

2 EMIGRATION

2.1 MIGRATION INTENTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY HUNGARY

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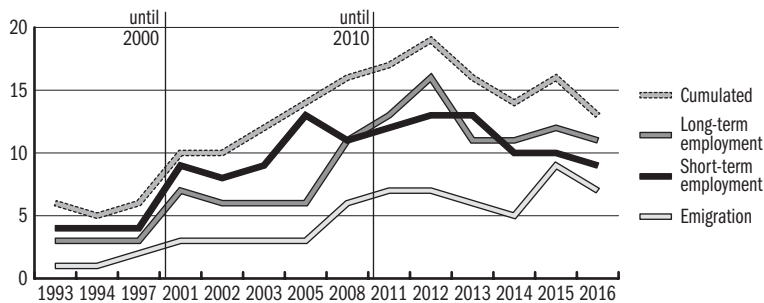
The indicator of migration intention (or potential) measures the intention or plan of finding work abroad or of emigration.¹ The indicator is no more than a simple rate, the proportion of a given population planning emigration.² From a labour market perspective, migration potential can be considered a supply-side approach and as such it is not suitable to estimate the probability of labour mobility because the labour market is more strongly influenced by the demand side. Therefore it can rather be considered as an early predictive information (Gödri–Feleky, 2013) on the size and the composition of future supply.³

This study aims to answer two questions:

1. How has migration potential developed in the Hungarian society since the 1990s?
2. What are the factors most strongly associated with the development of migration intentions in 2015/2016?⁴

The analysis is carried out separately for the three different types of migration intention distinguished by timeframe and/or purpose (short- and long-term employment and emigration) to avoid the equalising effect caused by excessive aggregation.⁵

Figure 2.1.1: Migration potential of the Hungarian population between 1993 and 2016 (percentage)



Source: TÁRKI Monitor- and „Omnibus” survey, January 1993 – January 2016.

Figure 2.1.1 shows that the migration potential of the Hungarian population increased both in terms of short- and long-term labour migration plans by the early 2000s compared to the 1990s. Following a peak in 2012 it declined until 2014 and has remained around 9–11 per cent with very little variation

1 The definition includes both “intention” and “plan” for a reason: the extent of migration potential is largely dependent on the wording of the question. The wording used here – “are you planning” – is the most rigorous option of possible question wordings (e.g. “have you thought about...” or “would you like to...”).

2 The internal validity of the research, namely how well it captures the seriousness of migration intention, can be improved if additional “filter” questions are used to distinguish “dreaming” and satiscing from actual migration potential. There are many possible ways of doing this; for example (as in this study) by asking additional questions on the timeframe of migration, when or where they are planning to go, in case of labour migration what job are they planning to do and for what pay (for more detail see Sik, 2003).

3 Research on the socio-demographic composition of migration by destination country (Blaskó–Gödri, 2014) found a very similar picture to the results of migration potential studies.

4 The three surveys in 2015 and the survey in January 2016 used the same method on a nationally representative sample of the adult population aged over 18 years. For each wave the sample size was around 1,000 people.

5 Respondents answered three questions separately (Are you planning to go abroad to work for a few weeks? Are you planning to go abroad to work for a few months/years? Are you planning to emigrate?). The cumulated migration potential is based on the proportion of those who answered at least one of these questions with ‘yes’.

since then. The proportion of those considering emigration hardly changed prior to 2005 and then fluctuated between five and six per cent until 2014. In 2015 the share of those planning to emigrate doubled, then slightly decreased by 2016. The cumulated value of migration potential has not changed greatly since its peak in 2012; it fluctuated between 13 and 16 per cent between 2013 and 2016.

As regards the migration propensity of different social groups, previous research has shown that this is higher than average where opportunities (young age, more human and network capital) and pressures (discontent, pessimism, discrimination) mutually strengthen each other (*Sik-Simonovits, 2002, Sik-Örkény, 2003*). *Table 2.1.1* shows the factors influencing short- and long-term labour migration as well as emigration.

Table 2.1.1: Factors affecting the likelihood of migration potential by timeframe of migration (2015/2016 joint database, N = 3,919, logistic regression odd ratios)

	Short-term	Long-term	Emigration
	labour migration		
Pseudo R^2 (percentage)	18	21	19
Age group (reference category: aged over 65 years)			
18–28 years	10.42*	14.2*	6.44*
29–38 years	4.17*	6.10*	3.42*
39–53 years	2.49*	2.29*	0.49**
Sex (reference category: female)			
Male	2.14*	2.01*	1.81*
Region (reference category: Central Hungary)			
Western Transdanubia	2.83*	ns	ns
Northern Hungary	2.23*	ns	ns
Type of settlement (reference category: town)			
Budapest	1.79**	ns	ns
City (county capital)	0.51**	0.57*	0.36*
Ethnicity: Roma	1.71**	ns	ns
Attends church	1.36**	ns	ns
Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Alliance voter	0.61*	0.66**	0.53*
Jobbik – Movement for a Better Hungary voter	1.70*	1.41**	ns
DK – Democratic Coalition voter	1.98**	1.75***	ns
Uses the Internet	1.57**	1.55**	1.85*
Home owner	0.72**	0.70**	0.61*
Owens other property	1.54**	1.97*	1.71**
Gets by with careful budgeting	0.66*	ns	ns
Financial situation likely to improve	1.67*	1.81*	1.76*
Good financial situation	ns	0.71***	ns
No financial difficulties	ns	ns	0.41**
Education – vocational qualification	ns	ns	0.54**

Notes: Only odd ratios that are significant at least once are presented in cells. Categories that are not significant in any of the cases: Central Transdanubia, Central

Hungary, Southern Transdanubia, Southern Great Plain, Northern Great Plain, village, MSZP – Hungarian Socialist Party voter, all categories of voting intention, car ownership, bad financial situation, financial situation likely to get worse, has to go without things, enough income, graduate, primary education.

