

SOME CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES IN THE OSCILLATING TRAFFIC OF SZEGED

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In the course of the socialist industrialization after the Liberation — beside the constant migration — a new form of migration started in a rate that has not been observed before. This new form of migration is temporary but takes place in regularly repeating waves. Its name is oscillating traffic. The increase of the oscillating traffic could be called a world-phenomenon, but its significance in Hungary is outstanding even by international standards. (Every fourth employee takes part in it.) No doubt that this phenomenon helps to solve such problems as the increase of the employed or to decrease the areal differences in the different incomes, but beside all this, it has some negative outcomes, too.

Oscillation is not only a hard way of life, which takes up almost all of one's free time but it also means a great burden for the society as well. Although the role of Szeged is not outstanding in the history of oscillation, the problem needs a thorough analysis here, too.

Now by using some of our statistical data we are going to present some characteristic features of the migration of forces of labour in Szeged.

Szeged is one of the industrially developed counties, where the difference of the number of labour forces who work during the day and those who work during the night is considerable. The permanent population of the town (nearly 165 thousand) increases with a number of 16,358 people who are either workers or students.

The volume of the oscillation increased rapidly (it became "of 3.6x") during the past 15 years. While in 1960 without the agglomeration belt it was 3775, in 1964 it was 5248, in 1975 the number of people who oscillated to our town from Csongrád county was 13,550. (see regions fig. 1.)

Not only the number of the oscillating population changed so considerably, but also there were great changes in the rate of the distribution of the regions of attractivity concerning the town. While the proportion of the agglomeration area showed a decreasing tendency, that of the inner ring increased by a smaller, that of the outer ring increased by a greater proportion. So both the number (from 700—6000) and the proportion of the oscillating population increased from 1960—1975. Since these data refer to those who oscillate from the "outer ring", it is obvious that the great intensity attractivity of Szeged became wider and wider. At the same time the number of people who oscillate to Szeged from other places showed a minimum increase — because of the development of these other towns — but as far as the proportion of these people in connection with all of the oscillating population shows a slight decrease.

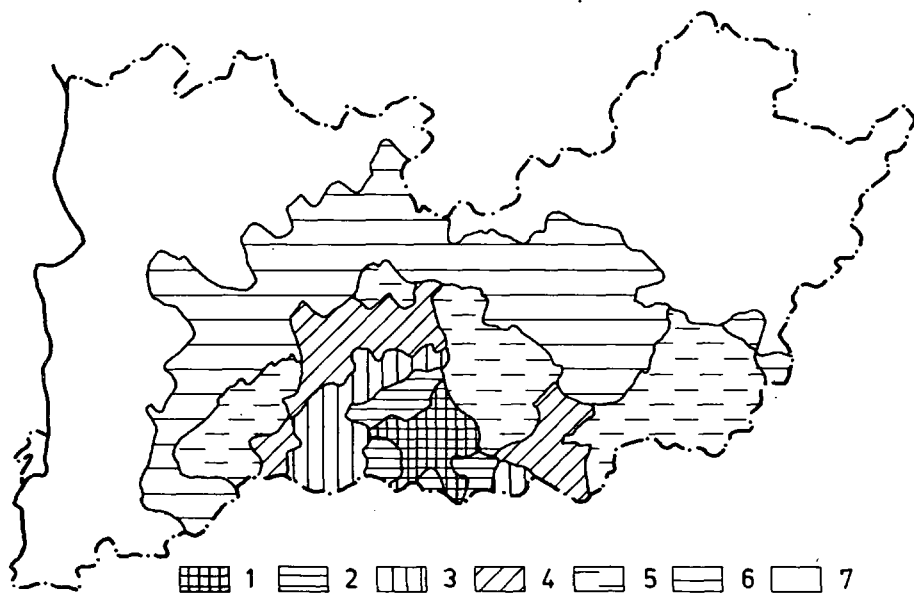


Fig. 1. Region of attractivity around Szeged

- 1: agglomeration area
- 2: inner area
- 3: middle area
- 4: outside area
- 5: transitional area
- 6: intensive regional area
- 7: outside regional area

The number of the oscillating population coming from different directions is fixed on maps. (The width of the line of the cartodiagram is scaled. Fig. 2.) The map shows the main directions of the oscillation coming to Szeged. First of all it is striking, that only the villages along the river Maros and Makó play a considerable role in the supplement of our town with labour forces from the Eastwardly direction. (see fig. 3.)

