

2017

# International Migration Report



United Nations

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Department of Economic and Social Affairs

# International Migration Report 2017

Highlights



United Nations

New York, 2017

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This latest version of the International Migration Report was prepared by Barbara Kobler and Pablo Lattes, under the supervision of Bela Hovy, building on previous versions.

## Notes

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This report is available in electronic format on the Division's website at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org). For further information about this report, please contact the Office of the Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, 10017, USA, by fax: 1 212 963 2147 or by e-mail at [population@un.org](mailto:population@un.org).

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Cover photo: Migrant workers, most from throughout Asia, at a textile factory in the Ad-Dulayl Qualified Industrial Zone in Jordan by ILO/Jared J. Kohler

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## International Migration Report 2017: Highlights Key Facts

- The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow rapidly in recent years, reaching 258 million in 2017, up from 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000.
- Over 60 per cent of all international migrants live in Asia (80 million) or Europe (78 million). Northern America hosted the third largest number of international migrants (58 million), followed by Africa (25 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (10 million) and Oceania (8 million).<sup>1</sup>
- In 2017, two thirds (67 per cent) of all international migrants were living in just twenty countries. The largest number of international migrants (50 million) resided in the United States of America. Saudi Arabia, Germany and the Russian Federation hosted the second, third and fourth largest numbers of migrants worldwide (around 12 million each), followed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (nearly 9 million).
- In 2016, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers in the world was estimated at 25.9 million. Turkey hosted the largest refugee population worldwide, with 3.1 million refugees and asylum seekers, followed by Jordan (2.9 million), the State of Palestine (2.2 million), Lebanon (1.6 million) and Pakistan (1.4 million).
- In 2017, of the 258 million international migrants worldwide, 106 million were born in Asia. Europe was the region of birth of the second largest number of migrants (61 million), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (38 million) and Africa (36 million).
- In 2017, India was the largest country of origin of international migrants (17 million), followed by Mexico (13 million). Other countries of origin with large migrant populations include the Russian Federation (11 million), China (10 million), Bangladesh (7 million), Syrian Arab Republic (7 million) and Pakistan and Ukraine (6 million each).
- 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 2017. Female migrants outnumber male migrants in Europe,

Northern America, Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean, while in Africa and Asia, particularly Western Asia, migrants are predominantly men.

- In 2017, the median age of international migrants worldwide was 39 years, a slight increase from 38 years in 2000. Yet in some regions, the migrant population is becoming younger. Between 2000 and 2017, the median age of international migrants declined in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania.
- Between 2000 and 2015, positive net migration contributed to 42 per cent of the population growth observed in Northern America and 31 per cent in Oceania. In Europe, instead of growing by two per cent, the size of the population would have fallen by one per cent in the absence of a net inflow of migrants.
- Since the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, 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 includes several migration-related targets and calls for regular reviews of the progress toward their achievement using data disaggregated by, inter alia, migratory status.
- In response to large movements of refugees and other migrants, the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016. The Declaration calls for the development of two global compacts, both to be adopted in 2018. Whereas a proposed refugee compact is being developed under the auspices of the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) and will be presented in 2018 for consideration by Member States, the development of the migration compact is being led by the General Assembly.
- The ratification of five United Nations legal instruments concerning international migration, while progressing, remains uneven. As of September 2017, 37 Member States had ratified all five legal instruments, while 13 Member States had ratified none of them.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout the text, figures may not add up due to rounding.

# Introduction

In today's increasingly interconnected world, international migration has become a reality that touches nearly all corners of the globe. Modern transportation has made it easier, cheaper and faster for people to move in search of jobs, opportunity, education and quality of life. At the same time conflict, poverty, inequality and a lack of sustainable livelihoods compel people to leave their homes to seek a better future for themselves and their families abroad.

When supported by appropriate policies, migration can contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in both home and host communities. In 2016, migrants from developing countries sent home an estimated US \$413 billion in remittances.<sup>2</sup> Remittances constitute a significant source of household income that improves the livelihoods of families and communities through investments in education, health, sanitation, housing and infrastructure. Countries of destination benefit significantly from migration as migrants often fill critical labour gaps, create jobs as entrepreneurs, and pay taxes and social security contributions. Some migrants are among the most dynamic members of the host society contributing to the development of science and technology and enriching their host communities by providing cultural diversity.

Despite the significant benefits of migration, some migrants remain among the most vulnerable members of society. Migrants are often the first to lose their jobs in the event of an economic downturn. Some work for less pay, for longer hours, and in worse conditions than native-born workers. While migration is often an empowering experience, some migrants endure human rights violations, abuse and discrimination. Migrants, particularly women and children, may fall victim to human trafficking and the heinous forms of exploitation that it entails.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its commitment to leave no one behind, recognises that international migration is of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, requiring coherent and comprehensive responses. In the Agenda, Governments pledged to "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies" (SDG target 10.7). The 2030 Agenda also seeks to reduce remittance transfer fees, to promote labour standards for migrant workers, and to eliminate human trafficking.

