

# Migration and the 'left-behind places'

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# Left-behind places: a brief history

- Government concern about ‘LBP’ dates at least as far back as the aftermath of the Great Depression and the Jarrow March, notably the ‘Special Areas’ Act of 1934
- Interventions continued through the post-war period, e.g. ‘Development Areas’, urban regeneration initiatives, and support for coastal communities and former mining towns
- These were paralleled by a great amount of academic and media interest, with the latest concerns neatly summarised by Rodrigues-Pose’s (2018) view that Brexit and the rise of populism constitute ‘the revenge of the LBP’
- Latest government initiative is the Stronger Towns Fund (STF), announced March 4<sup>th</sup>, with £1.6b for 2019-2026, of which £1b is to be allocated on ‘a needs-based formula targeting places with weaker economies, lower incomes and fewer skills’
- Aims today are to identify the specific places which the STF is likely to be targeting and show how the ONS Longitudinal Study (ONS-LS) can help to study their migration patterns

# The ONS Longitudinal Study

- A 4/365 (c 1.1%) sample of persons present in censuses in England and Wales, 1971-2011. The sample birthdates are not disclosed
- Data consists of (de-identified) microdata records
- Sample members are linked across censuses
  - Data for other persons in the household are also available; these are not linked across censuses
- Most census records are available with detailed coding; a few fields have restricted access
- Around 513,000 persons in the 1971 file, growing to 582,000 in the 2011 sample; over 1 million individuals present across the whole series

# Expectations from previous work

- My own interest dates from 1985 with the first of a series of reports on 'Booming Towns' (with Anne Green), which adopted the (US) *Places Rated Almanac* in ranking CURDS Local Labour Market Areas using an index based on combination of indicators – result:  
1. Winchester, Hants; through to... 280. Consett, Co Durham
- Most recent CURDS study (*Unequal Growth*, for JRF, 2017) ranked the UK's largest 74 cities on 'index of relative decline': highest was Rochdale, then Burnley, Bolton, Blackburn, Hull, Grimsby, Dundee, Middlesbrough, Bradford, and Blackpool
- ONS also active, notably its *Major Towns and Cities* report (March 2016) on the 112 urban areas with >75,000 people:
  - lowest median house price: Burnley, Oldham, Bradford, Halifax
  - most deprived (IMD): Oldham, West Bromwich, Liverpool, Walsall
  - most net out-commuting: Sutton Coldfield, Chatham, South Shields
- Latest from ONS is *Understanding Towns* (July 2019), which covers 1,186 urban areas with 5,000-225,000 people: 91 >75,000, 347 20,000-75,000 and 748 5,000-20,000, with data on 5 indicators

# Our approach in outline

- **Create** a ranking of ‘places’ via a composite index based on the criteria set out in the MHCLG’s announcement of the Stronger Towns Fund (STF), see:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stronger-towns-fund/stronger-towns-fund-questions-and-answers>
- **Group** the places into deciles and examine their aggregate characteristics, with a particular focus on the lowest-ranking of the 10 categories, i.e. the places most likely to qualify for the £1b pot
- As regards studying migration behaviour, **focus on address changing between these 10 categories**, seeing what % of residents in 2001 were in the same decile in 2011 and, if different, in which other one
- **So far, we have looked** at 4 variables: gender, age, ethnicity (as reported in 2011) and housing tenure (as reported in both 2001 and 2011 to detect tenure change)

# Creating our STF index I

- According to the MHCLG's announcement on the STF, the formula is being 'based on a combination of productivity, income, skills, deprivation measures and the proportion of people living in towns' – so presumably using data for individual Local Authorities on these five dimensions
- So, to construct an index for England's Local Authorities, we have gathered data on these five dimensions, specifically:
- **Productivity:** sub-regional estimates (NUTS3 re-cast as LA)  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/articles/regionalandsubregionalproductivityintheuk/february2018>  
Lower productivity = lower rank
- **Income:** estimates of gross disposable household income  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/regionalaccounts/grossdisposablehouseholdincome/datasets/regionalgrossdisposablehouseholdincomegdhbylocalauthorityintheuk>  
Lower household income = lower rank

# Creating our STF index II

- **Skills:** aggregate 2011 Census counts  
Proportion of persons with no qualifications or level 1 qualifications as highest qualifications  
Higher proportion of these persons = lower rank
- **Deprivation:** IMD 2015  
Proportion of LSOAs in lowest decile, then proportion in second decile etc...  
Higher proportion of LSOAs in lowest decile = lower rank
- **Proportion living in towns**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2011-rural-urban-classification-of-local-authority-and-other-higher-level-geographies-for-statistical-purposes>  
Proportion of the 2011 population living in 'rural towns', then proportion in 'rural other', then 'other urban', then 'large urban', then 'major urban'  
Higher proportion in rural towns etc = lower rank

