



Economic & Social Affairs

2015

# International Migration Report 2015



United Nations

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**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

# **International Migration Report 2015**

Highlights



United Nations  
New York, 2016

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This report was prepared by Clare Menozzi, under the supervision of Bela Hovy.

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## International Migration Report 2015: Highlights Key Facts

- The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow rapidly over the past fifteen years reaching 244 million in 2015, up from 222 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000.
- Nearly two thirds of all international migrants live in Europe (76 million) or Asia (75 million). Northern America hosted the third largest number of international migrants (54 million), followed by Africa (21 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (9 million) and Oceania (8 million).
- In 2015, two thirds (67 per cent) of all international migrants were living in just twenty countries. The largest number of international migrants (47 million) resided in the United States of America, equal to about a fifth (19 per cent) of the world's total. Germany and the Russian Federation hosted the second and third largest numbers of migrants worldwide (12 million each), followed by Saudi Arabia (10 million).
- In 2014, the total number of refugees in the world was estimated at 19.5 million. Turkey became the largest refugee-hosting country worldwide, with 1.6 million refugees, followed by Pakistan (1.5 million), Lebanon (1.2 million), and the Islamic Republic of Iran (1.0 million). More than half (53 per cent) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (3.9 million), Afghanistan (2.6 million), and Somalia (1.1 million).
- Women comprise slightly less than half of all international migrants. The share of female migrants fell from 49 per cent in 2000 to 48 per cent in 2015. Female migrants outnumber male migrants in Europe and Northern America, while in Africa and Asia, particularly Western Asia, migrants are predominantly men.
- The median age of international migrants worldwide was 39 years in 2015, a slight increase from 38 years in 2000. Yet in some major areas, the migrant stock is becoming younger. Between 2000 and 2015, the median age of international migrants declined in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania.
- Most migrants worldwide originate from middle-income countries (157 million in 2015). Between 2000 and 2015, the number of migrants originating from middle-income countries increased more rapidly than those from countries in any other income group. The majority of migrants from middle-income countries were living in a high-income country.
- In 2015, of the 244 million international migrants worldwide, 104 million (43 per cent), were born in Asia. Europe was the birthplace of the second largest number (62 million or 25 per cent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (37 million or 15 per cent) and Africa (34 million or 14 per cent).
- In 2015, India had the largest “diaspora” in the world (16 million), followed by Mexico (12 million). Other countries with large diasporas included the Russian Federation (11 million), China (10 million), Bangladesh (7 million), and Pakistan and Ukraine (6 million, each).
- Between 2000 and 2015, positive net migration contributed to 42 per cent of the population growth in Northern America and 32 per cent in Oceania. In Europe the size of the population would have fallen between 2000 and 2015 in the absence of positive net migration.
- The ratification of United Nations legal instruments related to international migrants and migration remains uneven. As of October 2015, 36 Member States had ratified all five of the United Nations legal instruments related to international migration, while 14 Member States had ratified none of the relevant instruments.
- Since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the issue of international migration and its relation to development has risen steadily on the agenda of the international community. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development not only includes several migration-related targets, but also encourages countries to disaggregate targets by, inter alia, migratory status.

## Introduction

In today's increasingly interconnected world, international migration has become a reality that touches nearly all corners of the globe, often making distinctions between countries of origin, transit and destination obsolete. Modern transportation has made it easier, cheaper and faster for people to move. At the same time conflict, poverty, inequality and lack of decent jobs are among the reasons that compel people to leave their homes in search of better futures for themselves and their families.

When supported by appropriate policies, migration can contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in both home and host communities. In 2014, migrants from developing countries sent home an estimated US \$436 billion in remittances; a 4.4 percent increase over the 2013 level (World Bank 2015), far exceeding official development assistance and, excluding China, foreign direct investment. These funds are often used to improve the livelihoods of families and communities through investments in education, health, sanitation, housing and infrastructure. Countries of destination can also benefit from migration. In countries of destination, migrants often fill critical labour shortages, create jobs as entrepreneurs, and contribute in terms of taxes and social security contributions. Migrants, as some of the most dynamic members of society, can also forge new paths in science, medicine and technology and enrich their host communities by promoting cultural diversity.

In spite of the many benefits of migration, migrants themselves remain among the most vulnerable members of society. They are often the first to lose their job in the event of an economic downturn, often working for less pay, for longer hours, and in worse conditions than national workers. While for many migration is an empowering experience, others endure human rights violations, abuse and discrimination. Migrants, particularly women and children, are too often victims of human trafficking and the heinous forms of exploitation that human trafficking entails. Further, in many parts of the world, migration remains one of the few options for people, particularly young people, to find decent work, and escape poverty, persecution and violence.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. It further recognises that international migration is a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. International cooperation is critical to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants and refugees.

Accurate, consistent and timely data on international migration are essential for assessing current and future needs and for setting policy priorities to promote inclusive and equitable development for all. In order to track systematically levels and trends in international migration around the world, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations issues estimates of the number of international migrant stocks disaggregated by age, sex and place of origin for all countries and areas of the world.

This report presents the highlights of the *International Migration Report 2015*, which contains the latest quinquennial estimates of international migrant stock for 232 countries or areas from 2000 to 2015. The annex in these Highlights provides data for 2000 and 2015 on the estimated number of international migrants, the percentage of migrants in the total population, the percentage of female migrants, and the median age of migrants for 232 countries or areas of the world.



### International migrant stock by age, sex and origin: Definitions and data availability

The estimates of international migrant stocks disaggregated by age, sex and place of origin presented in *International Migration Report 2015* are based on national statistics. Most of the statistics used to estimate the international migrant stock were obtained from population censuses. Additionally, population registers and nationally representative surveys provided information on the number and composition of international migrants.

By definition, an international migrant is a person who is living in a country other than his or her country of birth. For estimating the international migrant stock, data on place of birth are generally given precedence, when they are available. Of the 232 countries and areas included in this analysis, data on the foreign-born were available for 188, or 81 per cent, of them. Where data on the foreign-born were not available, data on foreign citizens were used for 44 countries (or 19 per cent of countries or areas).

Among the 232 countries or areas included in this publication, 213, representing 92 per cent of the total, had at least one data source on the total migrant stock since the 2000 census round (which began in 1995), while 75 per cent of countries or areas had at least one recent data source on the age of international migrants and 81 per cent on their origin.

The availability of data on total migrant stock, as well as on the age and origin of international migrants differs significantly between major areas (table 1). In Africa, 19 per cent of countries did not have a recent data source on total migrant stock, while 43 per cent and 36 per cent of countries did not have recent data on the age or origin of international migrants, respectively. Asia also had a relatively large number of countries or areas with no recent data on international migrants or their basic demographic characteristics. In Asia, 10 per cent of the countries did not have a recent data source on total migrant stock, while 30 per cent were lacking recent data on the age of international migrants, and 26 per cent on the origin of international migrants.

**Table 1**

**Availability of empirical data on international migrant stock, overall and with classification by age and country of origin, 1995 to 2015**

	Countries or areas with at least one data source						Total number of countries or areas
	Number			Percentage			
	Total	By age	By origin	Total	By age	By origin	
World	213	175	188	92	75	81	232
Africa	47	33	37	81	57	64	58
Asia	45	35	37	90	70	74	50
Europe	46	42	46	96	88	96	48
Latin America and the Caribbean	47	42	45	98	88	94	48
Northern America	5	5	5	100	100	100	5
Oceania	23	18	18	100	78	78	23



## Levels and trends in international migration

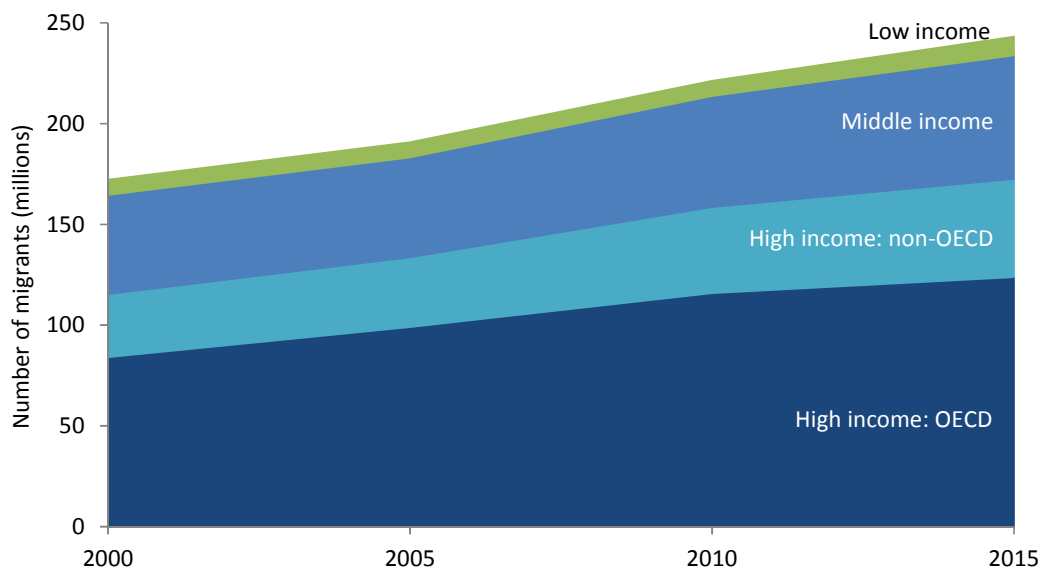
The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow rapidly over the past fifteen years reaching 244 million in 2015, up from 222 million in 2010, 191 million in 2005 and 173 million in 2000. Between 2000 and 2005, the international migrant stock grew by an average of 2 per cent per year. During the period 2005-2010, the annual growth rate accelerated, reaching 3 per cent. Since then, however, it has slowed, falling to around 1.9 per cent per year during the period 2010-2015.

**High-income countries host more than two thirds of all international migrants.** As of 2015, 71 per cent of all international migrants worldwide—equal to 173 million international migrants—lived in high-income countries (figure 1). Of these, 124 million migrants were hosted in high-income OECD countries, while 49 million migrants were living in other high-income non-OECD countries. Only 29 per cent—or 71 million—of the world’s migrants lived in middle- or low-income countries. Of these, 61 million resided in middle-income countries and 9 million in the low-income countries.

**The majority of the world’s migrants live in high-income countries**

**Figure 1**

**Number of international migrants by income group of country or area of destination, 2000 to 2015**



Note: The classification of countries and areas by income level is based on 2014 gross national income (GNI) per capita, in U.S. dollars, calculated by the World Bank.

