Population Flow and Economic Development in China

Introduction

China has seen tremendous development for the last few decades. Since the Chinese economic reform started in 1978, unprecedented growth has occurred in China. Along with the economic development are immense changes in Chinese society, poverty has been greatly decreased, average incomes have increased, and urbanizations have been promoted. On the one hand, the economic level, medical level, and educational level are better in big cities, and people have averagely higher incomes there. On the other hand, the migration aggravates the imbalance and inequality among regions. In some rural areas, the labor forces generally choose to work in cities, only the elder and the young are left there and that makes these places even more difficult to develop. This project will focus on how does the migrant population change from the 5th to the 6th census, which are respectively took place in 2000 and 2010, and find the relationship between the economic development and migration. The results of this research will provide some insights to the future study of urbanization and social development, besides the advantages brought by the construction, the undesired outcomes deserve the notice of the planners.

Method

To analyze the change of migrant population, we join the population table and the migrant population table to the map of Chinese provinces, and change the symbology to graduate colors to show the migrant population over the total population during the two censuses to show the ratio of migrant population of each province. Similar method is used to analyze the population density and GDP of each province. Since the railway station layer is documented at city level, but the boundary map is at province level, we intersect the railway station layer with the Chinese province layer first, then add a field of count setting the value equal to one, and conduct spatial join based on spatial location and summarize the sum. The generated sum of count column gives the total number of train station of each province.

Conclusion

Our research reveals the possible relationship between economic development and population flow. We can see that with the construction and development of transportation system, it is easier and more convenient for people to travel to other places, and that makes people more likely to choose to work in big cities. From the population density maps we can see that there is a trend that people are gradually more concentrated at the coastal regions. The high ratio of migrant population here not only brings more labors to every post of duty and thus accelerates the growth rate of economy, but also leave the inland cities with a lot of vacancies. That aggravates the inequality between the eastern and the western, the coastal and inland regions still further. The planners should think about how to promote in an all-round way rather than advanced only in few cities.

Sources:
ArcGIS Online Data
Migrant Population Service Center, National Health Commission P. R. China
National Bureau of Statistics of China

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