

Shadows of the Boom: Migration and the Crisis

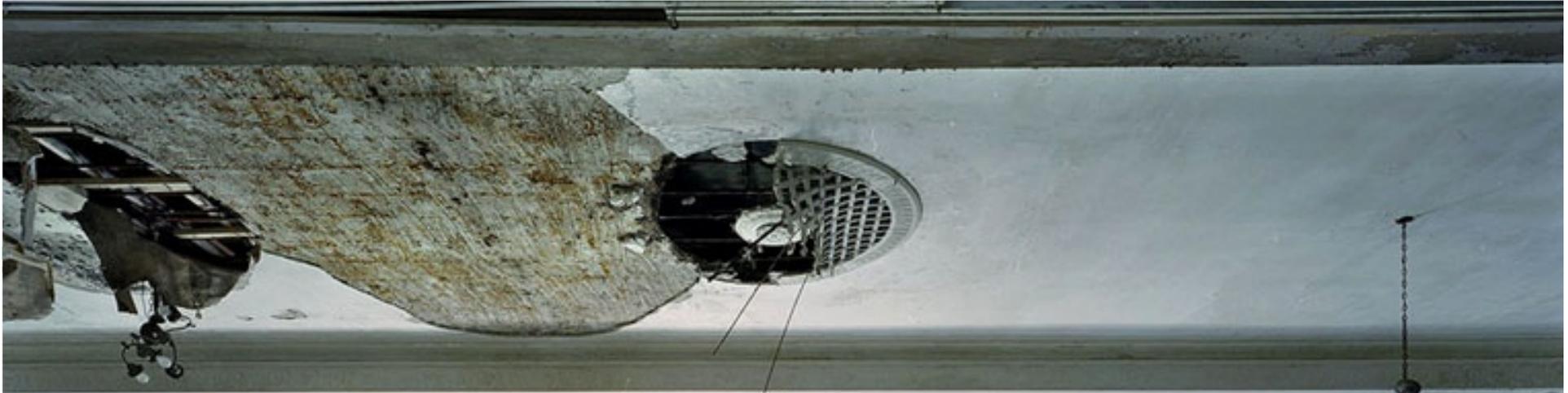
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“Labour Market, the Crisis and Migration”

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After the party's over...

Boosterism

Population estimates for Australia (1820s):
100m to 500m

“Kill, Pessimists, Bishop Advises”

Los Angeles Times c1921 cited Belich: 404

Table G Assumed average annual migration flows, 2006 to 2041

Scenario	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021	2021-2026	2026-2031	2031-2036	2036-2041
Thousands							
M1							
Immigration	80	70	60	50	50	50	50
Emigration	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Net migration	60	50	40	30	30	30	30
M2							
Immigration	70	55	45	30	30	30	30
Emigration	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Net migration	50	35	25	10	10	10	10

Population and
Labour Force
Projections
2011-2041
(CSO, 2008)

