



INTERNAL MIGRATION IN THE MEKONG DELTA, VIETNAM: CENSUS 2009

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Contents



- Context of migration in the Mekong Delta
- Migration status by administrative levels
- Inter-provincial in-migration, out-migration, and net-migration
- Urban migration and rural migration
- Some concluding remarks
- Limitations

Context of migration in the Mekong Delta

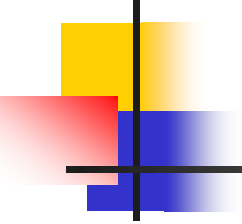
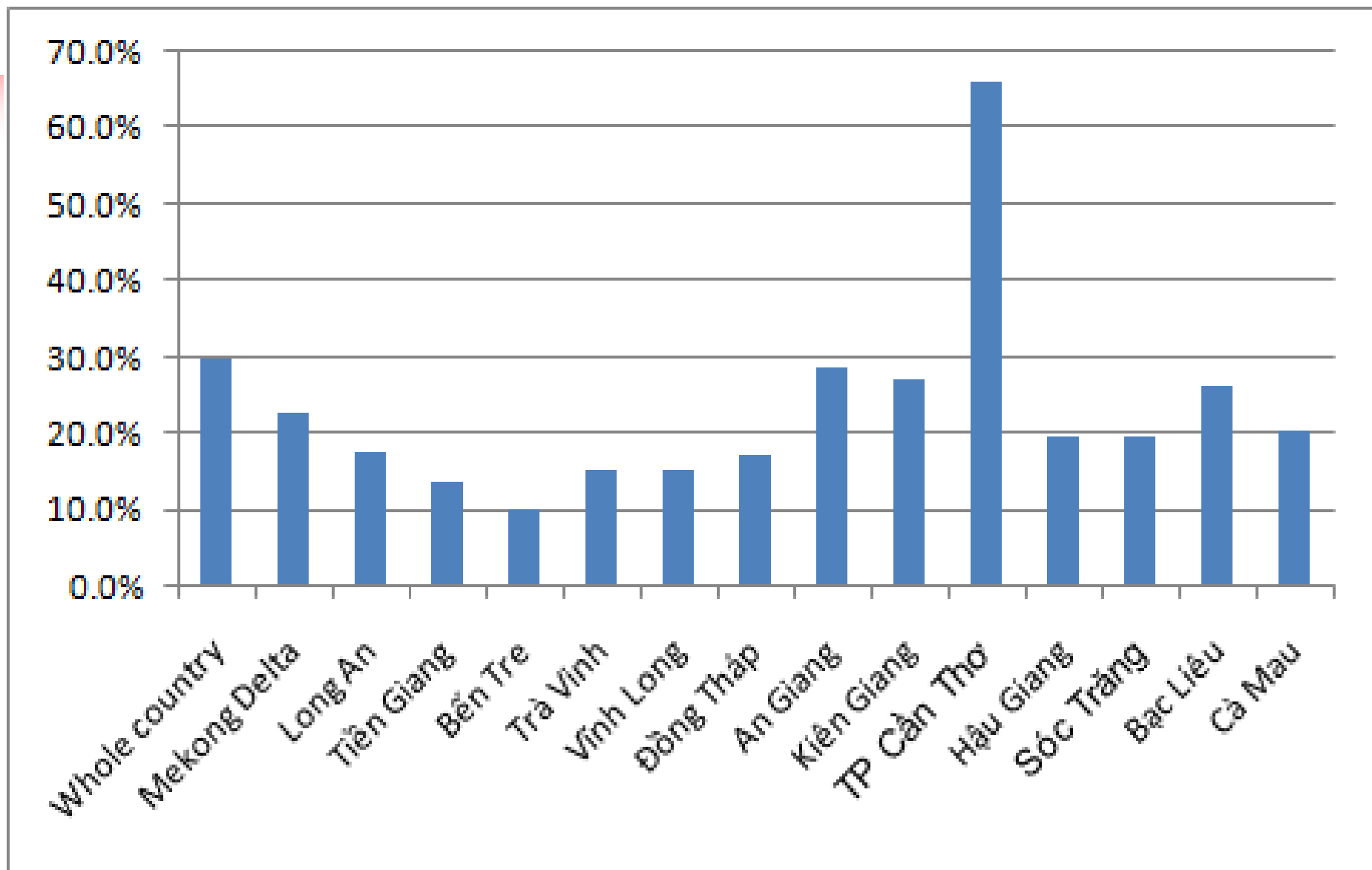
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- The economy is mainly based on agriculture. Each year, the Mekong Delta contributes more than 50% food output, 60% fresh-water products 90% exported rice and 80% exported fresh-water products nationally.
 - The Mekong Delta has high population density, only behind the Red Delta. About 80% of population live in rural areas and 1/4 of which have no agricultural land and are hired to work mainly in agriculture.
 - Increasing agricultural mechanization in current years declines labor demands in agriculture.
 - Industries in the Mekong Delta do not create enough jobs for local people.
 - Labor demand in non-agricultural activities in HCMC and Southeast region create pull factors to attract migrants.