# Creating our STF index III

- The rank scores for each dimension were summed to give an (equally weighted) overall score
- Then the overall score was converted to a rank value, from which rank deciles were derived
- These decile scores were then attached to data from the ONS Longitudinal Study by:
  - harmonising the LA area codes and then attaching deciles to 2011 districts
  - attaching 2011-type area codes to 2001 districts (replicating where districts were merged in the 2011 Census output), and then attaching the decile codes to the 2001 districts



# Result: the LA membership of the 'weakest' decile

1 East Lindsey (EM)	9 Doncaster (YH)	17 Blackburn with D (NW)	25 Burnley (NW)
2 Redcar & C'land (NE)	10 Bassetlaw (EM)	18 Oldham (NW)	26 Mansfield (EM)
3 Tendring (EE)	11 Bradford (YH)	19 N Lincolnshire (YH)	27 Hyndburn (NW)
4 County Durham (NE)	12 Wakefield (YH)	20 St. Helens (NW)	28 Wigan (NW)
5 Barnsley (YH)	13 NE Lincs (YH)	21 Bolsover (EM)	29 Knowsley (NW)
6 Great Yarmouth (EE)	14 Walsall (WM)	22 Blackpool (NW)	30 S Holland (EM)
7 Copeland (NW)	15 Rotherham (YH)	23 Kingston-u-Hull (YH)	31 W Lindsey (EM)
8 Stoke-on-Trent (WM)	16 Allerdale (NW)	24 Swale (SE)	32 Pendle (NW)

Notes: Ranked, with weakest = 1. Regional location in brackets. Mainly NE North East, NW North West, YH Yorkshire & Humber; but also some WM West Midlands, EM East Midlands, EE East and one SE South East. Mainly old industrial & mining, some coastal and/or remoter rural

Sources: the slides 'Creating our STF index I and II', see above

# Our data on (10-year) migration

2001 decile	2011 decile										Total 2001
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	41882	1020	1602	778	484	448	454	231	204	210	47313
2	1000	37412	1187	940	630	415	719	377	265	258	43203
3	1584	1218	47770	1219	836	663	947	574	365	487	55663
4	722	913	1017	31499	954	743	792	676	370	397	38083
5	440	623	839	972	28683	569	963	602	457	408	34556
6	384	430	721	800	568	23612	825	820	504	407	29071
7	432	695	826	940	962	1042	31849	946	1030	702	39424
8	298	475	615	814	740	1125	1223	27368	1289	797	34744
9	312	471	572	649	773	896	1586	1538	31124	2259	40180
10	217	405	464	475	526	620	1038	1127	2948	26626	34446
<b>Total 2011</b>	47271	43662	55613	39086	35156	30133	40396	34259	38556	32551	396683

## Notes:

This is the standard format used for our data extraction from ONS-LS, i.e. an origin-destination matrix based on 2001 and 2011 deciles

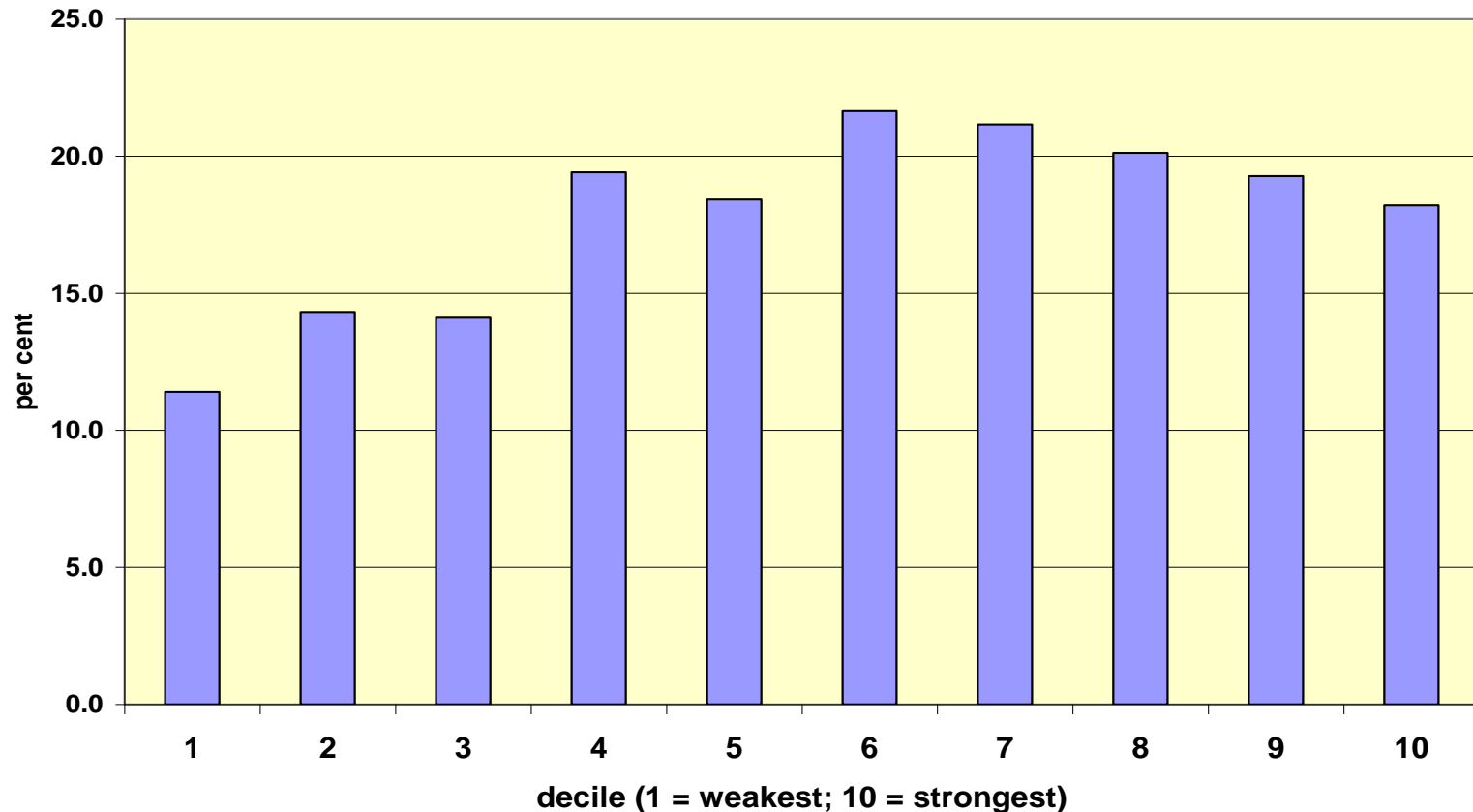
This particular table is for all LS members identified in both the 2001 and 2011 Censuses = 396,683