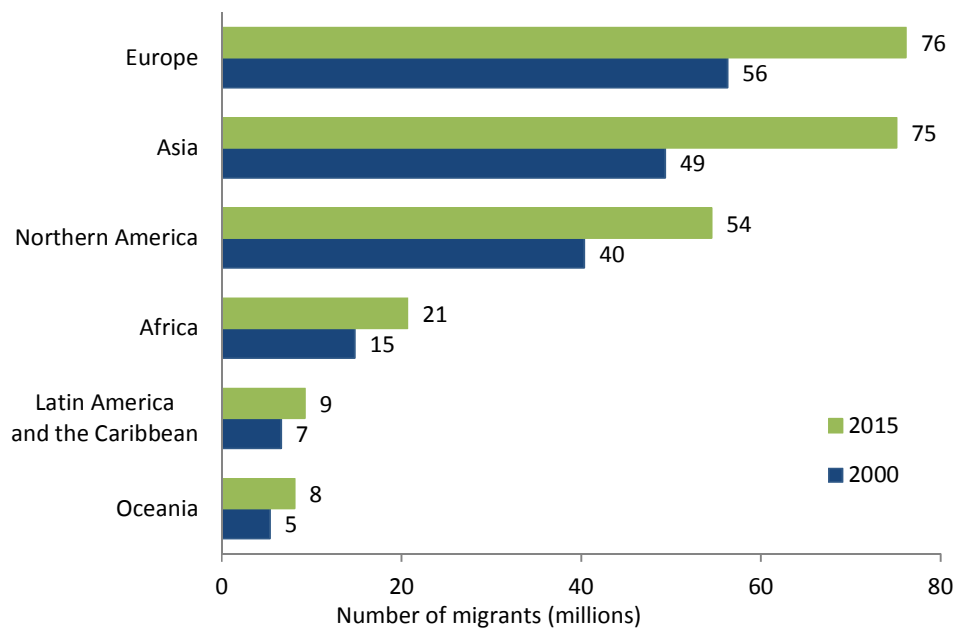
**High-income countries have absorbed most of the recent growth in the global population of international migrants.** High-income countries gained 57 million, or 81 per cent, of the 71 million migrants added worldwide between 2000 and 2015. Of these, 40 million migrants were added in the high-income OECD countries and 17 million in the high-income non-OECD countries. While high-income OECD countries gained the largest number of migrants worldwide, the pace of growth during the period 2000-2015 was slower for such countries (2.6 per cent per year) than for non-OECD high-income countries (2.9 per cent per year). In the middle-income countries (1.5 per cent per year) and the low-income countries (1.2 per cent per year), the pace of growth was considerably slower during this period.

**Asia and Europe host the largest numbers of migrants worldwide**

**Nearly two thirds of all international migrants worldwide live in Europe or Asia.** In 2015, 76 million international migrants were residing in Europe, compared to 75 million in Asia. Northern America hosted the third largest number of international migrants (54 million), followed by Africa (21 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (9 million), and Oceania (8 million) (figure 2).

**Figure 2**

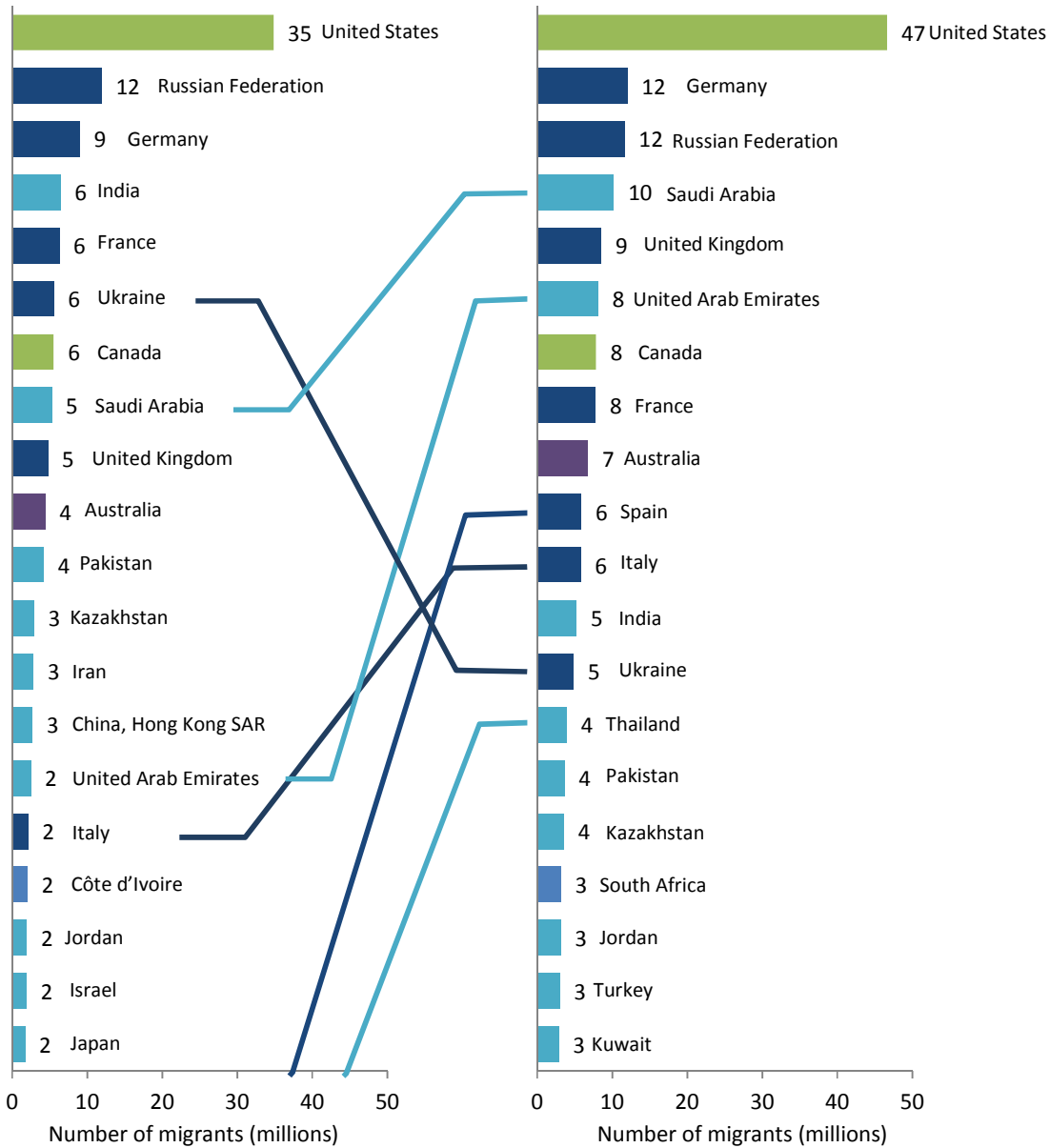
**Number of international migrants by major area of destination, 2000 and 2015**



**Between 2000 and 2015, Asia added more international migrants than any other major area.** Asia gained some 26 million international migrants during this period, or 1.7 million additional migrants per annum. Europe added the second largest number of international migrants between 2000 and 2015 (20 million, or 1.3 million per year), followed by Northern America (14 million, or 0.9 million per year) and Africa (6 million, or 0.4 million per year). Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania added comparatively smaller numbers of migrants during this period (3 million, or 0.2 million per year each). Despite this continued growth, international migrants accounted for less

than 2 per cent of the population of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. By contrast, in Europe, Northern America and Oceania international migrants comprised at least 10 per cent of the population.

**Figure 3**  
**Twenty countries or areas hosting the largest numbers of international migrants, 2000 and 2015**



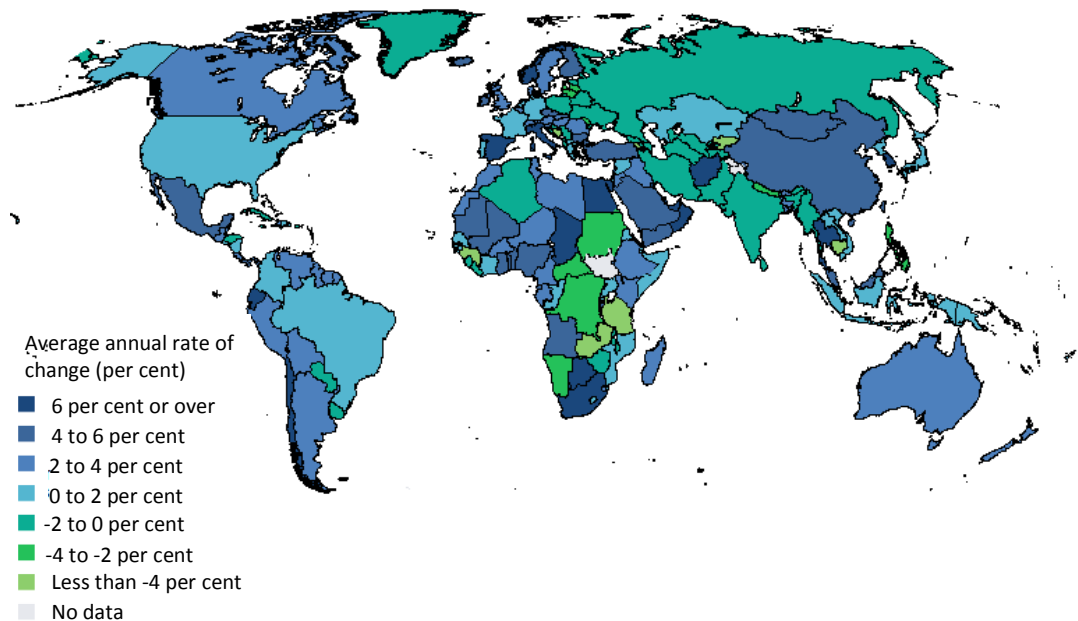
Notes: “China, Hong Kong SAR” stands for China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, “Iran” for the Islamic Republic of Iran, “United Kingdom” for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and “United States” for United States of America. “LAC” stands for Latin America and the Caribbean. Connecting lines indicate that the ranking of a country or area changed by five positions or more.

**The pace of growth in the migrant stock varies across major areas.** Asia and Oceania experienced the fastest average annual growth rate in the migrant stock. Between 2000 and 2015, the number of international migrants in Asia and Oceania grew by an average of 2.8 per cent per year. Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the third fastest average annual growth rate in the international migrant stock during this period (2.3 per cent), followed by Africa (2.2 per cent). Europe and Northern America, where the size of the migrant stock was already large, experienced a slightly slower pace of change, with an average annual growth rate of 2 per cent for each.

**Most of the world's migrants live in a handful of countries.** In 2015, 67 per cent of all international migrants in the world were living in just twenty countries. The largest number of international migrants resided in the United States of America: 47 million, equal to 19 per cent of the world's total (figure 3). Germany and the Russian Federation hosted the second and third largest numbers of migrants worldwide (around 12 million each), followed by Saudi Arabia (10 million), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (nearly 9 million), and the United Arab Emirates (8 million). Of the top twenty destinations of international migrants worldwide, nine were in Asia, seven in Europe, two in Northern America, and one each in Africa and Oceania.

### Map 1

**Average annual rate of change in the number of international migrants by country or area of destination, 2000 to 2015**



Notes: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

**Trends in the stock of international migrants differ widely by country.** Between 2000 and 2015, the number of migrants grew in 167 countries or areas worldwide. In 63 of these, including France, Germany and the United States of America, the international migrant stock grew by less than 2 per cent per annum (map 1). In 104 countries or areas, however, the pace of growth during the period 2000-2015 was considerably faster, with 19 countries or areas recording an average annual growth rate of 6 per cent or more. Among the countries or areas with the most pronounced growth during this period were Italy, Spain, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. In contrast, in 61 countries or areas, the stock of international migrants declined during the period 2000-2015. In 39 countries or areas, including India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the pace of decline was less than 2 per cent per annum. In 22 countries or areas, however, the international migrant stock shrunk more rapidly, with 10 countries or areas recording an average decline of more than 4 per cent per annum.

