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SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND INTERNAL MIGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA: WHAT'S STAYING AND WHAT'S CHANGING?

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2013



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TOPICS TO BE PRESENTED

J Background

J Hypotheses about Latin American spatial population distribution and internal migration

- Ø A real urbanization
- Ø Countryside revitalization due to new development strategies
- Ø Deconcentration process in national urban systems
- Ø Increasing intensity of internal migration
- Ø Continuous flow from poor areas to rich areas, but exceptions increasing
- Ø Internal migration does not foster territorial convergence
- Ø For very poor and net out-migration regions, migration can generate spatial poverty traps
- Ø Rural to urban migration is still eroding countryside population, but it is losing relevance as engine of urban growth
- Ø A real net out migration from big cities

J New policy scenario: issues, tools, insights and challenges



BACKGROUNDS

Several CELADE studies since 2003:

- J A synthesis of findings : **Social Panorama of Latin America 2007** (preliminary version) www.cepal.org/publicaciones/. A complete document due to first semester 2008
- J Internal migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIALC) database: www.eclac.cl/migracion/migracion_interna/
- J IDB-ECLAC Project “Migration and development: the latin american case”: just finished (last december)
- J Participation in others UN agencies reports (SWOP 2007; SWCR 2008/09; World Bank 2009; IDB 2009)
- J Subsite in CELADE’s webpage: www.eclac.cl/celade/miinterna/



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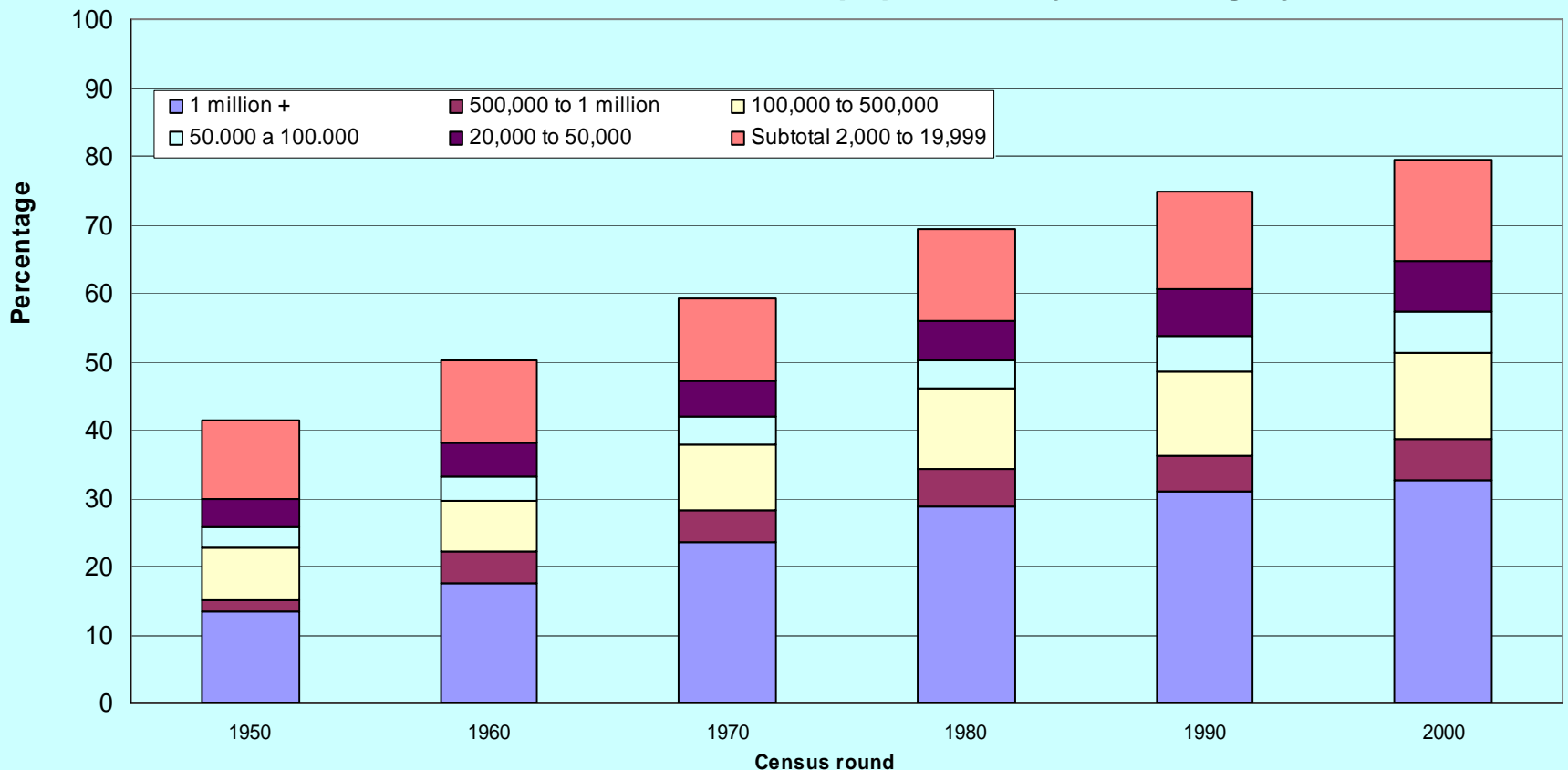
HYPHOTESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION: A REAL URBANIZATION

