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TEMPORARY AND CIRCULAR MIGRATION IN AUSTRIA – A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS BASED ON THE POPULATION REGISTER POPREG (2002-2009)

**Background Paper to the National Report
“Temporary and Circular Migration in Austria”
of the European Migration Network**

Stephan Marik-Lebeck

The EMN was established via Council Decision 2008/381/EC. The National Contact Point Austria in the EMN is financially supported by the European Union and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.



REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

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The opinions presented in the study are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the position of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior and/or the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and/or Statistics Austria.

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Print: Primerate Budapest**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Statistics Austria has been producing a comprehensive and continuous migration statistics since the reporting year 1996. The migration statistics – or statistics of the spatial population mobility – records all changes of places of residence within Austria as well as from other countries to Austria or from Austria abroad. Since 2002 all registration movements have been registered in the Central Register of Residents (CRR) of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Statistics Austria receives quarterly registration data from the CRR on all current registrations and changes. These are regularly incorporated into the population register (POPREG). Thus migration statistics since 2002 record all changes of the main residence pertaining to the legal duty of officially registering one's residence.

In Austria, the Registration Act requires compulsory registration when staying for more than three days in the country. However, there is no definition in this regard that it needs to be a main residence registration. This restriction is only made for migration statistics, which uses only the registrations and de-registrations of main residences in Austria from the CRR, with an active registration covering at least 90 days. Shorter stays are only incompletely recorded by the registration system due to the mixture with tourist stays (visa with a validity of up to 90 days) and are consequently not included in the statistical evaluations. Secondary residence registrations are statistically not considered in order to just record each person in Austria once.

Consequently, the following conditions, which are in line with the UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration¹, apply for migration statistics: If a person deregisters with less than 90 days of continuous main residence registration in Austria and if he/she leaves for abroad, it is not registered in the migration statistics. If however there is another regis-

1 cf. United Nations (1998): Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1, Statistical Papers Series M, No. 58, Rev. 1, para. 34; New York, available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_58rev1E.pdf (accessed on 15 November 2010)

tration of a main residence in Austria within 90 days after leaving the country, it will be regarded as internal migration, even if that person migrates abroad and subsequently re-emigrates from abroad. If the time period without an active registration of a main residence in Austria exceeds 90 days, emigration and immigration are recorded separately in the migration statistics. Persons with breaks in the registration of a main residence of less than 90 days are however recorded as having a continuous registration in population statistics. These registrations and de-registration are not recorded in migration statistics either in order to keep consistency with population stocks. The statistical implementation of the above mentioned conditions requires the analysis of the time period between two subsequent main residence registrations of the same person.

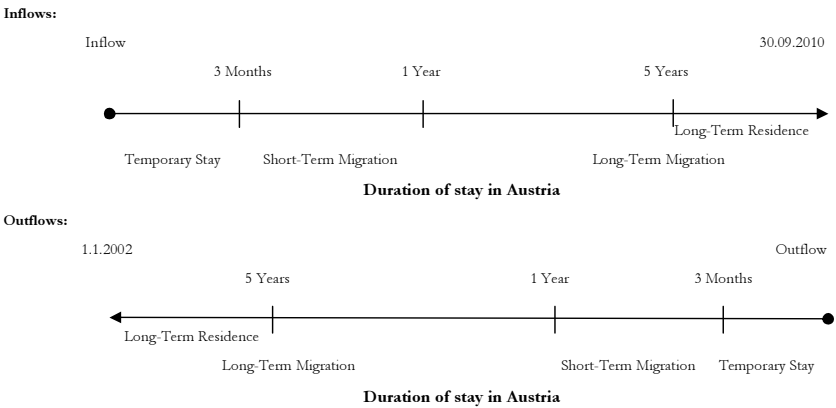
This link is made in the population register POPREG by means of an anonymised personal identification number. In the event of a de-registration from Austria following a previous registration in Austria, the time period between de-registration and registration is the duration of stay in Austria. If the inverse event is the case, the duration of stay abroad can be deducted.

2. ILLUSTRATION OF CIRCULAR AND TEMPORARY MIGRATION IN THE POPULATION-STATISTIC POPULATION REGISTER POPREG

As of November 2010 the population register POPREG includes all registration information for the time period between 1 January 2002 and 30 September 2010. According to the selected time period for the analysis of the duration of stay, information herewith becomes available with different degrees of completeness.

2.1 Temporary Migration in Austria 2002-2009

Table 1 offers an overview of the number of inflows and outflows according to the selected time periods for the duration of stay in Austria for the years 2002-2009.



Registrations with a duration of less than 90 days are excluded from the database, since they – as has already been mentioned above – are not taken into account for migration statistics. This also means that for instance harvest workers (who stay for up to six weeks) are not included. For areas indicated in blue, already valid information exists in the database as of 30

September 2010. In all other categories no final assertion can be made (yet) for example because not enough time has passed to achieve a correct classification of the duration of stay prior or after a registration. For the first reporting year 2002 no definitive duration of stay can be determined before an emigration abroad, since POPREG contains no information on possible registrations prior to 1 January 2002.

