

*DEFRA Rural Evidence Research Centre
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Rural Evidence, Fit for Purpose? Studying rural-urban migration

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Studying rural-urban migration

- A key issue is whether data are fit for purpose geographically: what 'rural'?
- Also, the timeliness of data: how quickly after the event? What temporal coverage?
- Then, the amount of information about the migrants (and the rest of the population)?
- And the accuracy of the data?
- Two main data sources, Census and NHS: What results? What is lacking?



The (2001) Census' migration data

- Key Statistics: all people, all non-white.
- Standard Tables: sex/age in household or CE; Household composition; Dependent children.
- Theme Tables: sex/age, family status, LLTI, economic activity, tenure, household composition, economic activity, NS-SeC.
- Origin by destination matrices (SMS): different variables & detail at district, ward and OA levels
- Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs): 1% household, 3% individual, 5% small area – licensed and controlled access versions.



Net within-UK migration balance, 2000-2001, by size of urban area and age group, England

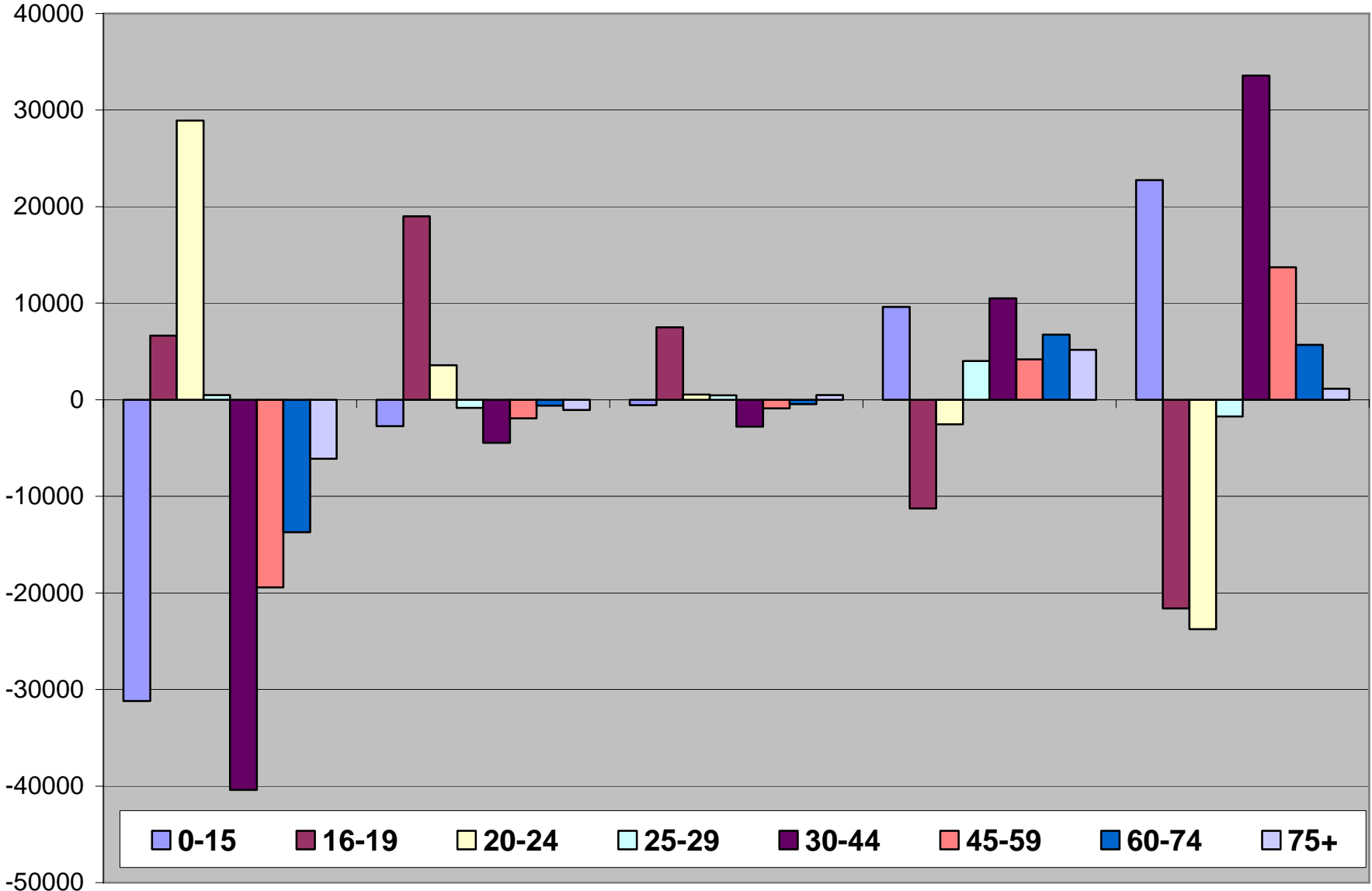
Over 750k

250-750k

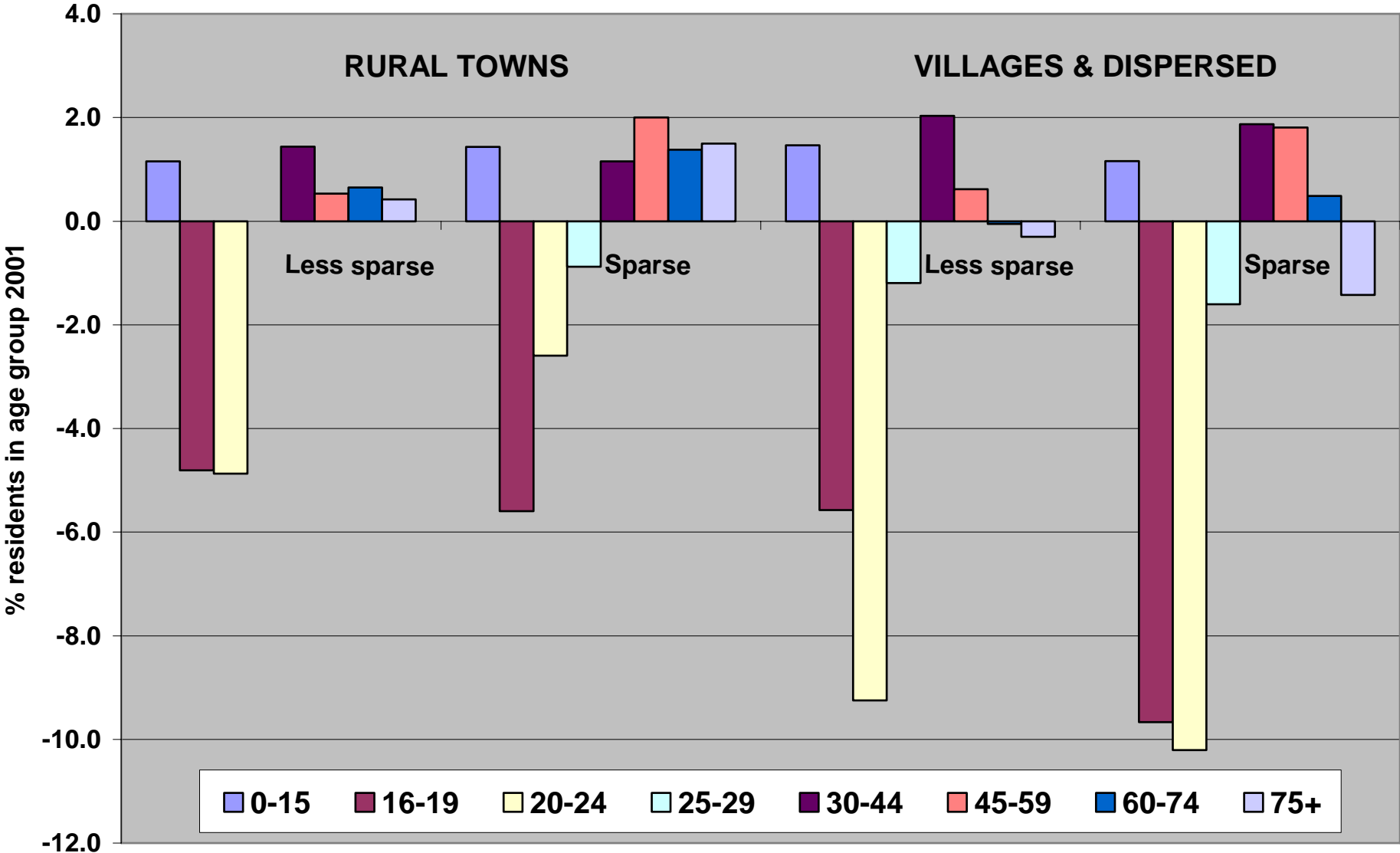
100-250k

10-100k

Rural



Net within-UK migration, by age, for rural towns and villages/dispersed by sparsity, England, %



Migration between DEFRA urban and rural settlement types, 2000-2001, England

Origin	Destination				
	All urban	Town LS	Town S	V&D LS	V&D S
London	812114	20846	814	20889	1392
Other Metro	863557	30288	1141	21053	1971
Large Urban	710238	30327	670	23810	1318
Market Town	307730	34602	1705	39073	3277
Other Urban	1256438	94718	2647	86320	4483
Town Less Sparse	193288	171889	1862	54391	3349
Town Sparse	6343	1776	10743	2150	2309
Village&Dispersed LS	179247	56387	2591	126192	4882
Village&Dispersed S	10588	2975	3670	4201	11741

2001 Census: pluses and minuses

- These ward-based analyses can be done for a range of variables and for other geographies, like districts. Even output areas giving V&D split.

