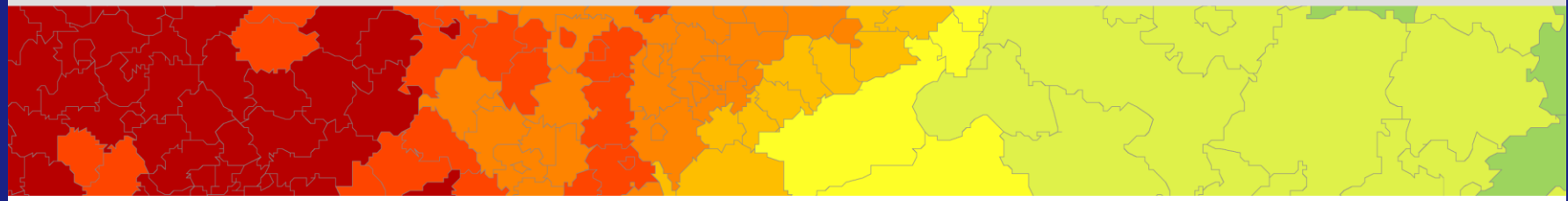

YOUNG WOMEN ON THE RUN – A SNAPSHOT FROM RURAL SWEDEN

THE CASE OF VÄSTERNORRLAND'S COUNTY

NORBA/NS-RSA-Conference, Oslo, March 14-15 20102

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Formalities

SEMIGRA (Selective Migration and unbalanced Sex Ratio in Rural Regions) is an ESPON priority 2-project.

Stakeholders and case studies:
Region Sachsen-Anhalt (lead stakeholder), GE
Region Västernorrland, SE
Region Kainuu, FI
Region Alföld, HU
Region Magyarország, HU

Lead partner: IFL, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig

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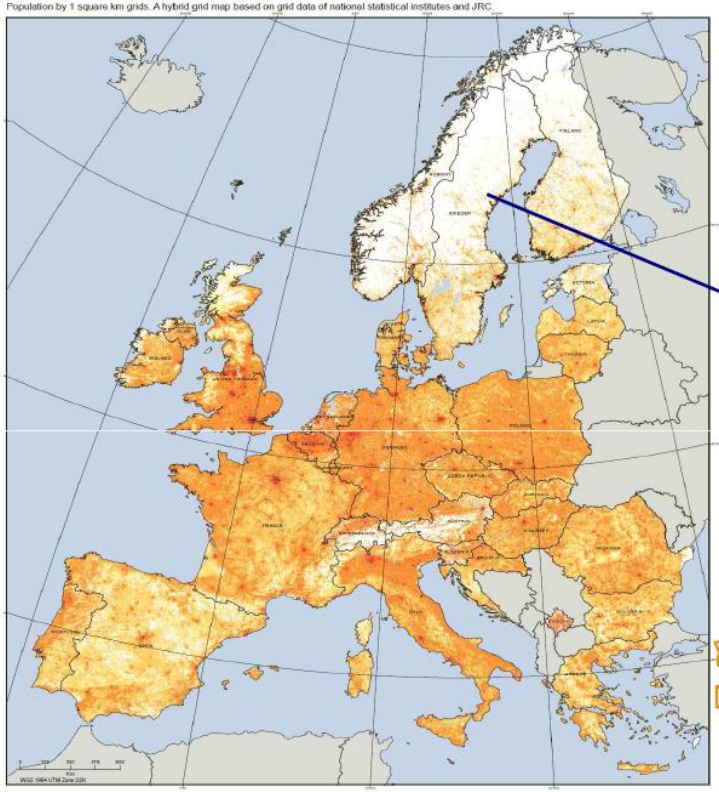
Västernorrland in Europe

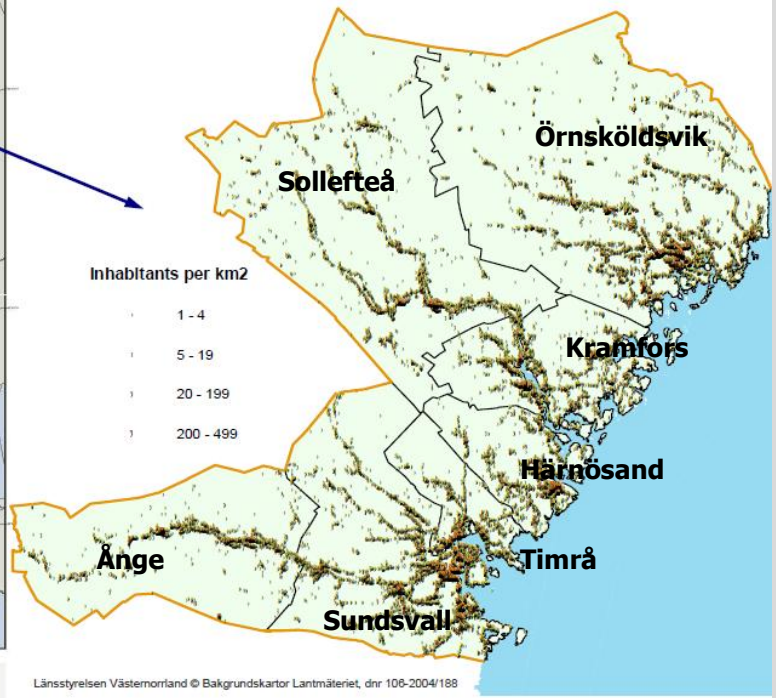
Population patterns in Europe

GEOSTAT Population Map 2010

Population by 1 square km grids. A hybrid grid map based on grid data of national statistical institutes and JRC.



Region	Inhabitants	Land area	Inhbitants per km^2
Västernorrland	243 000	21 684	11.2
Sweden	9 341 000	410 335	22.8
EU27	501 091 000	4 303 401	116.4



Länsstyrelsen Västernorrland © Bakgrundskartor Lantmäteriet, dnr 106-2004/188

Population – a necessary factor for economic and social activities

Point of departure: the demographic equation

Population development=natural population change+net-migration

The agricultural society:

natural population change dominated (exceptions; the emigration waves)

The industrial society:
Urban population change – both natural population growth and net in-migration
Rural population change – natural population growth but net out-migration

The post-industrial societies:

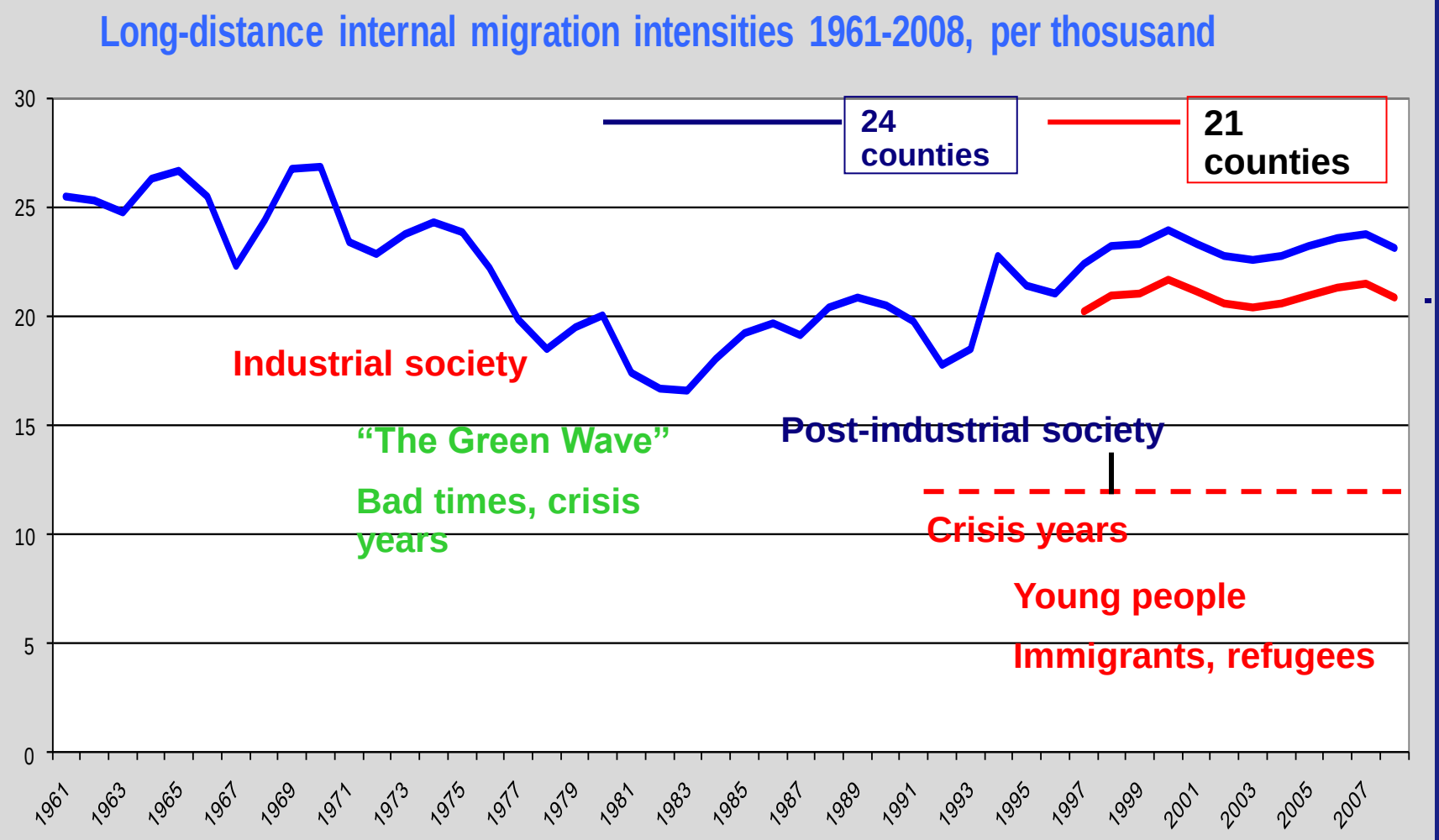
Migration the prime driver behind regional population changes

Out-migration (and natural) + low fertility → eroding reproduction potentials

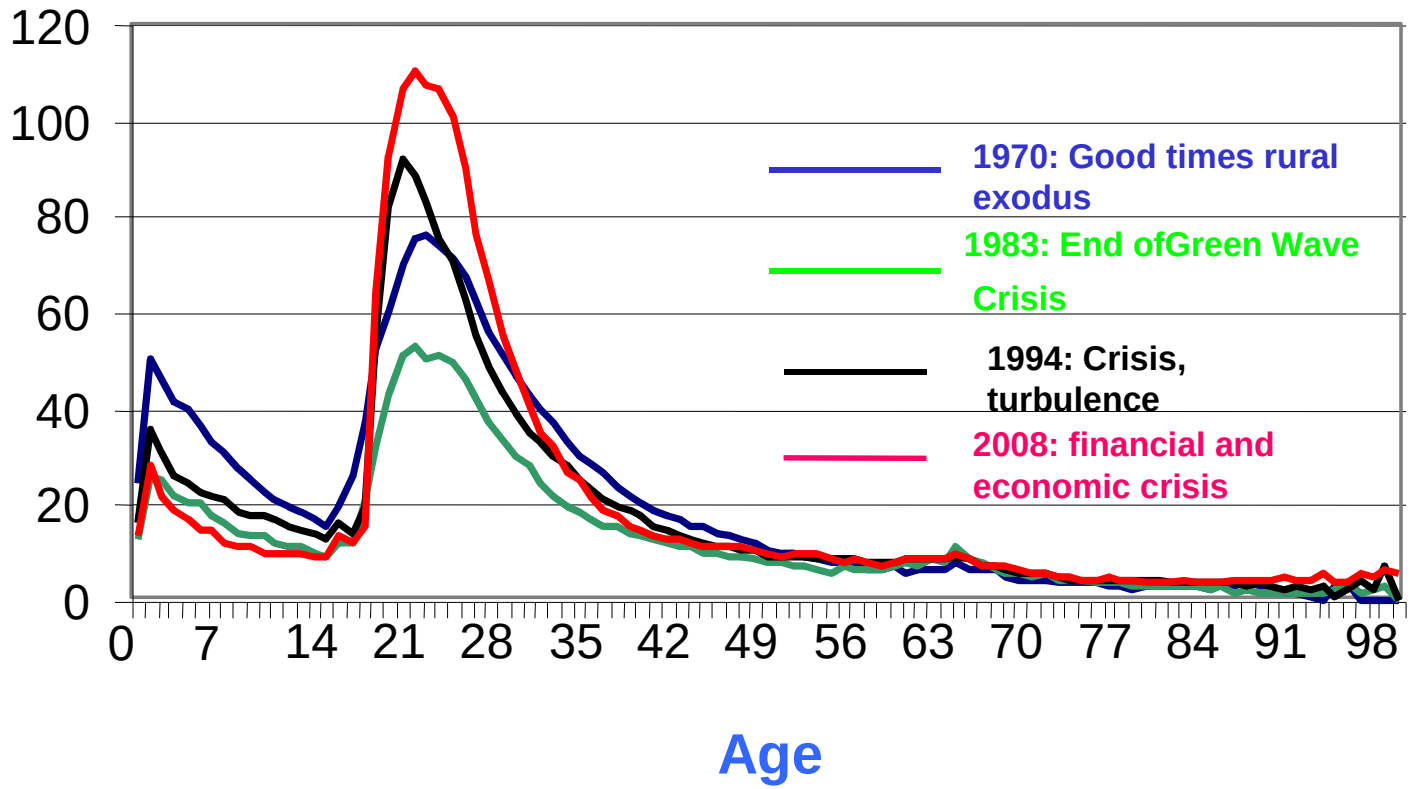
Migratory movements:

indications of expanding and retarding regions

Background: Long-distance migration in Sweden 1961-2008, per thousand



Long-distance age-specific migration intensities, 1970, 1983, 1994 and 2008

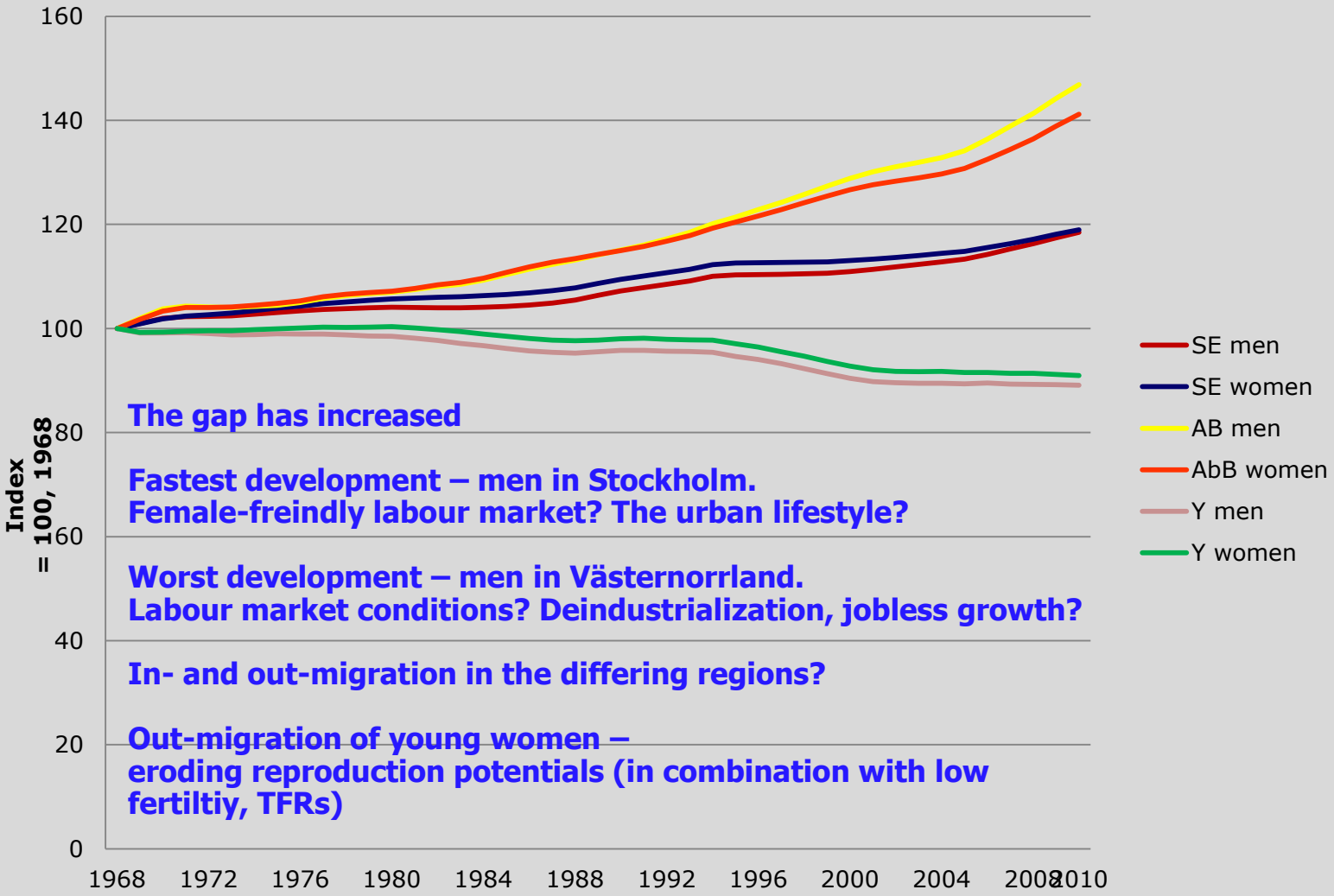


The dominance of the young people has been reinforced!

Younger women more active over time

Family migration as highest 1970!

Background: Population development 1968-2010 in Sweden (SE), Stockholm (AB) and Västernorrland's (Y) counties.



