## Domestic Migration

- **Proportion of Native Born Living in State other than the State of Birth**
  - 1850: 24%
  - 1880: 22%
  - 1900: 21%
  - 1920: 22%
  - 1960: 26%

- **Observation:** rate at which folks move about is quite stable
Factors accounting for migration:

1. Higher relative income in destination state
2. Distance: the further away the less likely to move to that state
3. Job opportunity: unemployment rate or total # of jobs
4. Availability of Land: population density
5. Latitude: Changes in latitude, changes in attitude

- From 1850 to 1960: these five factors account for 80% of variation in state to state movements, e.g. % people moving from Illinois to Colorado or the reverse
- Over time income became more important and distance, population and latitude less important
1. Historical Patterns

Before 1820 estimates are rough; after 1820 the U.S. required captains of ships to deliver manifests of passengers to customs at ports of entry.

Prior to 1830 - immigration not a major source of population growth:
- 1700-1730: 110,000
- 1730-1760: 115,000
- 1760-1790: 444,000
- 1790-1820: 673,000
- 1820-1860: 5-7 million
Composition

- Prior to 1845 most immigrants were from Britain:
  - 1845-46 Irish potato famine
  - 1847-1851 100,000 Irish per year
  - 1852-1854 150,000 Irish
  - 1845-1860 Most immigrants from Britain, Ireland or Germany
Post Civil War Migration

- Large waves in 1880s and 1900-1914
  - 1880s and 1900s: immigrants represented 40% of population increase
  - 1880s: immigrants from Scandinavians in addition to British, Irish and Germans
- Post 1896: New immigration. Russia, Central Europe and Italy
- 1900-1910 200,000 Central Europeans per year
  - 200,000 Italians per year
  - 150,000 Russians per year
Post Civil War Migration

- Most immigrants went to cities: by 1890, 53% of urban population was foreign born and 14% of the total population.
- From 1870-1920: immigrants represented 1/7 of population but in cities greater than 100,000 immigrants represented 2/3 of population.
- 85% of immigrants between the ages of 14 and 44.
Types of Migration

What drove the various waves of migration?

- 1. Push Vs. Pull
  - A. Push: Leave bad conditions in country of origin
    - Famine - Ireland (1840s)
    - Poverty - Italy
    - War -1848 (German migration), WWII
    - Religious persecution - Eastern Europe and Russian Jews
    - Lack of economic opportunity - working class in England and Scotland
  - B. Pull: Economic opportunity in country of destination
    - High Wages
    - Ethnic networks
    - Opportunities for children
    - Cheap land
    - Religious freedom
Types of Migration

2. Permanent vs. Temporary

Temporary is almost always economic 30% return migration from US 1890-1914 - typically single males

An Economic Model of Free Migration

Assumes Migration Follows Economic Opportunities
Types of Migration

- Migrate if Present Value of Benefits > Cost

\[ \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{B_{Nt} - B_{Ot}}{(1+r)^t} - C \]

- B is the income in new (N) & old (O) countries
- r is the personal discount rate
- C is the cost of migration
- t denotes time (t=1, .., T)
Thus the migration probability is increasing in: Wage in the destination country

And decreasing in

- Personal discount rate
- Cost of migration
- Age of individual. 1868-1910 8% over 40, 16% under 15

Tended to be single or families w/ few very young children

Increasing then decreasing in

- Wage in the country of departure
- Income constraint for very poor
Other determinates

- 1. Chain Migration - Social networks, cost of adjustment
- 2. Industrialization - evidence that rural people were less likely to migrate
Impact on Native-born Americans

1. Wages
   - Minimal - real wages would have been 1% lower if immigration had been 20% greater

2. Urbanization and Industrialization increased

3. Fertility - little effect

4. Contribution to economic growth - large
   - We saved the cost of raising immigrants as children
Earnings of Immigrants

- Related to Ability to speak English, Literacy and Time in the U.S.
- Restrictions on Immigration
  - Beginning in the 1880s: pressure from labor
  - Gentleman’s Agreement 1908: restricted Asian immigration
Quota Laws

- 1921 - 3% of the nationality in the country in 1908
- 1924 - 2% of the nationality in the country in 1890 Canadians and Mexicans exempt
- 1929 - Total immigration 150,000 per year
  - Number from each country in the same proportion as the number of inhabitants in 1920 U.S. population
- 1965 - Abolished quotas based on national origins