Similar tables have been generated for males, females, 16-25, 26-45, 46-64, 65+, white, other ethnicity, owner occupier, social renter, private renter

All these tables have publication clearance from ONS and all the results that follow are based entirely on these outputs

# What % of a decile's 2011 residents had been living in a different decile in 2001?

**% of decile's 2011 residents moving in from a different decile in 2001  
(newcomers)**

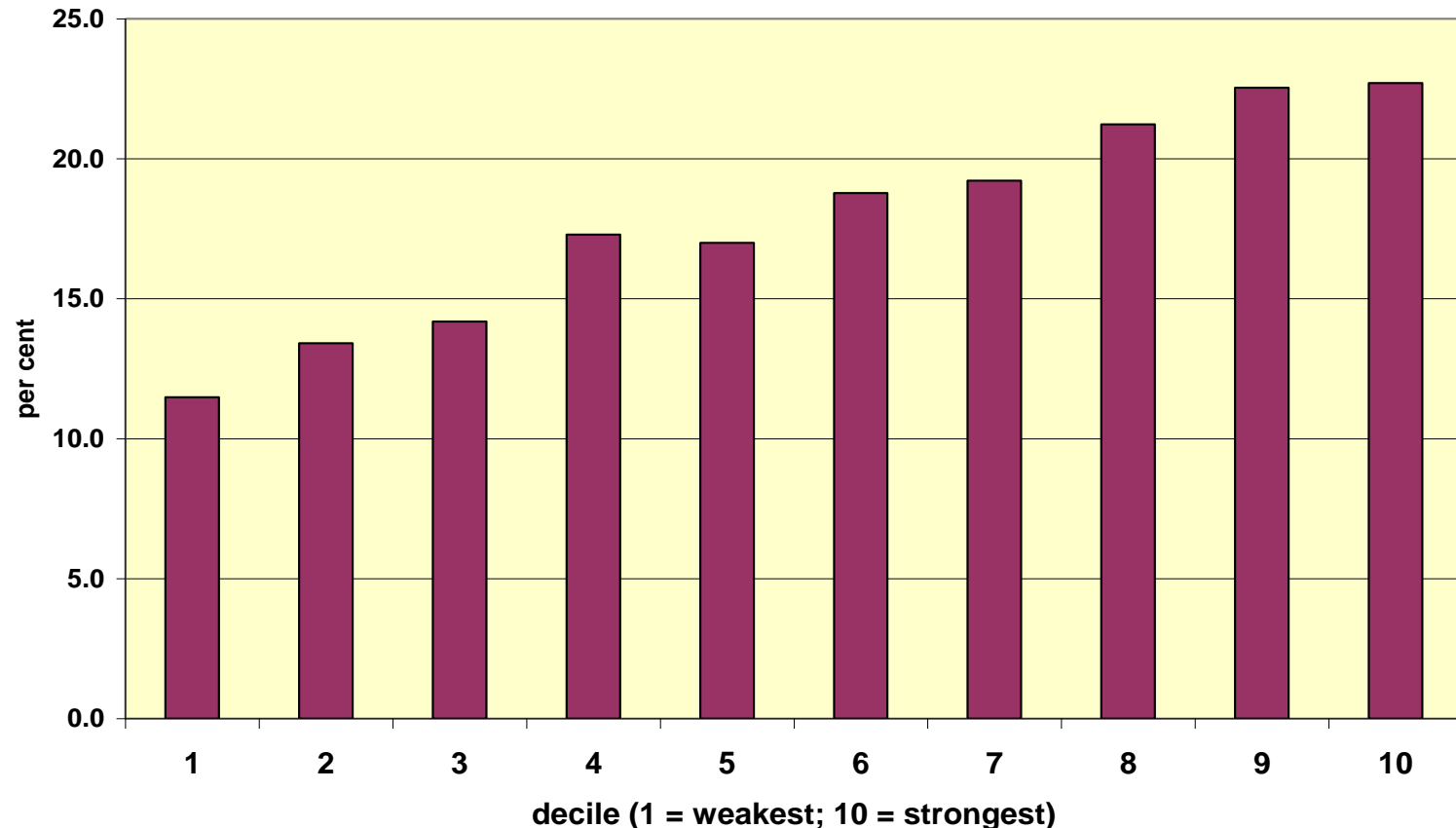


