

Emigration and the age profile of retirement among immigrants

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Key Words:

retirement, return migration

Research aim:

This paper analyzes the relationship between immigrants retirement status and the prevalence of return migration from the host country to their country of origin.

Results/Conclusion:

We develop a simple theoretical model to illustrate that under reasonable conditions the probability of return migration is maximized at retirement. We find that immigrants, particularly immigrant women, are more likely to be retired than are native-born men and women with the same demographic, human capital, and family characteristics. Moreover, within the immigrant population, there is a negative relationship between the propensity to be retired and the return migration rate of ones fellow countrymen, particularly amongst men. This link is strongest for those individuals who are at (or near) retirement age and among those with the highest cost of return migration.

Implications:

These results suggest that the fiscal pressures associated with aging immigrant populations vary substantially across origin countries.

Cultural Group(s):

CALD

Location of study:

Age group:

retired

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Type of data:

Secondary

Secondary data sources used:

Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA)

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Discussion paper about factors influencing return migration of older immigrants at retirement.