Table 1: Inflows and Outflows by Reference Year and Duration of Stay in Austria, 2002-2009

Reference year		Total (=100%)	Short-term migration				Long-term migration			
			3-6 months		6-12 months		1-5 years		>5 years	
			abs.	per cent	abs.	per cent	abs.	per cent	abs.	per cent
Inflows	2002	109,384	11,411	10%	12,092	11%	21,390	20%	64,491	59%
	2003	113,677	14,520	13%	11,170	10%	22,094	19%	65,893	58%
	2004	124,983	14,866	12%	11,656	9%	25,993	21%	72,468	58%
	2005	117,407	15,532	13%	12,149	10%	41,694	36%	4,032	41%
	2006	99,891	14,577	15%	10,757	11%	74,557	75%	0	0%
	2007	106,504	13,324	13%	11,649	11%	81,531	77%	0	0%
	2008	109,791	14,251	13%	14,491	13%	81,049	74%	0	0%
	2009	107,849	15,132	14%	32,727	30%	59,990	56%	0	0%
Outflows	2002	74,212	10,069	14%	29,495	40%	34,648	47%	0	0%
	2003	71,868	13,343	19%	12,400	17%	46,125	64%	0	0%
	2004	71,756	15,032	21%	11,085	15%	45,639	64%	0	0%
	2005	70,050	15,007	21%	11,657	17%	43,386	62%	0	0%
	2006	78,079	16,278	21%	12,280	16%	33,183	42%	16,338	21%
	2007	73,888	12,928	17%	10,828	15%	25,177	34%	24,955	34%
	2008	76,739	13,767	18%	11,930	16%	25,223	33%	25,819	34%
	2009	88,359	14,507	16%	14,521	16%	29,518	33%	29,813	34%

Source: Statistics Austria, Migration statistics 2002-2009. As of 30 September 2010, for the grey shaded cells, valid information was (already) available in the POPREG database.

The results of the analysis show that about 10-15% of all immigrants are registered in Austria for three to six months. Another 10% were stays with a length between six to twelve months, whereby in total about one fifth to one quarter of all inflows can be classified as short-term migration. In return, around three quarters of inflows stay for more than one year in Austria, whereas the (currently only available) results for 2002-2004 show that around 60% also stay in Austria for longer than five years. Immigra-

tion to Austria is thus, to an extent of three fifths, geared towards longer stays.

The situation is somewhat different in the case of outflows. Here, around one fifth of all de-registrations followed a stay of three to six months, with a further fifth having been effected within one year. Around two thirds of all emigrants had stayed in Austria for more than a year before they left, with - according to the definite results for the years 2007-2009 - the shares of stays of up to five years and over five years before they left amounting both to about one third. Consequently, emigration occurs to a larger extent after short-term stays in Austria.

2.2 Circular Forms of Migration in Austria 2002-2009

“Circular Mobility” according to Zelinsky (1971) means spatial mobility mostly of a short duration and repetitive or cyclical nature, where any declared intention of permanently transferring one’s main (usual) place of residence is missing. According to the frequency of occurrence or duration of absence from the main place of residence, four main groups can be distinguished: daily, periodical, seasonal or long-term circulation processes (Chapman and Prothero 1985).

Official statistics in nearly all European countries (exceptions are Ireland, United Kingdom and Portugal) record spatial mobility across national boundaries by counts of residence registrations or residence permits and therefore through the analysis of administrative data. In many of these countries migrants are explicitly asked how long they intend to stay. Based on this it is concluded whether they should count as a migrant or not. In contrast, migration statistics in Austria are based upon an ex-post analysis of the actual time gap between subsequent registrations and de-registrations of the same person within Austria. As such, only changes of place of residence, which have been reported to the authorities, are taken into account, but not individuals residing irregularly.

According to the above mentioned definitions only seasonal and long-term circulation processes are recorded in migration statistics,² which in contradiction to Zelinsky’s definition do require the registration of a main

2 Information on a majority of the daily and periodically (e.g. weekly) circulation processes (professional and educational commuters) have been recorded up to the moment within the framework of the population census and will in the future also be available from the register counts.

residence. Additionally, the registration of a main residence in Austria, for instance, is a prerequisite to establish a bank account or receive social security subsidies. Due to the lack of international reconciliation of main residence registrations presumably the main residence in the migrant's country of origin is not given up and the persons concerned are possibly registered in several countries at the same time.

Given the existence of a precise date of registration in case of registrations and de-registrations it is possible to determine the duration between a registration and the ensuing registration of the same person. This facilitates the calculation of the duration of stay of a person in Austria (timespan between registration and de-registration, including any possible changes of residence inside Austria), as well as of the duration of absence between a de-registration and a subsequent new registration in Austria, for which there is no valid registration in Austria. The latter can also be considered as the duration of stay abroad between two registrations in Austria. Furthermore, this coupling of several migration movements of one and the same person offers the possibility to get information on temporary and circular migration patterns.

The analysis of subsequent registrations and de-registrations of individual persons makes it possible – irrespective of the duration of stay in Austria – to determine the partial quantity of those inflows, which are again followed, after some time, by an outflow, which terminates the stay in Austria. In this context, however, it must be noted that the available time series of information for persons having immigrated at the beginning of the reporting period is significantly longer than for persons having immigrated at the end of the reporting period. Therefore the share of multiple migrations in the earlier years under review both regarding inflows and outflows is significantly higher than in more recent years.

