This paper is an effort to pursue the question — if migrants are selective, are their niches in industrial and occupational structures different from those of nonmigrants? In addition to the discussion of the role of migrants in supplying manpower to the secondary and tertiary sectors, two other questions are interested in this paper. One is whether migrants are more likely to take jobs with advanced technology than nonmigrants. The other is whether migrants are more responsive than nonmigrants to new industries?

Evidence presented in this paper indicates that there was a significant technological improvement in Taiwan in the period 1980-1985. Meanwhile, industrial and occupational structures have transformed gradually. The structural changes became a pull factor to migrants. Migrants were thus different from nonmigrants. They were more likely to take jobs with advanced technology and more responsive to shift in industrial structure.