Figure 1: Levels of urbanization of the Mekong Delta compared to the national average: census 2009



Date source and method:

Question for analysis on internal migration:

Migration status of people aged 5 and above based on permanent residence 5 years prior to the census 2009



Permanent residence 5 years prior to the census 2009			Migration status
1. Same commune			Non-migration
	2.1 Same district		Migration within district
2. Different commune		2.2.1 Cùng tỉnh	Migration between districts
	2.2 Different district	2.2.2 Khác tỉnh	Migration between provinces
		2.2.3 Khác vùng	Migration between regions
3. Abroad			Immigration
Source: GSO, Census 2009			

Table 1: Migration status of people aged 5 and above in 2009 compared to 2004 by regions and provinces in the Mekong Delta

Residence in 2009	Pop (000)	Resident status in 2004				
		Total	Same commune	Different commune, same district	Different district, same province	Different province
Whole country	78,412	100.0%	91.4%	2.1%	2.2%	4.3%
Red Delta	17,901	100.0%	92.6%	1.7%	2.2%	3.5%
Northern Mountain	10,000	100.0%	95.1%	2.0%	1.3%	1.6%
Northern Central and Central Coast	17,271	100.0%	94.7%	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%
Central Highlands	4,566	100.0%	91.9%	2.4%	1.4%	4.3%
Southeast	12,887	100.0%	77.8%	2.9%	4.7%	14.6%
Mekong Delta	15,787	100.0%	95.1%	1.9%	1.4%	1.6%
Long An	1,320	100.0%	93.8%	1.8%	1.4%	3.0%
Tiền Giang	1,537	100.0%	94.7%	2.4%	1.3%	1.6%
Bến Tre	1,165	100.0%	95.5%	2.3%	1.1%	1.1%
Trà Vinh	920	100.0%	95.3%	1.8%	1.7%	1.2%
Vĩnh Long	956	100.0%	94.5%	1.8%	1.5%	2.3%
Đồng Tháp	1,529	100.0%	95.4%	1.9%	1.5%	1.2%
An Giang	1,961	100.0%	95.3%	2.2%	1.6%	0.9%
Kiên Giang	1,540	100.0%	96.2%	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%
TP Cần Thơ	1,094	100.0%	90.5%	2.7%	1.8%	5.1%
Hậu Giang	692	100.0%	96.2%	1.4%	0.8%	1.6%
Sóc Trăng	1,183	100.0%	96.3%	1.7%	1.1%	0.9%
Bạc Liêu	787	100.0%	97.5%	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%
Cà Mau	1,103	100.0%	95.5%	2.1%	1.8%	0.7%
Source: GSO, Census 2009						

Figure 2: Migration proportion of population by region: 2009
(Source: GSO, Migration and Urbanization in Vietnam, 2011: p.31)

