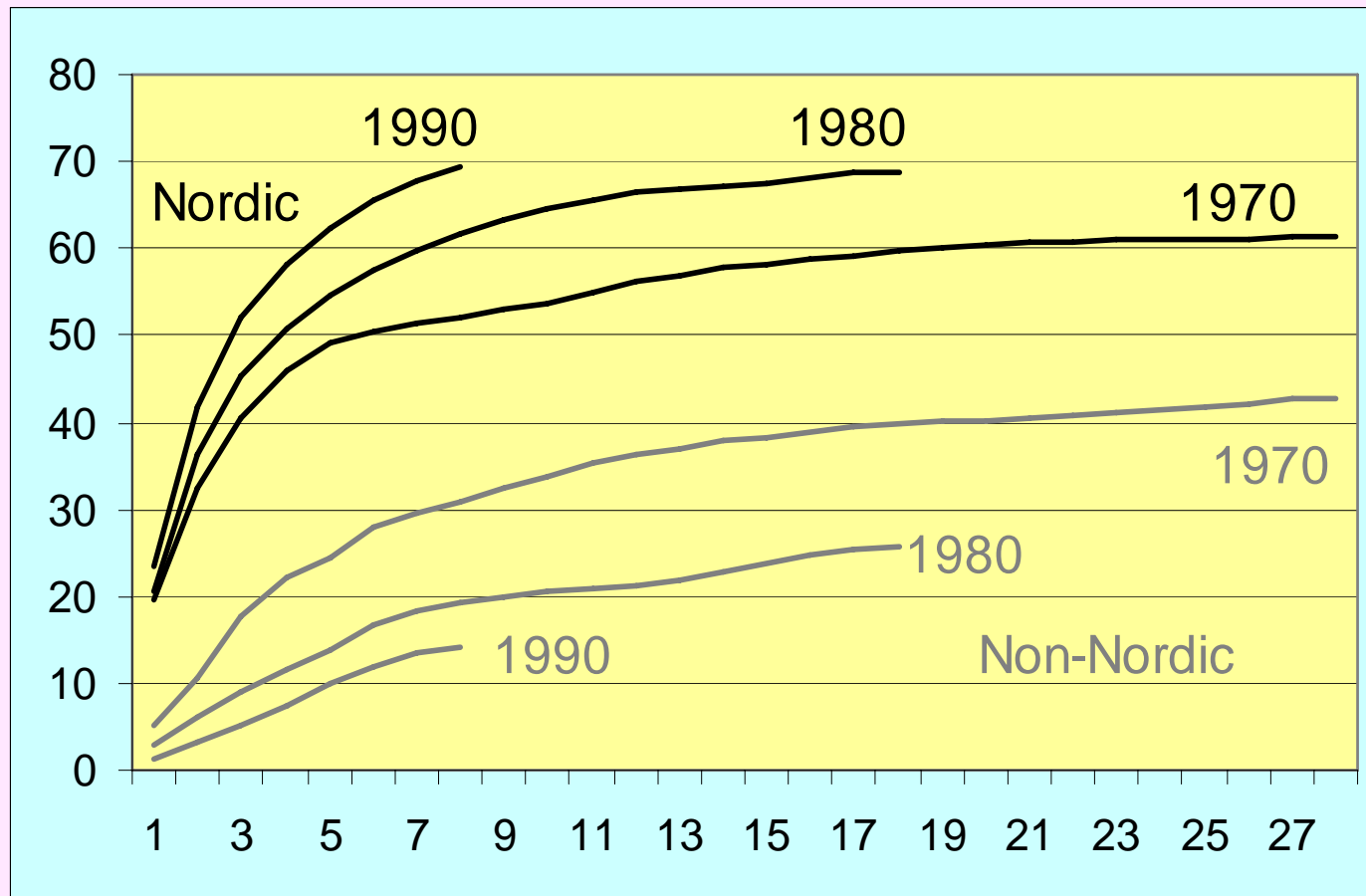
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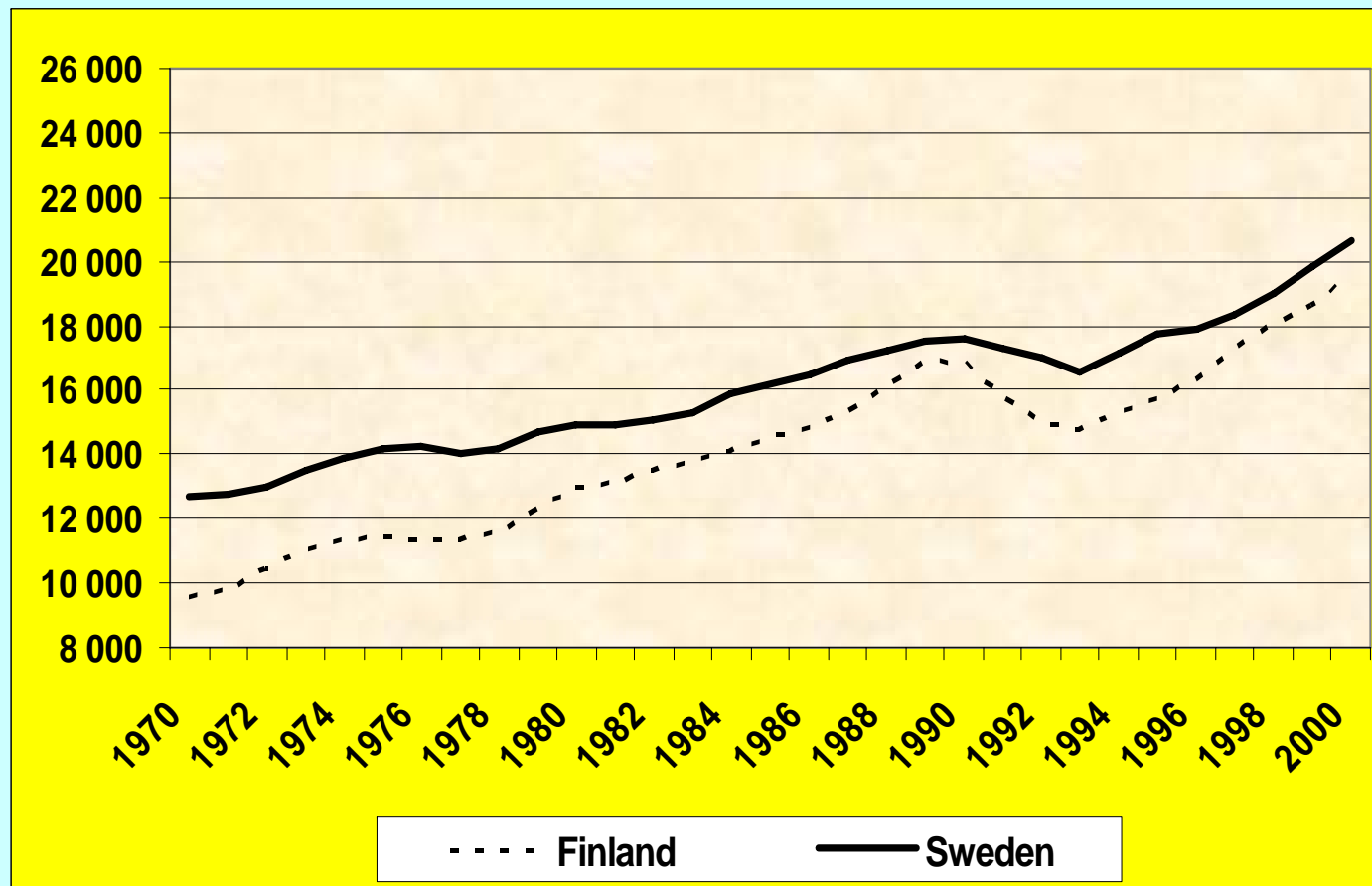


