

Abstract

- Using a data source on household monthly income, consumption and migration, covering 3300 farm households over 4 years (2004-2007), from Hubei, a province in south-central China, this paper aims to document patterns of seasonal migration from rural areas to urban cities in hunting for casual labor work, and to investigate the effects of seasonal migration on the changing patterns of households' income and consumption.
- Results show that household monthly income is averagely lower than monthly expenditure for most of the year and the only opposite occurs in December, and that household income and expenditure in peak season is generally lower than that in slack season. Pattern of migration shows seasonal variation, with less going out in peak season and more in slack season. Despite migration has positive effect on household income and consumption expenditure, it can not reduce the seasonal variation of consumption expenditure.

Aims

- To document household monthly income and expenditure variations over the year .
- To look at the patterns of seasonal migration
- To investigate the effects of seasonal migration on the changing patterns of household income and expenditure

Research Question

- Do household income, expenditure and migration show seasonality?
- Can migration smooth the variation of household income and consumption expenditure?

Findings

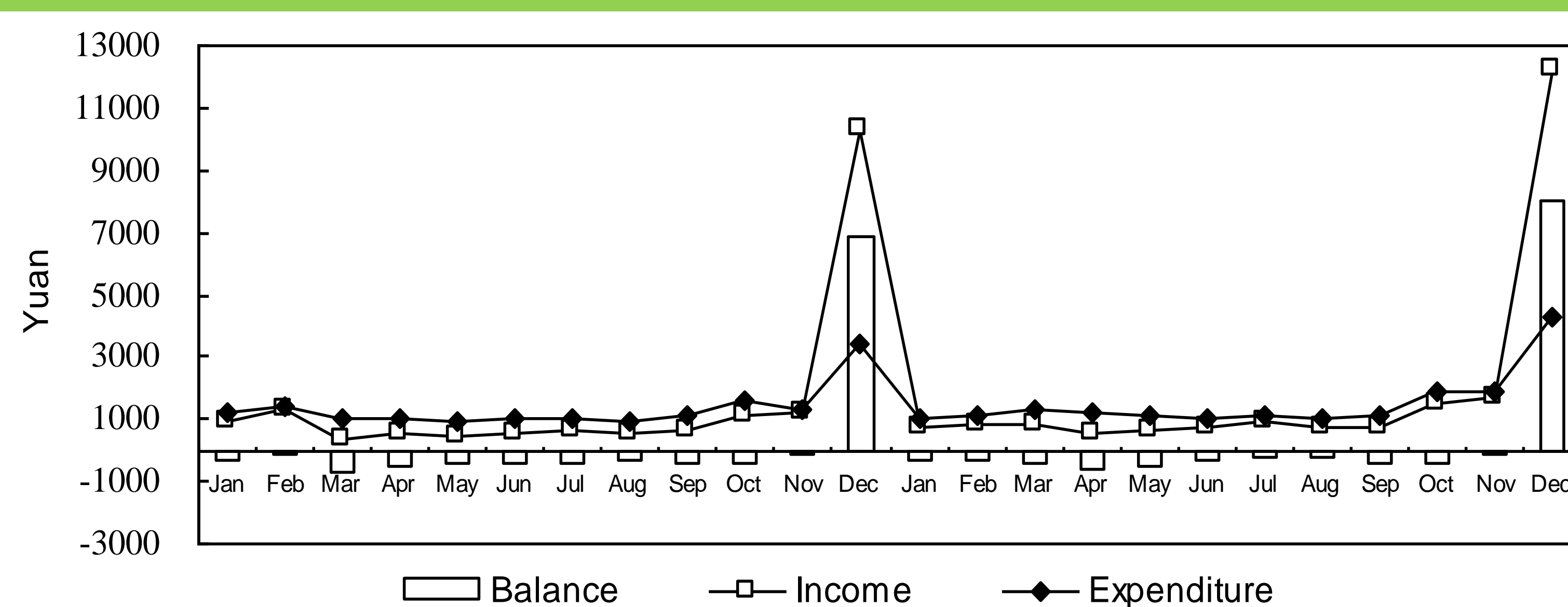
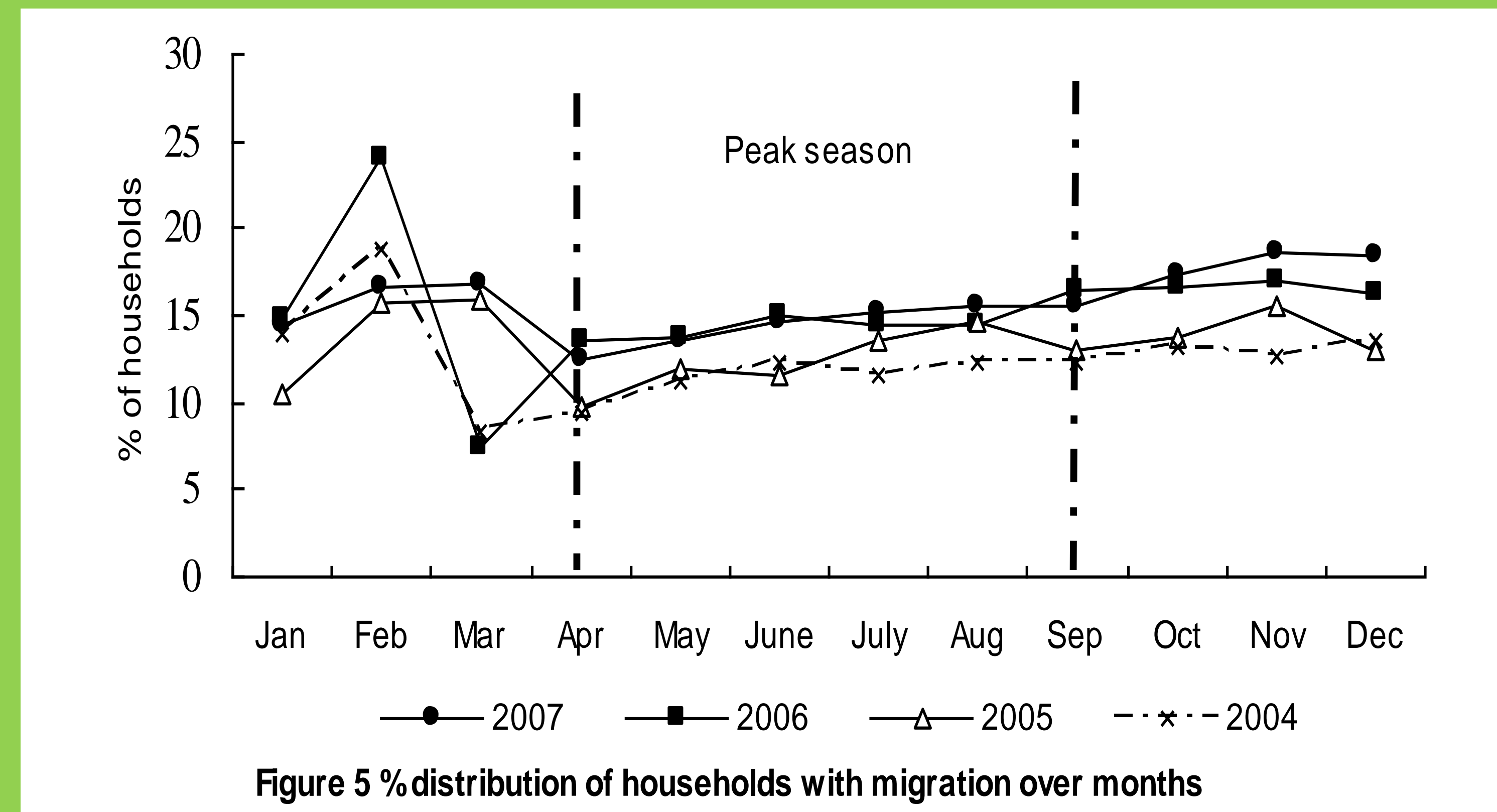