**The number of refugees worldwide has reached the highest level since World War II.** In 2014, the total number of refugees in the world was estimated at 19.5 million, representing about 8 per cent of all international migrants (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2015). Developing regions hosted 86 per cent of the world's refugees (12.4 million persons), the highest value in more than two decades. The least developed countries provided asylum to 3.6 million refugees, or 25 per cent of the global total. In 2014, Turkey became the largest refugee-hosting country worldwide, with 1.6 million refugees. Turkey was followed by Pakistan (1.5 million), Lebanon (1.2 million), the Islamic Republic of Iran (1.0 million), Ethiopia and Jordan (0.7 million each). More than half (53 per cent) of refugees under UNHCR's mandate come from just three countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (3.9 million), Afghanistan (2.6 million) and Somalia (1.1 million).



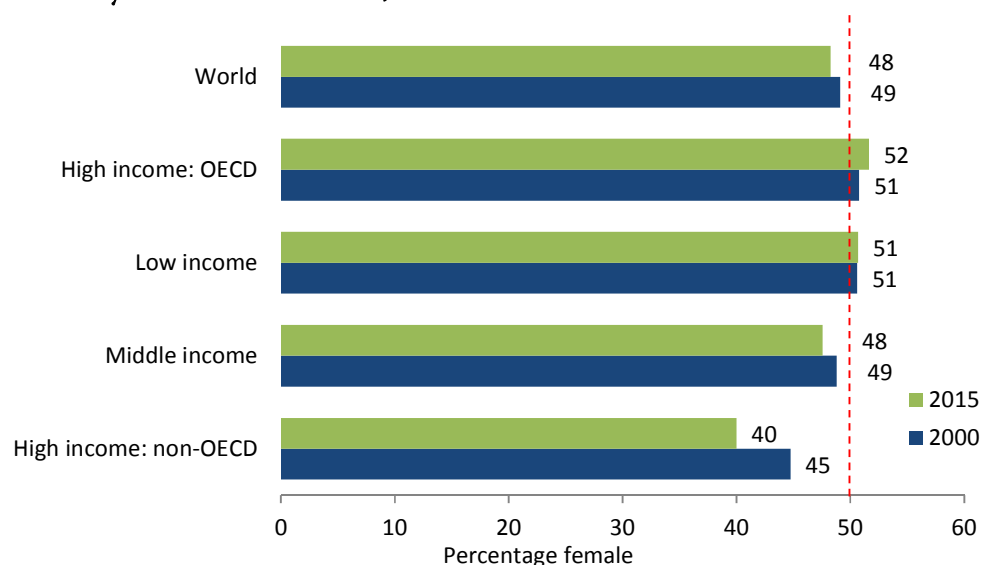
## Demographic characteristics of international migrants

### Women comprise slightly less than half of all international migrants worldwide.

Globally, the proportion of women among all migrants fell from 49 per cent in 2000 to 48 per cent in 2015. Much of this decline is due to the growing share of male migrants in high-income non-OECD countries. Between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of female migrants in such countries fell from 45 to 40 per cent (figure 4). The share of female migrants also declined in middle-income countries. In the high-income OECD countries, however, the share of female migrants increased slightly during the same period: from 51 to 52 per cent.

**Figure 4**

**Percentage female among international migrants worldwide and by income group of the country or area of destination, 2000 and 2015**



Note: See note to figure 1.

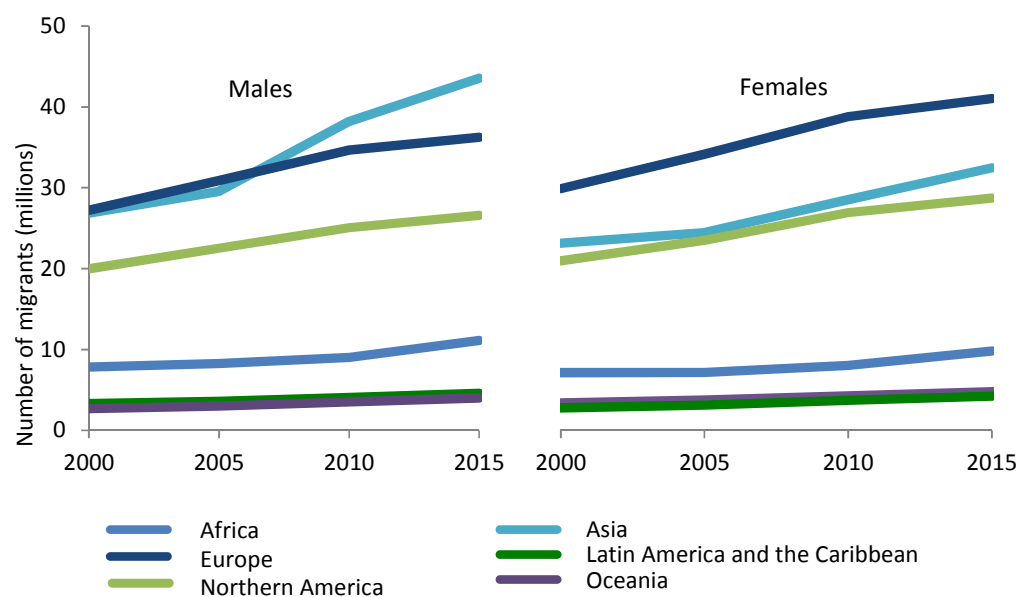
**There are considerable differences across major areas in the proportion of women among all international migrants.** Since 2000, the proportion of female migrants increased in all major areas with the exception of Africa and Asia. In Europe, the female share of migrants rose from 51.6 per cent in 2000 to 52.4 per cent in 2015. Likewise, in Northern America, the percentage of women among all international migrants rose from 50.5 to 51.2 per cent during this period. The larger proportion of female migrants in those major areas was mainly the outcome of the aging in place of migrants who had arrived

decades earlier and the fact that females, including female migrants, tend to have longer life expectancies compared to males. By contrast, in Asia the percentage of female migrants fell from 45.6 per cent in 2000 to 42 per cent in 2015. The reason for this decline rests primarily with the high concentration of males among recent migrant inflows.

**In Asia, the number of male migrants grew significantly more than the number of female migrants.** The stock of male migrants in Asia grew by 62 per cent, from 27 million in 2000 to 44 million in 2015 (figure 5). This increase was fuelled in part by the strong demand for male migrant workers in the oil-producing countries of Western Asia. The stock of female migrants in Asia increased by 40 per cent from 22 million in 2000 to 32 million in 2015. Africa also experienced a more pronounced growth in male migrants (42 per cent) during the period 2000-2015 compared to female migrants (37 per cent). By contrast, in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania, the stock of female migrants grew more rapidly than the stock of male migrants.

**Figure 5**

**Number of international migrants by sex and major area of destination, 2000 to 2015**



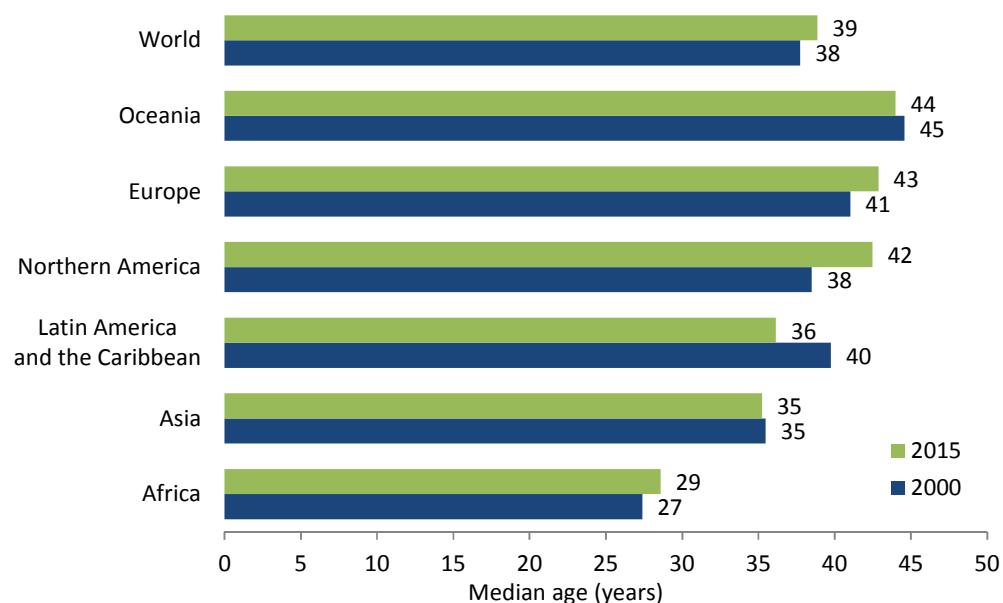
**Worldwide, the median age of migrants has been increasing.** The median age of all international migrants in 2015 was 39 years, compared with 38 years in 2000. The median age of migrants was highest in the high-income OECD countries (42 years). Migrants in high-income non-OECD (37 years), in middle-income countries (36 years), and in low-income countries (25 years) had considerably lower median ages. International migrants living in Africa were the youngest, with a median age of 29 in 2015, followed by Asia (35 years) and Latin America and the Caribbean (36 years). In contrast, migrants were older in Europe, Northern America and Oceania, where the median age was 43, 42 and 44 years, respectively (see figure 6).

**Several major areas are experiencing a “rejuvenation” of their migrant stock**

**Yet in some major areas the migrant stock is becoming younger.** Between 2000 and 2015, the median age of international migrants declined in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania. Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the most substantial “rejuvenation” of its migrant stock during this period (around 4 years), owing both to the inflow of new, younger migrants<sup>1</sup> as well as the death or return of older migrants, many of whom had arrived from Europe decades earlier. Conversely, in Africa, Europe and Northern America, the median age of international migrants increased between 2000 and 2015. Northern America experienced the most pronounced increase (around 4 years).

**Figure 6**

**Median age among international migrants worldwide and by major area of destination, 2000 and 2015**



**Most migrants worldwide are of working age.** In 2015, 72 per cent of all international migrants were aged 20 to 64 years, compared to 58 per cent of the total population (figure 7). Younger persons, below age 20, tend to be underrepresented amongst international migrants. Globally, 15 per cent of all migrants were under 20 years of age, compared to 34 per cent of the total population. Thirteen per cent of migrants worldwide were at least 65 years old, nearly twice as high as the percentage of persons aged 65 or over globally. This difference is due to a combination of factors, including the fact that, upon arrival, the majority of international migrants are of working age. The return of migrants at older ages and the fact that children born to migrants in the country of

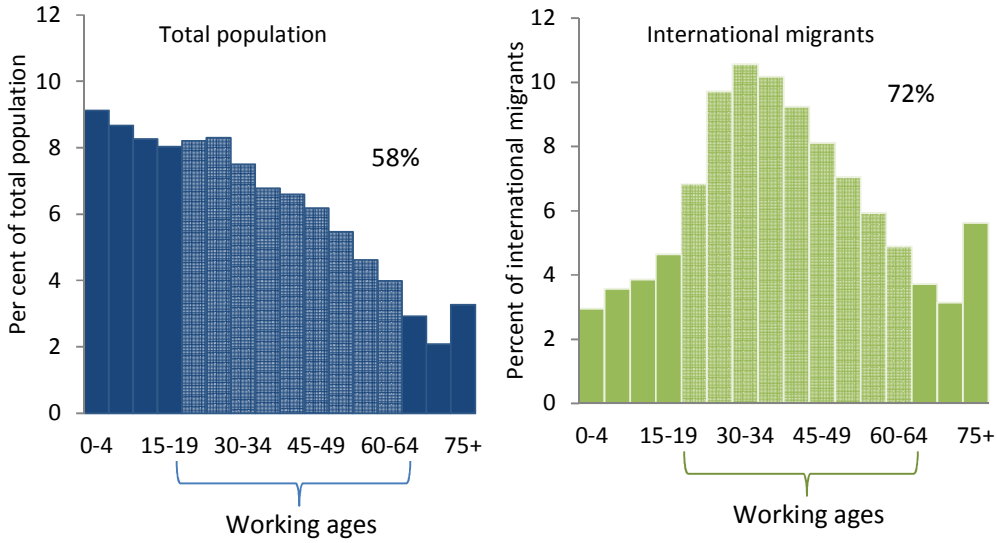
<sup>1</sup> Because international migrant stocks include not only newly arrived immigrants but also migrants who have lived in a country for many years, the median age of immigrants when they arrive is, on average, considerably lower than that of the migrant stock.



destination are considered native- rather than foreign-born also help to shape the overall age distribution of the migrant population.