In total of the years 2002-2009, for which migration statistics are available from the POPREG, 50% of the inflows from abroad were followed by at least one outflow from Austria (Table 2). In other words: only half of all people that immigrated to Austria since 2002 were continuously registered with a main residence in Austria until 1 January 2010. On the other hand, some 28% of all immigrants left Austria again and stayed abroad since then, while a further 10% of the immigrants temporarily emigrated again but came back to Austria for a second time. Almost half of those migrating to Austria more than once (in total nearly 5% of all immi-

grants) even displayed two or more circular external migration movements (immigration to Austria > emigration to abroad > immigration to Austria > emigration to abroad).

In contrast, 71% of all emigrations to abroad were final, which means that until 1 January 2010 no further registration in Austria was recorded. In case of about 30% of all outflows no immigration had been previously recorded, either because it took place before 2002 or because it affected people born in Austria. A further 41% of emigrants had only come to Austria during the reporting period and thereby terminating a migration cycle by leaving for abroad. A total of 29% immigrated to Austria for at least one more time, with 10% having subsequently emigrated abroad again.

Table 2: International migrations 2002-2009 according to the number of further international migrations of the same person

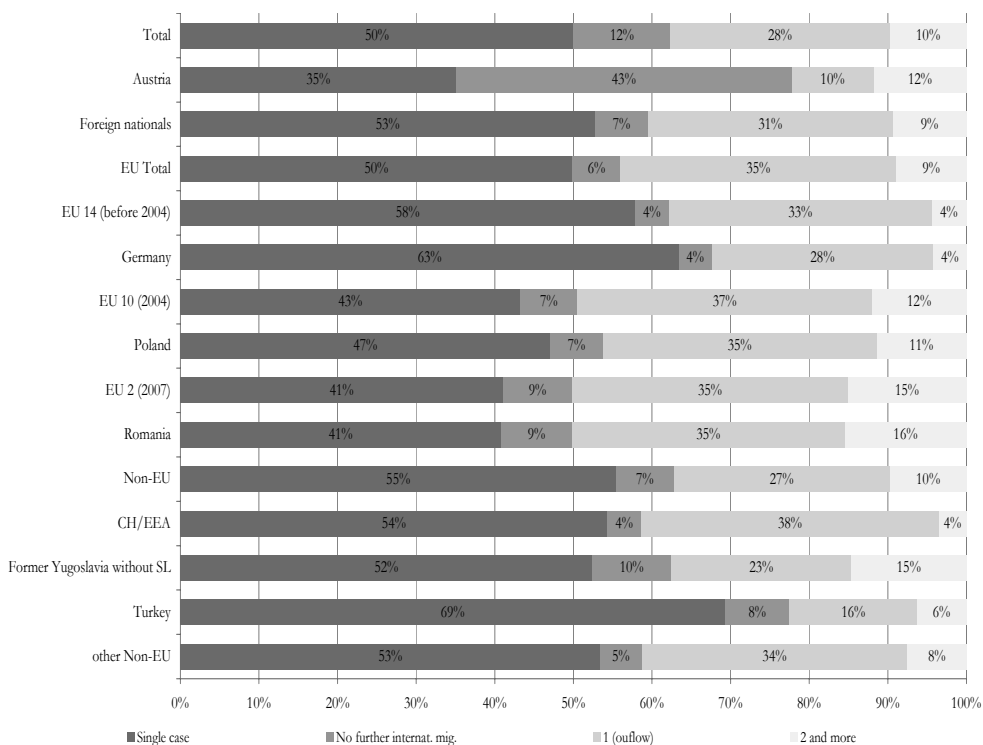
Reference year	Total	Number of further international migrations of the same person				
		Single case	Last (of several)	1	2	3 and more
Immigration from abroad						
2002-2009	880,059	50%	12%	28%	5%	5%
2002	108,125	52%	3%	29%	8%	8%
2003	111,869	48%	8%	29%	7%	8%
2004	122,547	47%	10%	30%	6%	6%
2005	114,465	45%	11%	33%	6%	5%
2006	98,535	44%	13%	33%	6%	5%
2007	106,659	48%	14%	31%	4%	3%
2008	110,074	52%	17%	28%	3%	1%
2009	107,785	65%	23%	11%	0%	0%
Emigration abroad						
2002-2009	597,868	30%	41%	18%	5%	5%
2002	74,831	58%	7%	21%	6%	9%
2003	71,996	36%	26%	22%	7%	9%
2004	71,721	28%	33%	23%	8%	9%
2005	70,133	25%	41%	20%	7%	7%
2006	74,432	24%	46%	19%	6%	5%
2007	71,928	24%	48%	19%	5%	3%
2008	75,638	24%	54%	17%	4%	1%
2009	87,189	26%	66%	7%	0%	0%

Source: Statistics Austria, Migration statistics 2002-2009.

Depending on nationality there were occasionally significant differences: among immigrants, Austrian nationals at 78% showed the highest percentage of single or final cases (indicating there was no further migration

abroad of the person during the reference period). EU 10 and EU 2 nationals had the highest share of multiple migration movements with about 50% of all inflows being followed by further migration movements. Unlike Austrian nationals, somewhat more than 40% of inflows were single cases, with a further 10% showing no further migration movements. The percentage of those who migrated to Austria more than twice was also highest among these two groups with 15% and 12% respectively. However, the share of multiple migration among EU 14 nationals was significantly lower. Consequently, 62% of EU 14 nationals immigrating to Austria during 2002 to 2009 were still registered in Austria on 1 January 2010, the share among German nationals being even as high as 67%. This indicates a different structure of migration (highly qualified persons, students) vis-à-vis EU 10 nationals and EU 2 nationals. Similarly, 62% of immigrants with third-country nationality stayed in Austria until at least 1 January 2010. This was particularly true for Turkish nationals (77% of immigrants), while multiple migration was significantly higher among immigrants from former Yugoslavia (38%) as well as from other third countries (42%).

