



The Influence of Economic Factors on Migration from Iran: A Focus on the Misery Index¹

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Received Date: 03 February 2025 Accepted Date: 10 May 2025

Abstract

Background and Objective: Migration, as an influential demographic event, creates significant changes in the structure and distribution of the population. Migration, not only as a phenomenon, but also as a metaphenomenon (an event that occurs due to the context and situation in which people live), has arisen from numerous economic, social, political, and cultural factors. For this reason, the causes and motivations of migration can be examined from different dimensions. Migration from Iran is a complex and multidimensional issue that has attracted much attention in recent years. The aim of this article is to examine the impact of economic factors on migration from Iran, with a special focus on the misery index (sum of inflation and unemployment).

Methodology The present study was conducted using a descriptive-analytical method and the documentary-library method was used to collect information. All data on the desired variables were used annually for the period 2000 to 2022. The self-explanatory method with distributional lags was used to examine the relationship between variables. The models presented to examine the effects of lags are known as distributional lag models, one of the most recent methods for these studies is the self-explanatory distributional lags or ARDL method.

Findings and Conclusion: The research findings indicate that the variables population, poverty index and GDP have a significant effect on migration from Iran, but the Gini coefficient inequality index does not have a significant effect on migration. . The poverty index also has a significant and positive effect on migration. . On the contrary, economic growth has a significant and negative effect on migration, so that a one percent increase in economic growth can reduce the migration rate by 0.1 percent. The results show that three key factors population growth, poverty rate and economic growth directly affect the migration process from Iran. With the increase in population, the pressure on the country's economic and social resources intensifies. In conditions where job opportunities and public services are not developed, people may migrate in search of better living conditions.

Keywords: : Immigration, Misery index, Economic Factors, Unemployment, Inflation

¹ This article extracted from the second type of research project entitled "The Impact of Labor Migration on Macroeconomic Variables: A General Equilibrium Approach" with contract number 6312/9/D/1402, which was carried out with the support of the University of Mohaghegh Ardabili. Project leader: first Author.

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Cite this article: Hassanzadeh, M., Hashemi dizaj, A. and Aghazadeh, R. (2025). The Influence of Economic Factors on Migration from Iran: A Focus on the Misery Index. *Journal of Sustainable Urban & Regional Development Studies (JSURDS)*, 6(2), 397-411.

Extended Abstract

Introduction:

Migration takes many forms and is not limited to migration from a developing country to a developed country, which is called South-North. In recent years, developed countries such as the United States and Canada have welcomed immigrants from other developed countries such as France and England (North-North). On the other hand, developing countries such as China and India have been attractive destinations for immigrants from the Philippines and Indonesia (South-South), and in some cases, immigrants from a developed country such as Portugal have entered a developing country such as Brazil (North-South). Migration, as a demographic event, creates significant changes in the structure and distribution of the population. Migration, not only as a phenomenon, but also as a meta-phenomenon (an event that occurs due to the context and situation in which people live), has arisen from numerous economic, social and cultural factors. For this reason, the causes and motivations of migration can be examined from different perspectives. Migration from Iran is a complex and multidimensional issue that has attracted a lot of attention in recent years. Various factors, including economic, social, political, and cultural, play a role in creating this phenomenon. The aim of this article is to examine the impact of economic factors on migration from Iran, with a special focus on the misery index (sum of inflation and unemployment).

Methodology:

The present study was conducted using a descriptive-analytical method and the documentary-library method was used to collect information. All data on the variables in question were extracted annually from the World Bank Development Indicators for the period 2000 to 2022, and the International Organization for Migration database was also used to supplement migration data. The self-explanatory method with distributional lags was used to examine the relationship between variables. In many economic and financial models, the effectiveness of explanatory variables faces significant delays. For example, the effect of an expansionary monetary policy on the desired variables appears with a delay, or the effect of new investments on the creation of production capacity and the amount of production has delays.

Delayed effects indicate that if the value of X changes today, its effect will appear today and in the coming days. The models that are presented to examine delayed effects are known as distributional lag models, and one of the newest methods for these studies is the self-explanatory method with distributional lags or ARDL. In this model, the dependent variable is affected by the lags of this variable and other independent variables. In the ARDL model, it is first necessary to determine the optimal lag. For this purpose, due to the limited number of data, the Schwarz criterion has been used. The optimal model has been selected as ARDL(1,0,2,0,2), which indicates the optimal lag for the variables of immigration, population, misery index, Gini coefficient, and GDP, respectively.

Results and Discussion:

The research findings indicate that the variables population, misery index and GDP have a significant effect on migration from Iran, but the inequality index Gini coefficient does not have a significant effect on migration. The coefficient of 2.22 for the population variable indicates that a one percent increase in population leads to a 22.2 percent increase in migration, which indicates that migration has outpaced population growth. The misery index also has a significant positive effect on migration. A one-unit increase in the misery index leads to a 0.004 percent increase in migration, which is in line with theoretical expectations. Conversely, economic growth has a significant negative effect on migration, such that a one percent increase in economic growth can reduce the migration rate by 0.1 percent.

Conclusion:

This article discusses and examines the impact of economic factors on migration from Iran. The results show that three key factors: population growth, poverty rate and economic growth directly affect the migration process from Iran. As the population increases, the pressure on the country's economic and social resources intensifies. In situations where job opportunities and public services are underdeveloped, people may migrate in search of better living conditions. The misery index, which includes both the inflation rate and the unemployment rate, serves as a critical indicator of economic performance. This directly affects individuals' purchasing power and, consequently, their quality of life. The findings suggest that an increase in the misery index can act as a driving force for migration. When individuals face economic challenges and limited access to job opportunities, they are more likely to leave the country in search of better conditions. Conversely, sustained and sustained economic growth can lead to a decrease in migration. As the economy improves and more job opportunities are created, people are less inclined to leave the country. This emphasizes the importance of effective economic policies aimed at retaining the workforce and preventing brain drain. To better manage the migration process from Iran, policymakers should pay special attention to these three factors. Creating decent job opportunities, improving economic conditions, and reducing the misery index can help reduce the propensity to migrate. In addition, comprehensive planning for the development of infrastructure and public services can improve the quality of life in the country and reduce unnecessary migration. Finally, these findings emphasize that economic and social policies should be designed not only to meet the needs of the population, but also to create conditions that encourage people to stay in their country and contribute to its development.

Declarations

- Funding:** There is no funding support for this study.
- Authors' Contributions:** All authors contributed equally to the conceptualization and writing of the article. The authors approved the manuscript's content and agreed on all aspects of the work.
- Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.
- Acknowledgments:** The authors extend their gratitude to all scientific consultants who provided invaluable insights during this research.

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