Overview

Key features of Ireland's immigration boom

Beyond the ethnic immigrant paradigm

- Polish migrants in Dublin

Possible long-term consequences

- For Ireland
- For Poland
- For migrants

New and old immigration

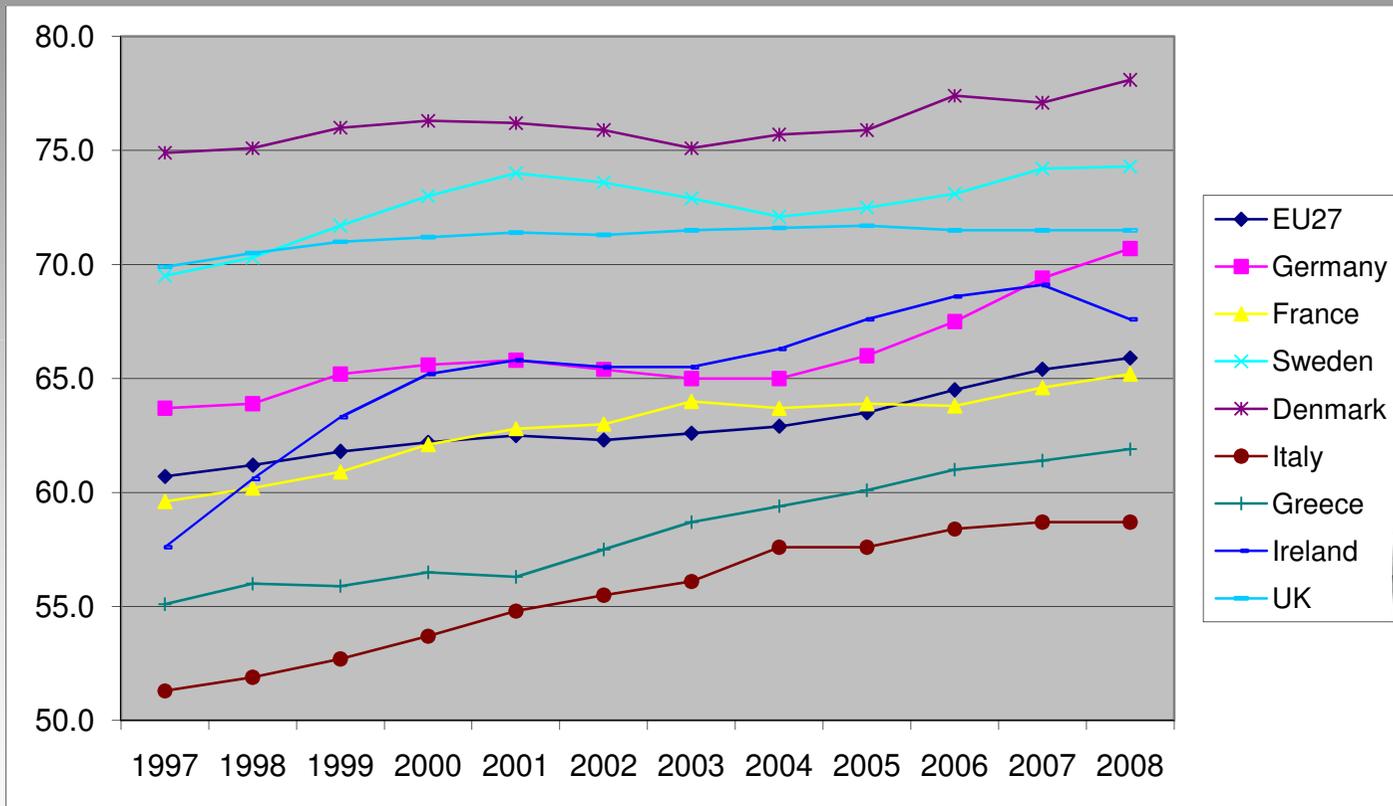
What's new:

- Buy not make (1) labour force activation
- Buy not make (2) education
- Free movers (1) Citizenship and employment
- Free movers (2) Deliberate indeterminacy