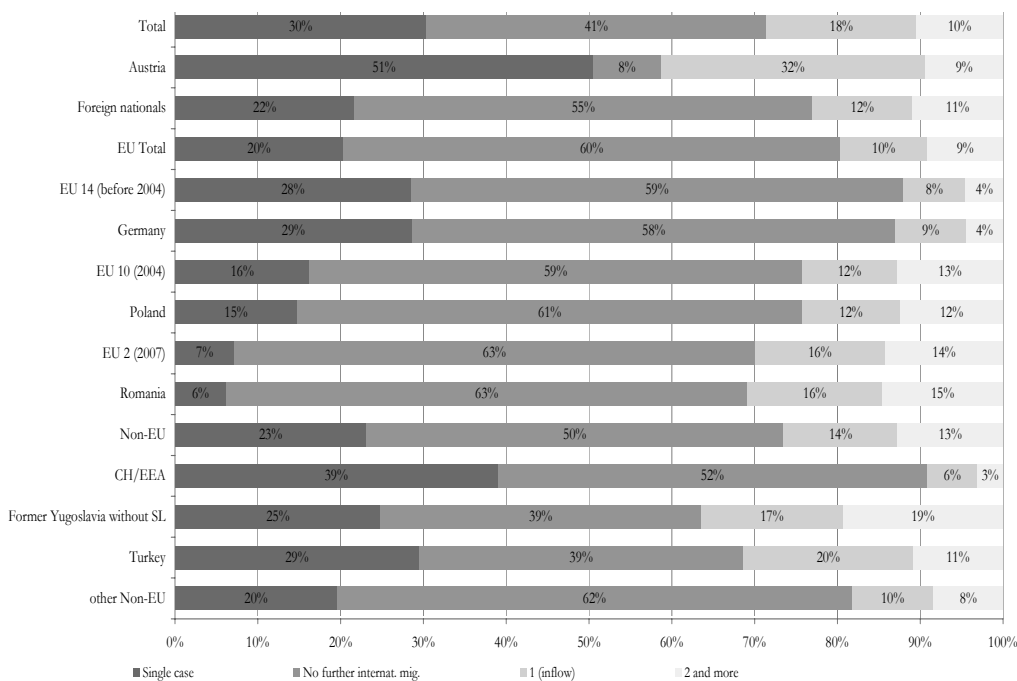
Figure 1: Numbers of further international migrations after immigration 2002-2009 by nationality



Source: Statistics Austria, Migration statistics 2002-2009.

Among emigrants the share of single cases was relatively lowest for Austrian nationals: 59% of those who emigrated during 2002 to 2009 did not re-immigrate to Austria until 1 January 2010. The share of those staying abroad permanently amongst EU 14 nationals was significantly higher, namely 88%. In contrast, nationals of former Yugoslavia (36%) and Turkey (31%) had the highest shares of persons having returned to Austria later on.

Figure 2: Numbers of further international migrations after an emigration 2002-2009 by nationality

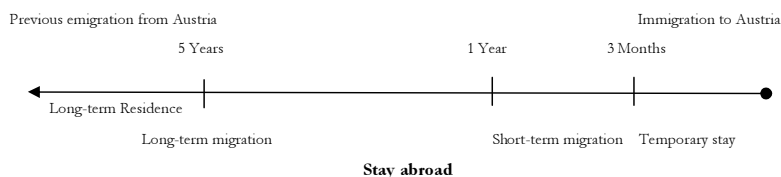


Source: Statistics Austria, Migration statistics 2002-2009.

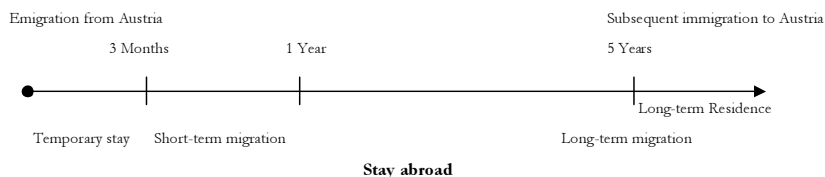
2.3 Duration of stay abroad of migrants immigrating to or emigrating from Austria 2003-2008

In a further step the duration between the last de-registration in Austria and the subsequent registration can be assessed for the years 2003 up to 2008. This allows for statements about multiple (circular) migration movements of same person.

Inflows:



Outflows:



For the present analysis it has to be noted that for 2002 data on the duration of residence abroad prior to immigration is only available if it was shorter than one year. Moreover, at the time of writing no information on the duration of stay abroad upon an emigration for 2009 was available, since the final migration flows for 2010 were still pending.

Table 3: Inflows and Outflows by stay abroad 2002-2009

Reference year		International migration flows	Circular migrations (time period abroad between two registrations in Austria)	% of total migration
Inflows	2002	109.384	5.946	5%
	2003	113.677	17.627	16%
	2004	124.983	23.546	19%
	2005	117.407	23.593	20%
	2006	99.891	23.222	23%
	2007	106.504	24.545	23%
	2008	109.791	25.944	24%
	2009	107.849	28.336	26%
Outflows	2002	74.212	25.967	35%
	2003	71.868	27.668	38%
	2004	71.756	28.068	39%
	2005	70.050	23.843	34%
	2006	78.079	23.353	30%
	2007	73.888	20.412	28%
	2008	76.739	17.145	22%
	2009	88.359	6.303	7%

Source: Statistics Austria, Migration statistics 2002-2009.

