

**Kotzamanis, B., Michou Z., [Where was I born, where do I live? The geographic mobility in Greece; A spatial approach. \(in Greek\), Demographic News, no 11, July-August 2010.](#)**

### **Abstract**

Based on the latest census data (2001), this paper aims to examine the aspects of geographic mobility (attributed to historical events and/or the intensification of urbanization) of Greek population, within the national territory (especially after 1940). Combining on the one hand the place of birth and on the other the place of residence in 2001, it is possible firstly to estimate the magnitude of internal migration flows, allowing us to derive a typology of Greek Departments (Nomoi) according to outflow intensity, and secondly to examine the migrants' spatial distribution with emphasis on the preferable destinations. The results of this first approach indicate that 1 out of 4 natives reside in a different department than the one of birth, underlining the tendency of rural-to-urban migration which contributes to the population growth of departments with important socio-economic development.

Up until the Interwar Period, Greece had been characterized by relatively low rates of population concentration in urban areas (<33% in 1940). However, during the first postwar decades, urbanization intensified resulting at present in the concentration of more than 60% of the total population in the cities. At that period, the growth of Greek cities was not associated, as before 1950, with historical circumstances and their effects (Asia Minor Catastrophe and refugees, displacement of people as a result of the civil war). Nor was it linked to the demographic dynamics of native permanent populations of urban centers (see balances of births-deaths). It was primarily due to the movements of the rural population (and secondarily of the population of small centers of the countryside), movements directly associated with the mechanisms of channeling workforce into the extra-urban area and with the "attraction" of the labour market of larger urban centres for these populations. This internal migration radically changed the population map of our country and partly the hierarchy of the urban network too. Urban population was even more concentrated in the departments located on the main road-development axis of the country while at the same time two metropolitan areas with extremely strong population concentrations were created.

This urban growth and its impact have monopolized interest and have been the subject of numerous studies and researches. In contrast, internal migration - and especially the exodus from the countryside - has been studied to a much lesser extent, partly due to scarcity of quantitative data. By using the data of the latest population census (2001) – and more specifically the data on the place of residence and on the place of birth of the people enumerated in our country -, this paper aims to estimate the diversified intensity of exodus and flows and to identify its spatial patterns, combining the "play" of these two variables.