The oscillation coming from East-Westwardly and South-Westwardly directions is of outstanding significance. From these directions first of all it is Baks, Balástya, Bordány, Sándorfalva and Szatymaz, as well as Ásotthalom, Mórahalom and Rőszke that provides Szeged with a greater number of labour forces. The economy of these places can be characterized by the fact that their own industry is underdeveloped, so the main direction of the migration of the forces of labour is the oscillation from the industrially less-developed regions. The number of the oscillating people who came from another county was 2790 in the May of 1975. Of this number 434 people from the counties Bács-Kiskun and Békés come in daily, the remaining 2356 come in every week in every second week. Beside the above-mentioned Bács-Kiskun and Békés counties, Szolnok and Hajdú-Bihar counties send people of considerable number to Szeged.

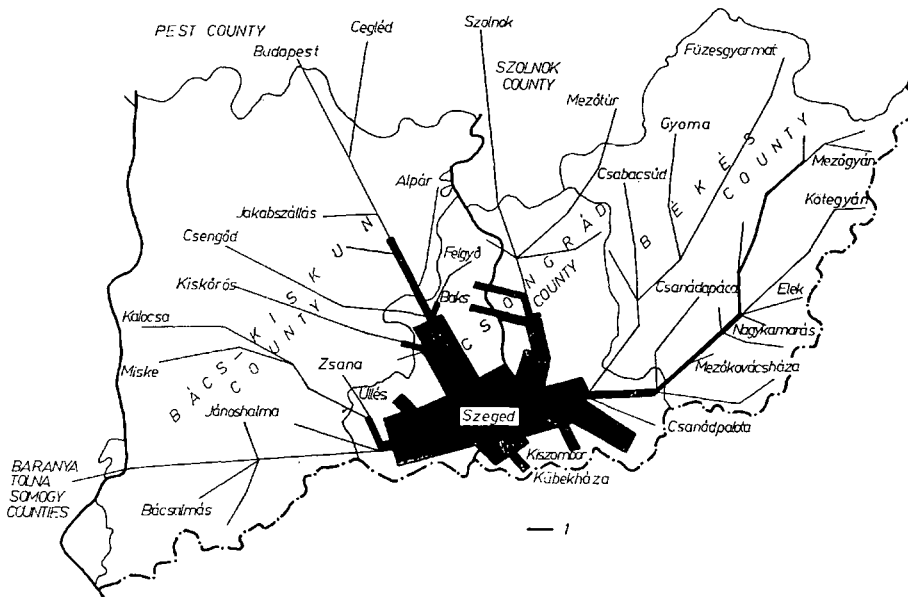


Fig. 2. Main directions of oscillation to Szeged, 1:100 people

Further considerable increase in the number of the oscillating population is not expected, because the nearby villages as sources of forces of labour cannot accomplish this role anymore, daily oscillation from the far-away ones would be out of reason.

Some branches of the economic life in which the oscillating population work were researched, too. The distribution of the producing and non-producing spheres is as follows:

heavy industry	27.2%
light industry	15.7%
food industry	7.3%
agriculture	1.6%
other branches	26.9%
students	21.3%.

These relative numbers show that a greater proportion of the oscillating population work in the industry. Within this heavy industry is of great importance. This — in our opinion — is in connection with the dynamic development of heavy industry in our town as well as with the fact that the salary-level is on a relatively high standard. It is obvious, that most of the people who came to Szeged from the villages of the county were unskilled or semi-skilled workers. Our research do not extend to such territories as the distribution by sex, but, according to our information, the proportion of men among those who work in the heavy industry is far above the proportion which characterises the main industrial branch. The greatest number of the oscillating population can be found in the dynamically developing industrial branches of Sze-