In an effort to address large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants calling for the development of two global compacts in 2018. A refugee compact, to be prepared under the auspices of the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), and a migration compact to be negotiated by the General Assembly. The migration compact will be presented for adoption at an intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018. While the compacts will be developed through distinct processes, the New York Declaration reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to protect the human rights of all migrants, regardless of status. The Declaration agreed to a set of commitments that apply to both refugees and other migrants, as well as separate sets of commitments for refugees and for other migrants.

Accurate, consistent and timely data on international migration are essential for assessing current and future trends and for setting policy priorities. To track systematically levels and trends in international migration around the world, the Population Division of the Department of

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<sup>2</sup> Calculations based on World Bank (2017).

Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations prepares, at regular intervals, estimates of the number of international migrants disaggregated by age, sex, country of destination and country of origin for all countries and areas of the world as well as analytical reports to assess the current state of international migrants and migration in the world.

This report presents the highlights of the International Migration Report 2017, which analyses levels and trends of international migration, based on the 2017 revision of the international migrant stock. The data for the number of international migrants in this report are derived from the publication *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*, while the estimates and projections of the total population and of net migration are derived from the publication *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition*. The status of ratification of the migration-related legal instruments of the United Nations is based on information from the United Nations Treaty Section (<http://treaties.un.org>). The annex of this publication provides the estimates of the number of international migrants for 2000 and 2017, 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 the number (or “stock”) of international migrants disaggregated by age, sex and country or area of origin presented in the *International Migration Report 2017* are based on national statistics, in most cases 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. To estimate the international migrant stock, data on place of birth are the preferred source of information. Data on the foreign-born were available for 182 countries, or three quarters of the 232 countries and areas included in this analysis. When data on the foreign-born were not available, data on foreign citizens were used.

Among the 232 countries or areas included in this publication, 214, representing 92 per cent of the total, had at least one data source on the total number of international migrants since the 2000 census round, while 77 per cent of countries or areas had at least one recent data source on the age of international migrants and 81 per cent had at least one data source on their place of origin. Of the 258 million migrants worldwide, 93 per cent, or 240 million, are included in at least one data source since the 2000 census round.

The availability of data on the total migrant population, as well as on the age and origin of international migrants, differs between regions (table 1). In Africa, 17 per cent of countries did not have a recent data source on the total number of international migrants, while 43 per cent and 31 per cent of countries did not have recent data on the age or origin of international migrants, respectively. In Asia, 12 per cent of the countries did not provide recent data on the number of international migrants, while 26 per cent were lacking recent data on the age of international migrants, and 32 per cent on the origin of international migrants.

Table 1

#### Availability of data on international migrants, overall and with classification by age and origin, 1995 to 2017

Regions and number of countries or areas	Countries or areas with at least one data source						Number of migrants included in data from the 2000 census round or later	
	Number			Percentage				
	Total	By age	By origin	Total	By age	By origin	(thousands)	Percentage
World (232)	214	179	187	92	77	81	240,176	93
Africa (58)	48	33	40	83	57	69	19,479	79
Asia (50)	44	37	34	88	74	68	67,259	85
Europe (48)	47	43	44	98	90	92	77,895	100
Latin America and the Caribbean (48)	47	44	45	98	92	94	9,468	100
Northern America (5)	5	5	5	100	100	100	57,664	100
Oceania (23)	23	17	19	100	74	83	8,411	100

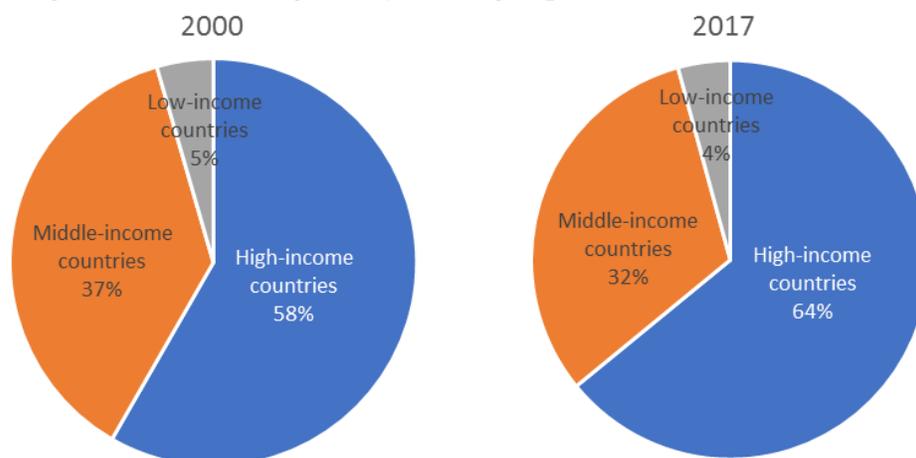
## Levels and trends in international migration

The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow over the past seventeen years, reaching 258 million in 2017, up from 248 million in 2015, 220 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 2.9 per cent. Since then, however, it has slowed, falling to around 2.4 per cent per year during the period 2010-2015 and to 2.0 per cent per year during the period 2015-2017.