**Figure 7**

**Age distributions of the total population and international migrants worldwide, 2015**



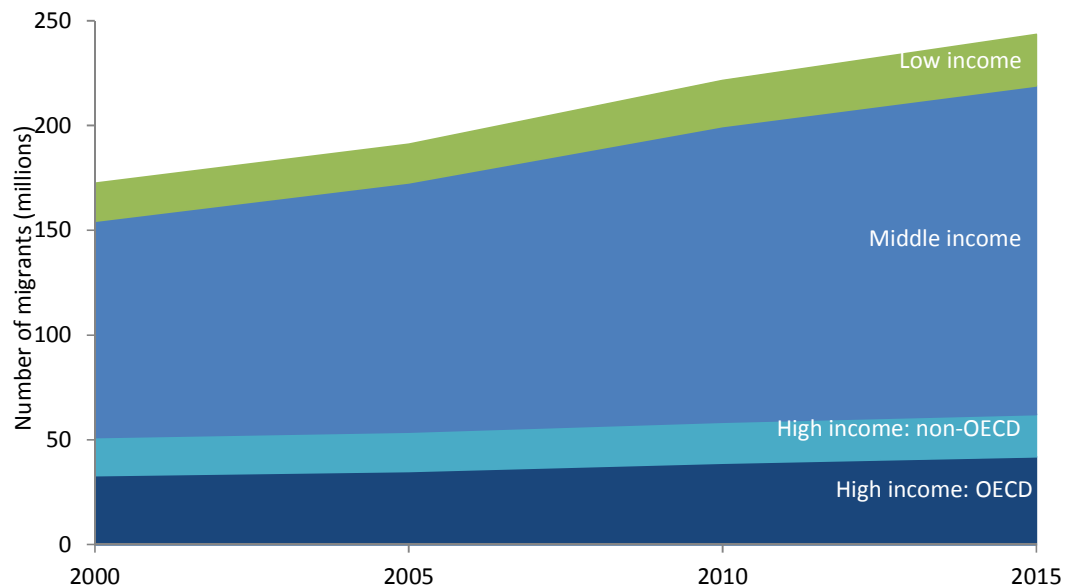
## Where do international migrants come from?

### Most migrants originate from middle-income countries

Although the majority of international migrants worldwide live in high-income countries, most migrants originate from middle-income countries. In 2015, there were 157 million international migrants who had been born in a middle-income country, equal to nearly 65 per cent of all migrants. Relatively fewer migrants originated from high-income OECD countries (42 million, or 17 per cent), high-income non-OECD countries (20 million, or 8 per cent) and from low-income countries (25 million, or 10 per cent). Between 2000 and 2015, the number of migrants originating from middle-income countries increased more rapidly than for any other income group (figure 8).

**Figure 8**

**Number of international migrants by income group of country or area of origin, 2000 to 2015**



Note: Unknown residuals were redistributed proportionally to the size of groups for which data on international migrants were available by origin.

The majority of migrants originating from middle-income countries live in a high-income country. Of the 157 million international migrants born in a middle-income country, nearly 49 per cent were residing in a high-income OECD country, 28 per cent in a high-income non-OECD country, 20 per cent in another middle-income country and 3

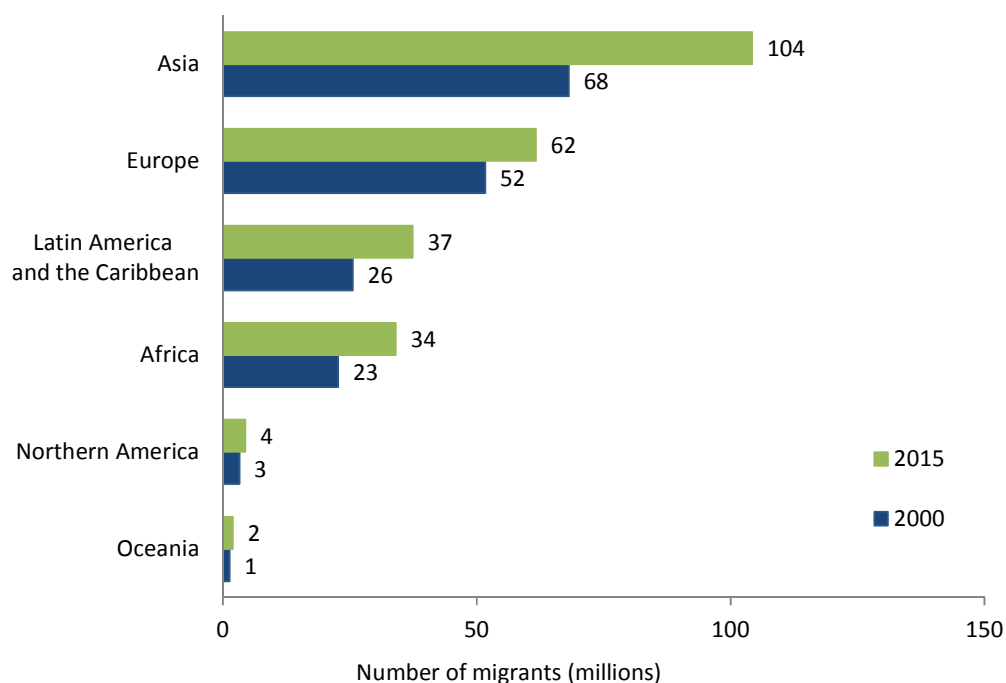
per cent in a low-income country. Migrants from high-income OECD countries were primarily residing in other high-income OECD countries (83 per cent), while migrants from high-income non-OECD countries were almost evenly split between high-income OECD countries (46 per cent) and middle-income countries (49 per cent). Over half of all migrants originating from low-income countries were living in a middle-income country (57 per cent), compared to 19 per cent in high-income OECD countries, 5 per cent in high-income non-OECD countries and 19 per cent in other low-income countries.

**Nearly half of all international migrants worldwide were born in Asia.** In 2015, of the 244 million international migrants worldwide, 104 million, or 43 per cent, were born in Asia (figure 9). Europe was the birthplace of the second largest number of international migrants (62 million, or 25 per cent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (37 million, or 15 per cent) and Africa (34 million, or 14 per cent). Relatively few migrants worldwide were born in Northern America (4 million, or 2 per cent) or Oceania (2 million, or 1 per cent).

**Between 2000 and 2015, the size of the migrant stock from Asia grew faster than from all other major areas.** During that period the stock of migrants from Asia grew by 2.8 per cent per year, compared to 1.2 per cent for the Europe. Other major areas that also experienced a rapid growth in their “diasporas” were Africa (2.7 per cent per annum), Latin America and the Caribbean (2.5 per cent per annum), Oceania (2.4 per cent per annum), and Northern America (2.1 per cent per annum).

**Figure 9**

**Number of international migrants by major area of origin, 2000 and 2015**

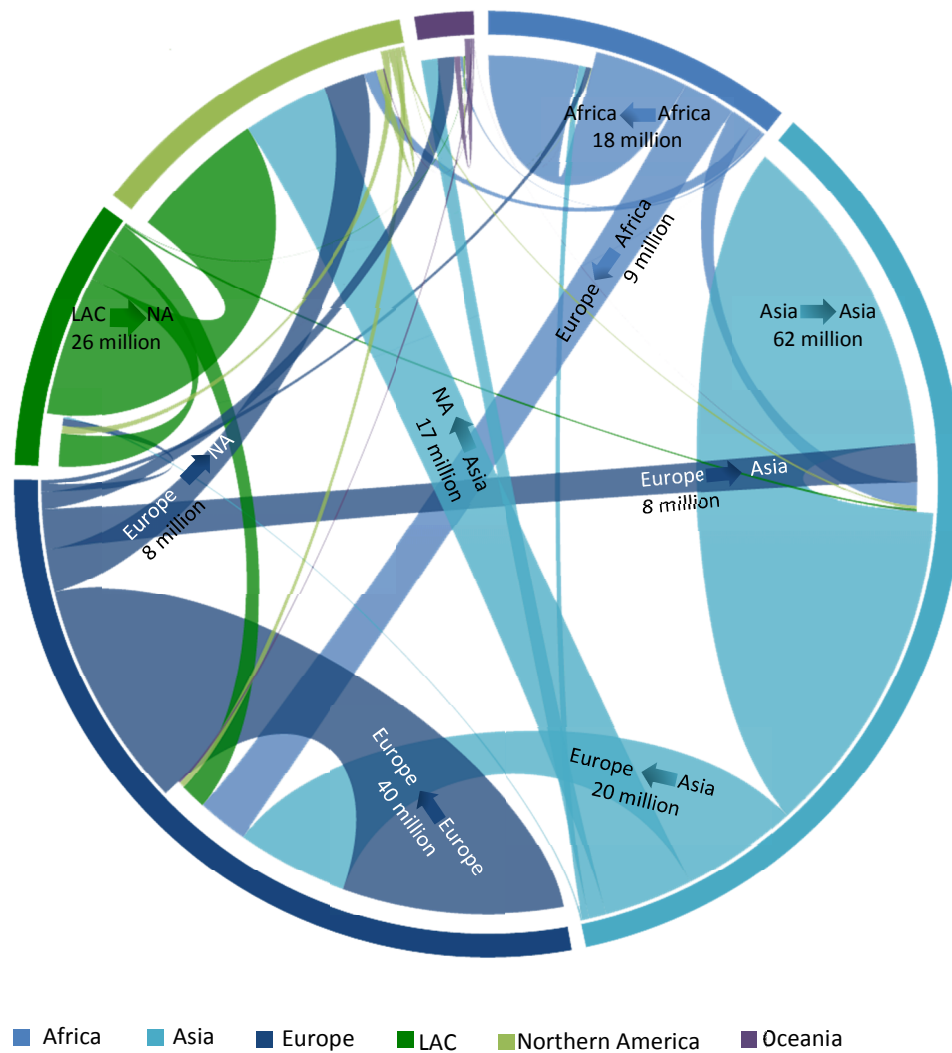


Note: See note to figure 8.

**In many parts of the world, migration occurs primarily within major areas**

In many parts of the globe, migration occurs primarily between countries that are located within the same major area of the world. The majority of the international migrants originating from Asia (60 per cent, or 62 million persons), Europe (66 per cent, or 40 million), Oceania (59 per cent, or 1 million) and Africa (52 per cent, or 18 million) live in another country of their major area of origin (figure 10). In contrast, the majority of international migrants born in Latin America and the Caribbean (84 per cent, or 32 million) and Northern America (73 per cent, or 3 million) reside in a country outside their major area of birth.