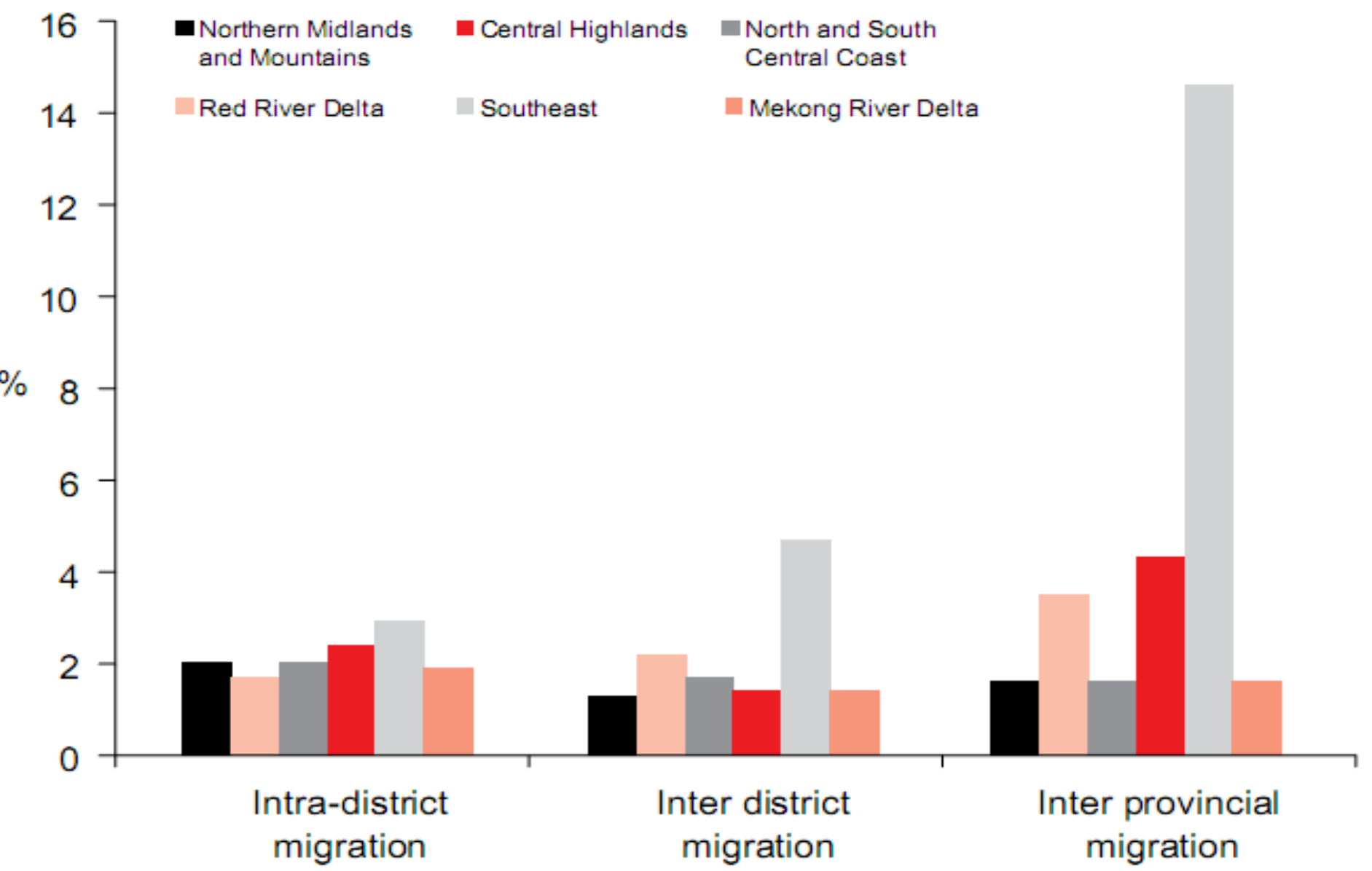


Table 2: Migration status of female aged 5 and above in 2009 compared to 2004 by regions and provinces in the Mekong Delta

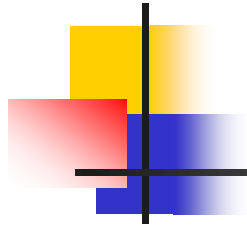
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Table 3: Migration status of male aged 5 and above in 2009 compared to 2004 by regions and provinces in the Mekong Delta

Residence in 2009		Resident status in 2004				
		Total	Same commune	Different commune, same district	Different district, same province	Different province
Whole country	Pop (000)					
Whole country	38,596	100.0%	92.4%	1.5%	1.9%	4.1%
Red Delta	8,751	100.0%	93.8%	0.9%	1.9%	3.3%
Northern Mountain	4,973	100.0%	96.2%	1.2%	1.0%	1.6%
Northern Central and Central Coast	8,508	100.0%	95.6%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%
Central Highlands	2,301	100.0%	92.1%	2.2%	1.3%	4.4%
Southeast	6,243	100.0%	78.6%	2.7%	4.7%	14.1%
Mekong Delta	7,821	100.0%	96.0%	1.5%	1.1%	1.4%
Long An	652	100.0%	95.0%	1.3%	1.0%	2.7%
Tiền Giang	751	100.0%	95.9%	1.8%	1.1%	1.2%
Bến Tre	569	100.0%	96.6%	1.6%	0.8%	0.9%
Trà Vinh	452	100.0%	96.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.0%
Vĩnh Long	469	100.0%	95.4%	1.3%	1.2%	2.1%
Đồng Tháp	762	100.0%	96.5%	1.4%	1.2%	1.0%
An Giang	971	100.0%	96.3%	1.6%	1.3%	0.8%
Kiên Giang	775	100.0%	96.7%	1.1%	1.0%	1.3%
TP Cần Thơ	541	100.0%	91.6%	2.2%	1.5%	4.7%
Hậu Giang	347	100.0%	97.3%	0.9%	0.6%	1.2%
Sóc Trăng	586	100.0%	96.9%	1.3%	0.9%	0.8%
Bạc Liêu	391	100.0%	98.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Cà Mau	554	100.0%	96.2%	1.6%	1.5%	0.6%

Source: GSO, Census 2009

Comments on migration status by administrative levels



- Along with the Northern Midlands and Mountain, and Northern Central & Central Coast, the Mekong Delta has the lowest level of population dynamic.
- Can Tho city and Long An have higher levels of population dynamic than other provinces of the region. These provinces attract a large number of migrants from other provinces of the Mekong Delta and the Southeast regions.
- There is a modest higher migration rate of female than male, mainly migration between communes of district.
- Can Tho city and Long An also attract a higher rate of female migrants from other provinces than male migrants.
- There are not significantly different migration rates for other provinces of the Mekong Delta.

