

**INTERNAL LABOR MIGRATION:  
FLOATING LABOR MIGRATION IN VIETNAM AND  
LABOR MIGRATION IN KANCHANABURI DEMOGRAPHIC  
SURVEILANCE SYSTEM, THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines patterns, characteristics and determinants of short-term labor migration in Vietnam and Kanchanaburi Demographic Surveillance System (KDSS), Thailand. Since information on short-term labor migration at place of origin is rarely collected, the study is useful in providing better understanding of this type of labor migration. Two data sources are used namely the Vietnam Population and Housing Census 1999 and the Kanchanaburi Demographic Surveillance System (KDSS) Round 2 (2001) and Round 3 (2002). Only persons in the working ages (15-59) are included in the analysis.

The probability of engaging in short-term labor migration is modeled using binary logistic regression. The determinants of migration are grouped into four main categories i.e. individual socio-demographic factors, individual economic factors, household factors and contextual factors.

Study results reveal similar characteristics and determinants of short-term/temporary labor migration in Vietnam and KDSS as mentioned in previous migration literature. The only exception is male dominance among this migration group contrasting to the overall pattern of female dominance in Vietnam and Thailand.

Major forces of labor migration are generally associated with economic factors i.e. income differences and unemployment and migration-specific factors i.e. migration experience and migration network. However, differences in major forces of labor migration are found between Vietnam and KDSS settings. The differences are possibly attributed to employed definitions of labor migration and the nature of data sources.

The determinants of migration differ by gender in KDSS but not in Vietnam.

KEY WORDS: INTERNAL MIGRATION/FLOATING/LABOR MIGRATION/  
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