BUT

- Accuracy affected by disclosure control (esp SCAM)
- Accuracy affected by poor question answering and by allowing people to give 'no usual address 1 year ago'
- Not possible to assess impact of migration on places' populations because no other question about people one year ago (NB assume gender, age and ethnicity)
- Data refer to one-year change of address only, and census takes place only once every 10 years



Migration data based on GP records

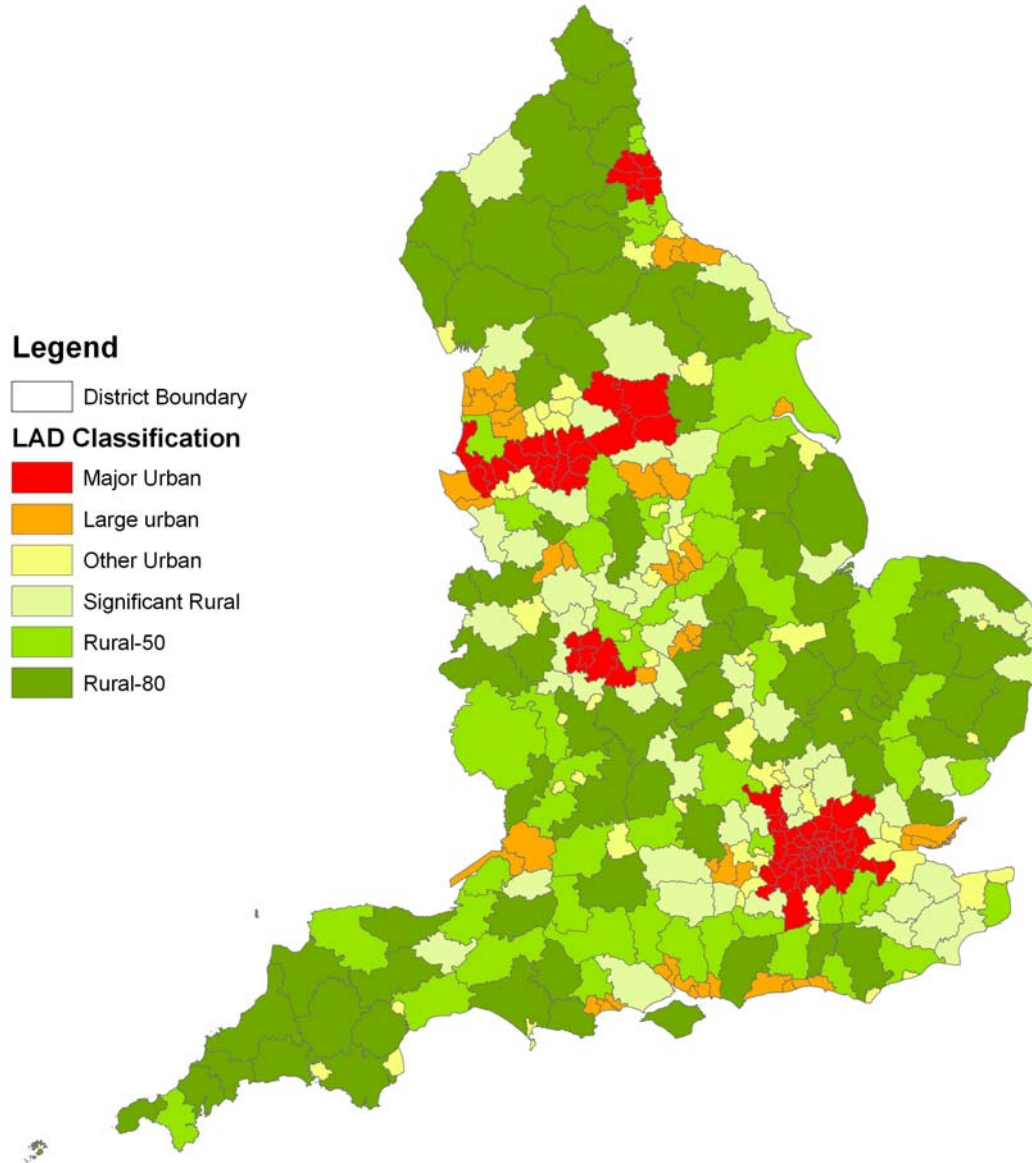
- Yearly data on migration between districts (as O/D matrix) since 1997/98, by gender/age (plus in/out data for MSOAs from 2000/01)
- Allows the continuous monitoring of migration component of population change at LA level

