



Migration, occupational mobility, and regional escalators in Scotland

Study from 2010 by:

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Aim: to gain greater insight into the spatial patterning of social mobility in Scotland.

We are interested in two dimensions:

- Regional dimension: The cross-sectional literature suggests that within Scotland, those living in Edinburgh are the most likely to do well in the labour market.
- Migration dimension: The literature suggests that migrants (within Scotland and into Scotland) are more likely to achieve a high occupational status than non-migrants.



Reasons for migration (%)

Dominant motive	English-born: last move directly from England (%)	Scottish long distance moves (%)
Employment	72.7	38.1
Housing	3.0	17.3
Quality of life	6.1	19.8
Personal	15.2	17.7
Retirement	3.0	6.6
Other	0.0	0.4

(Source – survey by Findlay et al 2003)

Edinburgh as regional escalator?

- Is Edinburgh an escalator region within Scotland, providing opportunities for accelerated upward social mobility?
- If so, then we should find that not only those living in Edinburgh, but also those moving to Edinburgh experience more upward mobility than those living and moving elsewhere.

Data: Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS)

- 5.3% of the Scottish population (274,000 people)
- Individual-level data linked over time:
 - Census records 1991 and 2001
 - Socio-economic characteristics
 - Demographic characteristics
 - Spatial location and spatial mobility variables
 - Vital event information (births, deaths, marriages) 1991-2007
- Allowing researchers to study changes in individual lives over a 10 year period

Dependent variable

- Occupational mobility between 1991 and 2001, based on the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC).
- NS-SEC categories collapsed into:
 - High occupational status (NS-SEC 1 and 2)
 - Low occupational status (NS-SEC 3/5/6/7)
- Self-employed in NS-SEC 4 excluded (very heterogeneous group)

Mobility between high and low occupational status groups (1991 - 2001) by spatial mobility status between 1991 and 2001 and country of birth

Population born in Scotland			2001 Occupational status		
			High (%)	Low (%)	N
No Move	1991 Occup. Status group	High	82.11	17.89	1,058
		Low	17.46	82.54	2,659
Short Distance	1991 Occup. Status group	High	82.59	17.41	1,001
		Low	25.34	74.66	2,706
Long Distance	1991 Occup. Status group	High	85.68	14.32	11,096
		Low	37.14	62.86	14,122
Population born in England and Wales			2001 Occupational status		
			High (%)	Low (%)	N
No Move	1991 Occup. Status group	High	86.42	13.58	1,805
		Low	25.88	74.12	1,909
Short Distance Move	1991 Occup. Status group	High	86.46	13.54	1,561
		Low	30.69	69.31	2,150
Long Distance Move	1991 Occup. Status group	High	87.80	12.20	14,677
		Low	48.56	51.44	10,541

Logistic regression models

Probability of moving from low to high occ. status between 1991 and 2001.

Table 4: Probability of moving into high occupational status group in 2001 for individuals in low occupational status group in 1991

	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3			Model 4		
	coeff	std err	sig	coeff	std err	sig	coeff	std err	sig	coeff	std err	sig
Country of Birth (reference = Scotland)												
Born England or Wales	0.392	0.051	***	0.237	0.058	***				0.259	0.058	***
Born Outside UK	0.294	0.091	***	0.305	0.104	***				0.285	0.105	***
Place of residence 2001 by mobility between 91 and 01 (reference = Low Job Access no move)												
Glasgow no move							0.279	0.096	***	0.352	0.103	***
Glasgow short move							0.785	0.090	***	0.608	0.098	***
Glasgow long move							1.430	0.195	***	0.852	0.218	***
Edinburgh no move							0.422	0.114	***	0.352	0.123	***
Edinburgh short move							1.129	0.102	***	0.730	0.111	***
Edinburgh long move							2.213	0.215	***	1.825	0.244	***
Cities no move							0.176	0.090	**	0.251	0.096	***
Cities short move							0.624	0.087	***	0.413	0.094	***
Cities long move							1.271	0.122	***	0.916	0.135	***
Medium Job Access no move							0.175	0.094	*	0.214	0.101	**
Medium Job Access short move							0.588	0.089	***	0.344	0.097	***
Medium Job Access long move							1.245	0.122	***	0.774	0.136	***
Low Job Access short move							0.259	0.108	***	0.116	0.117	
Low Job Access long move							0.825	0.153	***	0.383	0.170	**
Gender (reference = female)				0.064	0.027	***				0.062	0.027	**
Age				-0.040	0.002	***				-0.036	0.002	***
Ethnic minority (reference = not ethnic minority)				-0.685	0.256	***				-0.770	0.258	***
Children in household (reference = no children 1991 & 2001)												
No Child '91, Child '01				-0.194	0.044	***				-0.183	0.044	***
Child '91 & '01				0.004	0.040					0.033	0.040	
Child '91 & no child '01				-0.024	0.039					-0.001	0.039	
Civil Status of Household (reference = couple '91 & '01)												
Couple '91 & Single '01				-0.014	0.058					-0.059	0.058	
Single '91 & '01				-0.022	0.046					-0.028	0.046	
Single '91 & Couple '01				0.188	0.042	***				0.141	0.043	***
Health Status (reference = No ill health '91 & '01)												
Ill health '91 & '01				0.426	0.233	*				0.410	0.234	*
Ill health '91				-0.251	0.148	*				-0.255	0.148	*
Ill health '01				-0.161	0.063	***				-0.153	0.063	***
Educational Qualifications (reference = no qualifications)												
Below degree				1.428	0.057	***				1.421	0.058	***
Above degree				2.007	0.090	***				1.950	0.091	***
Tenure 1991 (reference = owner occupier)												
Social Renting				-0.755	0.033	***				-0.743	0.033	***
Private Renting				-0.356	0.060	***				-0.361	0.061	***
Constant	-1.223	0.013	***	0.184	0.081	**	-1.722	0.083	***	-0.353	0.124	***
Initial log likelihood	-19609.061											
Log Likelihood	-19658.145			-160808.726			-19356.099			-16711.077		
Pseudo R2	0.002			0.075			0.017			0.081		
Number of observations	36,328											