Decile 1 (weakest) is the least attractive for newcomers; decile 6 the most attractive with rate dropping off for strongest deciles – places that are harder to enter?

Source: Calculated from ONS Longitudinal Study tables cleared for publication

# What % of a decile's 2001 residents had moved out to a different decile by 2011?

**% of decile's 2001 residents moving out to a different decile in 2011  
(leavers)**

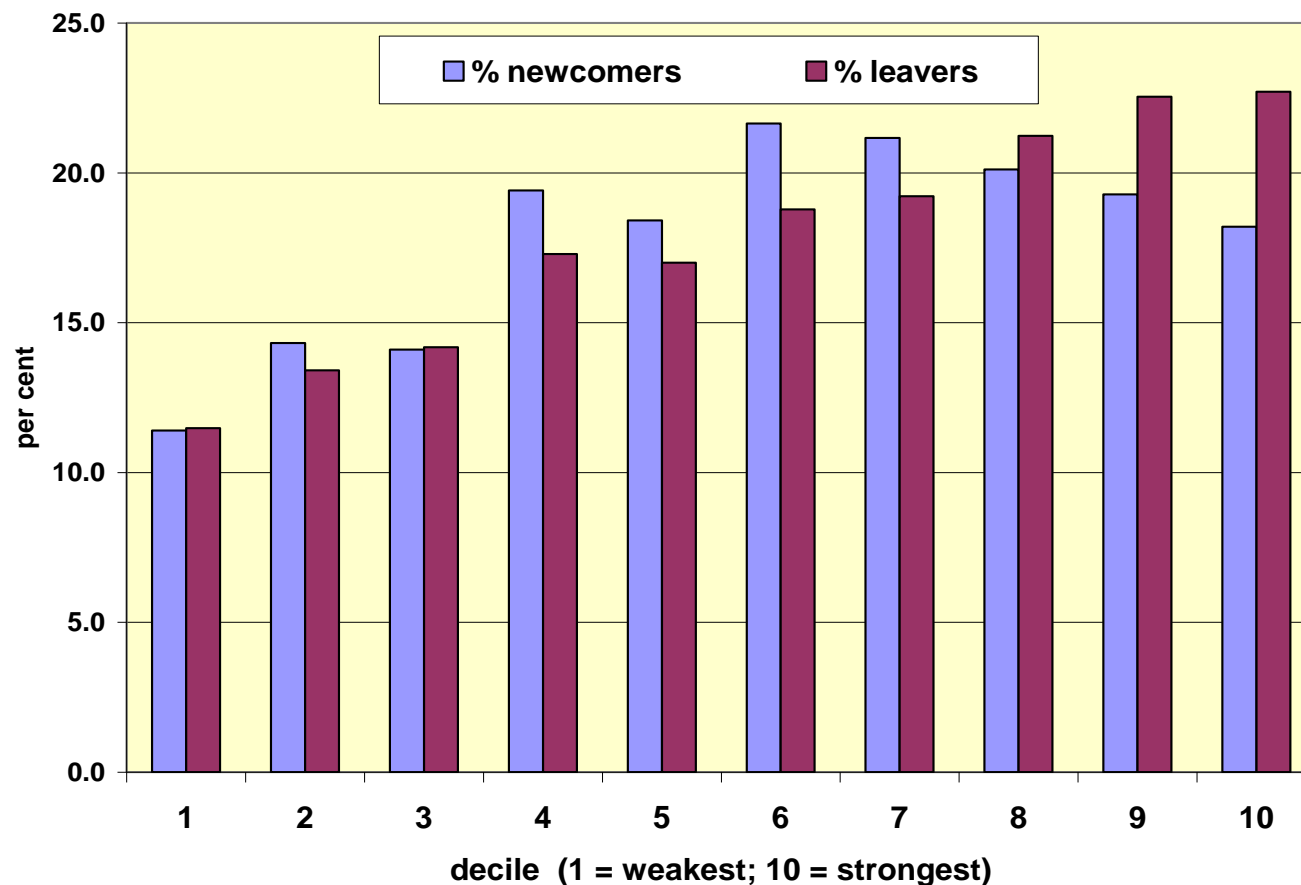


Decile 1 (weakest) lost the fewest residents, with fairly regular increase in leaving rate with rising strength – reflects the greater mobility of stronger places

