NO PREP

# Urban Demographics & Migration

## Who Moves to Cities and Why

**Includes:** Student reading, case study, differentiated questions, teacher key

Name: Period: Date:

### Urban Demographics & Migration: Who Moves to Cities and Why

**Types of Urban Migration & Demographic Effects**

Urban population change is driven by internal migration (rural-to-urban, regional moves) and international migration. Migration patterns alter age structures: cities often experience a youth bulge as working-age people move in for jobs and education, while suburbs and rural areas may age. Migration corridors form where flows concentrate along geographic or economic pathways. Demographic shifts affect housing demand, school enrollments, labor markets, and service needs. The demographic transition — falling birth and death rates as societies develop — also shapes urban profiles: early urbanization may bring rapid youth inflows, while later stages see slower growth and aging populations, especially in suburbs.

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# Urban Demographics & Migration: Who Moves to Cities and Why

## Types of Urban Migration & Demographic Effects

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## Labor Markets, Services, and Dependency Ratios

Migrants typically move for work opportunities; urban labor markets expand in services, construction, and informal sectors. Cities can benefit from a lower dependency ratio (more working-age people per dependent), supporting economic growth if jobs are available. But if urban labor markets cannot absorb migrants, unemployment and underemployment rise. Service demand (health, education, housing, transit) increases rapidly with population inflows and requires planning. Migration can also create transnational linkages: diaspora networks facilitate trade, remittances, and skills flows, shaping urban economies beyond the local level.

## Short Classroom Mini-Case: Interpreting Age-Structure Change

Imagine a city where the school-age population falls while the 20–35 age cohort grows rapidly. This pattern suggests aging in place among families who moved previously, combined with new young adults moving in for jobs. Policy implications: more demand for rental housing, entry-level jobs, childcare services for young

families (if they stay), and perhaps reduced immediate pressure on school capacities but increased demand for higher-education and job training. Planners must track the dependency ratio and adjust service provision accordingly.

**Key Information: Table: Migration Types & Urban Impacts**

| Migration Type | Typical Urban Impact |
|---|---|
| Rural → urban | Increased informal housing, labor supply |
| International | Diverse labor markets, diaspora networks |
| Suburbanization | Aging central city or changing demographics |
| Return migration | Skills and investment back to home regions |

**Case Study Excerpt (hypothetical / representative)**

**Portside is a coastal city with a long history of fishing and light manufacturing. In recent decades, a new logistics hub and a cluster of IT firms created job opportunities that attracted both internal and international migrants. Young adults arrived seeking entry-level jobs; some international migrants arrived with networks that opened small-business opportunities (restaurants, repair shops). Over a decade, the city's working-age population increased markedly while school enrollments leveled off. Informal settlements grew in peri-urban areas as newcomers found work but formal housing was costly. Remittances flowed back to surrounding rural districts, changing family investment patterns. Portside's labor markets shifted toward logistics and services, creating demand for vocational training programs. City officials noted both advantages (more dynamic labor market, new cultural diversity) and challenges (housing strain, need for health services, and ensuring that migrants had pathways to formal employment). They launched targeted vocational programs and partnered with employers to create apprenticeships, while incrementally expanding housing finance options to allow upward mobility. The Portside example shows how migration corridors — in this case connecting surrounding regions and international flows via the port — shape urban demography and policy priorities.**

1. Identify two demographic changes Portside experienced and two policy responses.

_____

_____

2. Explain how diaspora networks can shape urban economies beyond remittances.

_____

_____

**Multiple Choice**

1. A classic push/pull example: a farmer leaves because of drought (push) and moves to a city for factory jobs (pull). Which label matches drought and factory jobs?

    a) Drought = pull; factory jobs = push

    b) Drought = push; factory jobs = pull

    c) Drought = pull; factory jobs = pull

    d) Drought = push; factory jobs = push

2. The demographic transition typically leads to which long-term change?

    a) Sudden rise in birth rates in urban cores indefinitely

    b) Permanent youth bulges everywhere

    c) Falling birth and death rates as development progresses

    d) Immediate aging of all urban populations overnight

3. A decreased dependency ratio usually means:

    a) More working-age people per dependent (potential economic boost)

    b) No change in economic potential

    c) Fewer working-age people per dependent, slowing economic growth rates

    d) Smaller workforce capacity

**Matching**

Write the letter of the correct definition on the line next to each term.

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| 1. ___ Push/pull | A) Concentration of young adults in population structure |
| 2. ___ Migration corridor | B) Factors that push away or attract people |
| 3. ___ Dependency ratio | C) Transnational ties facilitating jobs/trade |
| 4. ___ Youth bulge | D) Ratio of dependents to working-age population |
| 5. ___ Diaspora networks | E) Flow of migrants along geographic/economic routes |

**Fill-in-the-Blank**

1. Cities often experience a _____ bulge as working-age people move in for jobs and education.

2. The demographic phase where birth rates fall after earlier declines in death rates is the _____ _____.

3. A sustained path of migration between two areas is often called a migration _____.

**Short Answer**

Answer each question in 2-4 complete sentences.

1. Explain one policy a city can use to turn informal employment into formal, stable jobs.

_____

_____

_____

2. Describe one reason migrants might live in informal settlements even if formal housing exists.

3. Suggest one metric a planner should monitor to anticipate future school capacity needs.