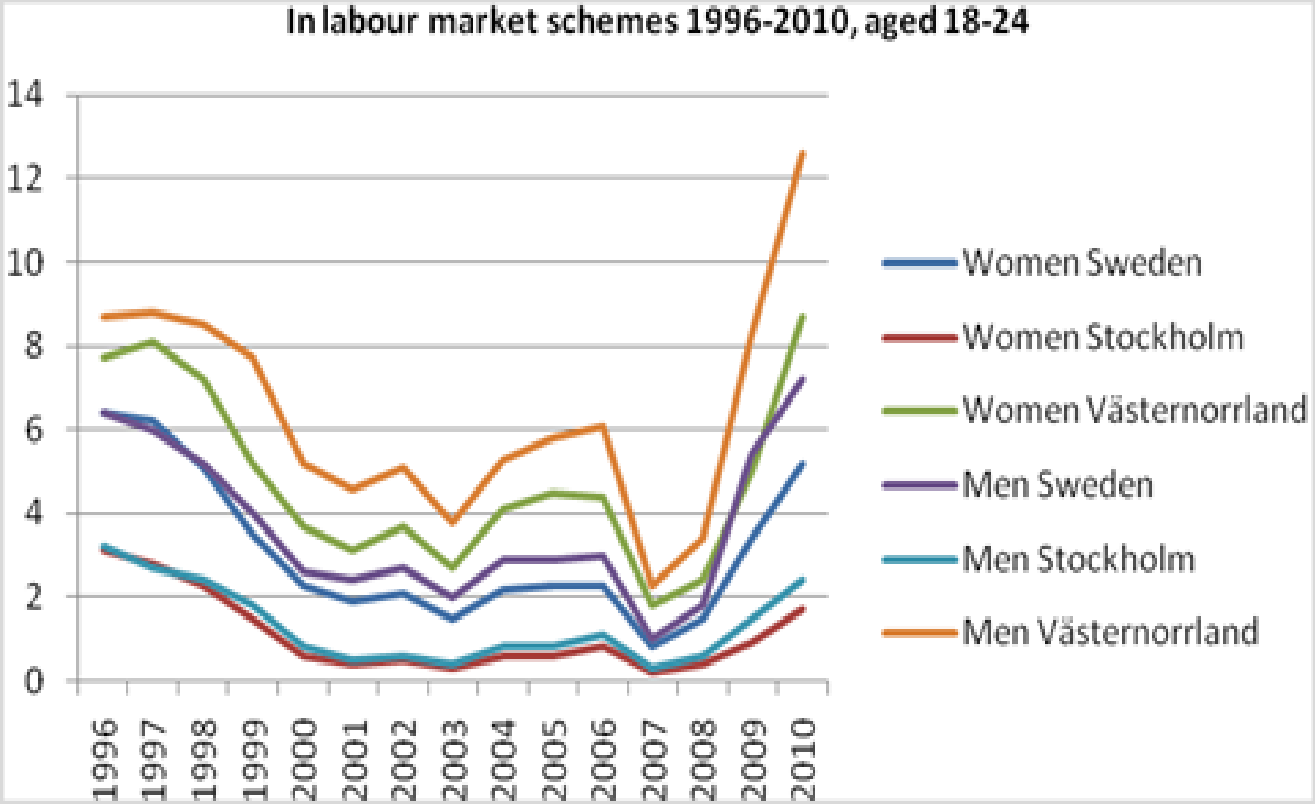
Labour market problems: Unemployment, young adults 1996-2010, both sexes

Highest 1996/97 – crisis years

Men in Västernorrland highest all years, "male-unfriendly" labour market, jobless growth

Women in Stockholm – lowest all years "female-friendly "labour market, high share in service production

Labour market problems:
Young adults in labour market schemes, both sexes

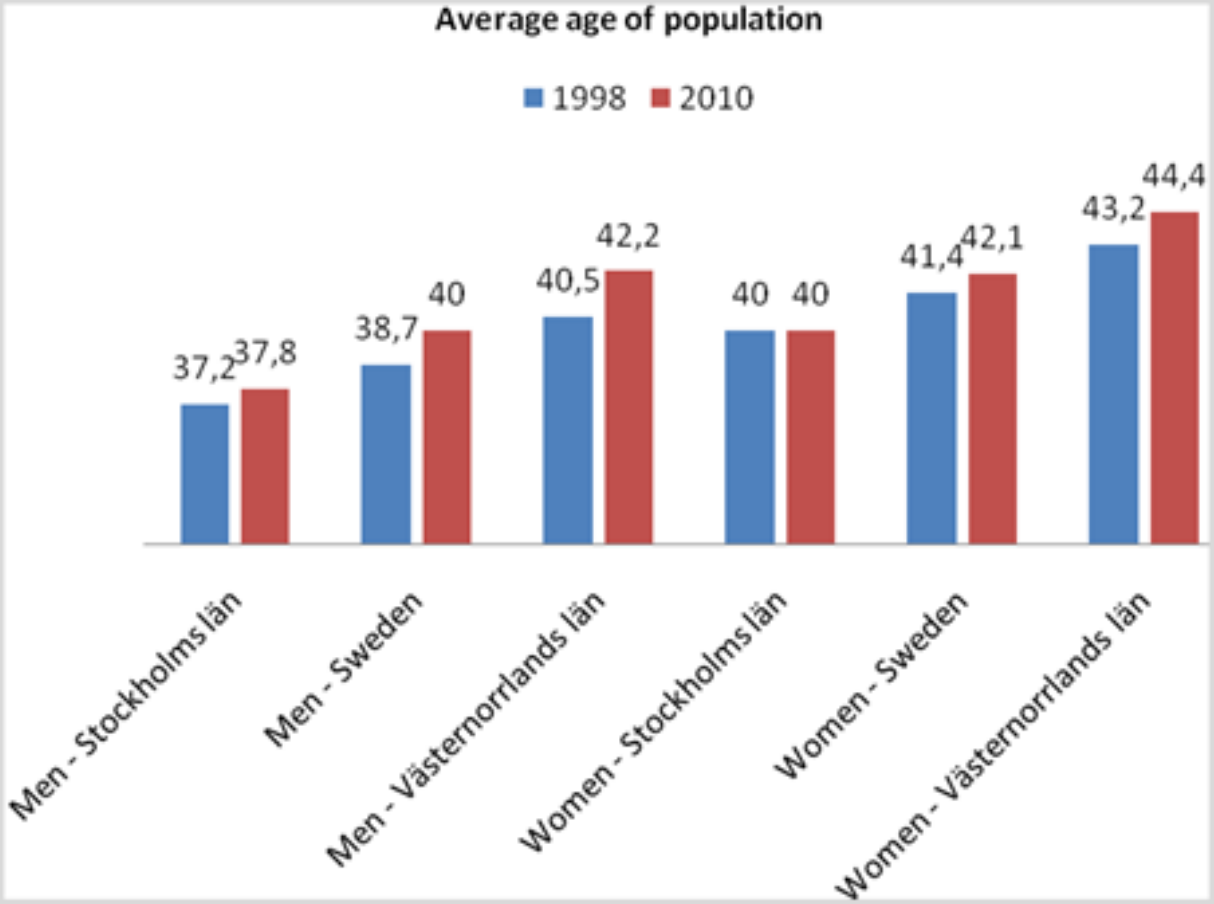


Sharp rise 1999/2000 – young adults probems on the labour market, espc in Västernorrland,

Policy changes!

Increased segmentation despite ”good times”? Regional polarization? Where to go?

Average age of population 1998 and 2010, both sexes, SE, AB and Y



The average age is highest in Västernorrland.