What's old

- Non-EU immigrants with low employment rates

Employment (ILO) Rates

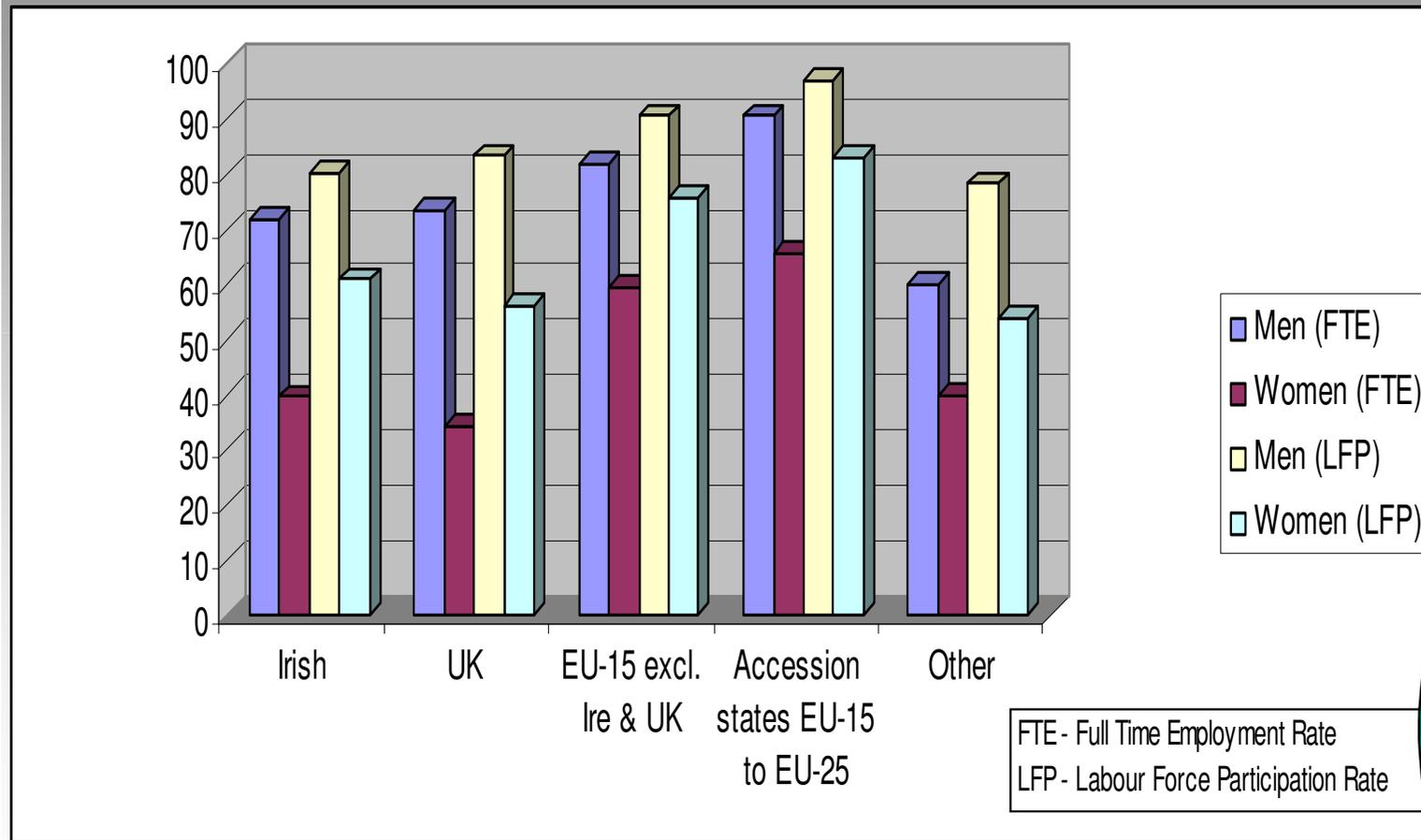


Even at the peak of the boom, Irish employment never even reached UK levels, let alone Scandinavian ones



Source; Employment in Europe

Full time employment and labour force participation 2006



Non-EU immigrants had employment rates below even Irish



Source; QNHS 2006 Q2 Micro-data (Age groups 15-64 only)

Researching Polish migrants in Dublin

- Three year project: migrants **at work**
- Core: Qualitative Panel Study
 - » 22 Polish migrants interviewed in 6 waves
 - » 132 semi-structured interviews
- Interviews with stakeholders
- Four sectors:
 - » Construction;
 - » Financial services
 - » Hospitality (hotels and restaurants)
 - » Software
 - » Initial desk research and sectoral reports
 - » Two waves of employer interviews
- Labour force survey (QNHS) micro-data

Qualitative Panel Study

- Tracing migrants
 - » Highly likely to change jobs and understandings – and this matters
So need to follow *individuals* over time
- Panel study
 - » Cross sectional data *and* longitudinal data
 - » Study change at the individual level
 - » Each wave can also have specific focus
- *Qualitative* panel study
 - » Semi-structured interviews – explorative
 - » Much smaller numbers: typologies not samples
 - » Develop individual biographies and in depth knowledge
 - » Trace change and own understandings of change
 - » Use as window onto migrants' social environment
- Sample
 - » 22 respondents opportunistic sampling
 - » Quotas (male/female; four sectors)
 - » 17 still in Ireland
 - » No panel attrition
 - » Interviewed face-to-face anywhere in Europe; otherwise telephone

QPS: Six waves

- Current employment
- Workplaces
- Social Relations (networks)
- Careers (worklife pathways)
- Keeping in Touch
- Looking back and looking forward

Wave 5 Interview guide (part)

ICT Usage and other transnational practices

I would like to do something a little different today. Show map of world!