Table 4: Inter-provincial in-migration and out-migration rates of people aged 5 and above by regions: 2004-2009

Regions	In-migration rates			Out-migration rates			Net migration rates		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Red Delta	2.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.0%	3.9%	3.7%	-0.1%	-0.3%	-0.2%
Northern Mountain	3.0%	1.2%	1.6%	3.7%	3.2%	3.3%	-0.6%	-1.9%	-1.8%
Northern Central and Central Coast	2.1%	1.3%	1.5%	3.0%	5.8%	5.2%	-1.0%	-4.5%	-3.7%
Central Highlands	2.7%	5.0%	4.4%	3.0%	3.6%	3.5%	-0.2%	1.4%	0.9%
Southeast	3.7%	38.5%	16.5%	2.6%	4.2%	3.2%	1.2%	34.3%	13.3%
Mekong Delta	2.0%	1.4%	1.6%	2.8%	6.3%	5.6%	-0.8%	-4.9%	-4.0%
Source: GSO, Census 2009									

Comments:

- Compared to other regions, urban in-migration rate to the Mekong Delta is lowest. Rural in-migration rate to the Mekong Delta just a little bit higher than the Northern Mountain and Northern Central & Central Coast. On the other hand, the Southeast gains the highest in-migration rate.
- In contrast, the Mekong Delta has the highest out-migration rates, including rural and urban out migration.
- Overall, the Mekong Delta has the largest negative net-migration rate. These results reflect clearly the trend of out-migration.

Table 5: Inter-provincial in-migration and out-migration rates of people aged 5 and above by provinces of the Mekong Delta: 2004-2009

Provinces	In-migration rate			Out-migration rate			Net migration rate		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Long An	4.2%	2.6%	2.9%	3.0%	5.1%	4.8%	1.2%	-2.6%	-1.9%
Tiền Giang	4.0%	1.1%	1.5%	4.1%	5.7%	5.6%	-0.1%	-4.6%	-4.1%
Bến Tre	4.9%	0.6%	1.1%	6.3%	7.3%	7.3%	-1.4%	-6.7%	-6.3%
Trà Vinh	2.1%	0.9%	1.1%	3.1%	7.4%	6.8%	-1.0%	-6.5%	-5.7%
Vĩnh Long	3.8%	1.8%	2.1%	5.1%	7.3%	7.1%	-1.3%	-5.4%	-4.9%
Đồng Tháp	1.8%	1.0%	1.2%	2.7%	6.0%	5.5%	-0.8%	-5.0%	-4.3%
An Giang	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%	1.9%	6.4%	5.3%	-1.0%	-5.6%	-4.4%
Kiên Giang	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	2.1%	5.2%	4.5%	-1.1%	-3.9%	-3.3%
TP Cần Thơ	1.9%	11.3%	5.1%	2.5%	9.2%	4.8%	-0.6%	2.1%	0.3%
Hậu Giang	2.8%	1.3%	1.6%	3.1%	5.6%	5.2%	-0.3%	-4.3%	-3.6%
Sóc Trăng	1.5%	0.7%	0.9%	2.3%	6.0%	5.4%	-0.8%	-5.3%	-4.5%
Bạc Liêu	0.8%	0.6%	0.7%	2.2%	6.1%	5.2%	-1.4%	-5.4%	-4.4%
Cà Mau	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%	3.1%	6.7%	6.0%	-2.1%	-6.1%	-5.4%
Source: GSO, Census 2009									

Table 6: Inter-provincial in-migrants aged 5 and above to the Mekong Delta and sending regions: 2004-2009