On average for 2003-2008, circular forms of migration made up about 21% of all inflows from abroad as well as about one third of all outflows. Circular forms of migration thus constitute – independent of the length of stay – a significant feature of Austrian migration flows. Disaggregated by the time span between two consecutive registrations in Austria, 13% all inflows occurred within a year of the last registration in Austria and another 8% after more than one year. About one fifth of all outflows had another immigration within one year, a further 12% after more than one year.

60% of circular inflows there had a gap of less than one year between two registrations in Austria. Further disaggregation showed nearly similar percentages for gaps of three to six months and gaps of six to twelve months. About 10% of immigrants coming back to Austria in 2009 had had their last registration in Austria more than five years before. Also 50-60% of circular emigrants came back within one year. However, 8% of those emigrating in 2002 came back only more than five years later.

The predominance of short stays abroad between two registrations in Austria mainly results from patterns of seasonal activity of foreign citizens in tourism, agriculture and building and construction.

Table 4: Inflows and outflows by reference year and duration of stay abroad

Reference year		Duration of the stay abroad prior to an immigration / upon an emigration								
		Stays abroad total (=100%)	Short-term migration				Long-term migration			
			3-6 months		6-12 months		1-5 years		>5 years	
Inflows	2002	5,946	3,571	60%	2,375	40%	0	0%	0	0%
	2003	17,627	7,081	40%	7,686	44%	2,860	16%	0	0%
	2004	23,546	7,761	33%	8,459	36%	7,326	31%	0	0%
	2005	23,593	7,154	30%	7,624	32%	8,815	37%	0	0%
	2006	23,222	6,676	29%	7,152	31%	9,394	40%	0	0%
	2007	24,545	6,792	28%	7,124	29%	10,276	42%	353	1%
	2008	25,944	6,905	27%	7,121	27%	10,837	42%	1,081	4%
	2009	28,336	6,682	24%	7,377	26%	11,417	40%	2,860	10%
Outflows	2002	25,967	6,390	25%	7,179	28%	9,934	38%	2,464	9%
	2003	27,668	7,380	27%	8,257	30%	10,694	39%	1,337	5%
	2004	28,068	7,745	28%	8,238	29%	11,592	41%	493	2%
	2005	23,843	6,757	28%	7,286	31%	9,800	41%	0	0%
	2006	23,353	6,921	30%	7,400	32%	9,032	39%	0	0%
	2007	20,412	6,684	33%	6,958	34%	6,770	33%	0	0%
	2008	17,145	6,738	39%	7,304	43%	3,103	18%	0	0%
	2009	6,303	4,007	64%	2,296	36%	0	0%	0	0%

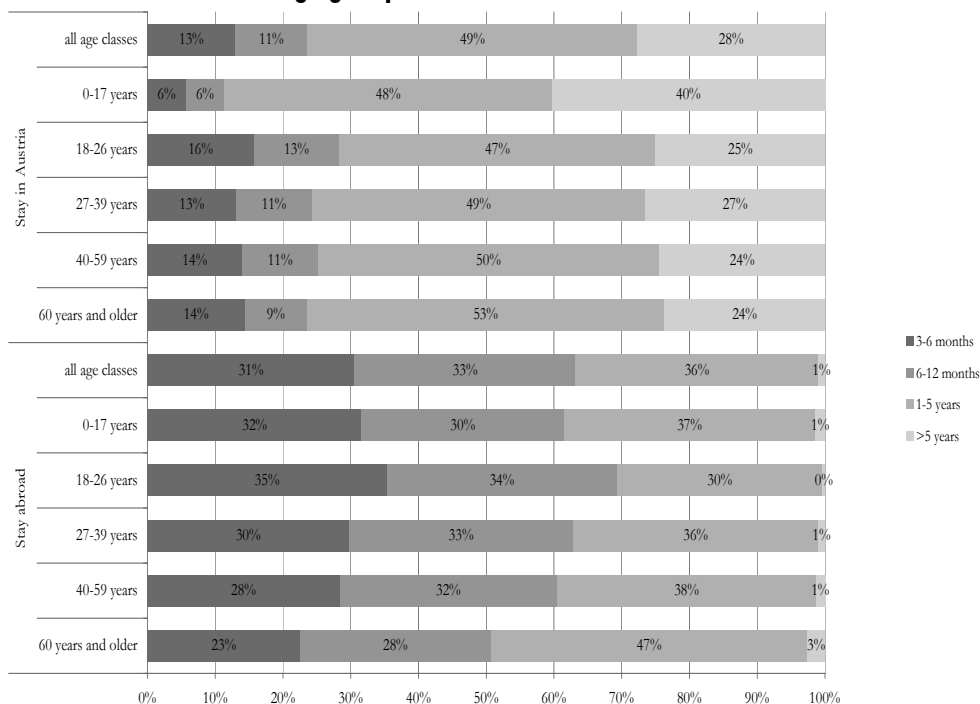
Source: Statistics Austria, Migration statistics 2002-2009.