BUT

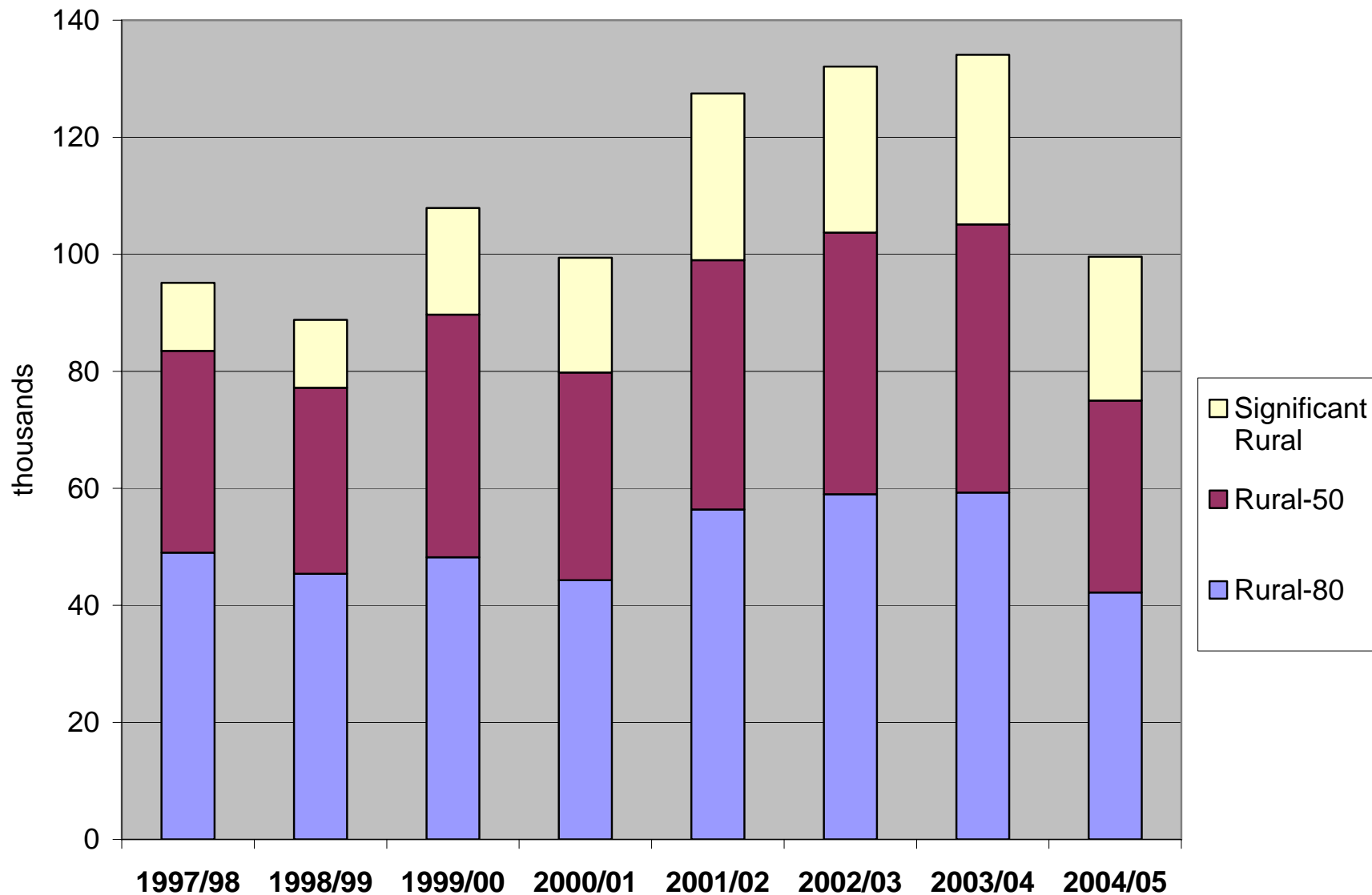
- Suffers from some undercounting because of delays in people registering address changes
- No other information about people besides age and gender



A Classification of Districts Based Upon Rurality



Net within-UK migration for DEFRA's rural district types, 1997/98-2004/05, England, thousands



Other sources

- **Labour Force Survey**: sample size too small to give reliable annual migration data, except at very aggregate level of district types for rural areas
- For international migration, the same applies to the **International Passenger Survey**, but to a much greater extent
- After April 2004, data on A8 migrant workers via the **Workers Registration Scheme**, but this does not count out-migration nor cover self-employed
- Need for more testing of **National Insurance** records



*DEFRA Rural Evidence Research Centre One Day Meeting,
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