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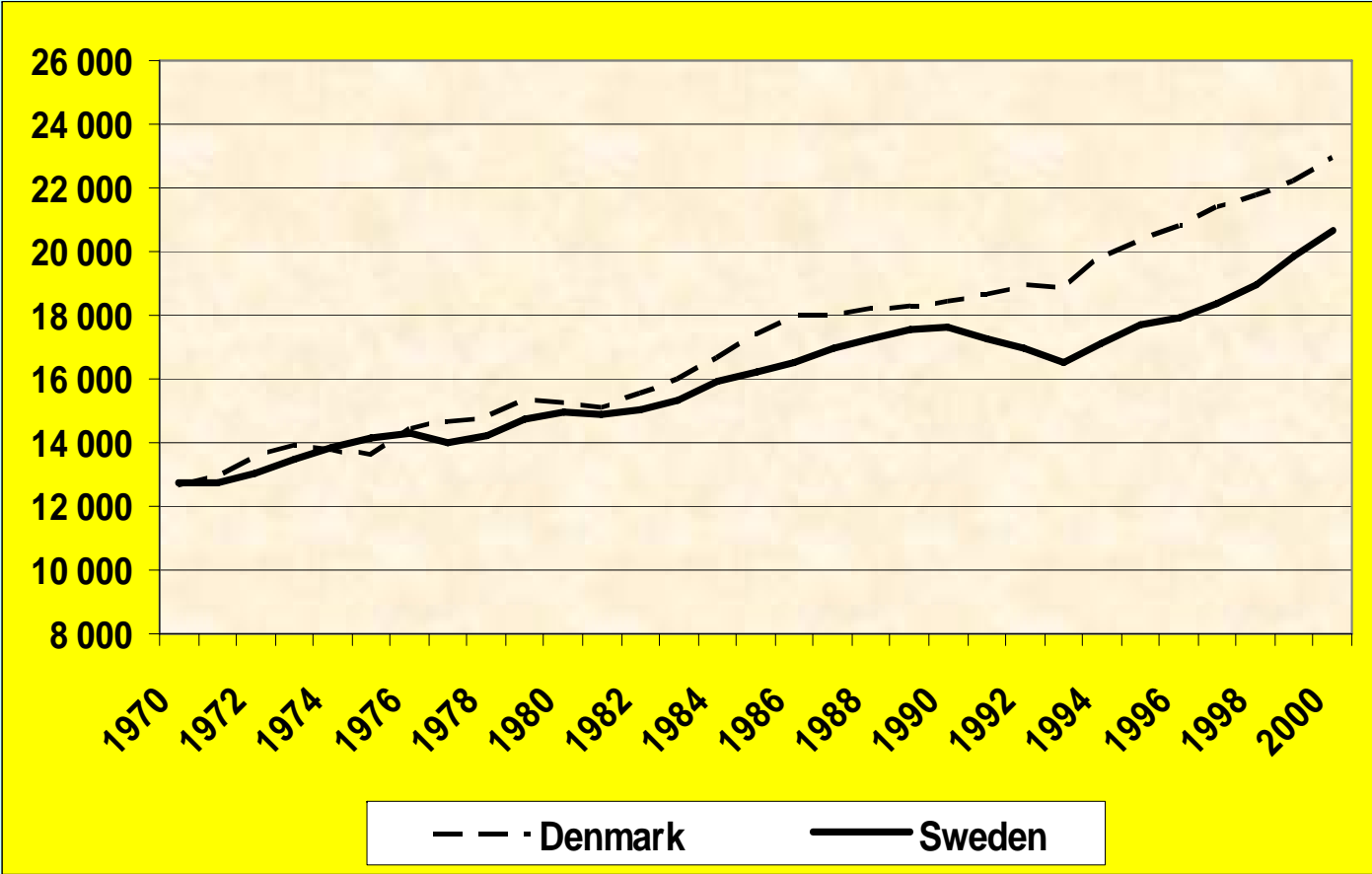
GDP per capita 1970-2000, Finland and Sweden