Can you tell me who you talk to/communicate with?

What technologies do you use for communicating with these people?

Do you use different technologies for staying in touch with people in Dublin and elsewhere? [Are you still in touch with people in Ireland?]

(What other information and communication technologies do you use?

Mobile phone

Email

Texting

Skype

Social networking sites – Bebo, MySpace, Facebook

Specific Polish sites – Gadu Gadu, Nasza Klasa, Onet.

Polish Forums – Forum Polonia/ other?

Dating websites)

When did you start using these technologies?

Has your ICT usage changed since living in Ireland? [being back in Poland]

Beyond Ethnic Immigrant?

Ways in which Polish migration challenges the Ethnic Immigrant Paradigm

- Occupational structure
- Settlement
- Ethnic networks
- Citizenship
- Motivation
- Mobility

Occupational structure

- Not all in unskilled occupations
 - » Construction workers with third level qualifications – maximising short-term earnings
 - » Hospitality sector – classic entry point for ‘over-educated’ new arrivals
- Some direct entry using qualifications
 - » Architects, engineers, financial analysts
- Extensive routine white-collar occupations
 - » Financial services, software support
- Key component ‘middling migration’
- NOT ‘new European servant class’ (Favell)

Settlement

- Initially all assumed only temporary and short-term
- Yet despite recession many are staying
 - » Workplace autonomy
 - » Lifestyle
 - » Welfare rights
 - » Changed motivations

Ethnic networks

- Informal connections important for access to housing and employment
 - » Networks are short-term, instrumental
- Interweave with market
 - » (from 'selling' jobs to sponsored recruitment)
- Interweave with virtual networks
 - » Social networking sites (Nasza Klasa)

Citizenship

- Intra-EU migration
- Rights-based European citizenship
 - » Common access to employment rights (minimum wage as floor)
 - » Social welfare rights but subject to Habitual Residence Condition
 - » Limits workplace exploitation
- Thin European identity
 - » European 'add on' to Polish identity (Fligstein)
 - » Disinterest in Irish citizenship, unlike non-EU immigrants

European rights

- *It's not that anybody gives you anything, they don't do you a favour, the fact that you are here, [not that] you need a visa or you need to bow low to everybody around. It's my right to be here (P13(m); W6)*

Motivation

- Initial motivation to earn money
 - Accept any job, only short-term
 - » Some initial plans to improve English
 - » Also 'adventure', 'escape'
 - » In our respondents no family strategies
- Shift to boundaryless career (Arthur & Rousseau)
 - » Discover new abilities, develop own generic skills
 - » Access new 'modern' corporate structures
 - » Middle ranking self-employment
- Shift to self-development
 - » Jobs in medium term as means to end
 - » From labour migration to life style migration?
- Emerging worklife pathways

Mobility

- From long distance coach to Ryanair (Williams & Balaz, 2009)
 - » Cheap, often spontaneous (not like train journeys)
 - » Back for hairdresser, dentist...
 - » Building the apartment
- Ireland as jumping off point
 - » Foreign holidays
 - » Meeting friends relatives acquaintances elsewhere in Europe
 - » Long distance working travel (e.g. Brazil)
- Ireland as access to the Anglosphere
 - » For permanent settlement really only USA, Australia, Canada

Looking back

- *It seems to me that in Poland I wouldn't have had opportunities like that, such a fast promotion, or that I wouldn't have been able to get the training that I got during 2 years in the previous hotel. At this age I wouldn't have achieved all of that in Poland, what I achieved in here. (...) despite a recession, job loss, starting from scratch, it's positive anyway. And I know it will be better. (P13 (f) (hotel duty manager); W6)*

From migration to mobility?

- One of many contemporary migrations that doesn't fit EIP
- Prototypical for other *West* European migrations?
 - » Graduate under-employment at home and flexible labour markets abroad?
- Lessons from mobility studies
 - » Take technology seriously
 - » Mobility of artefacts and finance
 - » No assumptions of permanence or motivation
- BUT
 - » Still structured by state (national, EU) borders and territory
 - » Migration is not just mobility

Consequences for Ireland

- Restructured employment relationships
 - » Clear in hospitality, less so in construction
- New skills and orientations in workforce?
- But problems avoided again