2.4 Temporary and circular migration on average 2003/2008

As shown in the previous charts, the distribution of the lengths of stay in Austria and abroad only varies slightly. Thus further analysis of temporary and circular migration movements disaggregated by age and nationality on average 2003-2008 was conducted. Disaggregated by age, the longer stays of people aged 0 to 17 in Austria stand out. This results from children and young people migrating mainly with other family members and thus tends to reflect the behaviour of the 26 to 59 year-aged.

On average 2003/2008 a significantly higher percentage of shorter stays abroad between two stays in Austria can be observed among people aged 18 to 26. This points to more frequent employment in seasonal jobs, which is less steady compared to the appointment of older people.

Figure 3: Inflows 2003/2008 by duration of stay in Austria/abroad and age groups

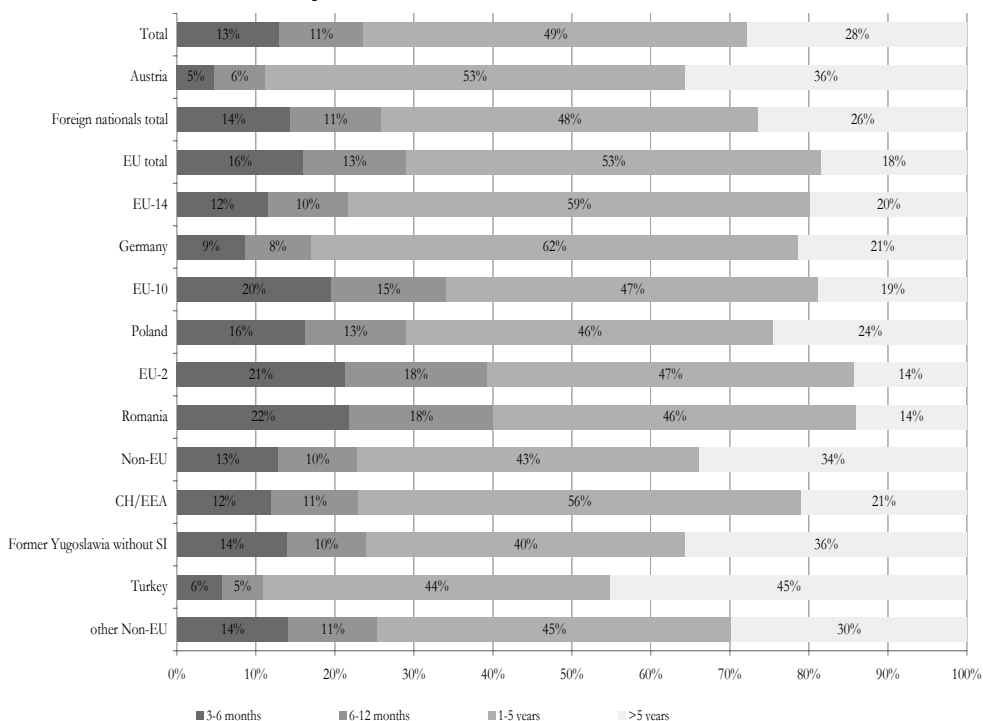


Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics 2002-2009.

2.4.1 Migration 2003/2008 by nationality and duration of stay in Austria

A differentiation by nationality shows that EU 10 nationals and EU 2 nationals with about 35-40% of all immigration on average for the years 2003-2008 make up the largest shares of stays of up to one year, while – little surprising – the immigrated Austrian citizens to an extent of 90% stay in Austria for longer than one year. However, immigrated third-country nationals also stayed, to an extent of about three quarters, in Austria for longer than one year. This definitely also has to do with the residence and settlement regulations, which, on the one hand, foresee primarily first residence permits for a period of up to 18 months, as well as, on the other hand, also with restrictions concerning the settlement of these groups in Austria. Furthermore, it must be taken into consideration that for non-EU-nationals family reunification plays an important role, which by trend occurs with the perspective of a longer stay in Austria.

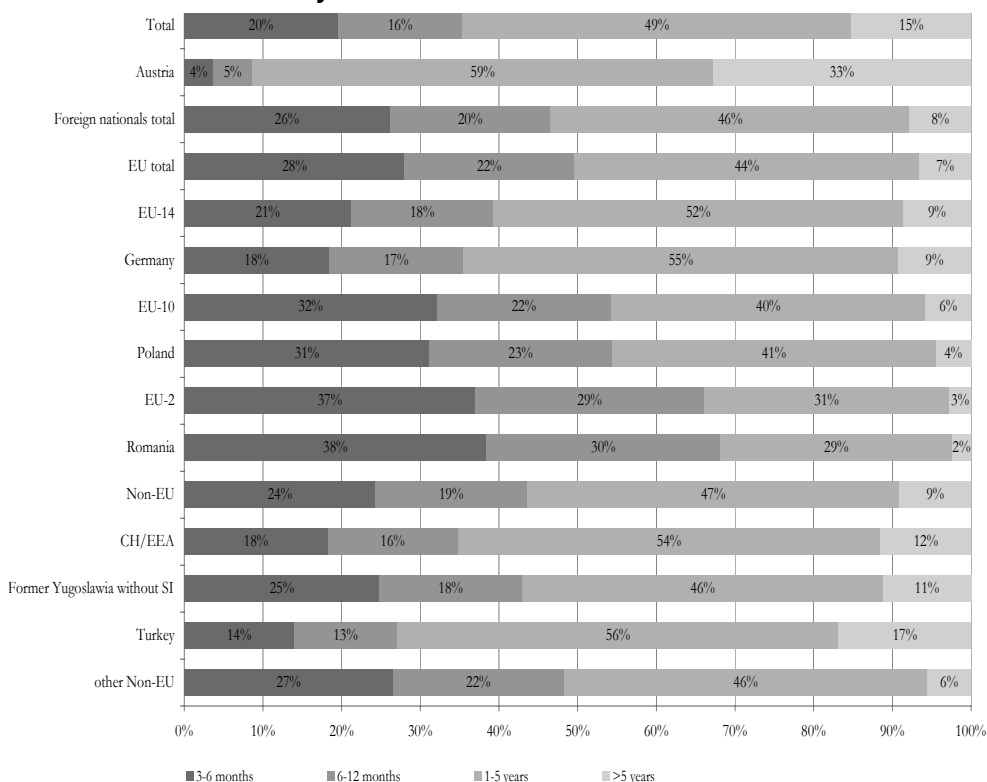
Figure 4: Inflows on average 2003/2008 by nationality and duration of stay in Austria



Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics 2002-2009.

A similar picture is shown in the case of outflows. On average for the years 2003-2008, nearly half of the emigrating EU 10 nationals were registered in Austria for a shorter period than one year prior to their emigration. In contrast, Austrian nationals as well as non-EU nationals for the most part lived in Austria for longer than one year before they emigrated. It was also remarkable that outflows of EU and non-EU nationals were approximately equal in terms of their number (35% of all outflows respectively). In relation to the significantly smaller population of EU nationals who live in Austria, this underlines the much higher degree of mobility inside the EU, which, in turn, is also made possible by appropriate legal framework conditions (freedom of movement).

Figure 5: Outflows on average 2003/2008 by nationality and duration of stay in Austria



Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics 2002-2009.

2.4.2. Migration on average 2003/2008 by nationality and duration of stay abroad

Overall, slightly more than 20% of all immigrants in 2003/2008 had been registered in Austria before. Disaggregated by nationality the share of returning immigrants was – hardly surprising – highest among Austrian nationals at 61%, while it was much lower among third-country nationals (15%) and EU-citizens (12%). The relatively highest shares were recorded for citizens of former Yugoslavia with 23%.

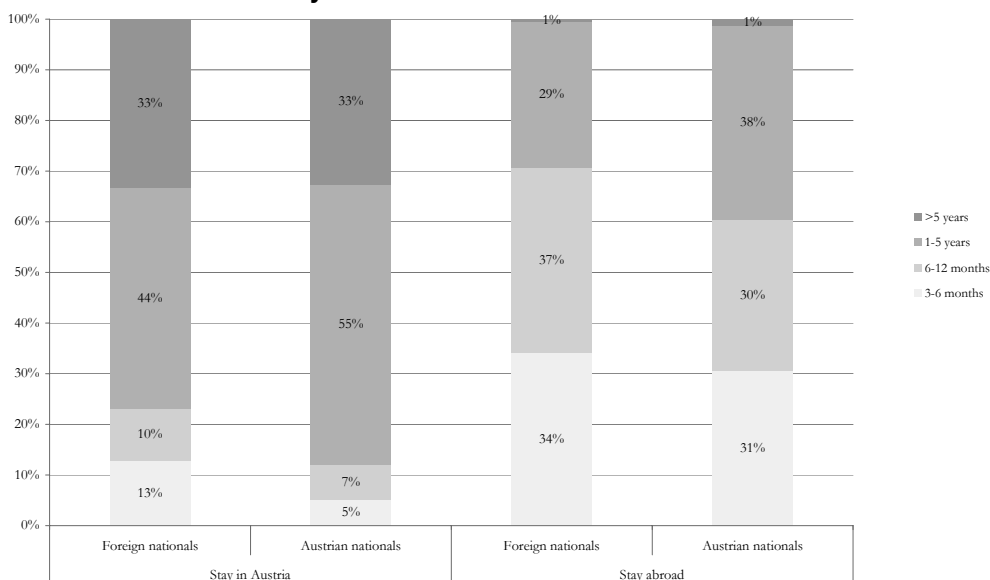
Table 5: Circular forms of migration (inflows and outflows) on the average of 2003/2008 by nationality and stay abroad

Nationality		Immigrations (total)	Immigrations with stay abroad between two registrations in Austria					
			Total		Up to one year		More than one year	
			abs.	per cent	abs.	per cent	abs.	per cent
Total		112,042	23,080	21%	14,589	13%	8,490	8%
Austria		16,564	10,086	61%	5,955	36%	4,132	25%
Non-Austrian		95,479	12,994	14%	8,635	9%	4,359	5%
EU 26 (total)		46,412	5,462	12%	3,308	7%	2,154	5%
of which:	EU 14 (accession before 2004)	22,507	1,510	7%	804	4%	706	3%
	of which: Germany	15,503	935	6%	498	3%	436	3%
	EU 10 (accession 2004)	15,419	2,424	16%	1,546	10%	878	6%
	of which: Poland	5,577	771	14%	521	9%	250	4%
	EU 2 (accession 2007)	8,487	1,528	18%	958	11%	570	7%
	of which: Romania	6,664	1,221	18%	772	12%	449	7%
Third countries		49,067	7,532	15%	5,327	11%	2,205	4%
of which:	CH/ EEA	727	45	6%	23	3%	21	3%
	Former Yugoslavia without SI	17,098	3,980	23%	2,866	17%	1,115	7%
	Turkey	6,946	997	14%	677	10%	320	5%
	Other Third countries	24,296	2,510	10%	1760	7%	750	3%

Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics 2002-2009.