1990 international dollars



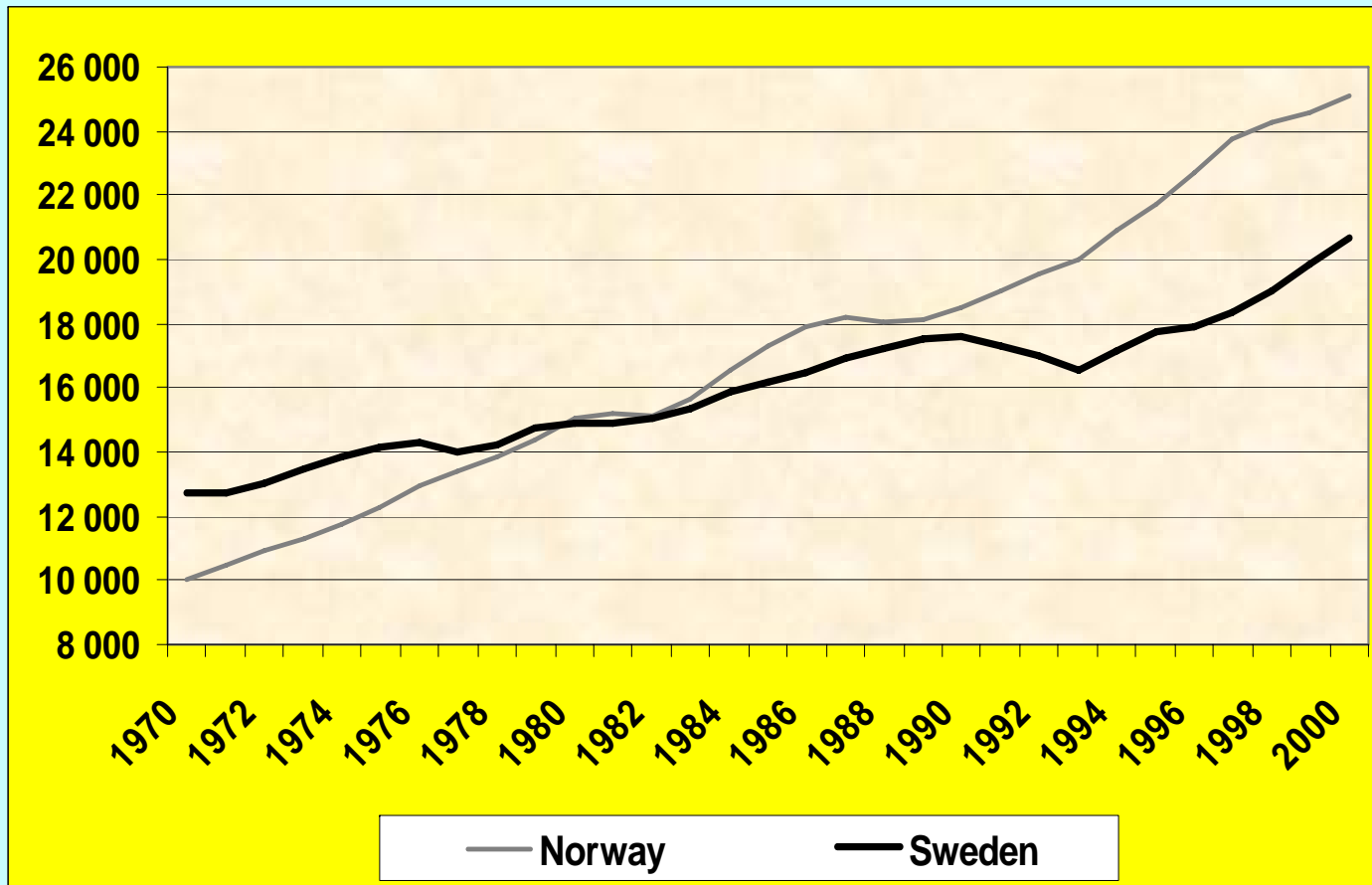
GDP per capita 1970-2000, Denmark and Sweden

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GDP per capita 1970-2000, Norway and Sweden

1990 international dollars



	Permanent residence rights	Temporary residence rights
Voluntary migration		
Forced migration		

	Permanent residence rights	Temporary residence rights
Voluntary migration	Labor migrants	
Forced migration		

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Forced migration	Permanent asylum	Temporary protection

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

Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia 1968-1989.