**Figure 10**  
**Number of international migrants by major areas of origin cross-classified by major area of destination, 2015**



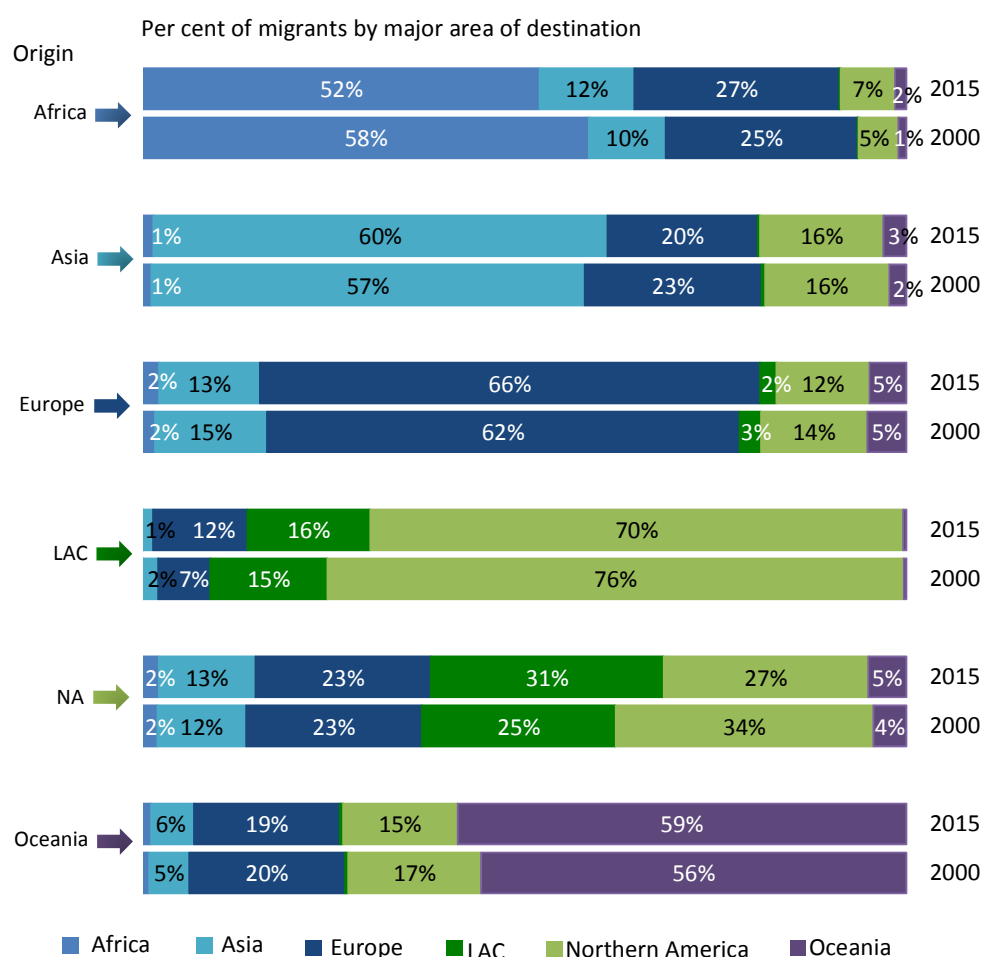
Notes: See note to figure 8. “LAC” stands for Latin America and the Caribbean and “NA” for Northern America.

**Migration between countries that are located within the same major area is increasing.** Between 2000 and 2015, the share of international migrants who remained

within their own major area of birth increased in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania (figure 11). Conversely, for migrants born in Africa and Northern America, the proportion of those living in a country outside of their major area of birth increased. For Africa this has been accompanied by an increase in the share of African foreign-born persons living in Asia, Europe, Northern America and Oceania, while for Northern America it resulted in an increase in the share of persons living in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania.

**Figure 11**

**Percentage distribution of international migrants by major area of destination, for major areas of origin, 2000 and 2015**

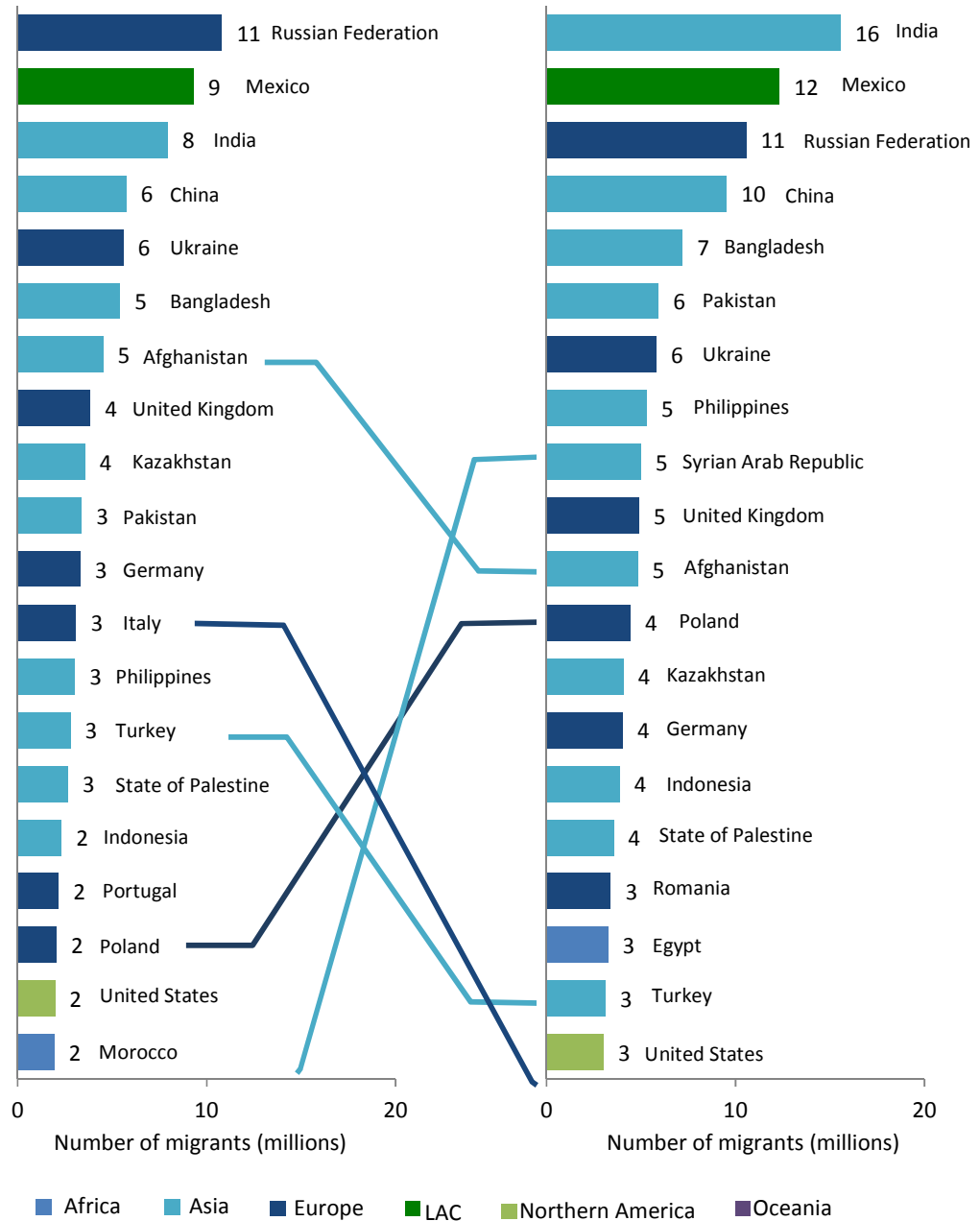


Note: See note to figure 10.

**Asia is the origin with the largest number of persons who are living outside their major area of birth.** In 2015, there were 42 million international migrants born in Asia but living elsewhere. Of these, the majority were living in Europe (20 million), followed by Northern America (17 million) and Oceania (3 million). Migrants born in Latin America and the Caribbean represented the second largest diaspora group with 32 million persons living outside their major area of birth. The majority of these migrants were living in

Northern America (26 million) and Europe (5 million). Europe had the third largest number of persons living outside their major area of birth (22 million). These migrants were primarily residing in Asia and Northern America (8 million each) and Oceania (3 million).

**Figure 12**  
**Twenty countries or areas of origin with the largest diaspora populations, 2000 and 2015**



Notes: “United Kingdom” stands for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and “United States” for United States of America. “LAC” stands for Latin America and the Caribbean. Connecting lines indicate that the ranking of a country or area changed by five positions or more.

**Between 2000 and 2015, some regional “corridors” grew very rapidly.** Asia was one of the fastest growing destinations for migrants from Africa, with an annual average growth rate of 4.2 per cent, equal to an absolute increase of nearly 2 million migrants during this period. For foreign-born persons from Asia, the fastest growing corridors outside of Asia were from Asia to Oceania (4.8 per cent increase per annum, yielding 2 million more migrants during the period 2000-2015) and from Asia to Northern America (2.7 per cent per annum, yielding 6 million more). One of the fastest-growing destinations for migrants originating from Latin America and the Caribbean was Europe (6.4 per cent per annum, or 3 million more). For foreign-born persons coming from Europe, one of the fastest-growing destinations was Africa (3.2 per cent per annum, or 0.5 million more), whereas for foreign-born originating from Northern America, it was Latin America and the Caribbean (3.4 per cent per annum, or 0.5 million more).

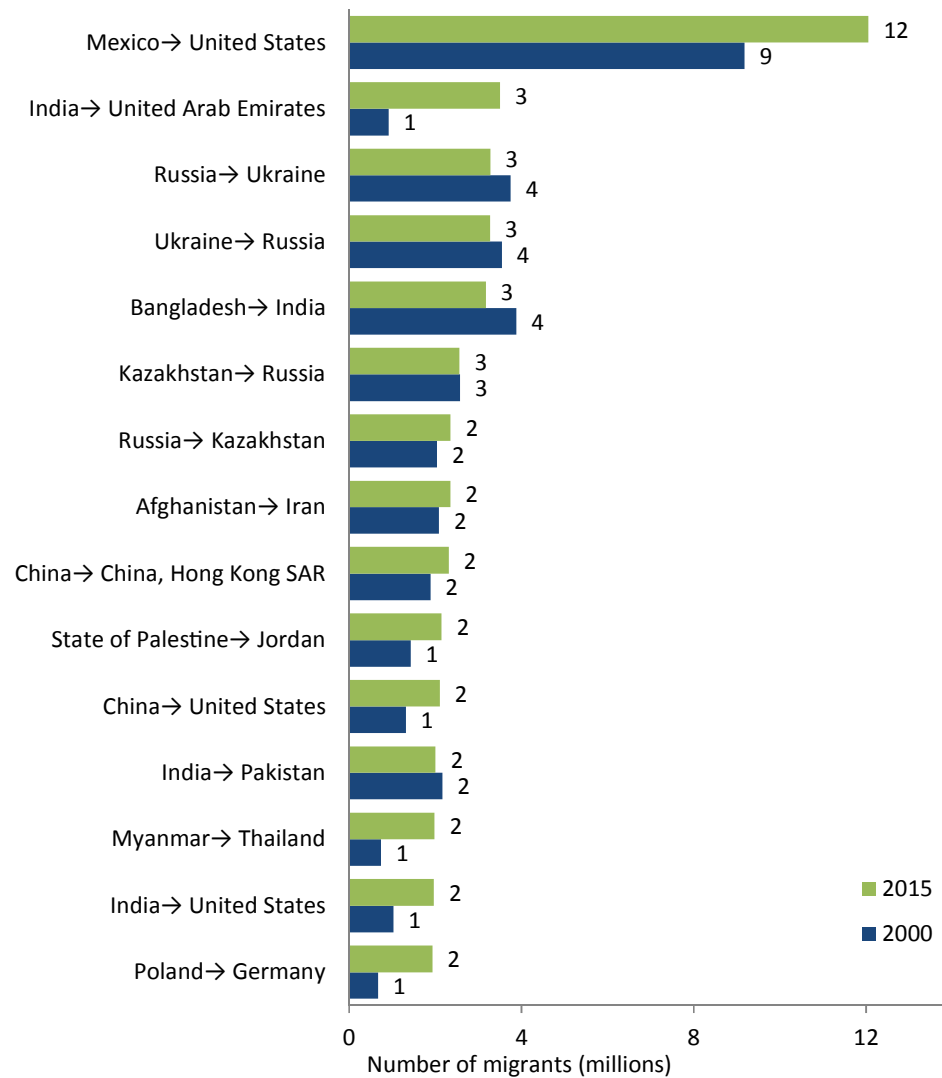
**India now has the largest “diaspora” in the world, followed by Mexico, the Russian Federation and China.** In 2015, 16 million persons from India were living outside of their country of birth compared to 12 million from Mexico (figure 12). Other countries with large diasporas included the Russian Federation (11 million), China (10 million), Bangladesh (7 million), and Pakistan and Ukraine (6 million each). Of the top twenty countries or areas of origin of international migrants, 11 were in Asia, 6 in Europe, and 1 each in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Northern America.