Source: Calculated from ONS Longitudinal Study tables cleared for publication

# What net change in the deciles' populations due to these leavers and newcomers?

% newcomers and leavers, 2001-2011, by decile

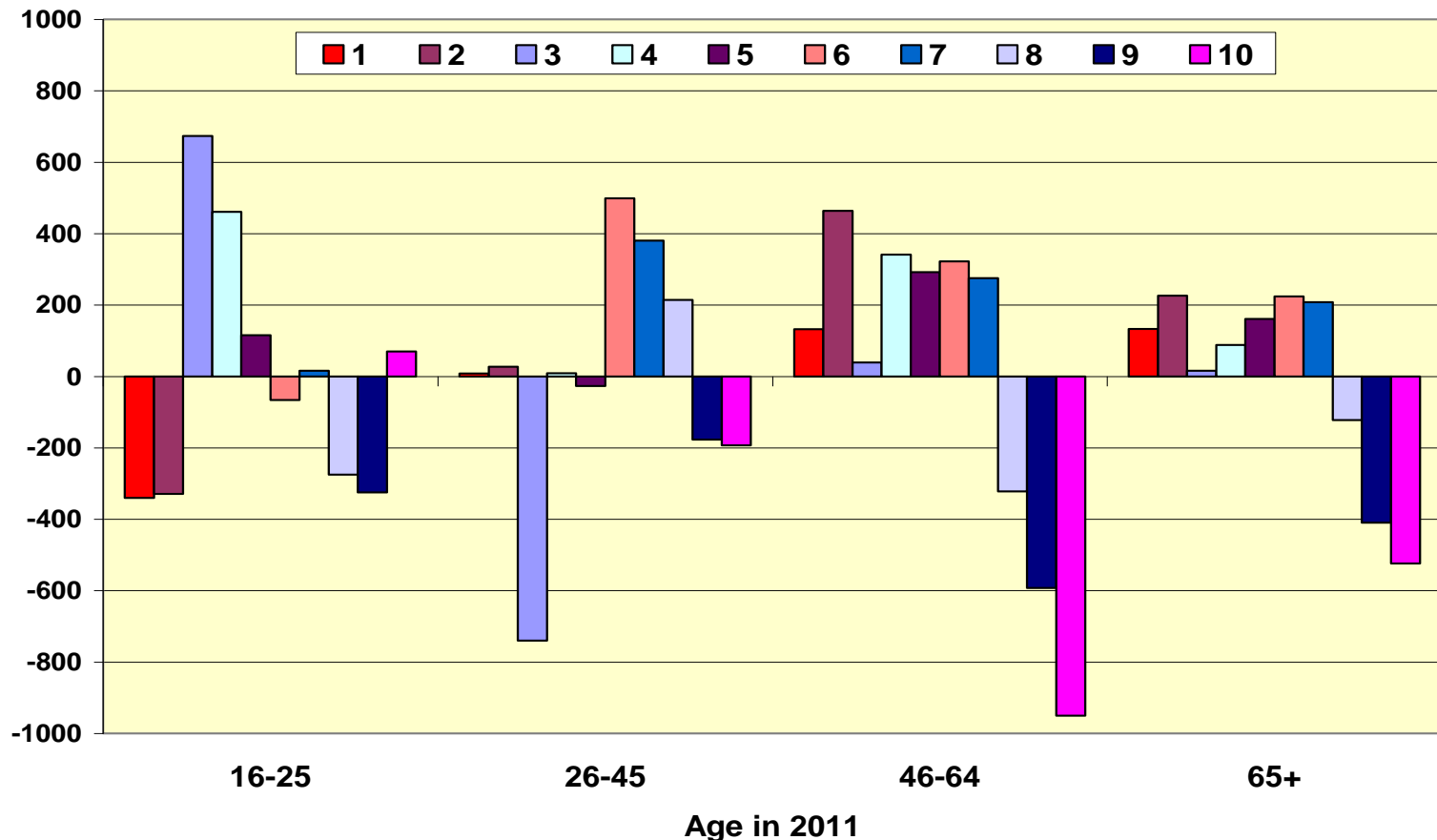


Deciles 1-3 (weakest) have the lowest 10-year turnover and net change; 4-7 grow fastest, and 8-10 (the strongest including London Boroughs) lose population