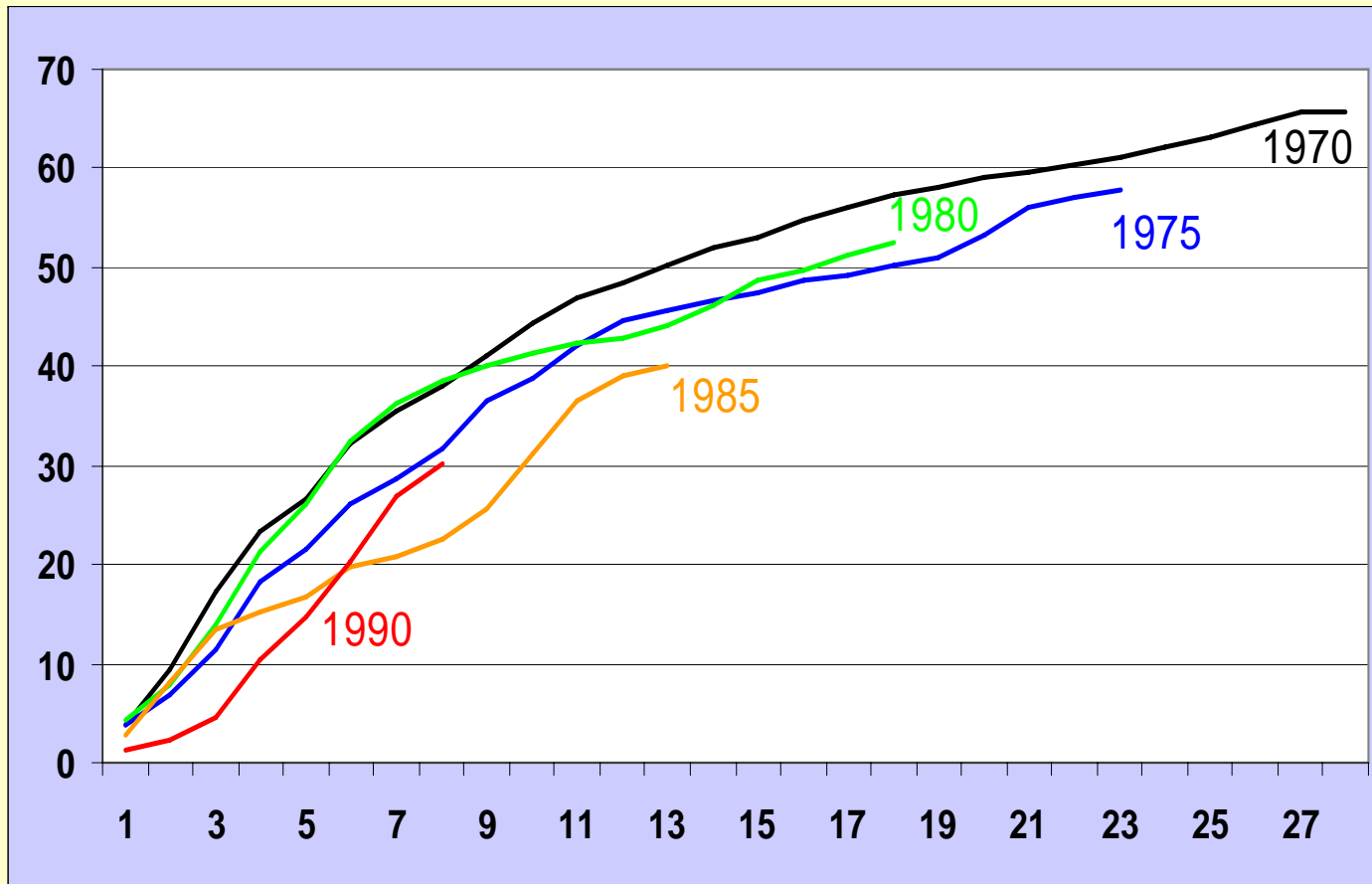
Income category	Odds ratio	P-value
Low	1.00	(reference)
Medium-low	1.39	0.01
Medium	1.51	0.00
Medium-high	1.58	0.03
High	1.87	0.02