**Between 2000 and 2015, some countries have experienced a rapid growth in the size of their diaspora populations.** Among the countries and areas with the fastest average annual growth rate during this period were the Syrian Arab Republic (13.1 per cent per annum), Romania (7.3 per cent per annum), Poland (5.1 per cent per annum) and India (4.5 per cent per annum). In Syria much of this increase was due to the large outflow of refugees and asylum seekers following the conflict in the area.

**“Diasporas” from some countries of origin tend to concentrate in particular countries of destination.** Mexico’s diaspora is concentrated in just one country: the United States of America. In 2015, the United States of America hosted some 12 million persons born in Mexico (figure 13), equal to nearly 98 per cent of all Mexicans living abroad. Other examples of countries with diaspora populations settled predominantly in one country include Algeria (in France), Burkina Faso (in Côte d’Ivoire), Cuba and El Salvador (in the United States of America), and New Zealand (in Australia). In contrast, India’s diaspora is more evenly spread out between a number of destination countries, including the United Arab Emirates (3 million), and Pakistan and the United States of America (2 million each). Several countries of the former Soviet Union, including the Russian Federation and Ukraine, also have more evenly distributed diaspora populations.

**Figure 13**

**Fifteen largest populations of migrants from a single country or area of origin living in a single country or area of destination, 2000 and 2015**



Note: “China, Hong Kong SAR” stands for China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, “Iran” for the Islamic Republic of Iran, “Russia” for Russian Federation and “United States” for United States of America.



# The contribution of international migration to population dynamics

**The number of international migrants worldwide has grown faster than the world's population.** As a result of this faster growth rate, the share of migrants in the total population reached 3.3 per cent in 2015, up from 2.8 in 2000. There were, however considerable differences between major areas. In Europe, Northern America and Oceania, international migrants accounted for at least 10 per cent of the population. By contrast, in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, less than 2 per cent of the population consisted of international migrants.

**International migration contributes significantly to population growth in many parts of the world, and reverses negative growth in some countries or areas.** Between 2000 and 2015, positive net migration<sup>2</sup> contributed to 42 per cent of the population growth in Northern America and 32 per cent in Oceania. In Europe, the size of the population would have declined during the period 2000-2015 in the absence of positive net migration, whereas in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, negative net migration contributed marginally to slowing the pace of population growth.

**The impact of negative net migration is generally modest for countries with large populations.** During the period 2000-2015, for instance, negative net migration had a relatively small impact on population change in countries or areas with large populations, including Bangladesh, China, India and Mexico. However, for smaller countries or areas, including the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the impact can be more substantial. In the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, for example, whereas the size of the population declined during the period 2000-2015 owing to negative net migration, it would have increased under a scenario of zero-net migration.

**Net migration is projected to have a significant impact on the future size of populations in a number of major areas.** In Europe, while current trends in migration will not be enough to compensate for the surplus of deaths over births (figure 14), this decline would have been even more pronounced, and started earlier, under a zero-net-migration scenario. Likewise, in Northern America the size of the population would start

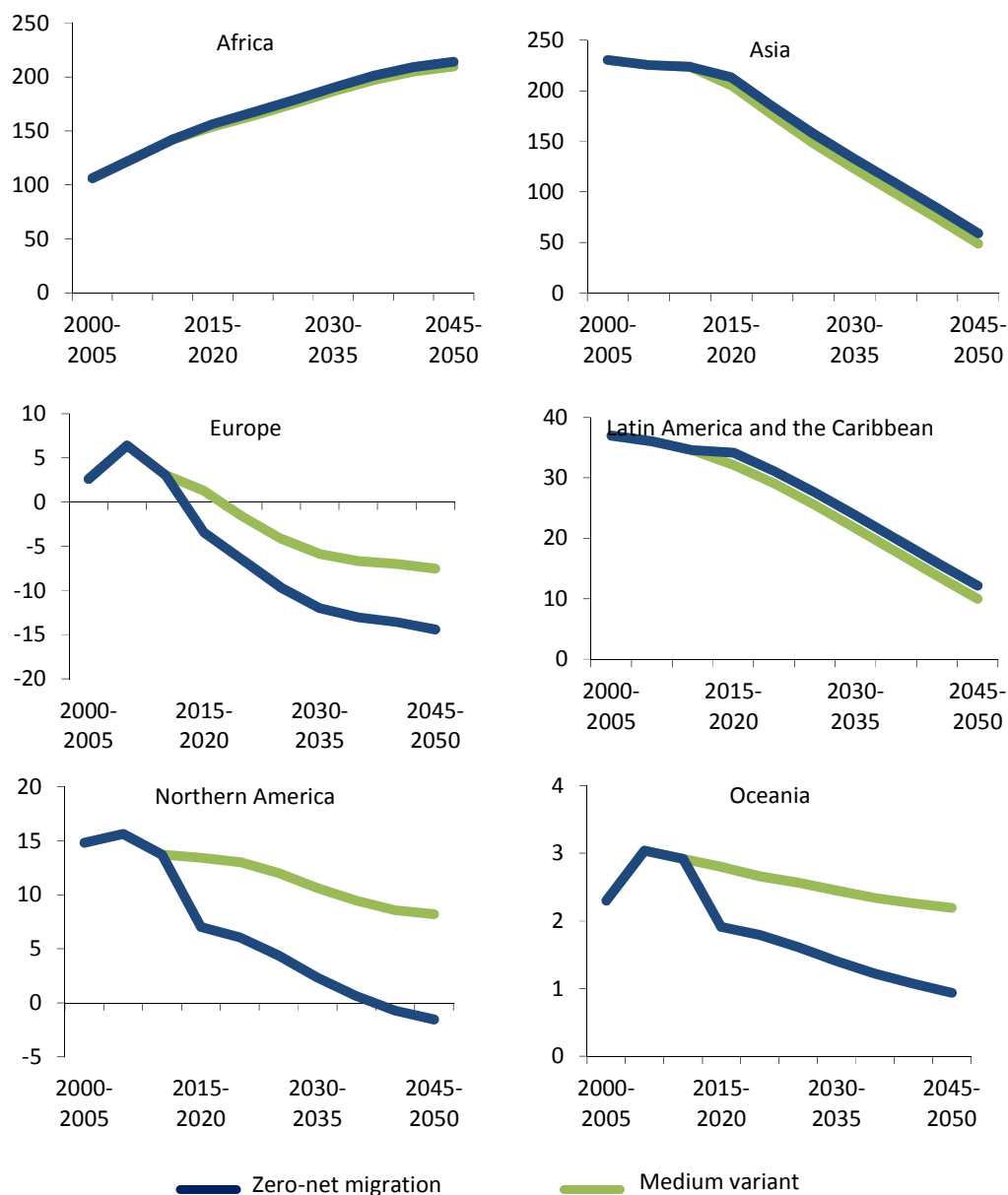
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<sup>2</sup> Net international migration refers to the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants. If more people immigrate to a country than emigrate from it, the latter gains population from positive net migration. When more people emigrate than immigrate, the country loses population through negative net migration.

to decline in 2040 under a zero-net-migration scenario, while in Oceania the decline in total population would be two times larger by 2050.

**Figure 14**

**Actual and projected change in total population over five-year time periods by major area, from 2000 to 2050, with and without international migration starting in 2015 (millions)**



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015b).

**Migration can contribute to reducing slowing the long-term trend towards population ageing.** Because international migrants tend to comprise larger proportions of working-age persons compared to the overall population, positive net migration can

contribute to reducing old-age dependency ratios. In many parts of the world, the old-age dependency ratio would be even higher in the absence of net migration. Assuming zero-net migration, the old-age dependency ratio of Europe in 2050 would rise to 51 persons age 65 or over per 100 persons of working age, compared to 48 per 100 assuming a continuation of current migration patterns. For Northern America and Oceania, the old-age dependency ratio would rise to 43 and 34 per 100, respectively, with zero-net migration, compared to 38 and 30 per 100 if current levels of migration continue.

**While international migration can play a role in modifying dependency ratios, it cannot reverse the trend of population ageing.** Even assuming a continuation of current migration patterns, all major areas of the world are projected to have significantly higher old-age dependency ratios in 2050.<sup>3</sup> In Asia, for every 100 persons of working age, there will be 28 dependent older persons in 2050 compared to 11 dependent older persons in 2015. Likewise, during the period 2015-2050, old-age dependency ratios are projected to increase from 26 to 48 per 100 in Europe, from 22 to 38 per 100 in Northern America, from 11 to 31 per 100 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and from 18 to 30 per 100 in Oceania. Only Africa is projected to have an old-age dependency ratio below 10 persons aged 65 or over per 100 persons of working age in 2050.

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<sup>3</sup> The old-age dependency ratio is a commonly used measure of the potential need for social and economic support in a population. It is calculated by dividing the population aged 65 years or older by the working-age population, aged 15 to 64 years old. In general, a higher value of this ratio indicates that each potential worker needs to support a larger number of potentially dependent persons aged 65 years or older.