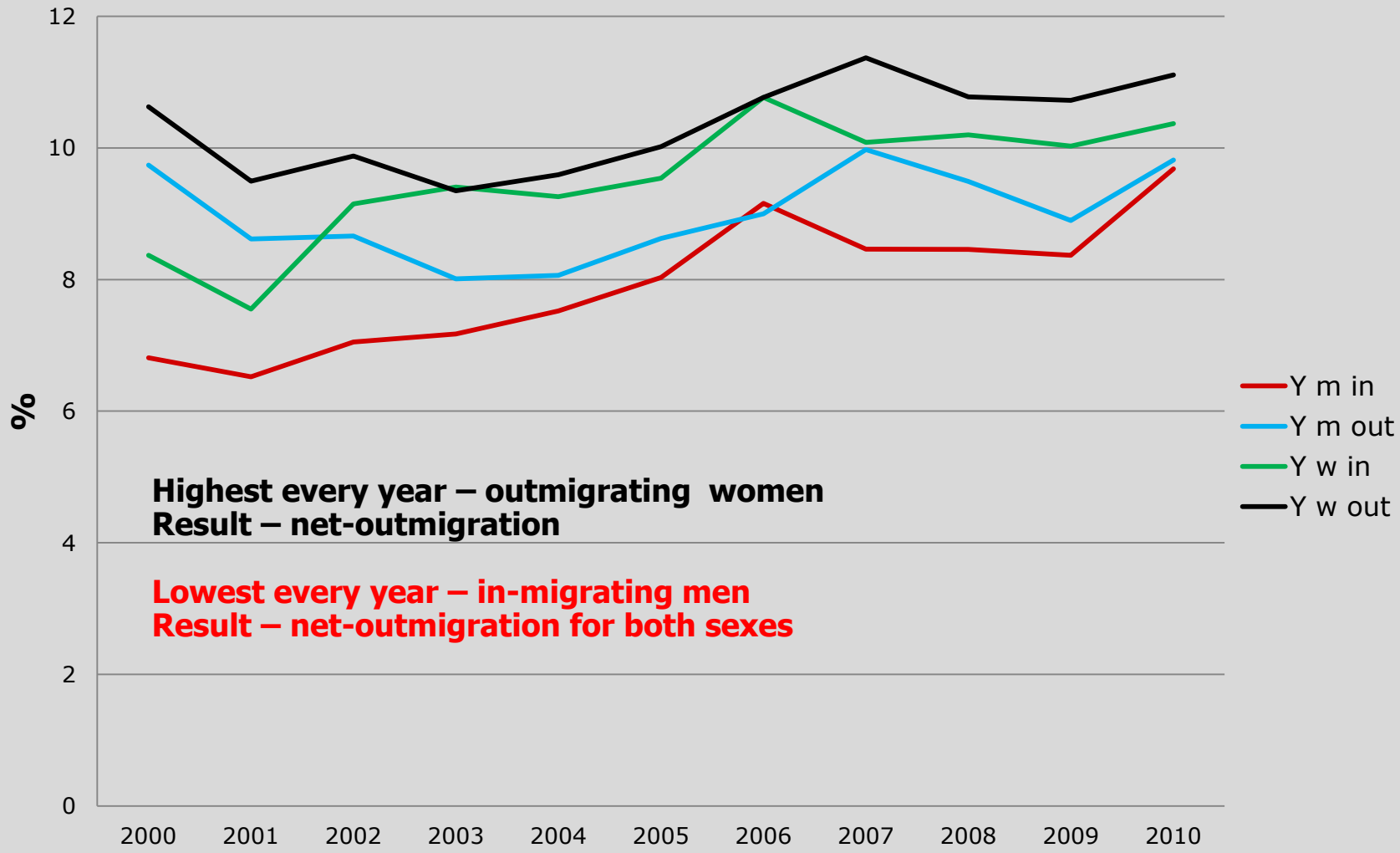
It has increased more than for Sweden and Stockholm.

Reason – out-migration?

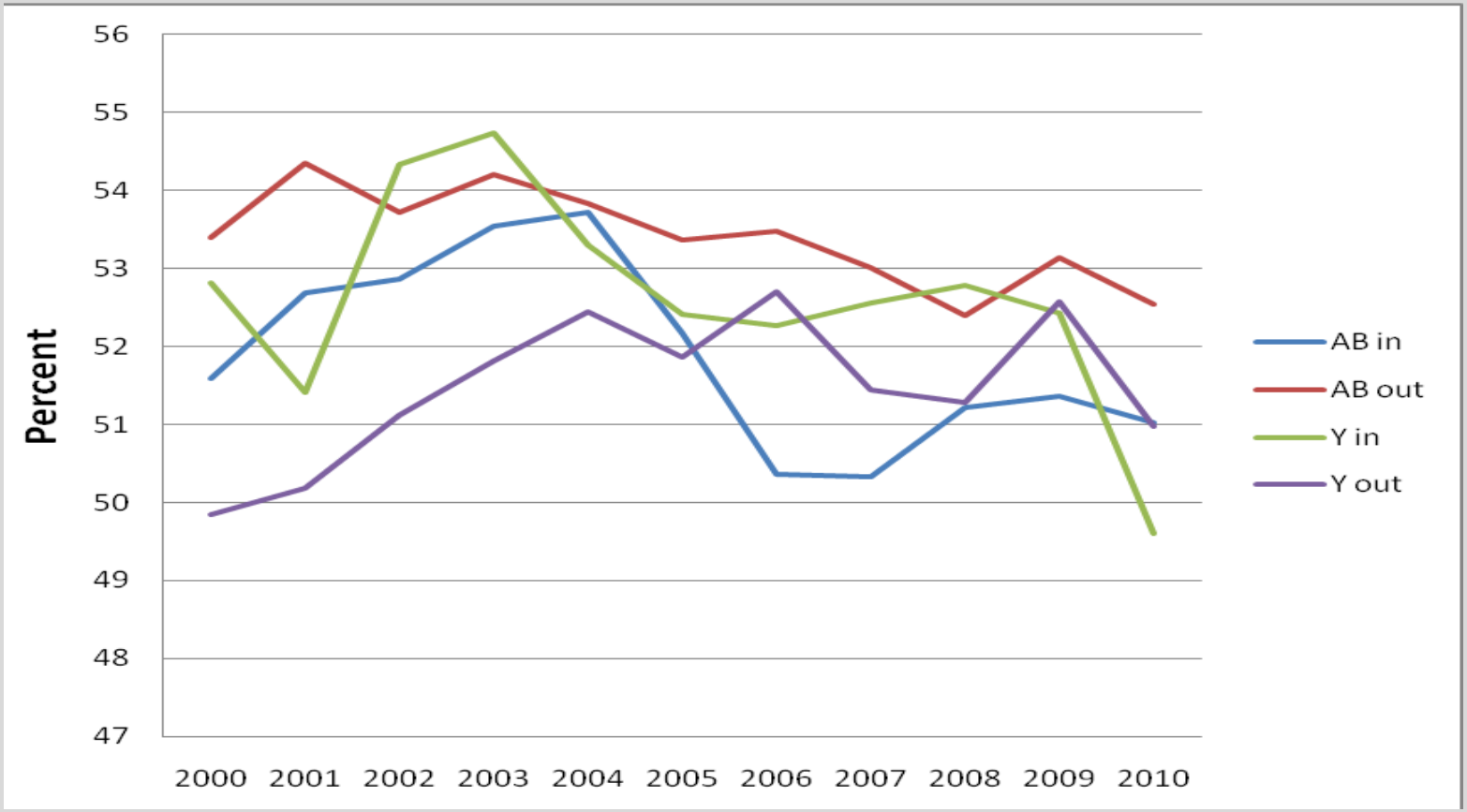
Weak reproduction potential – no women, no children!