Figure 2 Seasonal variation of income, expenditure and balance, 2006 - 2007



Seasonality index by types of migrations							
		Income			Expenditure		
		Total	Wage	Family-based business	Total	Family-based business	Consumption
Migration laborers	No migration	1.344	1.361	1.628	0.725	0.946	0.844
	1 migration	1.220	1.289	1.675	0.747	0.960	0.858
	1+ migration	1.212	1.262	1.703	0.767	0.956	0.890
Migration time periods	1-3 month	1.238	1.304	1.662	0.749	0.938	0.870
	3-6 month	1.218	1.274	1.694	0.755	0.954	0.872
	6+ month	1.187	1.244	1.714	0.764	0.991	0.873

Determinants of income and consumption expenditure seasonality index				
Variables	Income		Consumption expenditure	
	Coefficient	T value	Coefficient	T value
Asset	0.000***	-2.76	0.000	-1.11
Farmsize	0.024***	19.89	0.004***	4.35
Migration.dummy=1	-0.089***	-6.18	0.011	1.03
Migration.dummy=2	-0.132***	-8.70	0.040***	3.68
Worktime	-0.014***	-3.28	-0.006*	-1.90
Training	0.018	0.98	-0.047***	-3.67
Constant	1.274***	31.61	0.873***	30.63

Conclusions

- Risks and uncertainties led to seasonal fluctuations for household income and expenditure in China.
- Pattern of migration shows seasonal variation, with less going out in peak season and more in slack season. Migration peaks in January when the traditional Spring Festival is just over.
- Households with more migration labors, longer migration time are generally with higher income and expenditure.
- Migration helps smooth variations of income in general and wage income in particular, but leads to higher variation of family-based business income.
- Migration generally increases the variation in expenditure, and this may be due to that migrant laborers have higher consumption expenses when they are away from home.