High-income countries host almost two thirds of all international migrants. As of 2017, 64 per cent of all international migrants worldwide - equal to 165 million international migrants - lived in high-income countries. Thirty-six per cent - or 92 million - of the world's migrants lived in middle- or low-income countries. Of these, 81 million resided in middle-income countries and 11 million in low-income countries. In comparison to 2000, the share of international migrants living in high income countries increased slightly, while the share of middle- and low- income countries fell (figure 1).

Figure 1

### Percentage of international migrants by income group, 2000 and 2017



Source: United Nations (2017a)

Note: For both charts, the classification of countries and areas by income level is based on 2016 gross national income (GNI) per capita, in U.S. dollars, calculated by the World Bank.

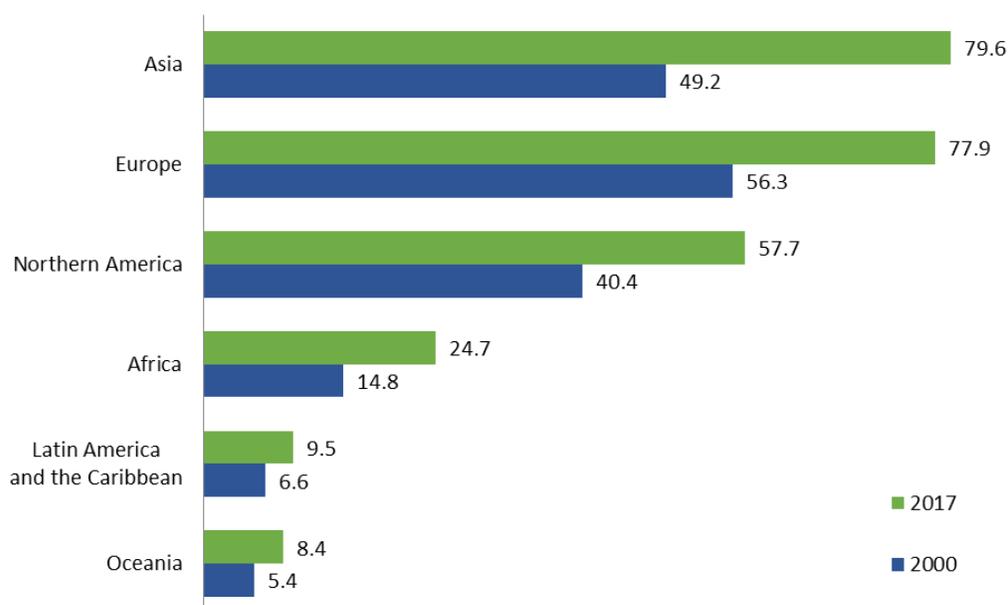
High-income countries have absorbed most of the recent growth in the global population of international migrants, gaining 64 million of the 85 million migrants added worldwide between 2000 and 2017. As a result, the rate of growth of the migrant population was highest during 2000-2017 (2.9 per cent per year) in high-income countries. The average growth rate in low-income countries was around 2.4 per cent per

year. After declining in the period from 2000 to 2010, the rate of growth of the migrant population in low-income countries accelerated to 6.6 per cent per year in 2010 to 2015, and slowed again, to 2.0 per cent per year, most recently (2015-2017). In middle-income countries, the growth rate was the lowest during this period (1.4 per cent per year).

Analysing data by geographic region provides additional insights into current trends. More than 60 per cent of all international migrants worldwide live in Asia or Europe. In 2017, 80 million international migrants were residing in Asia, compared to 78 million in Europe. Northern America hosted the third largest number of international migrants (58 million), followed by Africa (25 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (10 million), and Oceania (8 million) (figure 2).

Figure 2

**Number of international migrants (millions) by region of destination, 2000 and 2017**



Source: United Nations (2017a)

Between 2000 and 2017, Asia added more international migrants than any other region. Asia gained some 30 million international migrants during this period, representing a net increase of about 1.8 million migrants per annum. Europe added the second largest number of international migrants between 2000 and 2017 (22 million), followed by Northern America (17 million) and Africa (10 million). Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania added comparatively smaller numbers of migrants during this period (3 million in each of these regions). Despite this continued growth, international migrants accounted for two per cent or less of the total 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 total population.