Västernorrland in a weak position with regard to economic, labour market and demographic structure and development – both for men and women

Västernorrland, in- and out migration intensities, both sexes 18-34years



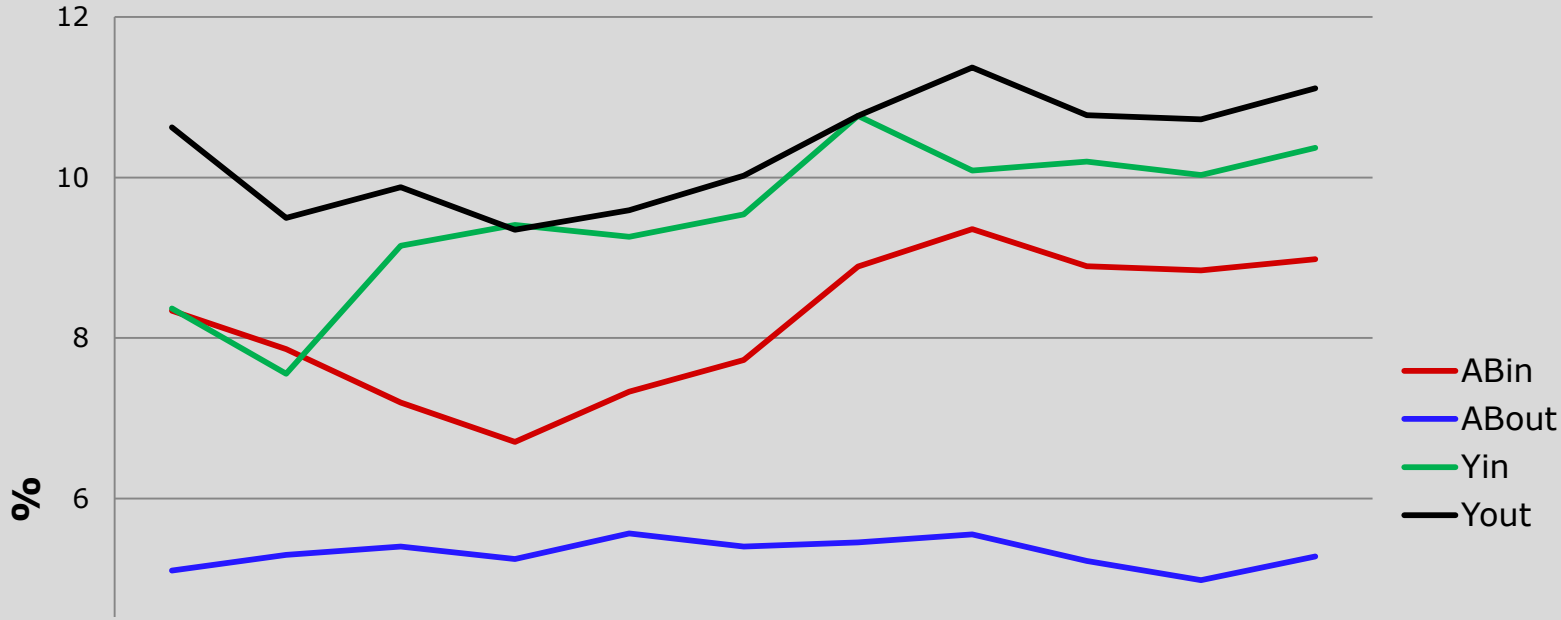
Shares (%) of females in the in- and out-migration flows for AB- and Y-counties 2000-2010. Ages 18-34.



Women are more mobile (over 50 % of the streams almost every year):
Stockholm – higher share of women in out-mig than in in-mig (return migrants?)
Västernorrland – higher share of women in in-mig than in out-mig (return migrants?)

Be care: The numbers are of various size!

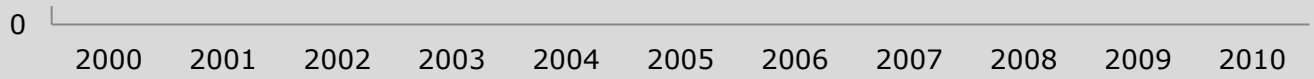
Migration intensities, women 18-34 years, AB- and Y-counties