Yes, because:

Two of out of three people live in a city of 20 thousand or more inhabitants (more than double the amount in 1950)

In spite of its problems "of development", these nodes experience a "urban way of life"; in addition they party explain the region's gains in MDGs relative to access to services and Information/Communication Technologies

Latin America and the Caribbean (selected countries): share of towns with 20,000 or more inhabitants in total population, by size category





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HYPHOTESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION: COUNTRYSIDE REVITALIZATION BECAUSE OF NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Year	1950	1960	1970	1980	19980
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2003



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HYPHOTESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION: URBAN SYSTEMS DECONCENTRATION

• Yes, because:

- The urban system has diversified and is getting significantly more complex
- Moreover, at the top of the system the growth of the population and the number of cities becomes stabilized; not so in the intermediate cities, which were more dynamic in both se

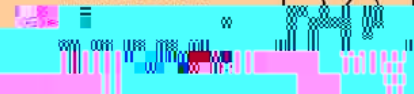
2003



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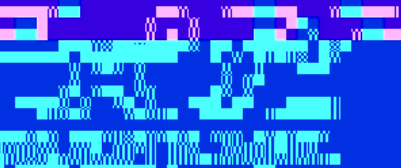
1990

1990

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1990

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HYPHOTESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION: CONTINUOUS FLOW FROM POOR AREAS TO RICH AREAS, BUT EXCEPTIONS INCREASING

Yes, it is on average, but many cases already not statistically significant

Country, reference year, number of Major Administrative Divisions (MAD) with data, and indicator

Argentina, 2001: 24 MAD, IDH 1996

Bolivia, 2002: 9 MAD, IDH 1994

Brazil, 2000: 27 MAD, IDH 1996

Chile, 2002: 13 MAD, IDH 1998

Simple correlation between indicator and rate of net migration (p-value between brackets)

0.407 (0.0242) *

0.619 (0.0378) *

0.451 (0.0091) *

-0.01136 (0.5147)