Destinations	Migrants		Sending regions					
			RD	NM	NC&CC	CH	SE	MR
Mekong Delta	257,418	100.0%	3.3%	0.6%	5.7%	0.8%	16.6%	73.0%
Long An	39,283	100.0%	4.6%	1.2%	6.9%	1.3%	32.1%	53.8%
Tiền Giang	24,122	100.0%	4.0%	0.9%	5.0%	0.8%	31.2%	58.0%
Bến Tre	13,316	100.0%	2.0%	0.3%	5.6%	1.4%	41.0%	49.7%
Trà Vinh	10,789	100.0%	1.9%	0.7%	7.0%	0.9%	19.8%	69.8%
Vĩnh Long	21,554	100.0%	2.7%	0.3%	3.9%	0.7%	9.7%	82.7%
Đồng Tháp	18,767	100.0%	2.2%	0.6%	6.4%	0.6%	13.7%	76.4%
An Giang	18,115	100.0%	1.7%	0.8%	7.3%	0.7%	15.5%	74.1%
Kiên Giang	19,632	100.0%	4.6%	0.3%	8.3%	0.5%	4.8%	81.4%
TP Cần Thơ	55,587	100.0%	2.5%	0.6%	4.5%	0.6%	5.7%	86.1%
Hậu Giang	11,393	100.0%	2.2%	0.2%	3.7%	0.4%	9.5%	84.1%
Sóc Trăng	11,146	100.0%	3.1%	0.4%	4.4%	0.6%	11.0%	80.4%
Bạc Liêu	6,039	100.0%	6.9%	0.9%	4.5%	0.6%	7.7%	79.5%
Cà Mau	7,675	100.0%	9.0%	0.7%	7.2%	0.7%	7.2%	75.3%
Source: GSO, Census 2009								

Comments on flows of migration from sending regions to provinces of the Mekong Delta

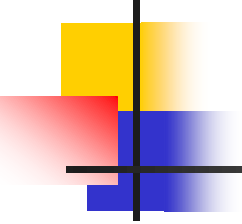
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- About 3/4 of inter-provincial migrants to provinces of the Mekong Delta are from other provinces of this region. Some provinces closed to HCMC have lower rates of migration within the region but many farther provinces have proportions of migration within the region up to 80%.
 - Long An, Tiền Giang and Bến Tre receive about 1/3 migrants from the Southeast but other provinces of the Mekong Delta receive a small number of migrants from the Southeast.
 - Migrants from other regions to the Mekong Delta are very small. The Northern Central and Central Coast region contribute to about 5% of total migrants to the Mekong Delta.
 - Above spatial patterns show that pull factors of this region are weak and not significant.

Table 7: Inter-provincial out-migrants aged 5 and above from the Mekong Delta and destinations: 2004-2009

Destinations	Urban migrants		Rural migrants		Total migrants	
Whole country	101,700	100.0%	804,945	100.0%	906,645	100.0%
Red Delta	826	0.8%	2,818	0.4%	3,644	0.4%
Northern Mountain	162	0.2%	747	0.1%	909	0.1%
Northern Central and Central Coast	1,740	1.7%	7,165	0.9%	8,905	1.0%
Central Highlands	1,438	1.4%	5,745	0.7%	7,183	0.8%
Southeast	59,252	58.3%	642,830	79.9%	702,082	77.4%
Mekong Delta	38,282	37.6%	145,629	18.1%	183,911	20.3%
Long An	2,035	2.0%	18,604	2.3%	20,639	2.3%
Tiền Giang	2,261	2.2%	11,514	1.4%	13,775	1.5%
Bến Tre	1,356	1.3%	5,067	0.6%	6,423	0.7%
Trà Vinh	1,360	1.3%	5,802	0.7%	7,162	0.8%
Vĩnh Long	3,711	3.6%	13,939	1.7%	17,650	1.9%
Đồng Tháp	2,804	2.8%	11,016	1.4%	13,820	1.5%
An Giang	3,025	3.0%	10,302	1.3%	13,327	1.5%
Kiên Giang	3,539	3.5%	12,270	1.5%	15,809	1.7%
TP Cần Thơ	10,284	10.1%	36,884	4.6%	47,168	5.2%
Hậu Giang	2,873	2.8%	6,507	0.8%	9,380	1.0%
Sóc Trăng	2,480	2.4%	6,096	0.8%	8,576	0.9%
Bạc Liêu	1,215	1.2%	3,295	0.4%	4,510	0.5%
Cà Mau	1,339	1.3%	4,333	0.5%	5,672	0.6%

Source: GSO, Census 2009

Figure 3: In-migrant, out-migrant, and net migrant population in the five years preceding the 1999, 2009 Censuses for inter-provincial migration by region

(Source: GSO, Migration and Urbanization in Vietnam, 2011: p.32-33)

