



Migration at a Glance

This document highlights some of the key facts and figures relating to numbers, patterns, causes and consequences of international migration today. It relies on the latest available data from: UNDESA, World Bank, IOM, ILO and UNHCR.

How many international migrants are there?

- There are nearly 200 million international migrants in 2005, counting only those who have lived outside their country for more than one year and including 9.2 million refugees
- This is equivalent to the population of the 5th largest country - Brazil
- 1 in 35 people is an international migrant; or 3% of the world's population
- Numbers are increasing rapidly: from 82 million international migrants in 1970 through 175 million in 2000 to nearly 200 million today

Migrant women

- Almost half the world's international migrants are women (48.6%)
- Some 51% of migrant women live in the developed world, compared with 49% in the developing world
- There are more female than male international migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Oceania, Europe and the former USSR

Where are the migrants? (Year 2000)

- 56.1 million in Europe (including the European part of the former USSR), accounting for 7.7% of Europe's population
- 49.9 million in Asia, accounting for 1.4% of Asia's population
- 40.8 million in North America, accounting for 12.9% of North America's population
- 16.3 million in Africa, accounting for 2% of Africa's population
- 5.9 million in Latin America, accounting for 1.1% of Latin America's population
- 5.8 million in Australia, accounting for 18.7% of Australia's population

Which are the most important host countries?

- USA has some 35 million: 20% of the world's migrants
- The Russian Federation has some 13.3 million: 7.6% of the world's migrants
- Germany has some 7.3 million: 4.2% of the world's migrants
- Ukraine has some 6.9 million: 4.0% of the world's migrants
- India has some 6.3 million: 3.6% of the world's migrants
- Migrants comprise more than 60% of the total population in Andorra, Macao Special Administrative Region of China, Guam, the Holy See, Monaco, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates

Which are the most important origin countries?

- The Chinese diaspora has some 35 million people
- The Indian diaspora has some 20 million
- The Filipino diaspora has some 7 million

How has the distribution of migrants changed?

- From 1980 to 2000, the number of migrants living in the developed world increased from 48 million to 110 million; compared with an increase from 52 million to 65 million in the developing world
- Today, some 60% of the world's migrants live in the developed world
- In 1970, migrants comprised 10% of the population in 48 countries; this had increased to 70 countries by 2000
- From 1970 to 2000, the proportion of the world's migrants living in North America rose from 15.9% to 22.3%, and in the former USSR from 3.8% to 16.8%
- From 1970 to 2000, the proportion of the world's migrants living in other parts of the world decreased from: 34.5% to 25% in Asia; 12% to 9% in Africa; 7.1% to 3.4% in Latin America and the Caribbean; 22.9% to 18.7% in Europe, and 3.7% to 3.1% in Oceania

Why do migrants move?

- *Wage disparities:* 45.7% of people earn less than \$1 per day in Sub-Saharan Africa; 14.4% in South Asia, and 10.4% in Latin America and the Caribbean
- *Unemployment rates:* 12.2% in the Middle East and North Africa; 10.9% in Sub-Saharan Africa; and 6.6% in industrialized economies
- *Differentials in life expectancy:* 58 years in low income countries, 78 years in high income countries
- *Education gaps:* 58% women and 68% men literate in low income countries, almost full literacy in high income countries; 76% primary school enrolment in low income countries, almost full enrolment in high income countries
- *Demographic gradients:* on average 5.4 children born to each woman in Sub-Saharan Africa, compared with: 3.8 in the Arab World; 2.5 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 1.4 in Europe

What are migrants' economic contributions to host countries?

- In 2000, some 86 million of the world's migrants were economically active - over 50% of all migrants
- Foreign workers comprise over 5% of the labour force in 8 European countries
- From 1975 to 2001, the number of foreign workers in Japan increased from 750,000 to 1.8 million
- Skilled immigrants and family members constitute over 50% of migrants entering Australia, Canada and New Zealand

What is the demographic impact of migration in host countries?

- From 1990 to 2000, international migration accounted for 56% of the population growth in the developed world, compared with 3% in the developing world
- From 1990 to 2000, immigration accounted for 89% of population growth in Europe
- From 1995 to 2000, Europe's population would have declined by 4.4 million without immigration
- From 1995 to 2000 immigration accounted for 75% of population growth in USA

How much money do migrants send home?

- Formal transfers of remittances were worth about \$150 billion in 2004
- Perhaps \$300 billion are additionally transferred informally

- Formal remittance transfers are almost triple the value of Official Development Assistance
- Formal remittance transfers are the second largest source of external funding for Developing Countries after Foreign Direct Investment
- The top 3 remittance-receiving countries in 2004 were: Mexico (\$16 billion per year), India (\$9.9 billion), the Philippines (\$8.5 billion)
- The top 3 remittance-sending countries in 2001 were: USA (\$28 billion per year), Saudi Arabia (\$15 billion), Belgium, Germany and Switzerland (\$8 billion)

How important is irregular migration?

- An estimated 2.5 to 4 million migrants cross international borders without authorization each year
- At least 5 million of Europe's 56.1 million migrants in 2000 had irregular status (10%)
- Some 500,000 undocumented migrants are estimated to arrive in Europe each year
- An estimated 10 million migrants live in the USA with irregular status
- An estimated 50% of the Mexican-born population in USA in 2000 had irregular status (4.8 million)
- Some 20 million migrants with irregular status live in India
- An estimated 600-800,000 people are trafficked each year
- Migrant smugglers and human traffickers make an estimated \$10 billion profit each year

What is the number of refugees and asylum seekers?

- 6.5 million of the world's 9.2 million refugees live in developing countries
- From 2000 to 2004, the global refugee population decreased by 24%
- Refugees represent 23% of international migrants in Asia; 22% in Africa, and 5% in Europe
- Pakistan hosts the largest number of refugees; just over 1 million (11% of the global total)

- From 1994 to 2003 some 5 million people applied for asylum in the industrialized countries; refugee or equivalent status was granted to 1.4 million of them (28%)
- In 2004, 676,000 applications for asylum were submitted in 143 countries; representing a 19% decrease from 830,300 in 2003
- In 2004, 83,000 refugees were resettled, mainly in the USA (53,000), Australia (16,000) and Canada (10,000)