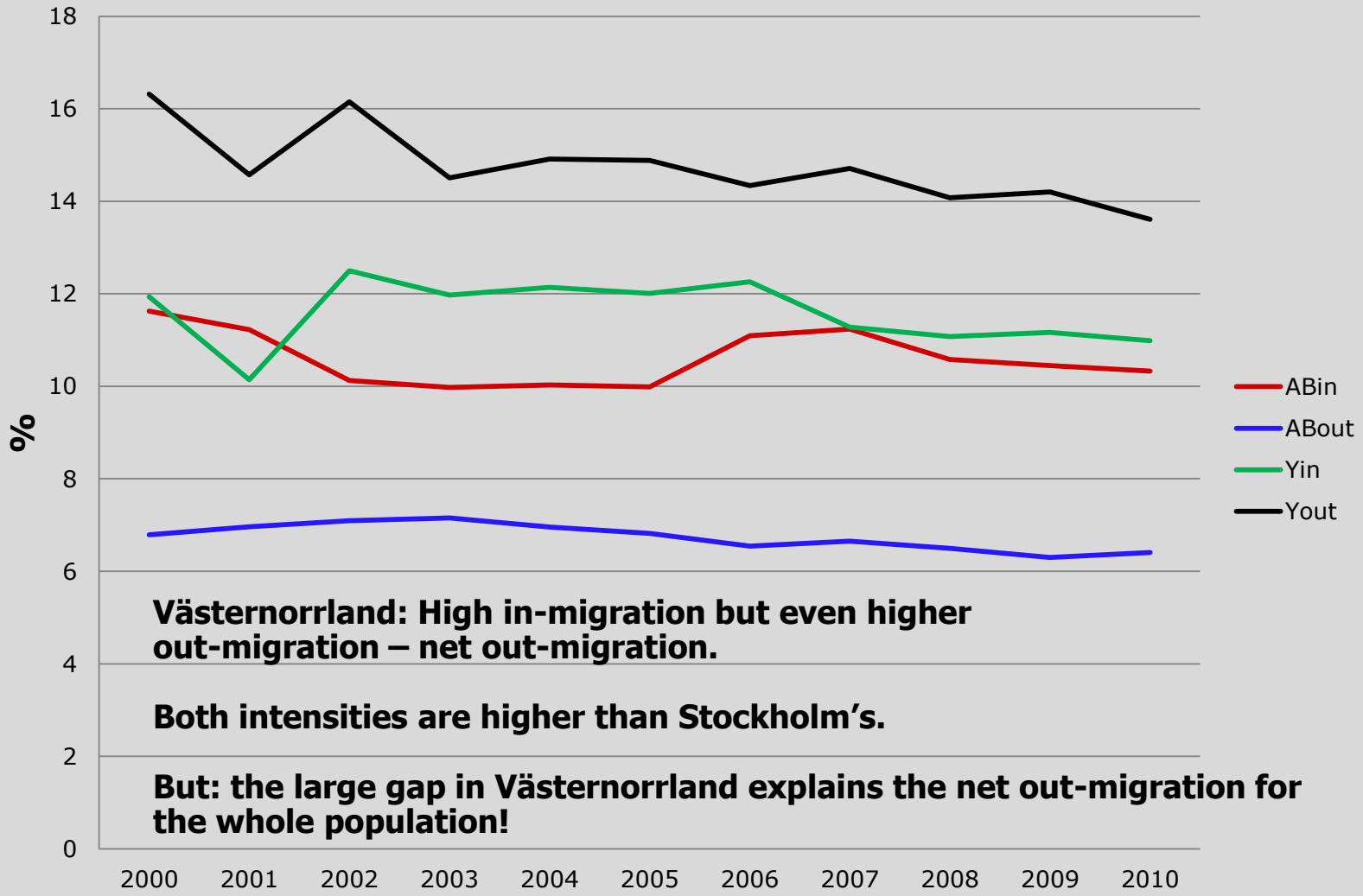
The migration intensities for Västernorrland are higher than for Stockholm!
The big difference is net-outmigration in Västernorrland and net-inmigration in Stockholm

The turnover of people is high in Västernorrland (high in and out) and low in Stockholm (low in and out).

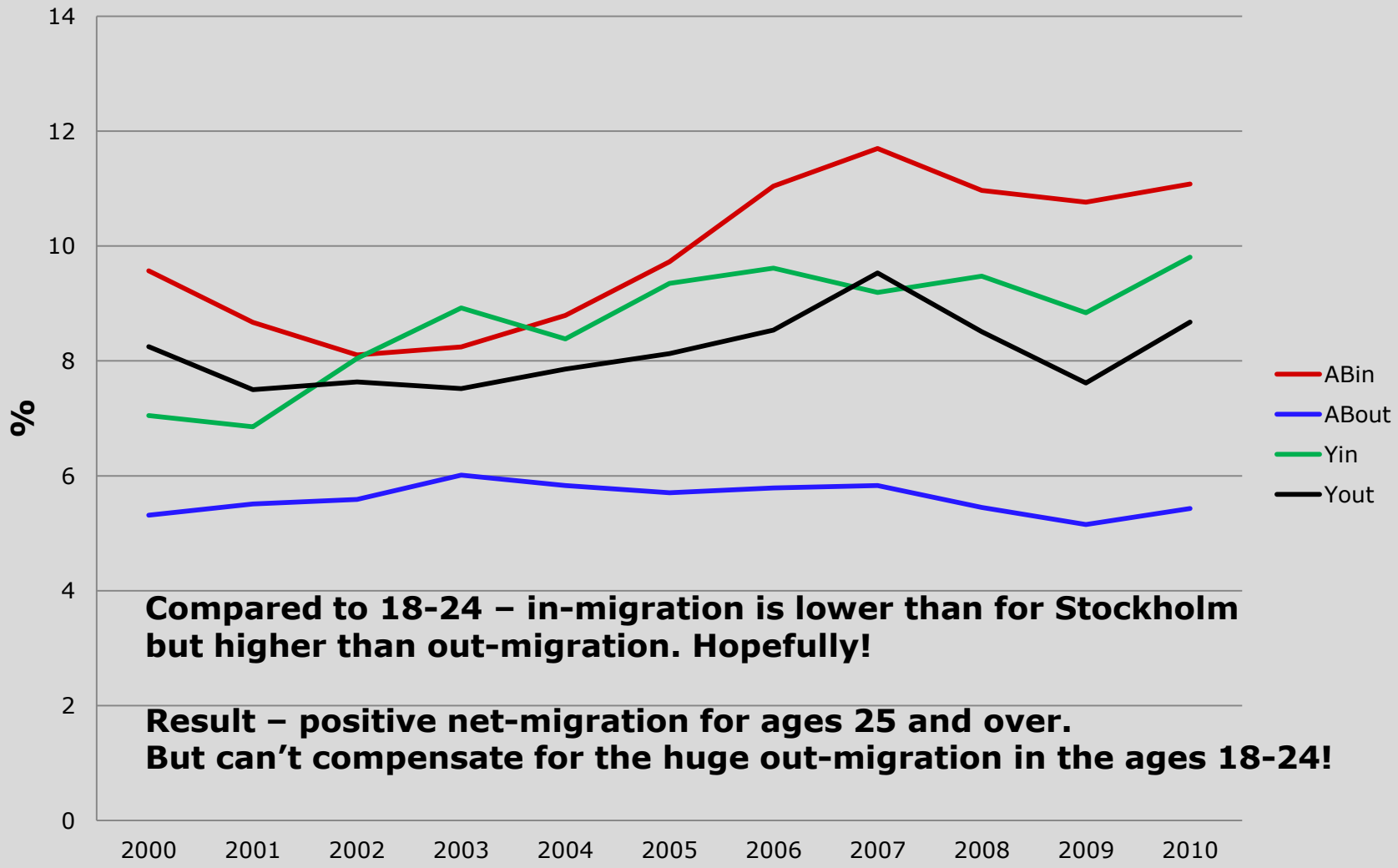
Connection to the business cycles? To refugee immigration?



