

MICROCENSUS 2005: QUANTIFYING THE POPULATION WITH A MIGRANT BACKGROUND

Initial Position, Approach, Results

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Initial Position

- German Statistics is used to present a wide range of statistical data broken down by *nationality*, i.e. by *Germans* and *non-Germans*.
- Many customers consider this break-down less and less *suitable* for correctly describing the quantitative importance of migration or for outlining potential integration needs.
- Subsequently, they ask for statistical data being related to *persons with a migrant background* rather than to foreigners.
- The term ‘migrant background’ is very popular and frequently used, but there is *no generally accepted definition*. Many people don’t seem to bother using such an undefined term – maybe they even purposefully do so.

Microcensus 2005 – A Quantum Leap?

- For the first time ever, the 2005 Microcensus made available information on *immigration*, *naturalisation* and *citizenship* of all interviewees and their parents – in a way suitable for an attempted definition of ‘migrant background’.
- As there is no standard definition for migrant background, *any potential approach may be used* for this purpose, as long as users consider it intuitive or acceptable.
- The 2005 Microcensus provides *an unexpectedly wide range of options*, but still leaves some wishes unfulfilled.
- As a first data collection of this type, it also *encounters substantial risks*.

Approach Requirements

- Any definition for migrant background needs to link to *common terminology* and to relate *to existing population groups* (e.g. ethnic Germans, foreigners, asylum seekers).
- The definition needs to be able to provide *adequate answers for important questions* (e.g. integration needs).
- The definition needs to be understandable, intuitive, generally applicable, simple ...
- *Priorities*: Not all the aforementioned requirements will be met simultaneously.
- *To do the doable*: Not all Microcensus data exists in the way, we would have tailored them, had we had the chance to do so.

Final Definition

Persons with a migrant background include:

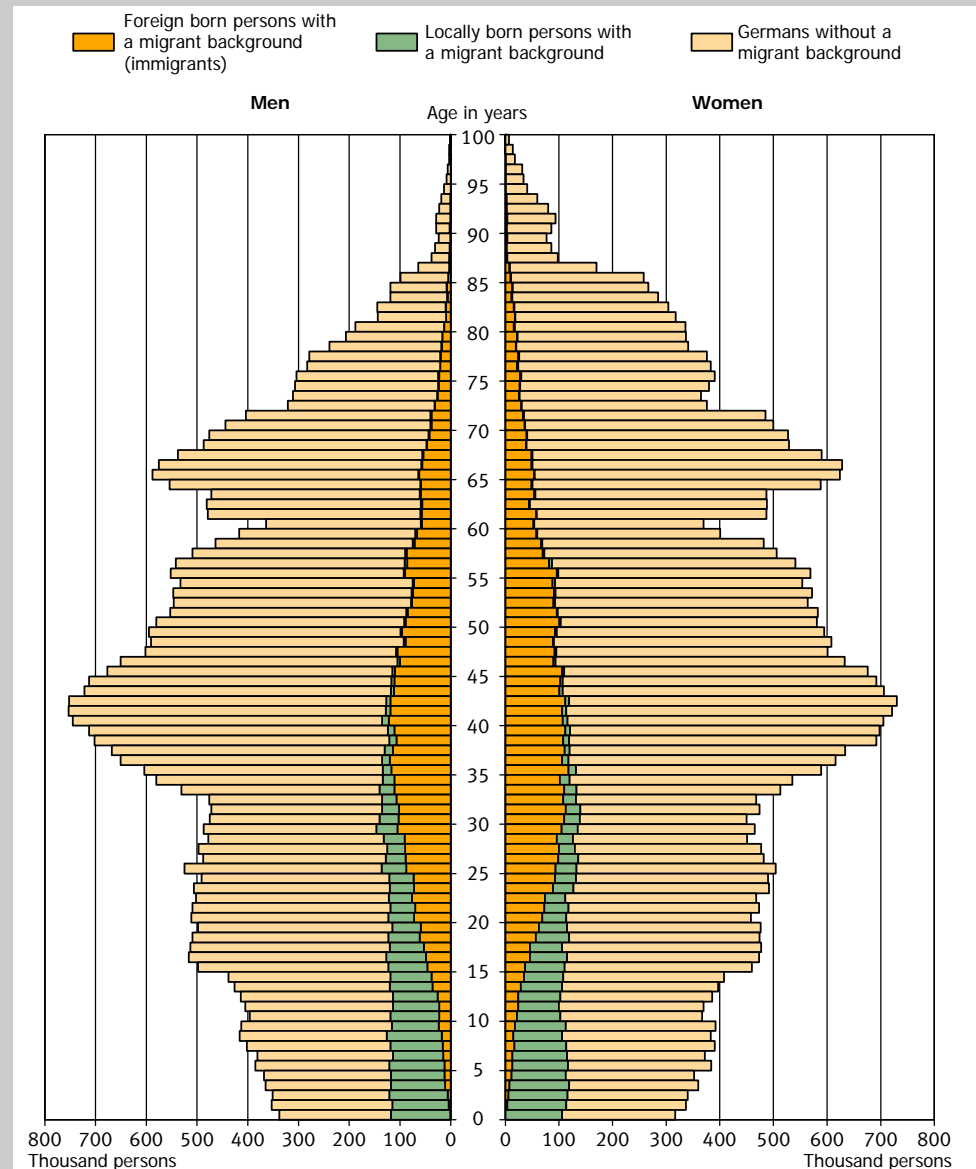
- All *immigrants*, i.e. persons immigrated into Germany within its today borders ever since 1950 (Germans and foreigners),
- All *foreigners born in Germany* – within its today borders – (including the ones naturalised by now).
- All *Germans born in Germany* – within its today borders – if at least one of their parents immigrated into Germany since 1950 or was born on German territory as a foreigner, i.e. with a non-German citizenship.