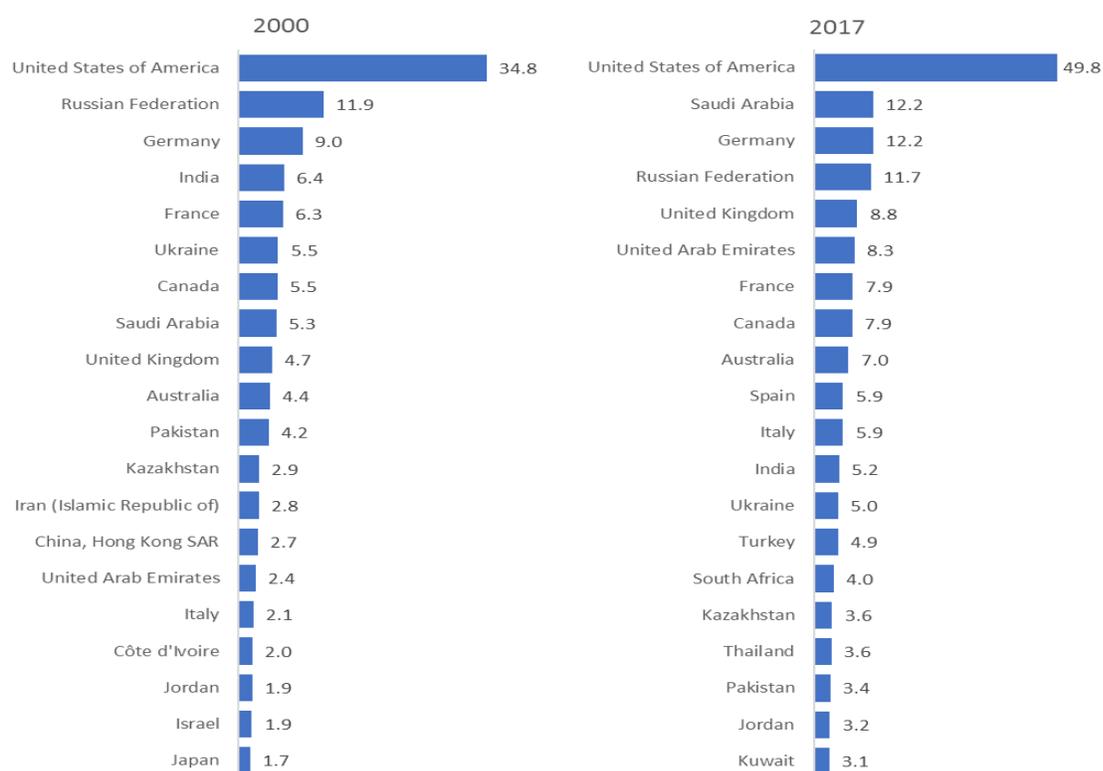
The number of international migrants worldwide has grown faster than the world's population. Due to this faster growth rate, the share of migrants in the total population increased from 2.8 in 2000 to 3.4 per cent in 2017. The pace of growth in the migrant population varies significantly across regions. Between 2000 and 2017, the number of international migrants in Africa and Asia grew by an average of 3.0 and 2.8 per cent per

annum, respectively. Oceania recorded the third fastest average annual growth rate in the international migrant stock during this period (2.7 per cent) followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (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 2.1 per cent in North America and 1.9 per cent in Europe.

Most of the world's migrants live in a relatively small number of countries. In 2017, more than 50 per cent of all international migrants in the world were living in just ten countries or areas, while only twenty countries or areas hosted 67 per cent of the global number of international migrants. The largest number of international migrants resided in the United States of America: 50 million, equal to 19 per cent of the world's total (figure 3). Saudi Arabia, Germany and the Russian Federation hosted the second, third and fourth largest numbers of migrants worldwide (around 12 million each), followed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (nearly 9 million), and the United Arab Emirates (8 million). Of the twenty largest countries of destination of international migrants worldwide, nine are located in Asia, seven in Europe, two in Northern America, and one each in Africa and Oceania.

Figure 3

**Twenty countries or areas hosting the largest numbers of international migrants, 2000 and 2017, number of migrants (millions)**