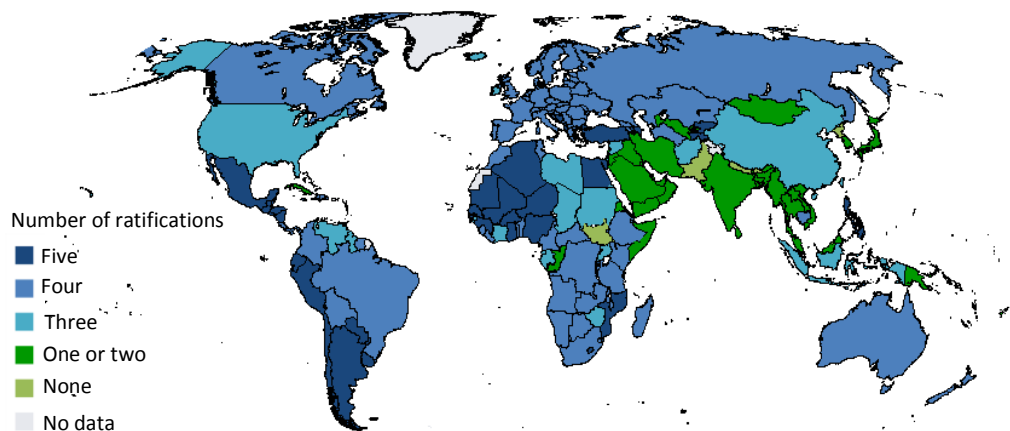
## Ratification of legal instruments related to international migration

The United Nations has five legal instruments related to international migration. These are: (a) the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, (b) the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, (c) the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families, (d) the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and (e) the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Together with the instruments on the rights of migrant workers adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), these form the basis of the international normative and legal framework on international migration.

**The ratification of the United Nations legal instruments related to international migrants and migration remains uneven.** The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol have been ratified by 145 and 146 United Nations Member States, respectively. Likewise, two thirds of countries have ratified the two protocols seeking to stem irregular migration in the form of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. However, only one quarter of countries have ratified the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families. As of October 2015, 36 Member States had ratified all five of the United Nations legal instruments related to international migration, while 14 Member States had ratified none of the relevant instruments (map 2).

### Map 2

**Number of ratifications of the five United Nations legal instruments related to international migration by country, as of October 2015**



Source: United Nations Treaty Collection; see <http://treaties.un.org> (as of 6 October 2015). Notes: See notes for map 1.

# International migration at the United Nations

Migration has steadily risen on the agenda of the international community. Since the adoption of the Programme of Action at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which contains one of the most comprehensive negotiated texts on international migration to date, the issue of international migration and its relation to development has risen steadily on the agenda of the international community. While subsequent United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic field affirmed the contribution of international migration to development, this was not reflected in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

After years of deliberating the question of convening an international migration conference, the General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006. This marked the first high-level event of the General Assembly dedicated exclusively to this topic. Although the formal outcome of the event was limited to a Chair's summary, the proposal of the Secretary-General to create a voluntary and state-led forum on international migration and development received widespread support. Since 2007, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has fostered informal dialogue and cooperation between Governments with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for development and to minimising its negative impacts.

In response to the 2005 report of the Global Commission on International Migration, the Secretary-General established the Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency group responsible for promoting the application of international instruments and norms in the area of international migration, for increasing system-wide coherence, and for strengthening the response of the United Nations system and the international community to the opportunities and challenges presented by international migration. Currently, the Group consists of 17 entities of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

At the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in October 2013, the General Assembly adopted a landmark declaration. The agreement not only acknowledged the contribution of migration in realising the MDGs, but also recognised that human mobility was a key factor for sustainable development, which would need to be adequately considered in the elaboration of the development agenda that would follow the MDGs.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development not only includes several migration-related targets, but also encourages countries to disaggregate targets by, *inter alia*, migratory status. Such disaggregation will help to ensure that the particular needs and concerns of migrants are well understood and adequately addressed by governments as part of their development policies and planning. Furthermore, the Agenda calls on countries to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration and to respect the human rights and humane treatment of migrants and refugees. Furthermore, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda contains several practical proposals to strengthen the development outcomes of migration.

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## Annex

Country or area	Number of international migrants (thousands)		International migrants as a percentage of total population		Females among international migrants (percentage)		Median age of international migrants (years)	
	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015
<b>WORLD</b>	172 703.3	243 700.2	3	3	49	48	38	39
High-income countries	115 379.0	172 608.1	9	13	49	48	39	40
OECD countries	84 060.6	123 864.4	9	12	51	52	39	42
Non-OECD countries	31 318.3	48 743.7	12	16	45	40	38	37
Middle-income countries	49 230.5	61 359.6	1	1	49	48	36	36
Low-income countries	7 646.9	9 193.4	2	1	51	51	26	25
<b>AFRICA</b>	14 800.3	20 649.6	2	2	47	46	27	29
Eastern Africa	4 844.8	6 129.1	2	2	49	49	27	26
Burundi	125.6	286.8	2	3	51	51	27	27
Comoros	13.8	12.6	3	2	53	52	32	34
Djibouti	100.5	112.4	14	13	47	47	29	27
Eritrea	13.0	15.9	0	0	47	45	30	30
Ethiopia	611.4	1 072.9	1	1	47	49	29	22
Kenya	699.1	1 084.4	2	2	50	50	20	22
Madagascar	23.5	32.1	0	0	44	43	39	38
Malawi	232.6	215.2	2	1	52	52	32	34
Mauritius <sup>1</sup>	15.5	28.6	1	2	63	45	29	30
Mayotte	45.5	77.0	30	32	48	54	27	33
Mozambique	195.7	222.9	1	1	47	52	22	23
Réunion	100.7	127.2	14	15	48	49	32	37
Rwanda	347.1	441.5	4	4	49	50	29	27
Seychelles	6.6	12.8	8	13	42	30	33	36
Somalia	20.1	25.3	0	0	47	46	26	27
South Sudan	..	824.1	..	7	..	49	..	24
Uganda	634.7	749.5	3	2	50	50	30	27
United Republic of Tanzania	928.2	261.2	3	0	49	50	26	29
Zambia	321.2	127.9	3	1	49	50	27	35
Zimbabwe	410.0	398.9	3	3	43	43	34	39
<b>Middle Africa</b>	1 756.7	2 307.7	2	2	49	50	27	24
Angola	46.1	106.8	0	0	49	52	31	33
Cameroon	228.4	382.0	1	2	45	51	31	16
Central African Republic	123.5	81.6	3	2	47	47	27	29
Chad	104.8	517.0	1	4	46	54	27	15
Congo	305.0	393.0	10	9	50	45	29	29
Democratic Republic of the Congo	744.4	545.7	2	1	51	52	24	26
Equatorial Guinea	4.5	10.8	1	1	47	45	32	34
Gabon	195.6	268.4	16	16	43	43	28	30
Sao Tome and Principe	4.4	2.4	3	1	49	50	45	46
<b>Northern Africa</b>	1 885.7	2 159.0	1	1	44	41	28	28
Algeria	250.1	242.4	1	1	45	45	35	41
Egypt	173.5	491.6	0	1	47	46	30	19
Libya	567.4	771.1	11	12	35	29	30	32
Morocco	53.0	88.5	0	0	49	50	36	38
Sudan <sup>2</sup>	801.9	503.5	3	1	50	49	22	20
Tunisia	36.4	56.7	0	1	49	48	36	36
Western Sahara	3.3	5.2	1	1	44	41	33	36
<b>Southern Africa</b>	1 222.3	3 435.2	2	5	41	41	35	37
Botswana	57.1	160.6	3	7	42	45	30	35



Country or area	Number of international migrants (thousands)		International migrants as a percentage of total population		Females among international migrants (percentage)		Median age of international migrants (years)	
	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015
Lesotho	6.2	6.6	0	0	46	46	27	26
Namibia	134.4	93.9	7	4	46	46	28	35
South Africa	1 001.8	3 142.5	2	6	40	40	37	37
Swaziland	22.9	31.6	2	2	43	48	33	35
<b>Western Africa</b>	<b>5 090.9</b>	<b>6 618.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
Benin	133.7	245.4	2	2	46	44	24	28
Burkina Faso	520.0	704.7	4	4	52	52	16	16
Cabo Verde	11.0	14.9	3	3	48	49	31	35
Côte d'Ivoire	1 994.1	2 175.4	12	10	45	45	29	32
Gambia	182.5	192.5	15	10	47	47	25	27
Ghana	191.6	399.5	1	1	49	46	18	24
Guinea	560.1	228.4	6	2	50	51	21	23
Guinea-Bissau	20.5	22.3	2	1	50	52	21	21
Liberia	151.9	113.8	5	3	46	43	23	23
Mali	189.5	363.1	2	2	48	49	20	23
Mauritania	57.4	138.2	2	3	46	42	26	19
Niger	122.3	189.3	1	1	52	53	29	26
Nigeria	487.9	1 199.1	0	1	45	45	25	30
Saint Helena <sup>3,4</sup>	0.4	0.6	8	15	47	45	..	..
Senegal	231.9	263.2	2	2	48	47	28	27
Sierra Leone	98.2	91.2	2	1	44	45	24	27
Togo	137.9	276.8	3	4	50	50	21	21
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>49 340.8</b>	<b>75 081.1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Central Asia</b>	<b>5 183.9</b>	<b>5 393.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>
Kazakhstan	2 871.3	3 546.8	19	20	54	50	46	50
Kyrgyzstan	389.6	204.4	8	3	58	60	44	47
Tajikistan	299.3	275.1	5	3	56	57	50	54
Turkmenistan	218.5	196.4	5	4	57	53	48	51
Uzbekistan	1 405.3	1 170.9	6	4	57	53	49	52
<b>Eastern Asia</b>	<b>5 393.1</b>	<b>7 596.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>
China <sup>5</sup>	508.0	978.0	0	0	50	39	35	35
China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	2 669.1	2 838.7	39	39	54	61	48	52
China, Macao Special Administrative Region	240.8	342.7	56	58	55	55	41	46
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	36.2	48.5	0	0	51	50	36	36
Japan	1 686.6	2 043.9	1	2	53	55	33	34
Mongolia	8.2	17.6	0	1	44	27	37	38
Republic of Korea	244.2	1 327.3	1	3	41	44	30	34
<b>South-Eastern Asia</b>	<b>4 926.8</b>	<b>9 867.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>
Brunei Darussalam	96.3	102.7	29	24	44	43	34	35
Cambodia	146.1	74.0	1	0	51	46	18	18
Indonesia	292.3	328.8	0	0	48	42	26	30
Lao People's Democratic Republic	21.9	22.2	0	0	47	46	29	36
Malaysia	1 277.2	2 514.2	5	8	44	39	28	32
Myanmar	98.0	73.3	0	0	47	45	32	32
Philippines	318.1	211.9	0	0	49	48	33	32
Singapore	1 351.7	2 543.6	34	45	55	56	37	39
Thailand	1 257.8	3 913.3	2	6	49	50	27	32
Timor-Leste	10.6	10.8	1	1	52	41	30	35
Viet Nam	56.8	72.8	0	0	42	42	29	36
<b>Southern Asia</b>	<b>15 278.0</b>	<b>14 103.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>
Afghanistan	75.9	382.4	0	1	44	49	30	30
Bangladesh	987.9	1 422.8	1	1	14	13	29	33
Bhutan	32.1	51.1	6	7	18	19	28	28
India	6 411.3	5 241.0	1	0	48	49	48	49
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2 803.8	2 726.4	4	3	41	47	29	31
Maldives	27.1	94.1	10	26	45	30	33	33
Nepal	717.9	518.3	3	2	66	69	31	33