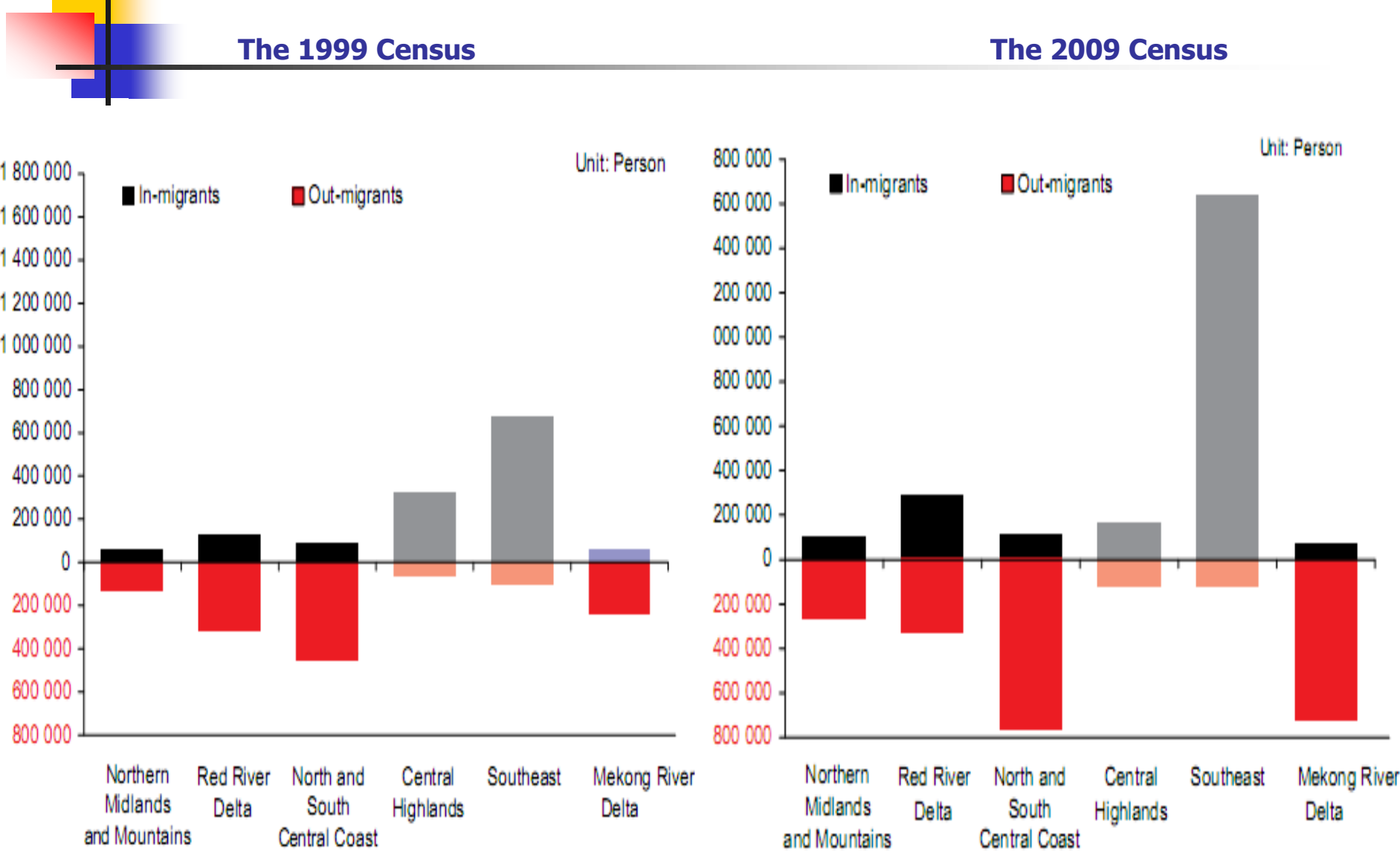


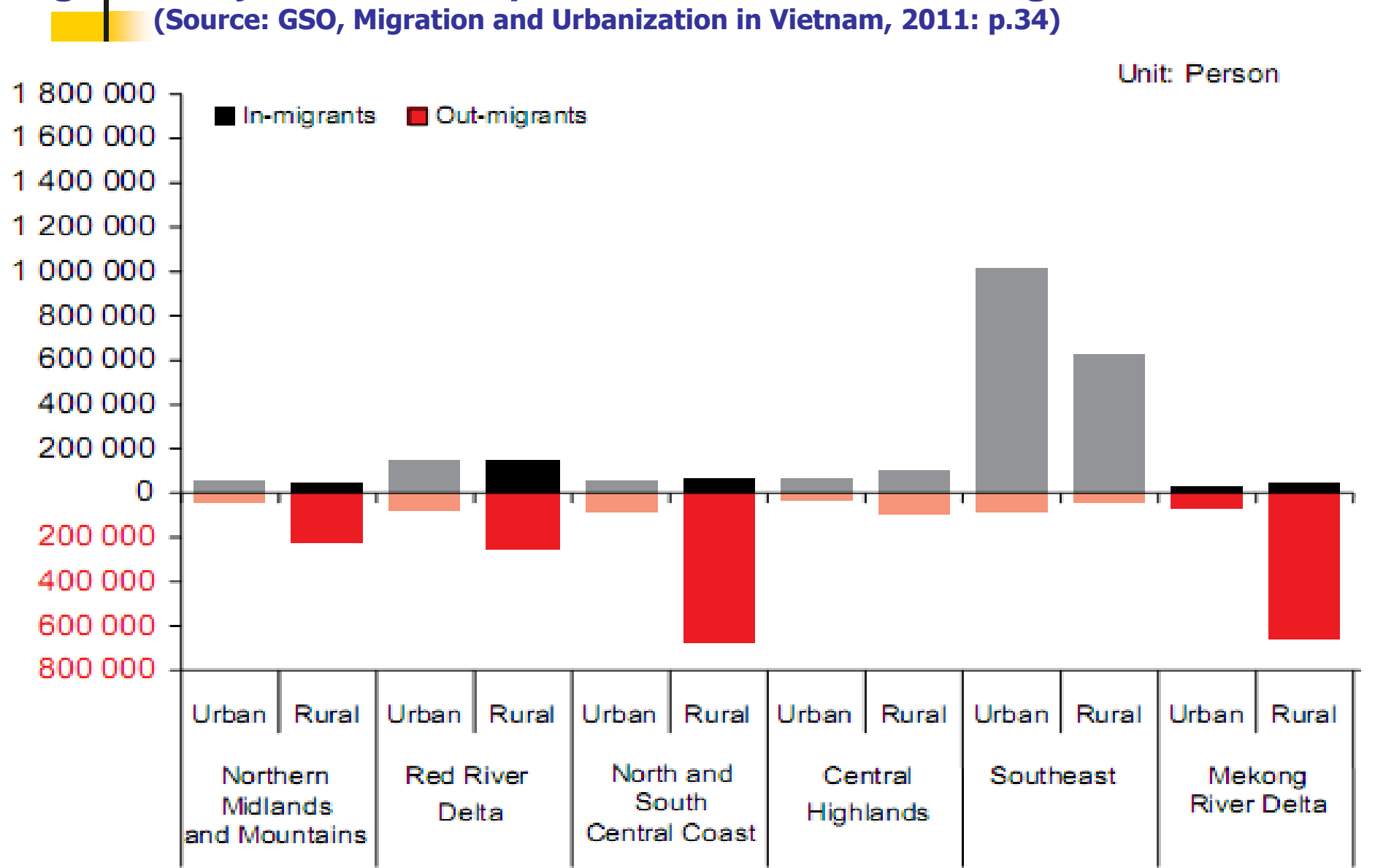
Table 8: Inter-provincial urban in-migrants aged 5 and above to the Mekong Delta and sending regions: 2004-2009

Destinations	Migrants		Sending regions					
			RD	NM	NC&CC	CH	SE	MR
Mekong Delta	72,761	100.0%	1.8%	0.4%	3.1%	0.5%	41.4%	52.6%
Long An	9,763	100.0%	2.1%	0.3%	1.9%	0.3%	74.4%	20.8%
Tiền Giang	8,475	100.0%	0.6%	1.4%	2.8%	0.8%	67.7%	26.7%
Bến Tre	5,854	100.0%	0.7%	0.1%	3.0%	0.7%	72.4%	23.2%
Trà Vinh	3,027	100.0%	1.9%	0.3%	4.5%	0.7%	47.8%	44.9%
Vĩnh Long	5,704	100.0%	2.1%	0.1%	3.1%	0.8%	28.9%	65.1%
Đồng Tháp	4,920	100.0%	1.1%	0.6%	3.5%	0.4%	37.4%	57.0%
An Giang	5,599	100.0%	0.9%	0.6%	4.1%	0.6%	39.8%	54.0%
Kiên Giang	4,539	100.0%	2.7%	0.2%	4.1%	0.5%	14.5%	78.0%
TP Cần Thơ	13,669	100.0%	2.6%	0.2%	2.6%	0.5%	18.8%	75.2%
Hậu Giang	3,834	100.0%	1.1%	0.0%	3.2%	0.5%	20.2%	74.9%
Sóc Trăng	3,593	100.0%	2.0%	0.1%	1.9%	0.5%	26.4%	69.0%
Bạc Liêu	1,691	100.0%	2.2%	1.2%	3.7%	0.0%	21.1%	71.9%
Cà Mau	2,093	100.0%	6.5%	0.9%	7.1%	0.3%	21.2%	64.0%
Source: GSO, Census 2009								