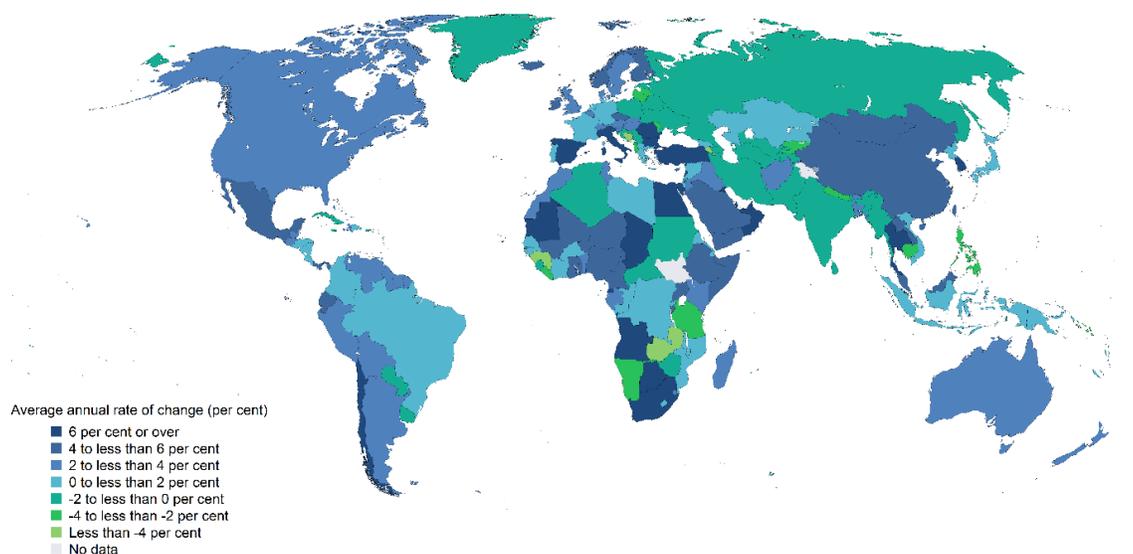
Source: United Nations (2017a)

Notes: "China, Hong Kong SAR" refers to China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Changes in the number of international migrants differ widely by country. Between 2000 and 2017, the number of international migrants increased in 172 countries or areas worldwide. In 70 of these countries, the migrant population grew by less than 2 per cent per annum (map 1). In 102 countries or areas, however, the pace of growth during the period 2000-2017 was considerably faster, with 21 countries or areas recording an average annual growth rate of 6 per cent or more. Among the countries or areas experiencing the fastest rate of growth during this period were Angola, Qatar and Chile. In contrast, in 56 countries or areas, the population of international migrants declined during the period 2000-2017. In 35 countries or areas, the pace of decline was less than 2 per cent per annum. In 21 countries or areas, however, the international migrant stock shrunk more rapidly, with 5 countries or areas recording an average decline of more than 4 per cent per annum.

#### Map 1

#### Average annual rate of change in the number of international migrants by country or area of destination, 2000 to 2017



Source: United Nations (2017a).

Note: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. 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. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

The global level of forced displacement across international borders continues to rise. By the end of 2016, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers in the world was estimated at 25.9 million representing 10.1 per cent of all international migrants. The developing regions hosted 82.5 per cent of the world's refugees and asylum seekers. In 2016, Turkey recorded the largest refugee population, hosting some approximately 3.1 million refugees and asylum seekers. The country experienced the most significant increase in the refugee population since 2000 when it hosted just over 3,000 refugees. In 2016, the second largest country of asylum was Jordan, hosting around 2.9 million refugees, followed by the State of Palestine (2.2 million), Lebanon (1.6) and Pakistan (1.4 million). Germany (1.3 million) and Uganda (1.2 million) also hosted more than one million refugees and

asylum seekers in 2016. Given that a large majority of refugees is hosted by developing countries, and that many refugees reside in countries of first asylum for over a decade, there is an urgent need for sharing the burden and responsibility of hosting and caring for refugees more equitably.

## Where do international migrants come from?

In 2017, of the 258 million international migrants worldwide, 106 million were born in Asia. Europe was the region of birth of the second largest number of international migrants (61 million), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (38 million), and Africa (36 million). Relatively few migrants worldwide were born in Northern America (4 million) or Oceania (2 million). Considering each region's relative share in the world population, international migrants from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania were overrepresented, while international migrants from Asia, Northern America and Africa were underrepresented.

Table 1:

**Share of regions in world population and international migrants by origin (in thousands), 2017**

	Total population	Percentage of global population	International migrants by origin	Percentage of international migrants
<b>World</b>	<b>7,550,262</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>257,715</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Africa</b>	<b>1,256,268</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>36,266</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>4,504,428</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>105,684</b>	<b>41.0</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>742,074</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>61,191</b>	<b>23.7</b>
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>645,593</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>37,720</b>	<b>14.6</b>
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>361,208</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4,413</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>40,691</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>10,560</b>	<b>4.1</b>