Source: Calculated from ONS Longitudinal Study tables cleared for publication

# How do the various age groups contribute to this net migration 2001-2011?

Net change in residents, 2001-2011, by age group and decile

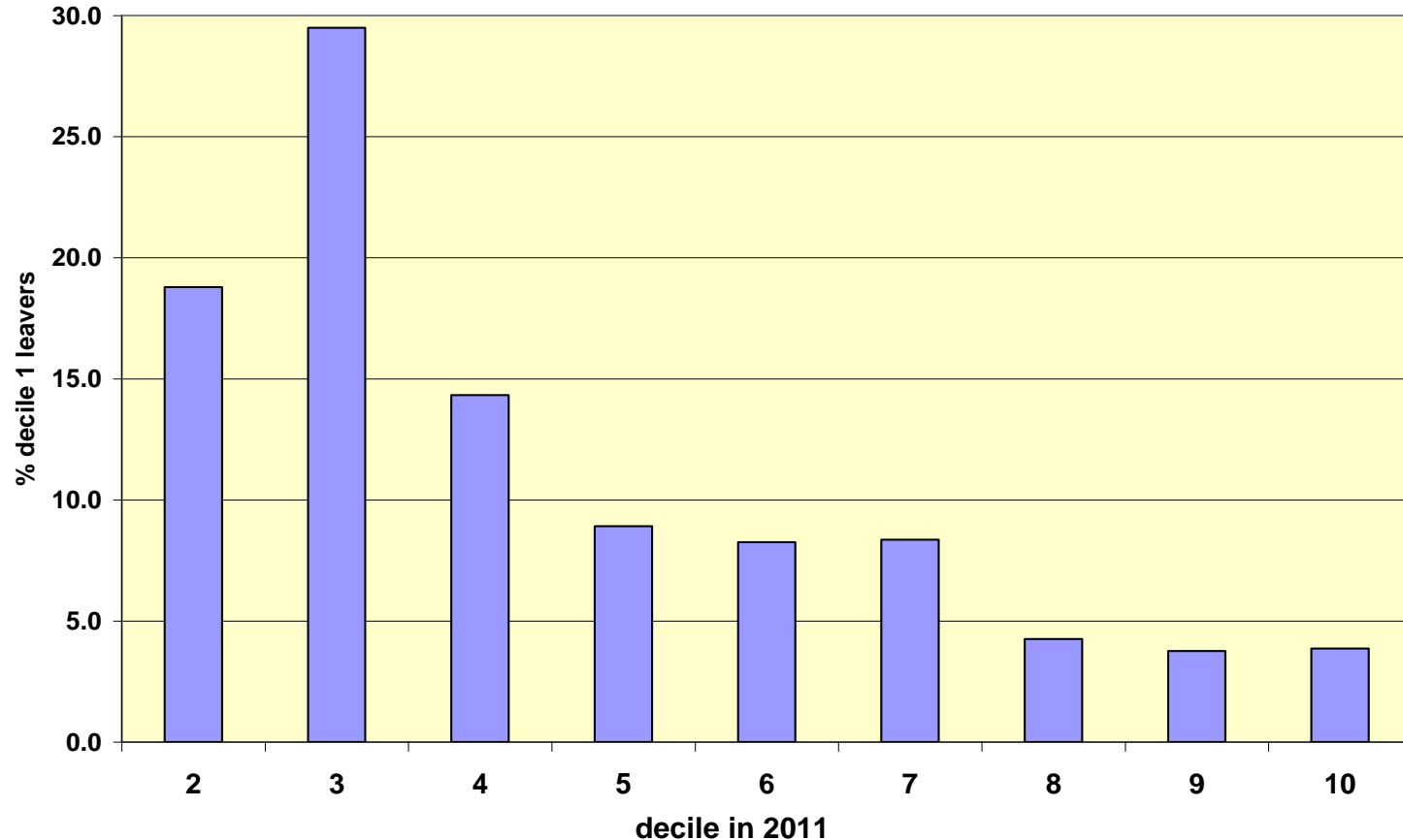


Decile 1 (in red) loses 16-25s (aged 6-15 in 2001) but gains 46+, as does decile 2; the strongest (i.e. with highest living costs) lose older people to all deciles except 3 (decile with university towns?)