Significant at: ***1 per cent, **5 per cent, *10 per cent; ns: not significant.

For all three types of migration plans, the likelihood of migration potential is significantly increased if the respondent is young and male. The effect of internet use, property ownership and belief in the improvement of one's financial situation have a similarly strong effect in *increasing* migration potential (and cover all three types); while living in cities, home ownership and support for the governing (Fidesz) party *reduce* migration potential.

As regards short-term labour migration, those who live in Budapest, Western Transdanubia or the Northern Great Plain, have Roma ethnic background, support the Democratic Coalition (a leftist party) (also applies for long-term labour migration) or Jobbik (an radical rightwing party), or attend church are more likely than others, while those who only get by with careful budgeting are less likely to consider migration.

Plans for long-term labour migration as well as for emigration differ from the above picture in that a good financial position (or a vocational qualification in the case of emigration) decrease this type of migration potential.

The larger sample size of the joint database allows for a more detailed analysis of the destinations of migration intentions (*Table 2.2.2*).

Table 2.1.2: Distribution of destination countries among those planning either a short- or a long-term labour migration or emigration (2015/2016, in decreasing order of destination country by short-term migration intentions, percentage)^a

	Short-term migration N = 686	Long-term migration N = 823	Emigration N = 494		Short-term migration N = 686	Long-term migration N = 823	Emigration N = 494
Austria	51	44	34	USA	4	5	9
Germany	42	46	30	Canada	4	3	6
United Kingdom	28	30	29	Finland	3	1	3
The Netherlands	11	9	9	Denmark	2	3	4
Neighbouring countries to Hungary (except Austria)	6	4	2	France	3	2	2
Ireland	6	7	6	Spain	2	3	1
Sweden	5	4	4	Other non-European countries	2	3	5
Other European countries	5	3	4	Greece, Belgium, Luxemburg, Italy, Portugal	1	1	1

^a The full sample is the group of countries (up to three destination countries) indicated by respondents for all three types of migration.

Source: Tárki „Omnibus” Survey, 2015 – January 2016.

6 The likelihood of choosing a particular destination country was examined within the group of respondents planning a certain type of migration. For example, we analysed the likelihood of someone who is considering short-term migration to select Austria (as well) as the destination country etc.

As has been shown by other studies, Austria (mainly for short-term labour migration), Germany (particularly for long-term labour migration) and the United Kingdom were the main destinations of people planning migration (Nyíró, 2013).

Table 2.1.3 examines whether the composition of factors influencing short- and long-term labour migration as well as emigration intentions differ across Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom.⁶

Table 2.1.3: Factors influencing the likelihood of choosing a specific destination country by timeframe of migration in the case of Austria, Germany, and the United Kingdom (2015/2016 database, logistic regression odd ratios)

	Short-term migration potential N = 381			Long-term migration potential N = 475			Emigration N = 326		
	Austria	Germany	United Kingdom	Austria	Germany	United Kingdom	Austria	Germany	United Kingdom
	N = 193	N = 159	N = 107	N = 211	N = 219	N = 140	N = 111	N = 99	N = 96
Type of settlement (reference category: village)									
Budapest	ns	ns	ns	3.94*	ns	ns	7.5*	3.24**	ns
Town	2.08**	1.99**	ns	1.84**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Region (reference category: Central Hungary)									
Western Transdanubia	0.14*	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.23**	3.23***	4.92**
Southern Transdanubia	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.23**	ns	ns
Northern Hungary	ns	0.31**	ns	2.63**	0.33**	ns	ns	ns	ns
Northern Great Plain	ns	ns	ns	5.74*	ns	ns	3.46***	ns	ns
Southern Great Plain	ns	ns	0.17*	ns	ns	ns	0.38***	ns	ns
Age (reference category: 54–65 years)									
29–38 years	ns	0.34**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Education (reference category: degree)									
Vocational qualification	ns	ns	ns	ns	2.15***	0.23*	ns	ns	ns
Secondary education	ns	3.94**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	3.38***	ns
Home ownership (no)	ns	ns	ns	0.53**	ns	ns	0.45**	ns	ns
Roma ethnicity (no)	0.39**	ns	ns	3.21*	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns

Note: All models include only those respondents who are planning a given type of migration. Only odd ratios that are significant at least once are presented in cells. Categories that are not significant in any of the cases: county capital, Central Transdanubia, Central Hungary, church attendance, car ownership, graduate, 18–28 years, 39–53 years.

Significant at: ***1 per cent, **5 per cent, *10 per cent; ns: not significant.

In the case of short-term labour migration intentions, it clearly appears that the choice of destination country is strongly influenced by regional location. This is not surprising given that cross-border commuting is also included in short-term labour migration, and this is most viable from regions nearer to the destination country. Even among those considering emigration, living in Western Transdanubia increases the likelihood of choosing Germany or the

United Kingdom. Emigration to Austria and Germany is much more likely from Budapest than from any other part of the country and home owners are less likely to consider employment in Austria. As regards to short-term migration plans, being Roma somewhat reduces the short-term migration potential to Austria, while younger (but not the youngest) individuals and those with secondary education would prefer to go to Germany.

Long-term employment in Austria is mainly intended by those from towns and the most disadvantaged regions. Those with a vocational qualification are twice as likely to plan long-term employment in Germany (on the other hand, they are very unlikely to consider working in the United Kingdom); while being Roma strongly increases, and owning a home decreases the likelihood of long-term migration to Austria.

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