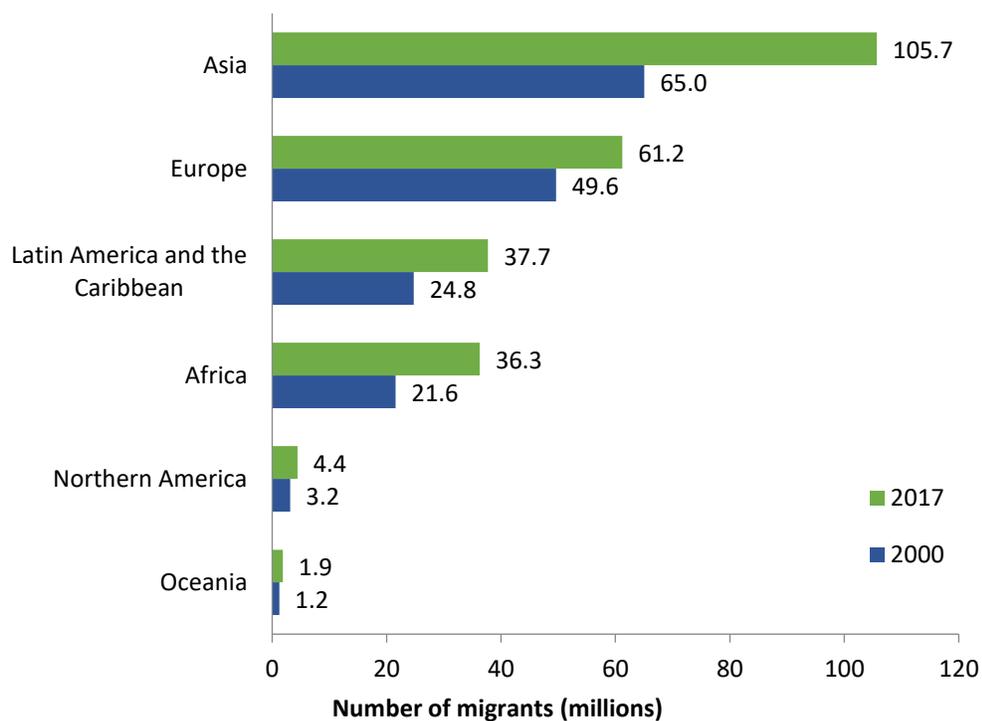
Source: United Nations (2017a).

Between 2000 and 2017, the number of international migrants originating in Asia recorded the largest increase (40.7 million), followed by the migrant population born in Africa (14.7 million), in Latin America and the Caribbean (12.9 million), in Europe (11.6 million), in Northern America (1.2 million) and in Oceania (700,000) (see figure 4). In

relative terms, however, the number of international migrants originating in Africa experienced the largest increase since 2000 (+68 per cent), followed by the population of migrants born in Asia (+62 per cent), in Latin America and the Caribbean (+52 per cent) and in Oceania (+51 per cent).

Figure 4

**Number of international migrants by region of origin, 2000 and 2017**



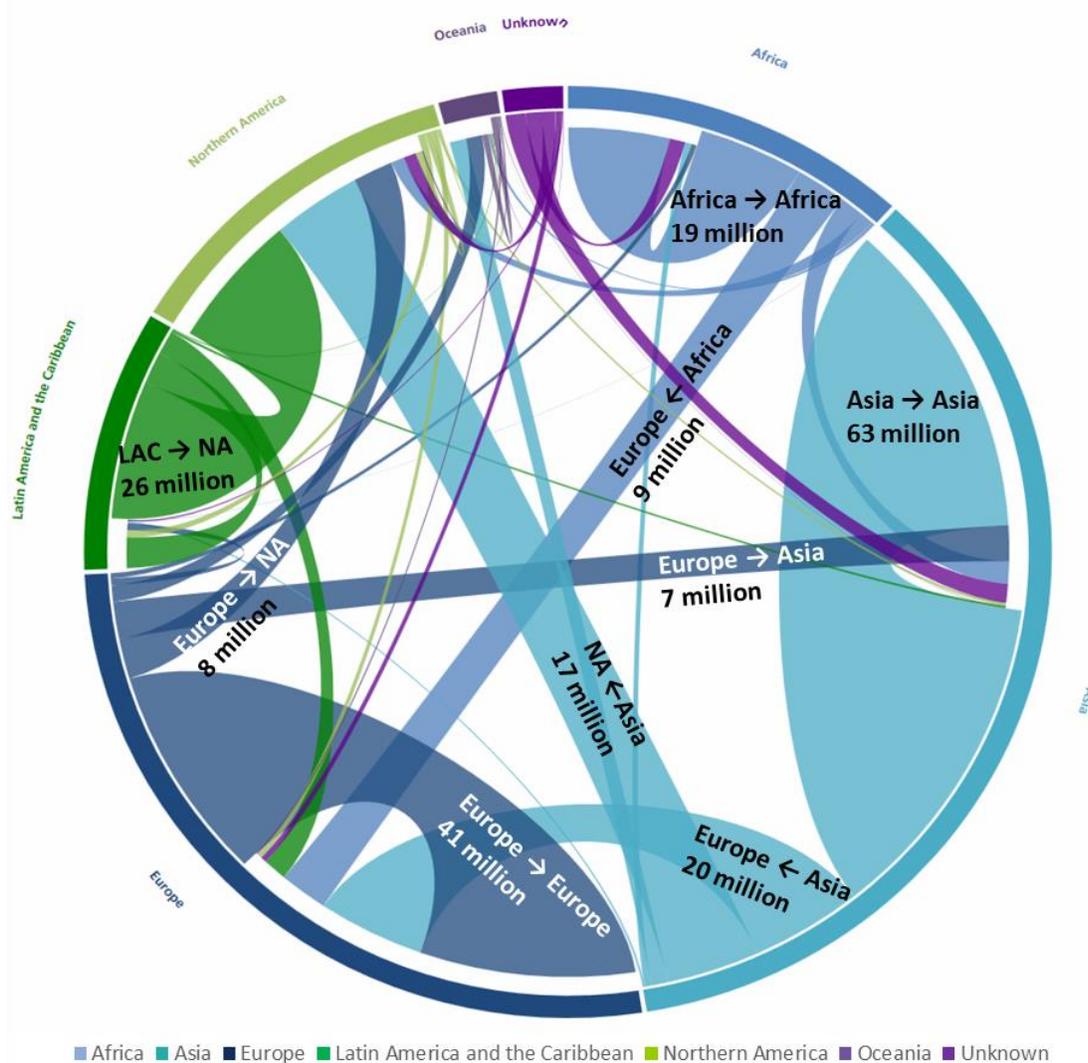
Source: United Nations (2017a).