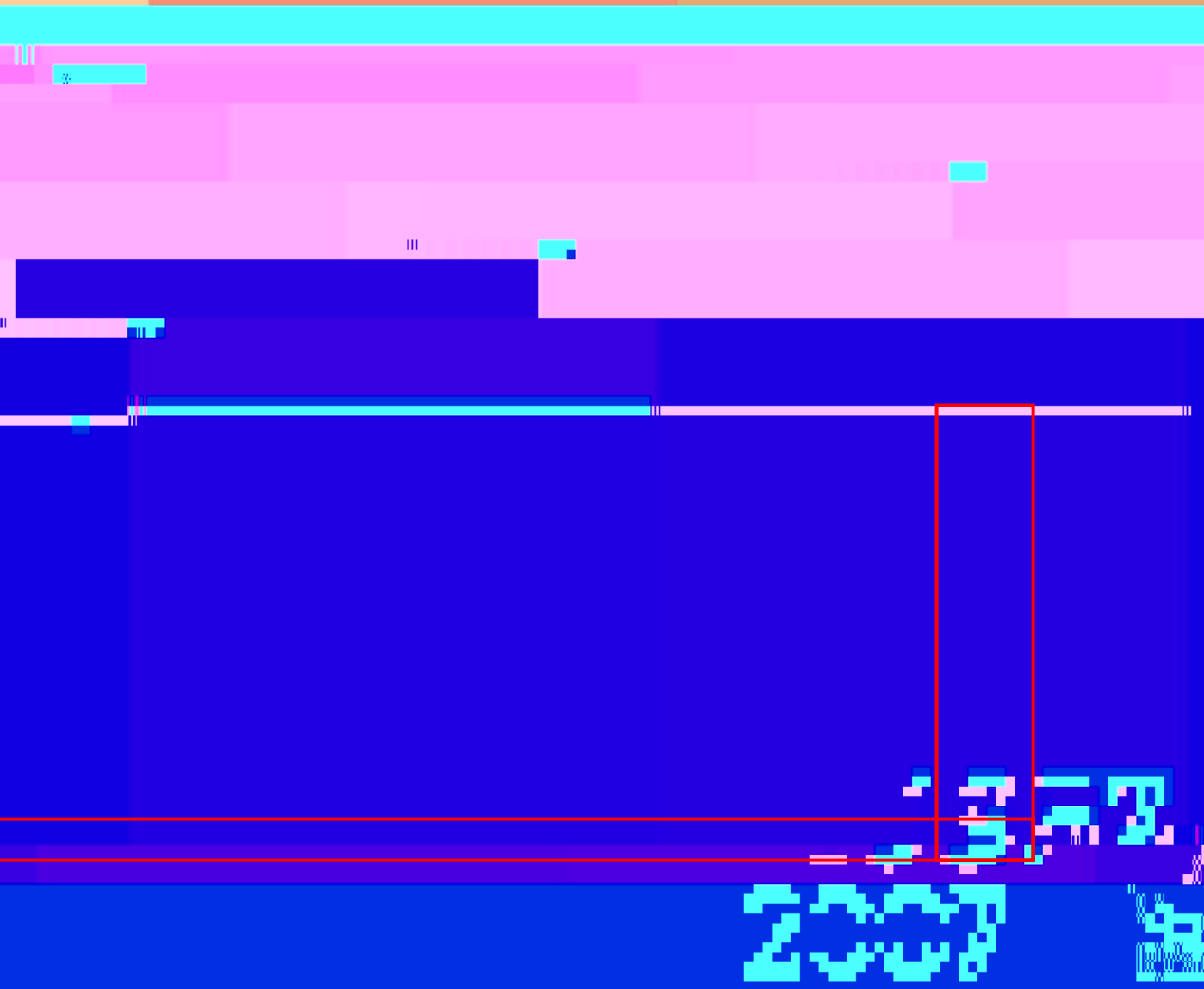
2003



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HYPHOTESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSe /Paginat07:



2007

2008



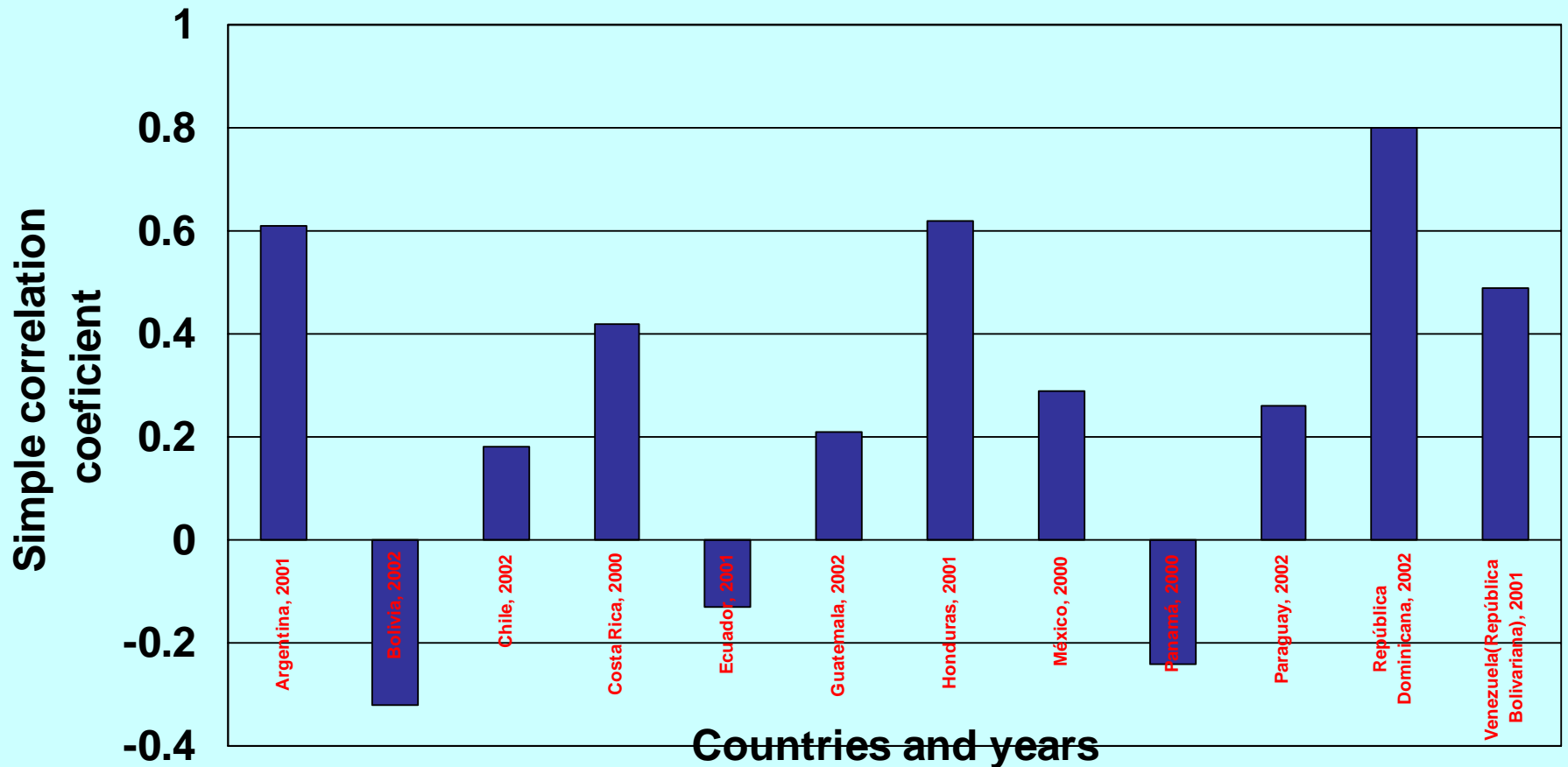
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HYPHOTESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION: INTERNAL MIGRATION DOES NOT PUSH TO TERRITORIAL CONVERGENCE

Clearly not in some indicators as childrearing burden...others less clear

Simple correlation between the initial level of percentage of child and the net and exclusive impact of migration on this percentage





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HYPHOTESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION: FOR VERY POOR AND NET OUT-MIGRATION REGIONS, MIGRATION CAN FOSTER SPATIAL POVERTY TRAPS

2007



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HYPHOTESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION: FOR VERY POOR AND NET OUT-MIGRATION REGIONS, MIGRATION CAN FOSTER SPATIAL POVERTY TRAPS

Yes, because of internal migration tends to increase age structure burdens and decreases human capital in poorest regions

2003



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HYPHOTESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION: RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION IS STILL ERODING COUNTRYSIDE POPULATION BUT IT IS LOSING RELEVANCE AS ENGINE OF URBAN GROWTH

First finding (message): Currently, most of the migrants are urban to urban

Brazil, 2000: rural to urban migration, 1995-2000	Cases	%
Rural to urban (within counties)	1,211,381	7.0
Urban to urban (between counties)	10,775,021	62.1
Rural to urban (between counties)	2,032,908	11.7
Urban to rural (within counties)	823,177	4.7
Urban to rural (between counties)	1,345,422	7.8
Rural to rural (between counties)	1,161,891	6.7
Total	17,349,799	100.0



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HYPOTHESIS, EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION: RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION IS STILL ERODING COUNTRYSIDE POPULATION BUT IT IS LOSING RELEVANCE AS ENGINE OF URBAN GROWTH