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

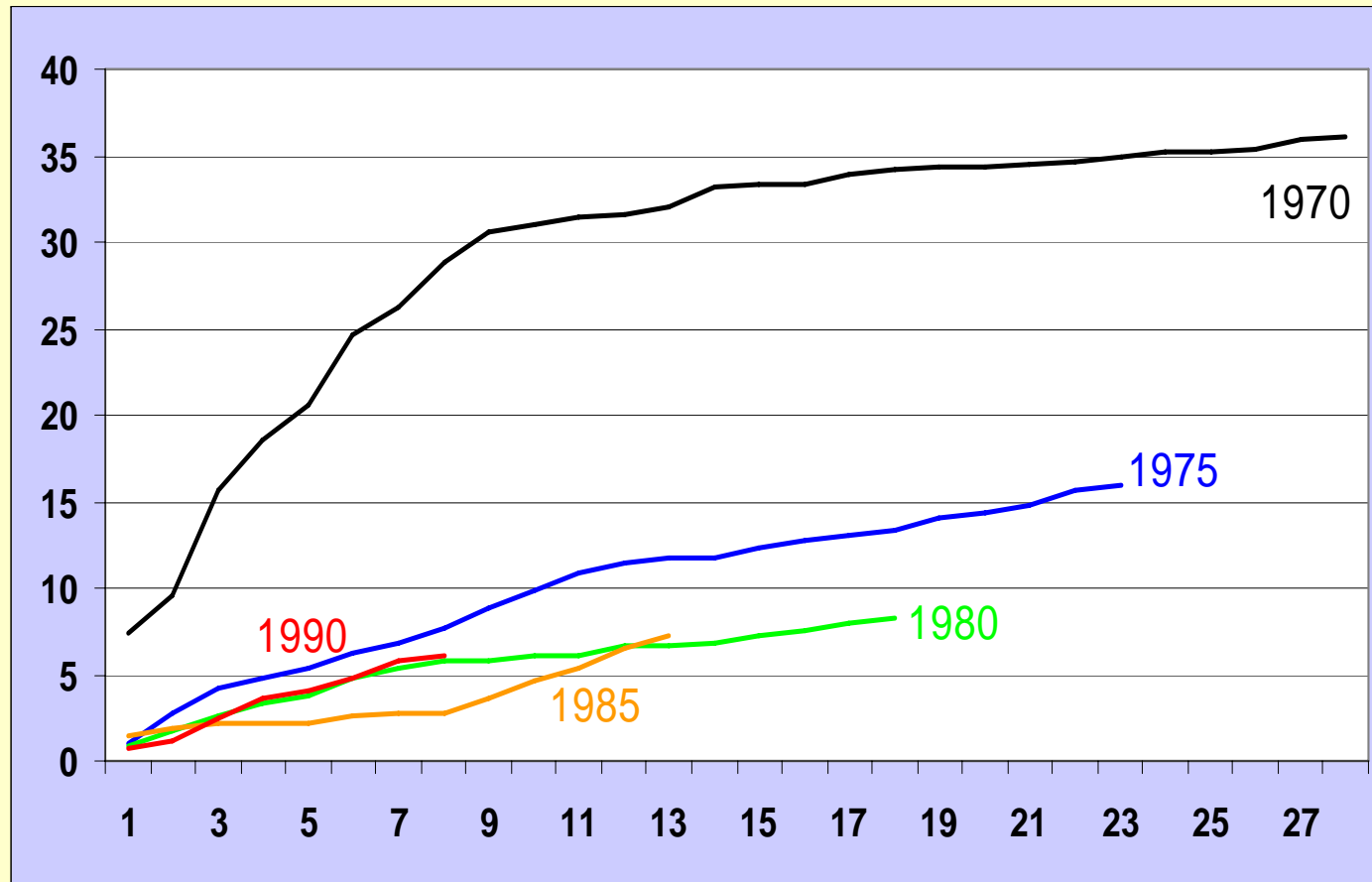
Germany and the United States 1968-1996.

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

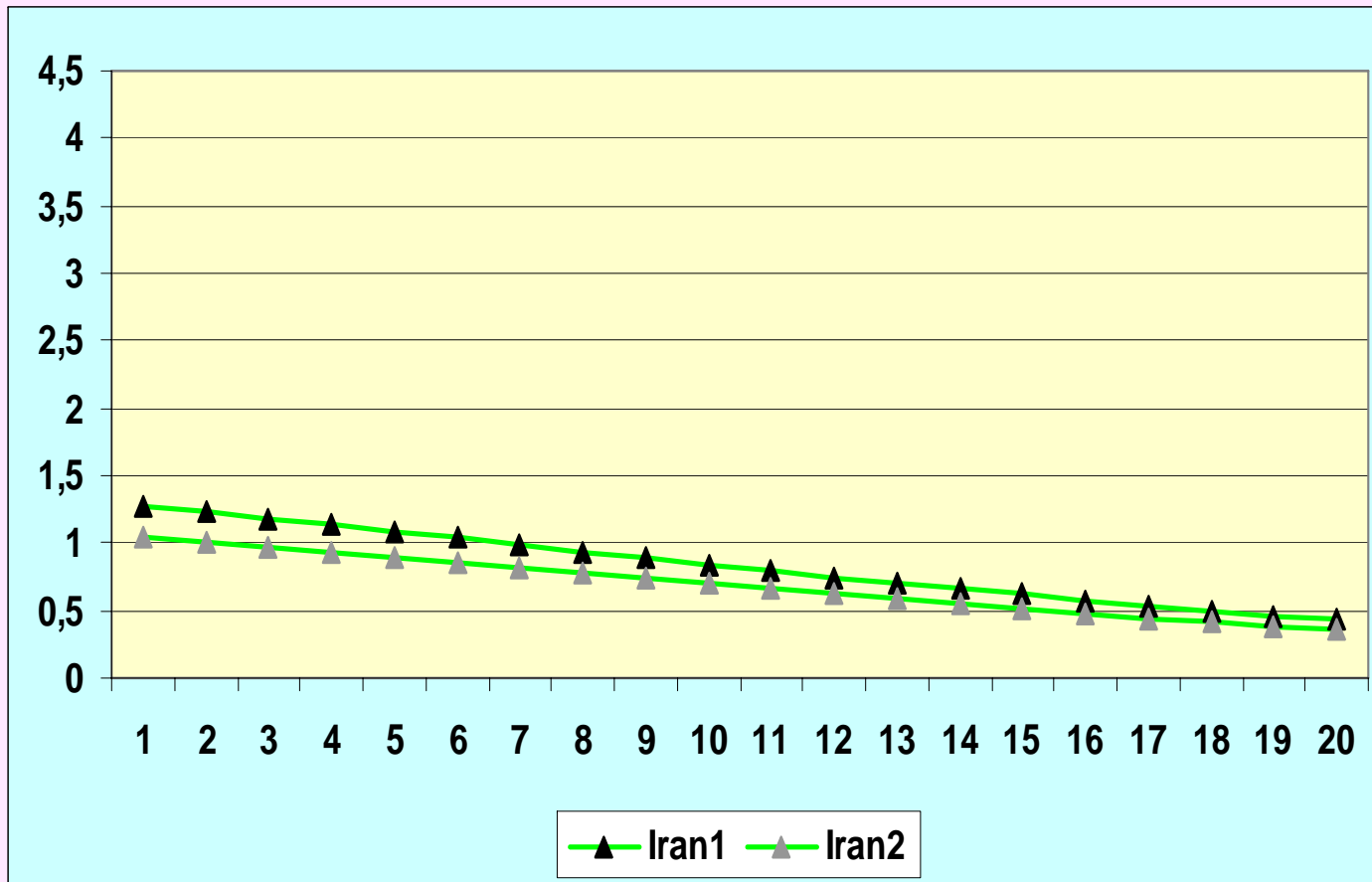
Accumulated rates of Greek return migration from Sweden by immigrant cohort and years since immigration