Migration occurs primarily between countries that are located within the same world region. In 2017, the majority of the international migrants originating from Europe (67 per cent), Asia (60 per cent), Oceania (60 per cent) and Africa (53 per cent) reside in a country located in their region of birth (figure 5). In contrast, international migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean (84 per cent) and Northern America (72 per cent) reside primarily outside their region of birth.

Figure 5

Number of international migrants classified by region of origin and destination, 2017



Source: United Nations (2017a)

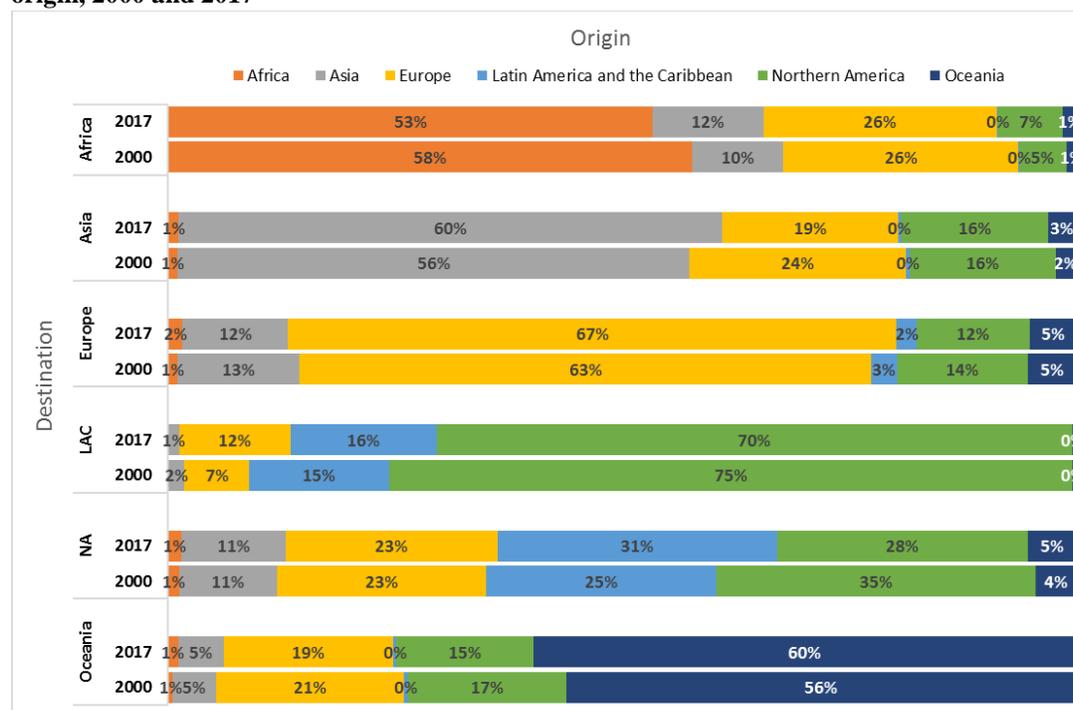
Notes: NA refers to Northern America, LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean

About half of all international migrants reside within the region of their birth. Between 2000 and 2017, the share of international migrants who resided in a country located within their region of birth increased in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the

Caribbean and Oceania (figure 6). Conversely, for migrants born in Africa and Northern America, the proportion of those living in a country outside of their region of birth increased.