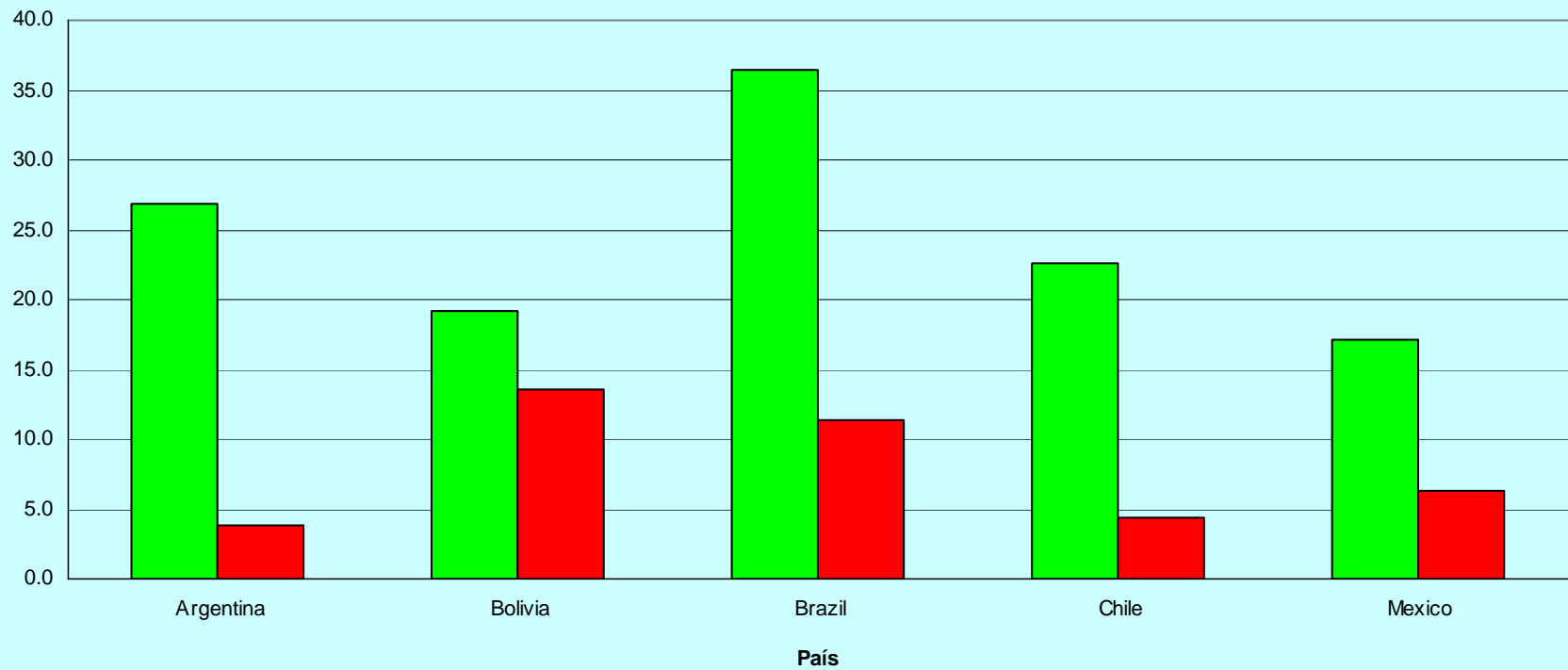
2009



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**Ratio between net rural-to-urban migration 1990-2000
and the rural and urban population in 1990**





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FINAL POLICY ORIENTED REMARKS

J internal migration continues involving great numbers of people and continues bearing relevant consequences for people and territories

J internal migration has diversified, the reason why to act on it requires updating and extending conceptual framework, sources of data and policy approaches

J migration within the country is a right and a resource for the people, reason why it does not have to be limited nor pressured.

J governments must assure migration is carried out in the best possible conditions, and also they must fight the territorial discriminations that tend to force the exit from certain less developed territories

J When the implications of these trends are taken as a whole, governments can have interest in acting on migration, for which they can use

- J Incentives for people and companies (many options)
- J Promotion of the subnational development (regional or local)
- J Regulations outside of the field of migration (territorial ordering, urban regulation, etc.)
- J Social policies with indirect effect on migratory behaviour