Source: Calculated from ONS Longitudinal Study tables cleared for publication

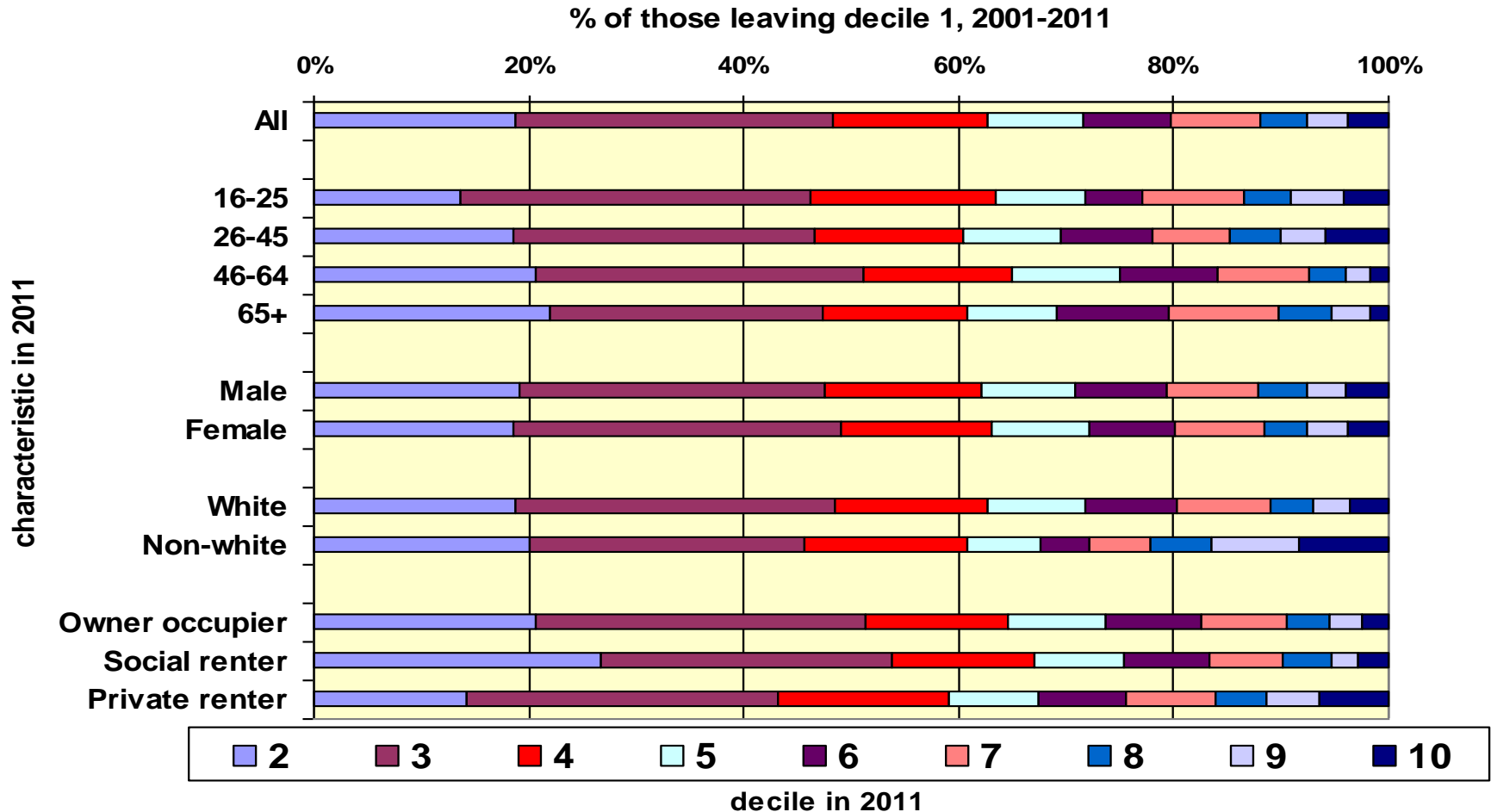
# Those who left decile 1 after 2001: in which decile were they living in 2011?

Destination decile of those leaving decile 1, 2001-2011



The vast majority moved to the 3 next weakest deciles (2-4), with 8-9% to each of the 3 next stronger (5-7) and fewest to the 3 strongest (8-10, ca 4% each). Partly due to housing cost etc. But also, most migration tends to be short-distance to surrounding (similar) places.  
Source: Calculated from ONS Longitudinal Study tables cleared for publication