Attempted Synopsis

		Citizenship			
		foreign	German		
Country of birth	foreign	foreign born non-Germans	Ethnic Germans, spouses and children	naturalised foreign born non-Germans	'embassy children'
	local	local born non-Germans	children of ethnic Germans	naturalised local born non-Germans children of naturalised persons	' <i>ius soli</i> '-children (option model)
			grandchildren of ethnic Germans	grandchildren of naturalised persons	' <i>ius soli</i> '-grandchildren??
		Germans without a migrant background			

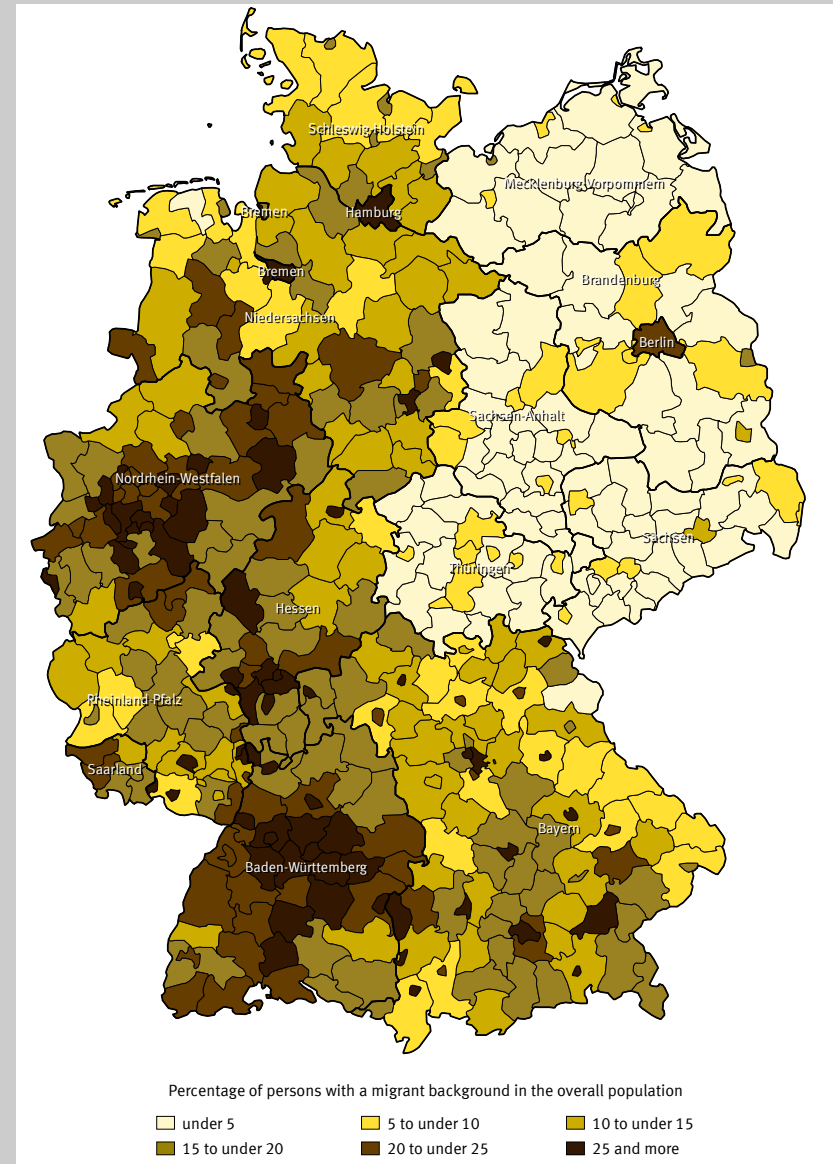
Results 1

- Persons with a migrant background altogether made up *18.5% of the resident population* in 2005.
- They *are younger* than the remaining population.
- Immigration *loses importance* as a driving factor.