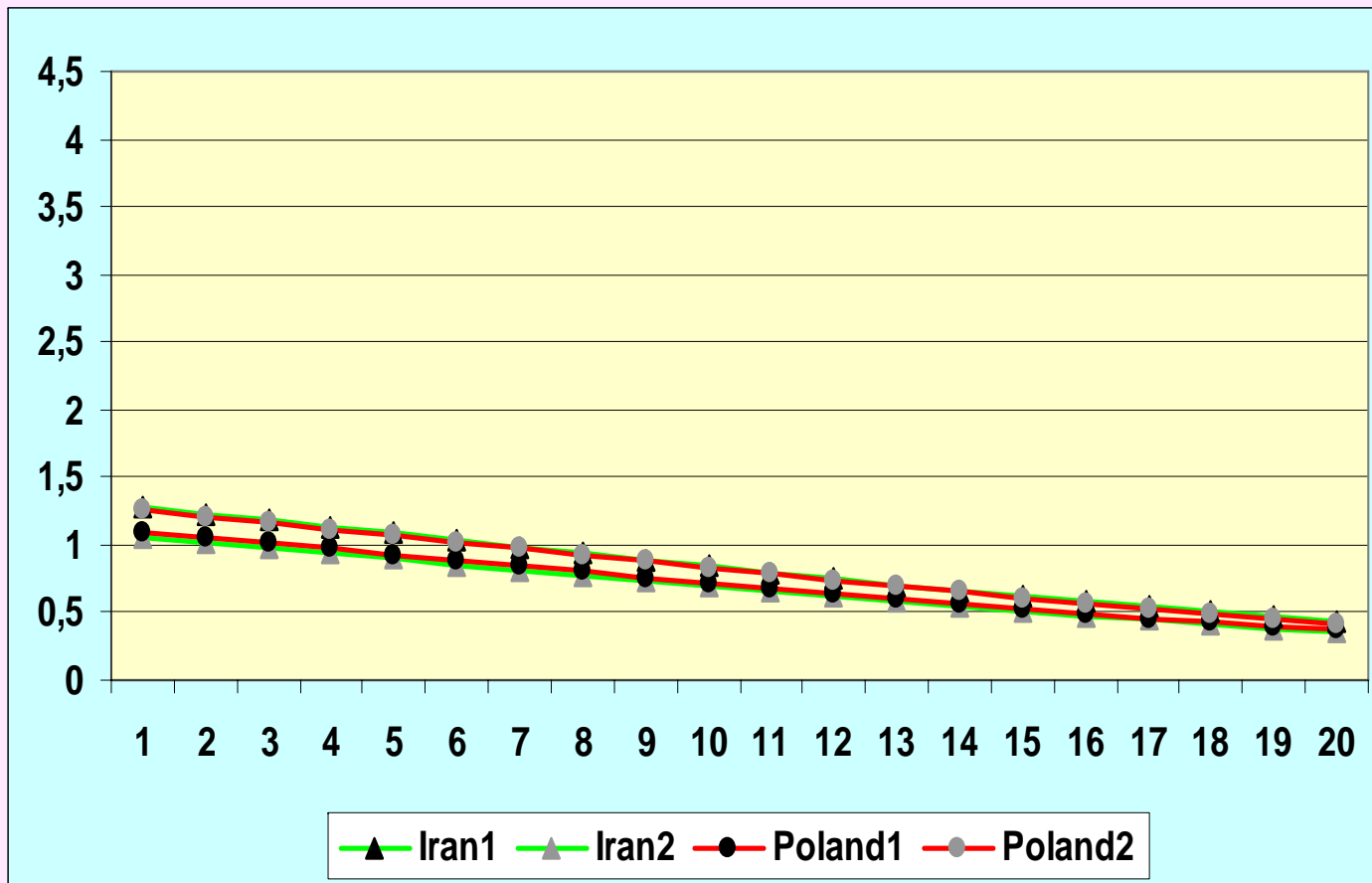
Accumulated rates of Turkish return migration from Sweden by immigrant cohort and years since immigration