# Where were those leaving decile 1 living in 2011, by characteristic?

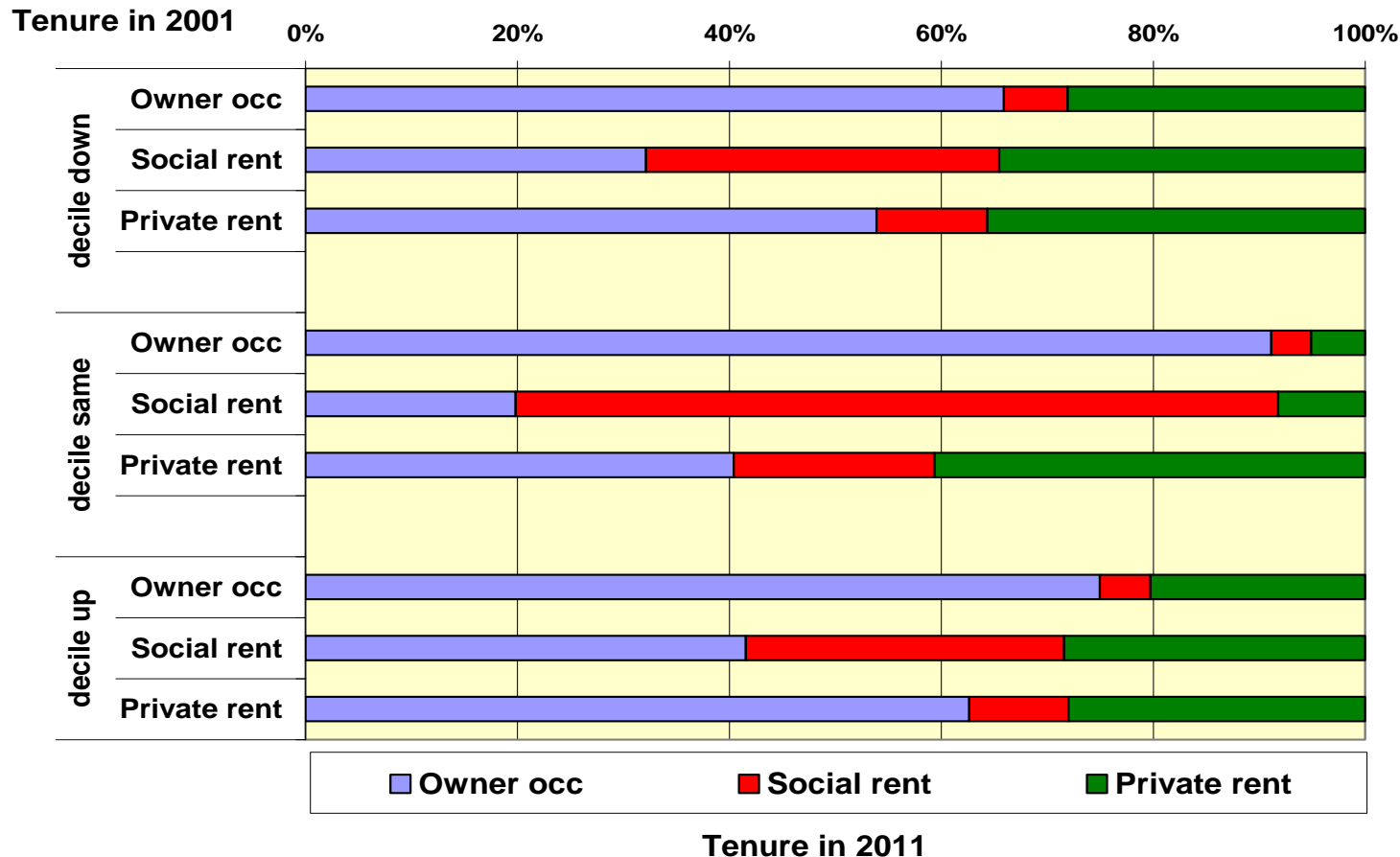


Top bar is same data as on previous slide (for benchmarking). Those aged 65+ and social renters more likely to move to decile 2 (next weakest) than average. 16-25s and private renters (as of 2011) less likely to move to decile 2, but more so to decile 3.

Source: Calculated from ONS Longitudinal Study tables cleared for publication



# Change in housing tenure, 2001-2011, by whether staying in same decile or moving to a weaker or stronger one



Making use of data for start of period as well as at end, for a characteristic that can change over time especially if moving home. Note the bigger shift from private renting for moving to lower or higher decile than staying in same one. More stay owners if moving up than down. Source: Calculated from ONS Longitudinal Study tables cleared for publication

# Findings from an initial look at LS-ONS migration data from a STF perspective

- The focus here has been on ONS-LS members moving between deciles of a LA-based Stronger Towns Index between 2001 and 2011
- The weakest three deciles contained the fewest 2001-2011 incomers from the other deciles, but also had the fewest leavers, reflecting their less migratory populations
- The weakest two deciles recorded big net losses of 16-25s, while the three strongest made big losses of those aged 46+, the latter associated with retirement and family reasons
- The weakest decile's leavers moved mainly to the three next weakest deciles, with 65+ & social renters focusing on decile 2 and 16-25s and private renters focusing on decile 3
- In terms of change in tenure between 2001 and 2011, more people who started as private renters became owners if they moved to a stronger decile than to a weaker one or stayed put

# Benefits of using the ONS-LS to study migration

- Its linked census data allows the analysis of 10-year address changing, allowing long-term trends to be identified, e.g. comparing 2001-2011 with 1991-2001 and back to 1971-81
- Classification codings (like the Stronger Towns Index used here) can be attached to the relevant geographies stored for LS members' usual addresses at each census
- In using the linked census records, migration can be analysed in terms of people's 'starting' characteristics (cf the migration data from each census which has just the after-move details)
- As a result, people can be classified in terms of the changes in people's characteristics over the decade, e.g. whether movers changed, e.g., their qualifications, occupation, housing tenure
- The next step would be to replicate the 'escalator region' approach but concentrating on the weakest places and seeing how well their leavers fared compared to their stayers

# Acknowledgements & disclaimer

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