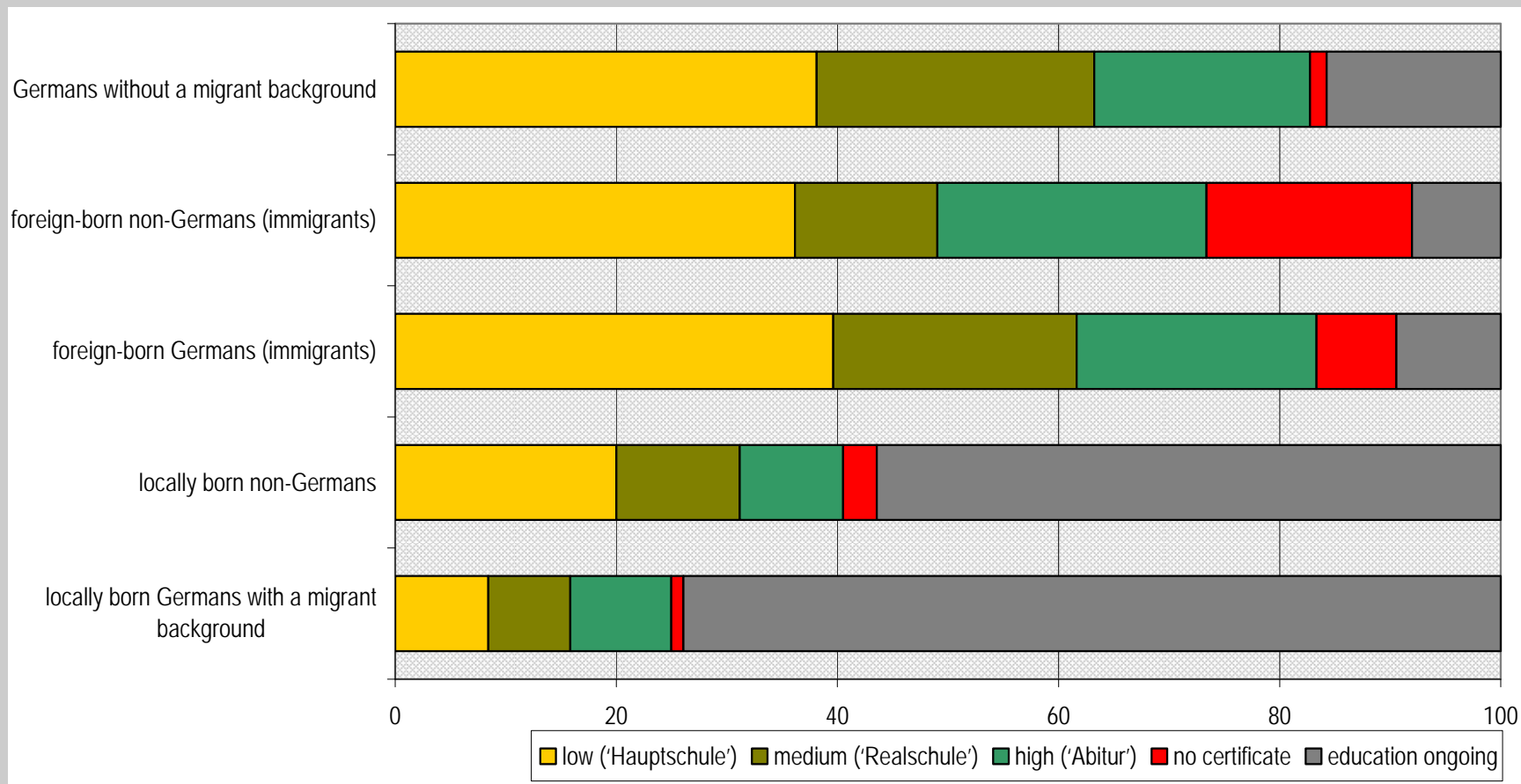


Results 2

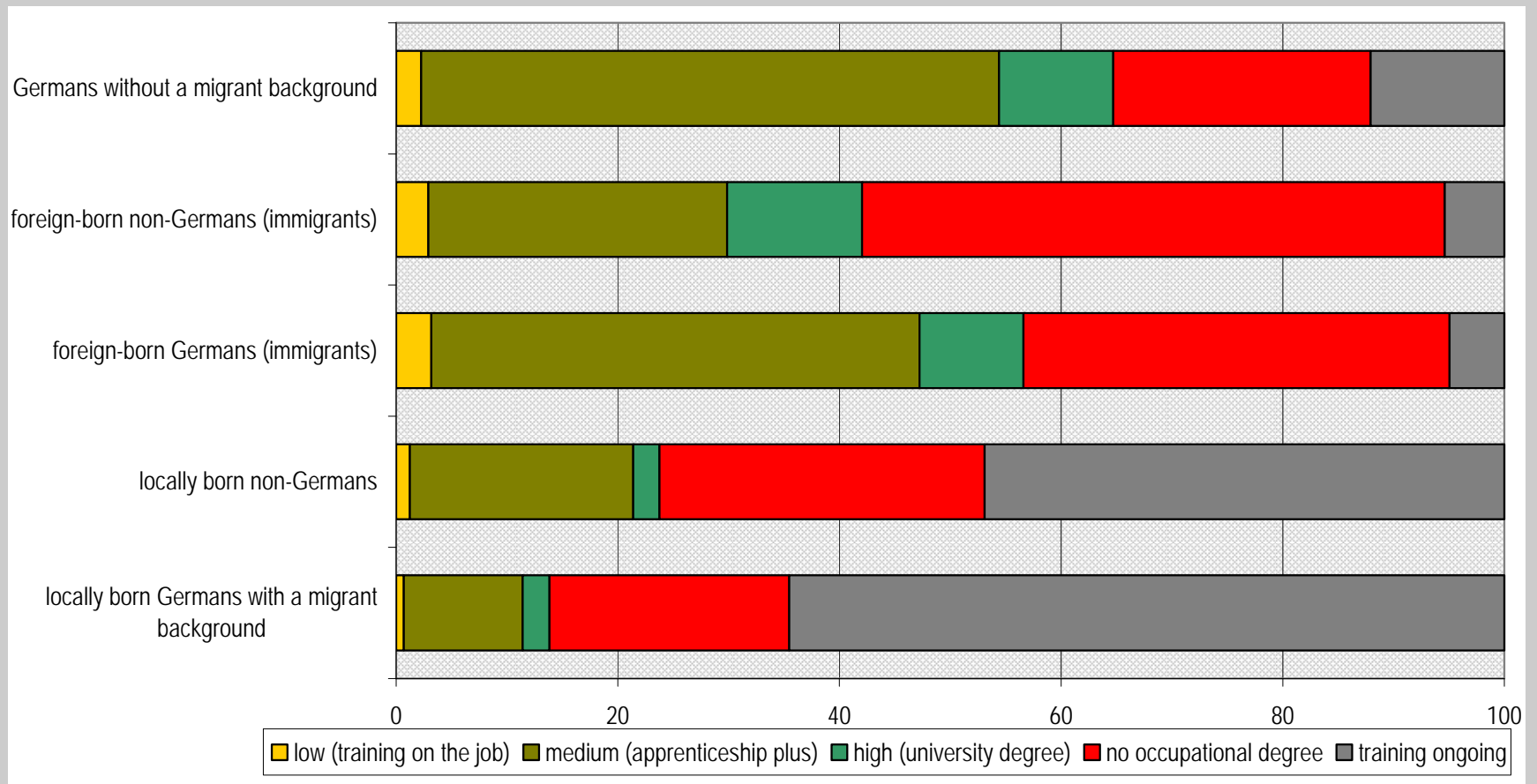
- Migration is a *phenomenon of West-Germany*.
- Otherwise, there doesn't seem to be *an obvious regional pattern*.
- High density rates for persons with a migrant background will be observed in *metropolitan areas* and *old industrial regions*.