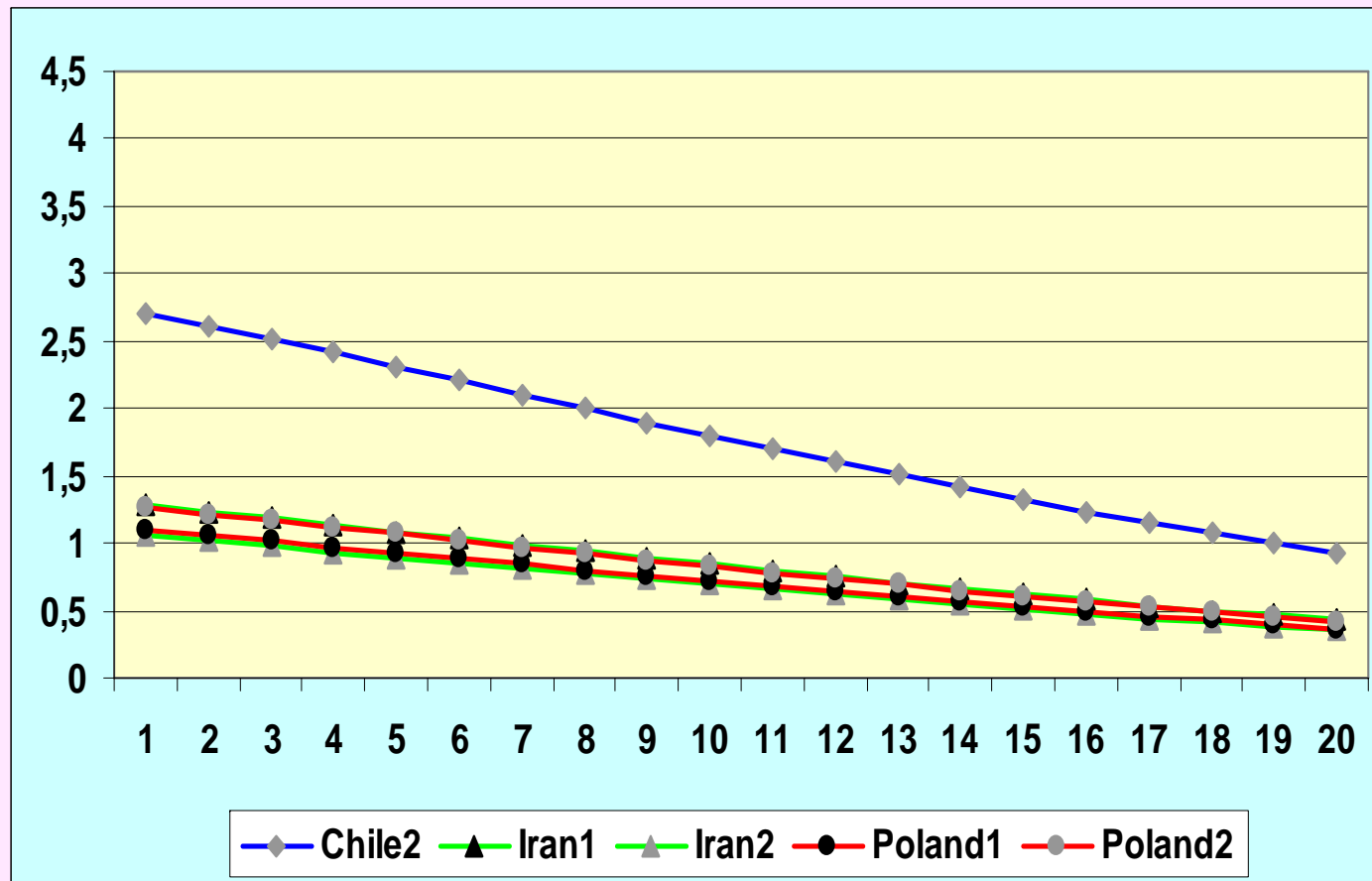
Conditional probability of return migration from Sweden 1990-1996
by years since immigration, country of origin and immigration cohort.
Cohort 1 = 1973-84. Cohort 2 = 1985-1990



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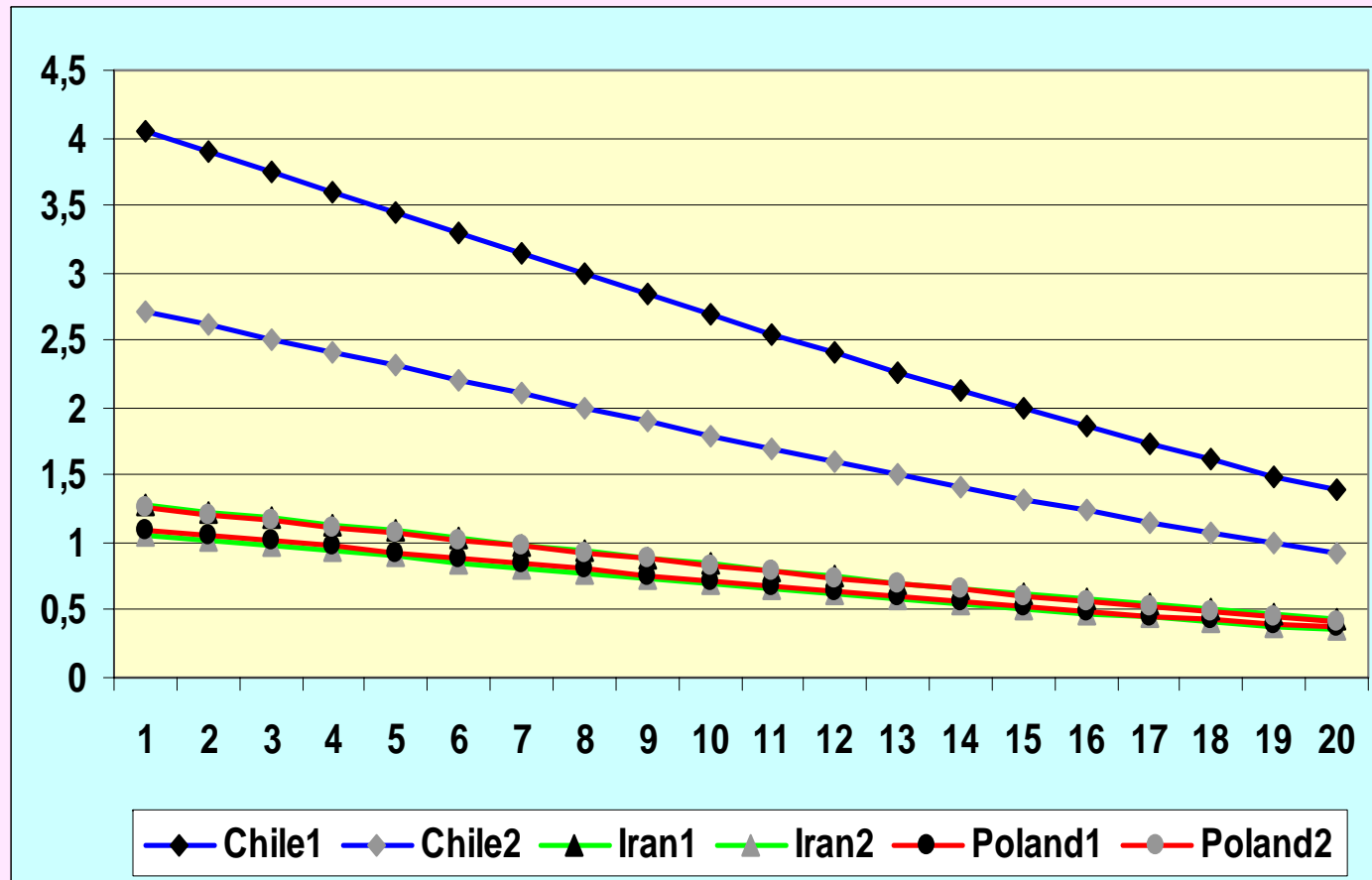