Probability of moving into high occupational status group in 2001 for individuals in low occupational status group in 1991

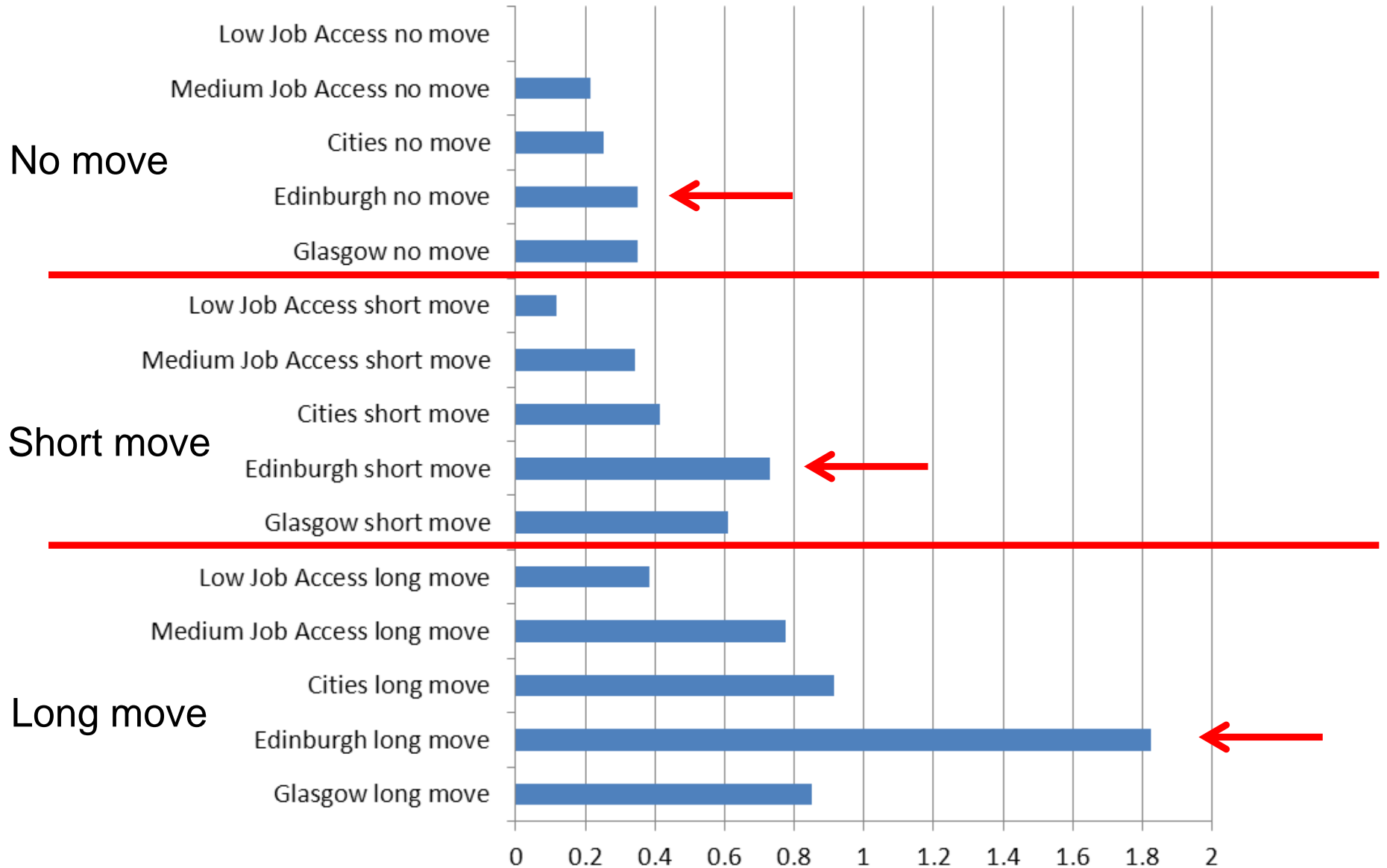
Model 1

coeff std err sig

Country of Birth (reference = Scotland)

Born England or Wales	0.392	0.051	***
Born Outside UK	0.294	0.091	***

Probability of moving into high occupational status group in 2001 for individuals in low occupational status group in 1991



Results summary

- Those who migrate over long distances within, or to Scotland are most likely to achieve upward occupational mobility.
- Those born outside Scotland experience greater occupational mobility, on average, than those born in Scotland.
- Edinburgh is by far the most important regional escalator in Scotland. This is an important finding as most literature on escalator regions focuses on international mega cities.

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