Migration intensities, women 18-24 years AB- and Y-counties



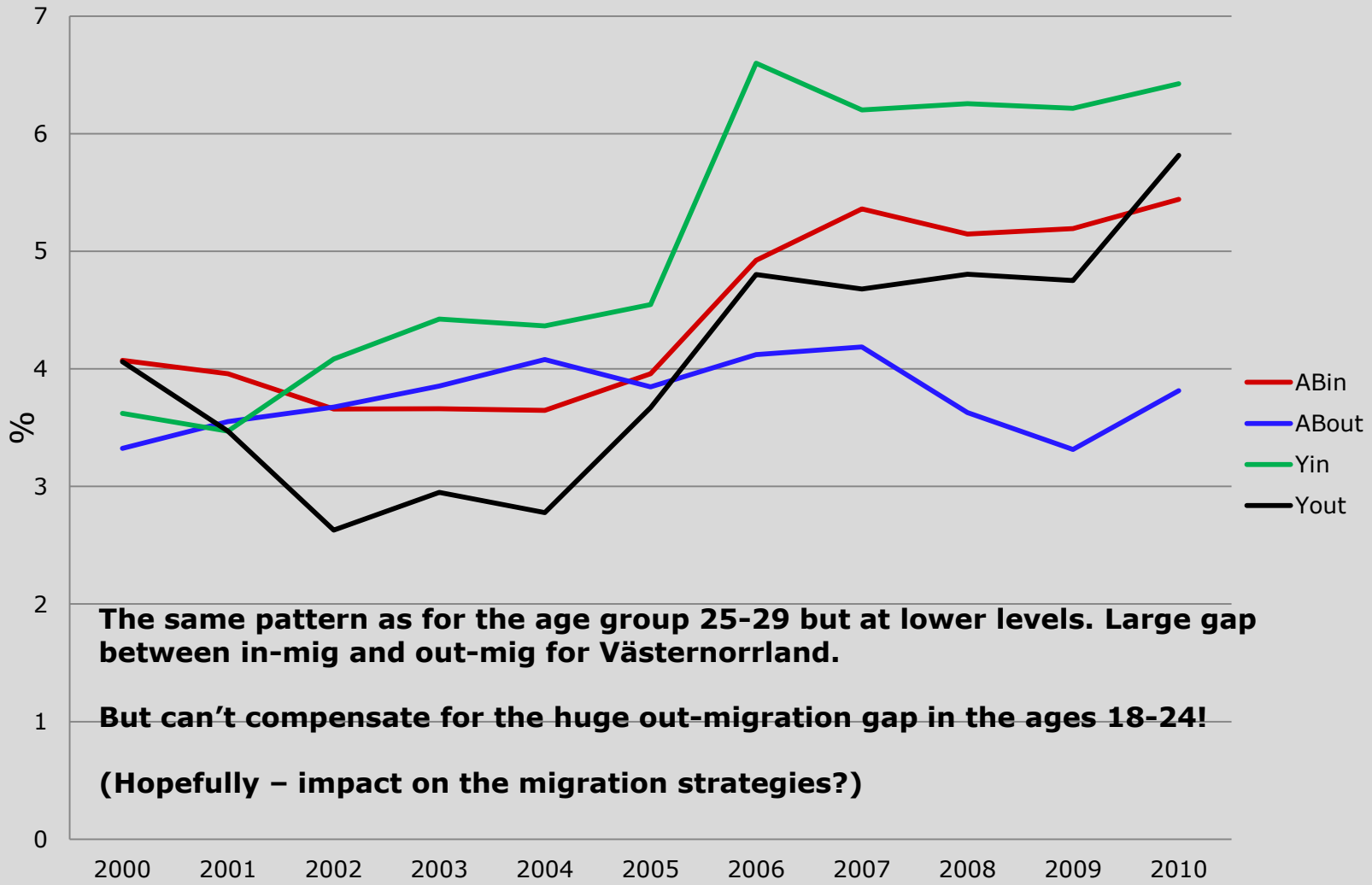
Migration intensities, women 25-29 years, AB- and Y-counties



Compared to 18-24 – in-migration is lower than for Stockholm but higher than out-migration. Hopefully!

Result – positive net-migration for ages 25 and over.
But can't compensate for the huge out-migration in the ages 18-24!

Migration intensities, women 30-34 years, AB- and Y-counties



The same pattern as for the age group 25-29 but at lower levels. Large gap between in-mig and out-mig for Västernorrland.

But can't compensate for the huge out-migration gap in the ages 18-24!

(Hopefully – impact on the migration strategies?)

Summing-up: Young women on the run – myth or reality?

- High in-migration in both cases – in metropolitan Stockholm as well as in the ”rural” and sparsely populated industrial Västernorrland!
- A big difference is the high turnover in Västernorrland. In-migration creates out-migration? Or out-migration creates in-migration some years later?
- Young women have a higher turnover than men in Västernorrland – especially concerning out-migration
- Out-migration creates eroding reproduction potentials
- The problem is more the high out-migration than low in-migration (that is at the same level as for Stockholm)
- For Västernorrland – the most problematic point is the high out-migration among the youngest women (18-24 years)
- Reality: huge out-migration in the ages 18-24. Result – net out-migration of younger women (18-24)
- Myth: in-migration in the ages 25 and over. Result – in-migration in the family creating ages, positive for natural population change (increasing reproduction potentials)

Recommendation – stimulate in-migration in the ages 25 and over.

Income spin-offs? Increasing reproduction potentials.

Precondition: female-friendly diversified labour markets, no “macho” image, good schools, good communications, etc.

Important for recruitment of well educated young women (return after studies).

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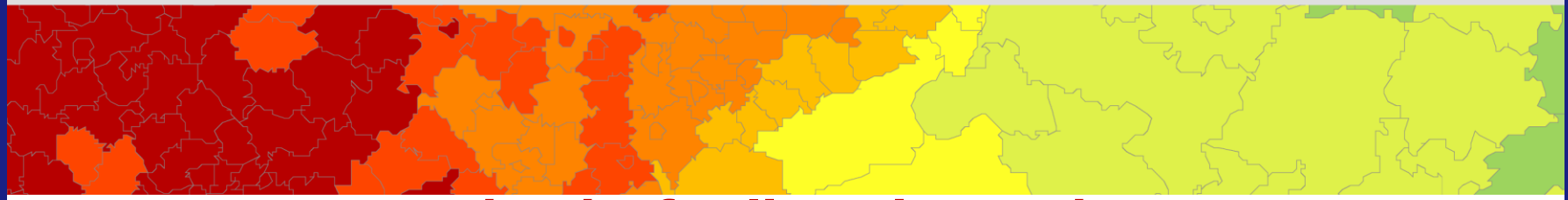

Thanks for listening and
"don't worry, be happy" wherever you live

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