

Labour Mobility and Responses to Local and Global Economic Crisis in Iceland.

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By

Grétar Thór Eythórsson professor University of Akureyri, Iceland (gretar@unak.is)

&

Vífill Karlsson associate professor University of Akureyri and consultant at Federation of Municipalities in West Iceland. (vifill@ssv.is)

Abstract

In this paper we investigate labour mobility in rural Iceland, both detecting presence of mobility and whether it has changed as a consequence of the collapse in Iceland in the autumn 2008. General data on mobility in the urban and rural Iceland are looked at and we look especially at two rural communities, one typical agricultural and service community in west Iceland and one fishing community of two towns located in the northern periphery of Iceland. The research is based on official data on the general trend and for the specific cases we look at findings from focus groups meeting in the two communities; Borgarbyggð in west Iceland and Fjallabyggð in north Iceland held in the autumn 2010 where the research objective was to investigate the foresight, hopes and visions of the inhabitants in these areas and develop strategies for nearest future. In this paper we look at the trend by comparing labour mobility in the urban and rural Iceland, before and after the collapse in 2008.