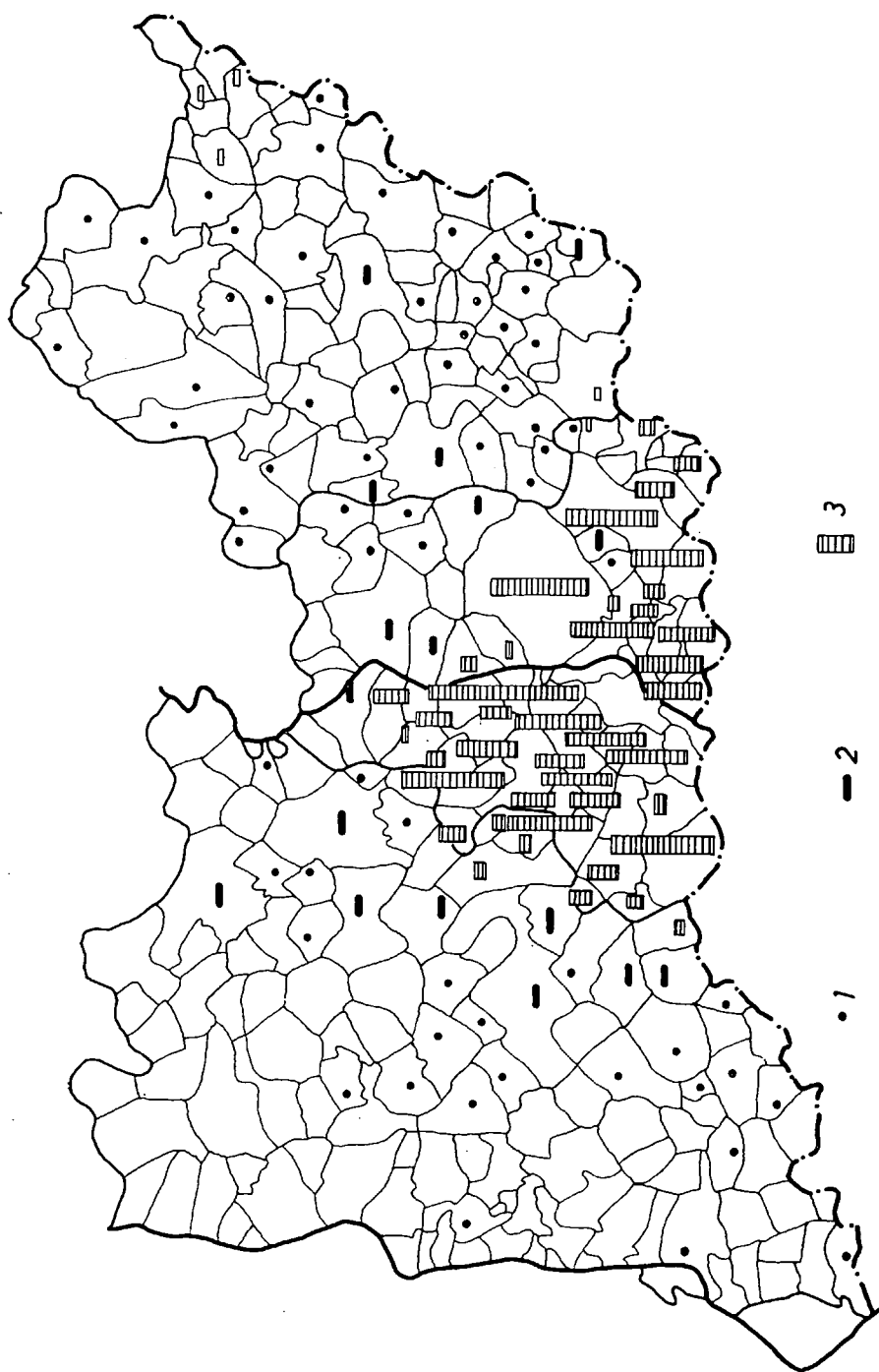


Fig. 3. The number of the oscillating population according to data in May 1975

- 1: 1—10 people
- 2: 11—20 people
- 3: 200 people

ged. Quite considerable — 26.9% is the number of those who work in a “tertier” sector. Szeged is a school-town — this explains the fact that number of oscillating students is so high.

The distribution of the oscillating population per industrial branches gives a favourable base of comparison with the employment structure of Szeged. The result is, that the proportion of those who oscillate in to work in an industrial branch is greater, that of those who oscillate in to work in the agriculture is smaller in connection with the proportion of all the oscillating population. This phenomenon can be explained by the greater attractivity caused by the dynamic development, the salary-level, and also by some causes which characterize some special branches.

The proportion of the oscillating in connection with the ones who work in the given place was analysed, too. The result was a very differentiated picture. (Our cartogram is parallel with the one that shows the distribution of the oscillating per settlement in the percentage of the dwelling population.) As one can see on the figure, in proportion of getting further away from the town, the value of the relative intensity number shows a decreasing tendency. Since the balance of the forces of labour in Szeged shows that the proportion of the population who age-wise could supply the town with forces of labour is decreasing, this results in the narrowing of the sources of forces of labour. So in the course of the development of the town the level of employment will be getting higher. Regarding the fact that in the course of the fifth five-year plan the decrease of the forces of labour will cover every possible field and branch, furthermore, reducements of working time will be introduced, the present difficulties in the field of the economy of forces of labour will be even more serious as far as the supply with working power is concerned, but they also call our attention that a good way of further development is on the side of the means of production.