Country or area	Number of international migrants (thousands)		International migrants as a percentage of total population		Females among international migrants (percentage)		Median age of international migrants (years)	
	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015
Pakistan	4 181.9	3 629.0	3	2	46	49	34	37
Sri Lanka	40.1	38.7	0	0	45	48	47	25
<b>Western Asia</b>	<b>18 559.0</b>	<b>38 119.5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>
Armenia	657.9	191.2	21	6	59	59	38	52
Azerbaijan	327.5	264.2	4	3	57	52	43	45
Bahrain	239.4	704.1	36	51	31	28	33	36
Cyprus	80.1	196.2	8	17	57	56	32	35
Georgia	218.6	168.8	5	4	57	57	45	46
Iraq	210.5	353.9	1	1	43	41	28	24
Israel	1 851.3	2 011.7	31	25	54	55	52	57
Jordan	1 927.8	3 112.0	40	41	49	50	22	21
Kuwait	1 127.6	2 866.1	58	74	32	34	28	34
Lebanon	692.9	1 997.8	21	34	49	52	25	22
Oman	623.6	1 845.0	28	41	22	19	34	30
Qatar	359.7	1 687.6	61	75	24	16	33	32
Saudi Arabia	5 263.4	10 185.9	25	32	33	32	32	33
State of Palestine	275.2	255.5	9	5	55	56	27	30
Syrian Arab Republic	832.3	875.2	5	5	49	49	35	34
Turkey	1 281.0	2 964.9	2	4	52	49	34	35
United Arab Emirates	2 446.7	8 095.1	80	88	28	25	31	34
Yemen	143.5	344.1	1	1	44	48	21	27
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>56 271.9</b>	<b>76 146.0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Eastern Europe</b>	<b>20 428.5</b>	<b>19 684.4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>45</b>
Belarus	1 123.6	1 082.9	11	11	54	54	43	48
Bulgaria	43.4	102.1	1	1	58	54	41	44
Czech Republic	220.8	405.1	2	4	46	43	53	38
Hungary	297.0	449.6	3	5	53	51	49	41
Poland	825.3	619.4	2	2	59	58	67	72
Republic of Moldova	247.8	142.9	6	4	56	65	50	54
Romania	126.9	226.9	1	1	52	47	63	28
Russian Federation	11 900.3	11 643.3	8	8	50	51	40	43
Slovakia	116.4	177.2	2	3	56	53	51	51
Ukraine	5 527.1	4 834.9	11	11	57	57	46	47
<b>Northern Europe</b>	<b>7 901.0</b>	<b>13 331.4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>
Channel Islands <sup>6</sup>	64.3	82.3	43	50	53	52	43	43
Denmark	371.0	572.5	7	10	51	52	34	37
Estonia	249.5	202.3	18	15	60	60	55	63
Faeroe Islands	3.6	5.5	8	11	47	49	31	31
Finland <sup>7</sup>	136.2	315.9	3	6	50	49	32	35
Iceland	15.9	37.5	6	11	55	52	34	32
Ireland	350.6	746.3	9	16	51	51	33	34
Isle of Man	39.0	45.2	51	52	52	50	46	43
Latvia	430.2	263.1	18	13	59	61	54	64
Lithuania	214.3	136.0	6	5	53	58	51	57
Norway	292.4	741.8	7	14	50	48	35	36
Sweden	1 003.8	1 639.8	11	17	52	51	42	41
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4 730.2	8 543.1	8	13	53	52	40	37
<b>Southern Europe</b>	<b>7 517.1</b>	<b>15 747.7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>
Albania	76.7	57.6	2	2	53	49	41	45
Andorra	42.1	42.1	64	60	48	47	43	46
Bosnia and Herzegovina	83.0	34.8	2	1	52	52	42	43
Croatia	585.3	576.9	13	14	53	53	45	51
Gibraltar	8.1	11.1	29	34	52	49	33	33
Greece	1 111.7	1 242.5	10	11	50	54	32	41
Holy See <sup>4,8</sup>	0.8	0.8	100	100	52	53	..	..
Italy	2 121.7	5 788.9	4	10	54	55	35	39
Malta	21.5	41.4	6	10	52	47	32	38

Country or area	Number of international migrants (thousands)		International migrants as a percentage of total population		Females among international migrants (percentage)		Median age of international migrants (years)	
	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015
Montenegro	..	82.5	..	13	..	59	..	43
Portugal	651.5	837.3	6	8	51	53	31	40
San Marino	4.0	4.7	15	15	46	45	33	35
Serbia <sup>9</sup>	856.8	807.4	9	9	55	56	49	54
Slovenia	171.0	236.0	9	11	47	43	39	48
Spain	1 657.3	5 853.0	4	13	49	51	33	37
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	125.7	130.7	6	6	58	58	47	49
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>20 425.4</b>	<b>27 382.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>47</b>
Austria	996.5	1 492.4	12	17	52	52	41	42
Belgium	853.4	1 387.9	8	12	48	48	37	39
France	6 278.7	7 784.4	11	12	51	51	46	48
Germany	8 992.6	12 005.7	11	15	50	52	40	50
Liechtenstein	15.5	23.5	47	63	48	51	41	42
Luxembourg	139.8	249.3	32	44	50	49	38	41
Monaco	21.8	21.0	68	56	52	51	51	56
Netherlands	1 556.3	1 979.5	10	12	51	52	37	42
Switzerland	1 570.8	2 438.7	22	29	46	51	33	43
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>6 578.4</b>	<b>9 234.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>1 255.6</b>	<b>1 367.4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>
Anguilla	4.1	5.5	37	37	53	53	31	31
Antigua and Barbuda	23.1	28.1	30	31	55	55	31	39
Aruba	30.1	36.1	33	35	55	55	35	44
Bahamas	36.5	59.3	12	15	47	49	32	41
Barbados	28.4	34.5	11	12	56	55	35	41
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba <sup>10</sup>	46.1	13.0	..	52	56	52	36	43
British Virgin Islands	12.1	17.3	58	57	51	51	35	40
Cayman Islands	19.3	23.7	46	40	50	49	36	37
Cuba	17.8	13.3	0	0	56	55	58	62
Curaçao	..	37.6	..	24	..	59	..	42
Dominica	3.7	6.7	5	9	47	48	28	29
Dominican Republic	355.6	415.6	4	4	39	39	26	31
Grenada	6.8	7.1	7	7	50	50	25	28
Guadeloupe	83.2	98.5	19	21	52	55	32	36
Haiti	25.8	39.5	0	0	43	42	36	35
Jamaica	25.0	23.2	1	1	50	49	33	28
Martinique	54.5	61.7	14	16	53	56	29	34
Montserrat	1.2	1.4	24	26	49	48	31	34
Puerto Rico	355.0	275.0	9	7	53	53	33	41
Saint Kitts and Nevis	5.9	7.4	13	13	48	47	30	32
Saint Lucia	9.9	12.8	6	7	50	50	31	33
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4.3	4.6	4	4	51	51	32	34
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	..	27.3	..	70	..	52	..	37
Trinidad and Tobago	41.8	49.9	3	4	54	51	43	42
Turks and Caicos Islands	9.0	11.7	48	34	48	48	30	35
United States Virgin Islands	56.6	56.7	52	53	53	53	39	50
<b>Central America</b>	<b>1 107.6</b>	<b>2 040.2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>
Belize	36.5	53.9	15	15	49	50	31	34
Costa Rica	310.9	421.7	8	9	50	52	29	35
El Salvador	31.7	42.0	1	1	53	52	27	32
Guatemala	48.1	76.4	0	0	56	53	31	35
Honduras	28.5	28.1	0	0	49	47	30	33
Mexico	538.1	1 193.2	1	1	50	49	15	12
Nicaragua	30.4	40.3	1	1	49	49	19	24
Panama	83.4	184.7	3	5	49	49	37	37
<b>South America</b>	<b>4 215.2</b>	<b>5 826.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>
Argentina	1 540.2	2 086.3	4	5	53	54	50	46
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	92.7	143.0	1	1	49	48	26	26

Country or area	Number of international migrants (thousands)		International migrants as a percentage of total population		Females among international migrants (percentage)		Median age of international migrants (years)	
	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015
Brazil	684.6	713.6	0	0	47	46	58	52
Chile	177.3	469.4	1	3	52	53	30	33
Colombia	109.6	133.1	0	0	49	47	22	25
Ecuador	151.5	387.5	1	2	49	48	29	25
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	1.1	1.6	37	54	40	44	33	33
French Guiana	76.6	106.1	47	40	49	53	34	35
Guyana	8.6	15.4	1	2	46	47	24	38
Paraguay	176.6	156.5	3	2	48	48	32	37
Peru	66.3	90.9	0	0	50	50	37	34
Suriname	27.5	46.8	6	9	46	45	27	29
Uruguay	88.9	71.8	3	2	54	55	53	59
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1 013.7	1 404.4	4	5	50	50	47	40
<b>NORTHERN AMERICA</b>	<b>40 351.8</b>	<b>54 488.7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>
Bermuda	17.7	19.1	28	31	52	51	39	42
Canada	5 511.9	7 835.5	18	22	52	52	46	46
Greenland	6.8	6.0	12	11	30	34	40	43
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	1.5	1.0	23	16	48	48	35	38
United States of America	34 814.1	46 627.1	12	14	50	51	38	42
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>5 360.0</b>	<b>8 100.9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>
Australia and New Zealand	5 065.1	7 803.4	22	27	50	51	45	44
Australia	4 386.3	6 763.7	23	28	50	51	46	45
New Zealand	678.8	1 039.7	18	23	51	52	41	42
<b>Melanesia</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>109.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>
Fiji	12.7	13.8	2	2	48	46	35	35
New Caledonia	49.7	64.3	24	24	46	46	40	43
Papua New Guinea	25.1	25.8	0	0	38	35	34	32
Solomon Islands	4.0	2.6	1	0	44	44	33	39
Vanuatu	2.6	3.2	1	1	50	50	34	33
<b>Micronesia</b>	<b>130.2</b>	<b>115.8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>
Guam	74.1	76.1	48	45	48	48	35	38
Kiribati	2.3	3.2	3	3	48	47	24	30
Marshall Islands	1.9	3.3	4	6	38	39	33	34
Micronesia (Federated States of)	3.1	2.8	3	3	45	47	31	32
Nauru	2.4	3.2	24	31	46	40	34	35
Northern Mariana Islands	40.1	21.6	59	39	57	58	34	38
Palau	6.3	5.7	33	27	38	43	33	38
<b>Polynesia</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>
American Samoa	24.9	23.2	43	42	48	49	32	37
Cook Islands	2.8	4.2	16	20	44	50	21	22
French Polynesia	30.3	30.1	13	11	42	43	36	42
Niue	0.5	0.6	26	35	46	46	21	22
Samoa	6.0	4.9	3	3	48	50	18	21
Tokelau	0.3	0.5	17	39	45	52	17	18
Tonga	3.7	5.7	4	5	46	45	26	32
Tuvalu	0.2	0.1	2	1	44	45	33	34
Wallis and Futuna Islands	2.0	2.8	14	22	49	50	25	31

## Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Including Agalega, Rodrigues and Saint Brandon.
- <sup>2</sup> Estimates for 2000 refer to Sudan and South Sudan.
- <sup>3</sup> Including Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.
- <sup>4</sup> Data on migrant stock by age were not estimated and are not reflected in age related subtotal and indicators.
- <sup>5</sup> For statistical purposes, the data for China do not include Hong Kong and Macao, Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of China.
- <sup>6</sup> Refers to Guernsey and Jersey.
- <sup>7</sup> Including Åland Islands.
- <sup>8</sup> Refers to the Vatican City State.
- <sup>9</sup> Estimates for 2000 refer to Serbia and Montenegro.
- <sup>10</sup> Estimates for 2000 refer to the former Netherlands Antilles consisting of Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten (Dutch part).