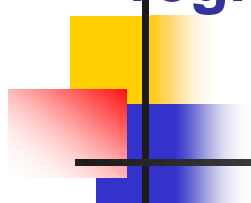
Table 9: Inter-provincial rural in-migrants aged 5 and above to the Mekong Delta and sending regions: 2004-2009

Destinations	Migrants		Sending regions					
			RD	NM	NC&CC	CH	SE	MR
Mekong Delta	178,886	100.0%	3.9%	0.7%	6.7%	0.9%	6.4%	81.4%
Long An	28,643	100.0%	5.5%	1.5%	8.7%	1.7%	17.7%	65.0%
Tiền Giang	15,218	100.0%	6.0%	0.6%	6.3%	0.9%	10.6%	75.7%
Bến Tre	7,106	100.0%	3.3%	0.4%	8.0%	1.9%	15.2%	71.3%
Trà Vinh	7,235	100.0%	2.0%	0.8%	7.6%	1.0%	8.4%	80.2%
Vĩnh Long	15,632	100.0%	3.0%	0.3%	4.2%	0.7%	2.7%	89.2%
Đồng Tháp	13,035	100.0%	2.5%	0.5%	7.3%	0.7%	4.6%	84.5%
An Giang	12,368	100.0%	2.1%	0.7%	8.8%	0.6%	4.5%	83.3%
Kiên Giang	14,860	100.0%	5.2%	0.4%	9.5%	0.6%	1.8%	82.6%
TP Cần Thơ	41,072	100.0%	2.5%	0.7%	5.1%	0.6%	1.3%	89.8%
Hậu Giang	7,296	100.0%	2.6%	0.3%	3.9%	0.3%	3.8%	89.2%
Sóc Trăng	7,061	100.0%	3.8%	0.6%	5.6%	0.7%	3.0%	86.3%
Bạc Liêu	3,921	100.0%	8.3%	0.8%	4.9%	0.6%	1.3%	84.0%
Cà Mau	5,439	100.0%	9.7%	0.7%	7.4%	0.8%	1.8%	79.7%
Source: GSO, Census 2009								

Figure 4: In-migrant, out-migrant, and net-migrant population over the five years preceding the 2009 Census for inter-provincial migration by urban/rural place of residence and region



Comments on flows of urban in-migration and rural in-migration of provinces of the Mekong Delta by sending region



- Number of urban in-migrants is small, of which more than 1/2 are from other provinces within the region and about 40% are from the Southeast. Long An, Tiền Giang and Bến Tre have high urban in-migration rates from the Southeast, which account for 70%, but other provinces are lower. The urban in-migration rates from other regions to the Mekong Delta are not significant. Urban in-migration rates from other regions to the Mekong Delta are low.
- Number of migrants to rural areas is 2.5 times higher than those migrate to urban areas of the region, but about 80% are from other provinces of the Mekong Delta. Compared to urban in-migration, rural in-migration attracts more migrants from the Red Delta, Northern Mountain & Midlands, and the Southeast.

Some key concluding remarks



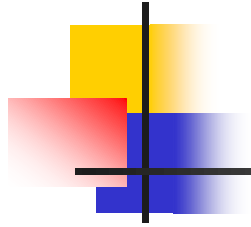
- Nationally, the Mekong Delta is one of the three regions that have the lowest in-migration rates, including inter-commune migration within district, inter-district migration within province, inter-provincial migration, and inter-regional migration.
- In contrast, the Mekong Delta is one of the two regions that have the highest out-migration rates. The Southeast is the main destination of migrants from the Mekong Delta, including urban migration and rural migration.
- Migrants from other regions to the Mekong Delta and from the Mekong Delta to other regions (except the Southeast) are insignificant.
- Can Tho city and provinces closed to HCMC such as Long An, Tien Giang, and Ben Tre have the higher urban in-migration rates than most of other provinces. Farther provinces have the low migration rates. Rural in-migration is mainly from other provinces of this region.
- Female has the higher rates of migration (between communes within district and between province) than male.



Some limitations from the Census 2009

Even results from the Census 2009 reflect key macro patterns of internal migration in Vietnam and in the Mekong Delta as well, it is necessary to consider some limitations:

- Analysis of internal migration based on the comparison current resident places and permanent resident places in 5 years prior to the census does not cover all kinds of migration such as: returned migration, short-term migration, seasonal migration...
- Census often under-estimates the magnitude of migration because it lacks of undocumented migrants, such as workers at industrial parks or those in informal sectors.
- Census does not provide enough personal characteristics of migrants and factors of migration.



Thank you!