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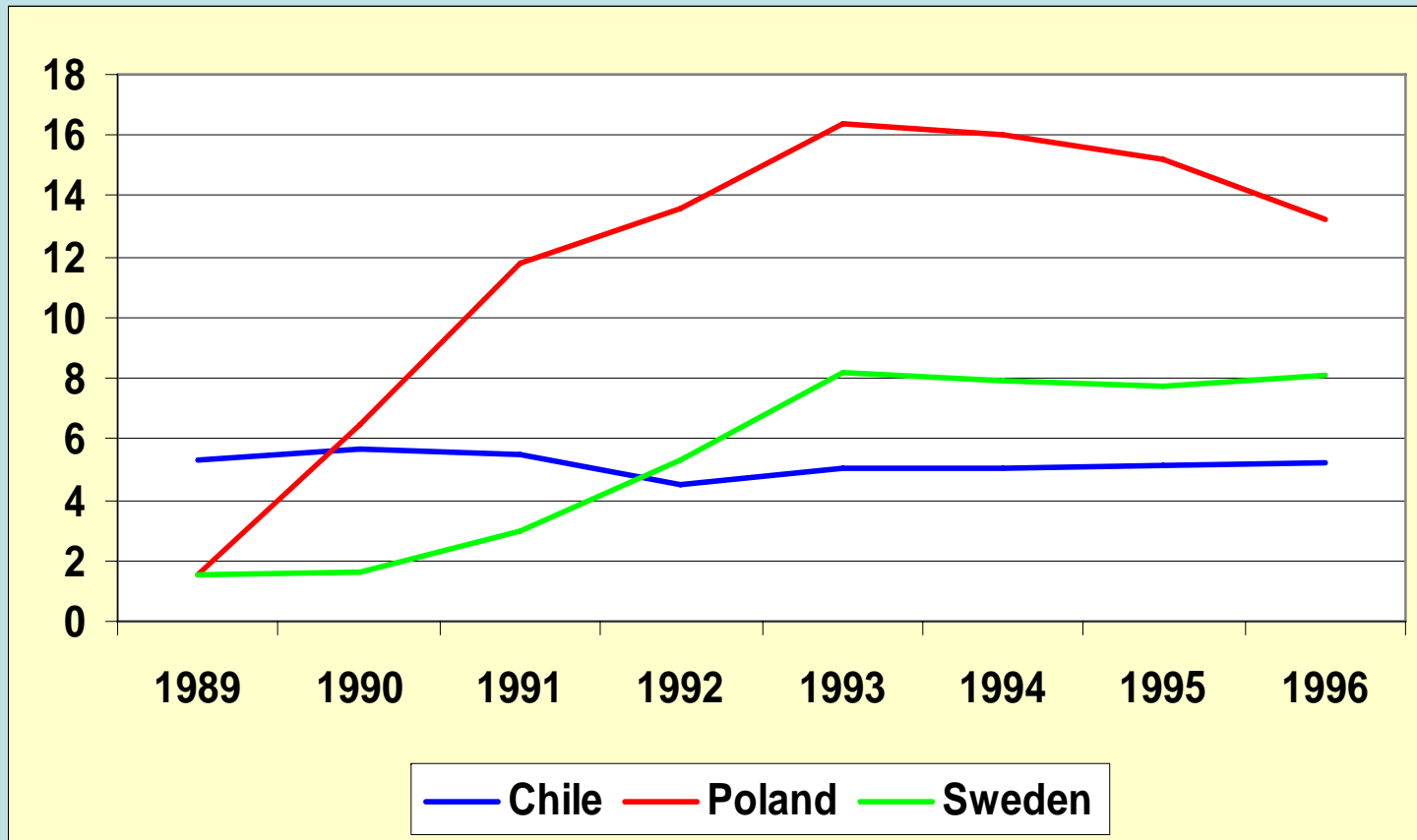


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Unemployment rates 1989-1996, Chile, Poland and Sweden. Percent of the workforce



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