An analysis of the time gap between two consecutive registrations in Austria (which is considered in the present analysis as the length of stay abroad) showed that 13% of immigrants returned within one year after the last de-registration in Austria, with a further 8% returning after more than one year. Among immigrating Austrian citizens 36% had stayed abroad for less than one year and 25% for longer than one year. Among foreigners immigrating in 2003-2008, 9% had stayed abroad less than one year and only 5% for more than one year. For people benefitting from the freedom of establishment (i.e. EU-14- and EEA-citizens) longer stays abroad were of similar significance as shorter stays of up to one year; quite in contrast with citizens of EU member states since 2004 and non-EEA-citizens, whose entry to Austria was legally restrained. Shorter stays abroad therefore prevailed among citizens of former Yugoslavia (17% of all people immigrating in 2003-2008).

Figure 6: Inflows on average 2003/2008 by nationality and duration of stay abroad



Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics 2002-2009.

Among immigrants born outside the EU, naturalised citizens tend to have longer stays both within the country and abroad than foreign citizens. Among this group it seems that some of the outflows take place for administrative reasons (e.g. because of expired residence permits) and are followed by subsequent remigrations once a new residence title has been granted.

The picture was similar for circular outflows from Austria: On average some 32% of emigrants in 2003-2008 returned to Austria after staying some time abroad. With a share of 46%, their share was particularly high among Austrian nationals. Circular migration equally played an important role among emigrants with former Yugoslav (40%), Romanian and Bulgarian (36%) as well as Turkish nationality (33%). In contrast, the share of emigrants returning after some time was quite small for EU-14-citizens (14%) and EEA-citizens (10%).

Overall, short stays abroad of up to one year at 20% of all outflows in 2003/2008 were significantly higher than longer absences of more than one year (12%). This was especially true for third-country nationals with a share of 21% for short-term stays of up to one year, but only 9% of all

emigrants returning after more than one year. The percentage of short stays abroad for up to a year was highest among citizens of former Yugoslavia and Austrian nationals at 29%. Among EU-14 nationals on the other hand only 7% of the emigrants returned to Austria within a year and another 7% after over a year.

Table 6: Outflows on average 2003/2008 by nationality and duration of stay abroad

Nationality		Emigrations (total)	Emigrations with stay abroad between two registrations in Austria					
			Total		Up to one year		More than one year	
			abs.	per cent	abs.	per cent	abs.	per cent
Total		73,730	23,415	32%	14,611	20%	8,804	12%
Austria		21,743	9,958	46%	5,890	27%	4,068	19%
Non-Austrian		51,987	13,457	26%	8,721	17%	4,736	9%
EU 26		25,966	5,827	22%	3,375	13%	2,452	9%
of which:	EU 14	11,893	1,640	14%	833	7%	807	7%
	Germany	6,920	1,044	15%	527	8%	517	7%
	EU 10	9,281	2,485	27%	1,520	16%	965	10%
	Poland	2,891	775	27%	500	17%	275	10%
	EU 2	4,792	1,703	36%	1,022	21%	681	14%
	Romania	3,728	1,364	37%	828	22%	536	14%
Third countries		26,021	7,630	29%	5,346	21%	2,284	9%
of which:	CH/ EEA	475	49	10%	24	5%	24	5%
	Former Yugoslavia without SI	9,913	3,960	40%	2,851	29%	1,109	11%
	Turkey	2,951	986	33%	666	23%	320	11%
	Other Third countries	12,682	2,636	21%	1,805	14%	831	7%

Source: Statistics Austria, Migration Statistics 2002-2009.

3. CONCLUSIONS – PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Temporary and circular forms of migration are, even if only to a small extent, integrative components of international migration flows to Austria. On average 2003-2008 around 13% of the immigrants stayed in the country for only three to six months, another 11% for only six to twelve months. As such, one quarter of the inflows amount to short stays of up to a year.

Among the emigrants the share of persons who stayed in Austria for up to one year is even higher at 36%. Over one third of the emigrants from Austria thus can be allotted to short-time migration. In total, 20% of the emigrants were only registered in Austria for three to six months; 16% for six to twelve months.

The analysis of consequent registrations and de-registrations of individuals in Austria furthermore emphasizes the significance of circular migration patterns. In total, about 21% of all immigrants had already been registered in Austria before and 32% of all emigrants returned to Austria.

Depending on nationality the significance of temporary and circular migration patterns was fairly different. Short stays in Austria were of greater significance among EU nationals than among third-country nationals. The assumption that freedom of movement induces an intensification of circular migration patterns could be confirmed only to a limited extent with the present data. Although EU-citizens displayed a slightly higher percentage of multiple migration movements than third-country nationals, the differences were insignificant. Moreover third-country nationals had shorter stays between two registrations in Austria than EU-citizens. Based on the data at hand, it was not possible to determine to what extent circular migration is induced by the legal regulations to (re)acquire a residence title.

For further analysis of the underlying structures of the observed patterns, an expansion of the available characteristics would be useful. In this context a link of the information of the registration system (CRR/PO-

PREG) with the information on residence permits as well as work permits could above all be of importance, since this would enable an analysis of temporary and circular migration flows also in terms of legal and – corresponding to the legally defined purposes of residence - indirectly also according to socio-economic categories.

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