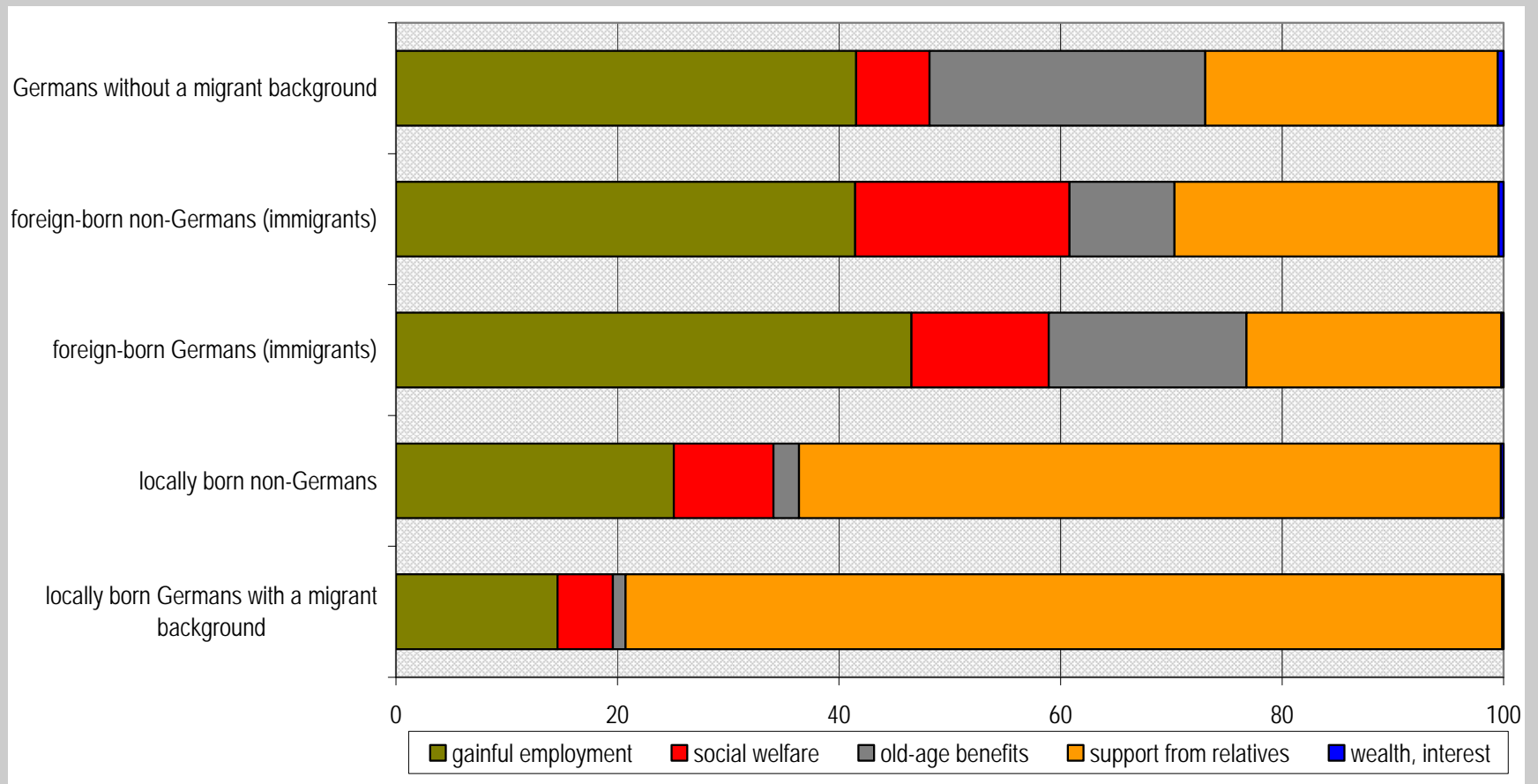
Results 3: Educational Attainment



Results 4: Occupational Qualifications



Results 5: Main Sources of Living



Thank You!

Questions?

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