Figure 6

**Percentage distribution of international migrants by region of destination, for regions of origin, 2000 and 2017**



Source: United Nations (2017a)

Notes: NA stands for Northern America, LAC stands for Latin America and the Caribbean

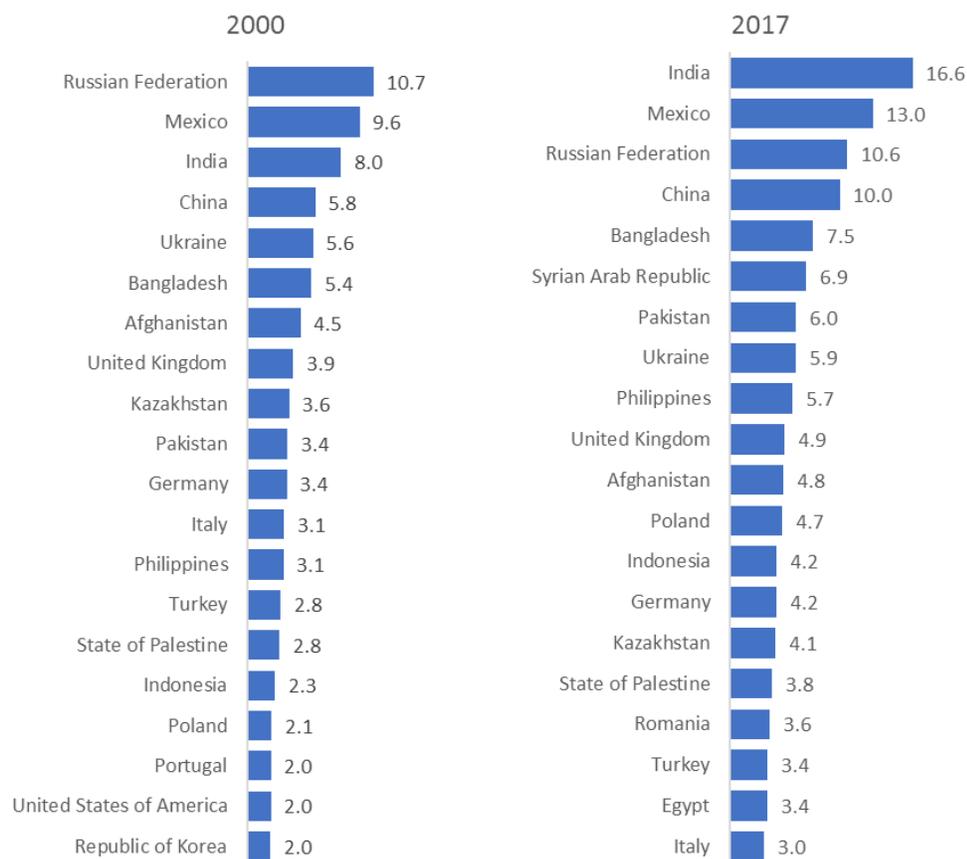
Asia is the origin of the largest number of persons who are living outside their region of birth. In 2017, there were 42 million international migrants born in Asia but living elsewhere. Of these, most international migrants were living in Europe (20 million), followed by Northern America (17 million) and Oceania (3 million). Migrants born in Latin America and the Caribbean represented the second largest group, with 32 million persons living outside their region of birth. The majority of these migrants were living in Northern America (26 million) and Europe (5 million). Europe recorded the third largest number of persons living outside their region of birth (20 million). Migrants of European origin were primarily residing in Northern America (8 million), Asia (7 million) and Oceania (3 million).

Globally, the twenty largest countries or areas of origin account for almost half (49 per cent) of all international migrants, while one-third (34 per cent) of all international migrants originates in only ten countries. India is now the country with the largest number of people living outside the country's borders ("diaspora"), followed by Mexico, the Russian Federation and China. In 2017, 16.6 million persons from India were living in another country compared to 13.0 million for Mexico (figure 7). Other countries with significant "diaspora" populations are the Russian Federation (10.6 million), China (10.0 million),

Bangladesh (7.5 million), Syrian Arab Republic (6.9 million), Pakistan (6.0 million) and Ukraine (5.9 million). Of the twenty largest countries or areas of origin of international migrants, eleven were located in Asia, six in Europe, and one each in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Northern America.

Figure 7

**Twenty largest countries or areas of origin of international migrants, 2000 and 2017, number of migrants (millions)**



Source: United Nations (2017a)

Between 2000 and 2017, the number of international migrants in some regional “corridors” grew very rapidly. Northern America was one of the fastest growing destinations for migrants from Africa, with an annual average growth rate of 4.9 per cent, representing an increase of 1.5 million migrants, while the number of African-born migrants in Asia increased by 4.2 per cent per annum during the same period (+2 million). The number of Asian-born migrants in Oceania increased by 4.6 per cent per annum (+1.7 million) and in Northern America by 2.6 per cent per annum (+6.7 million). Since 2000, the number of international migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean residing in Europe increased by 5.7 per cent per annum (+2.8 million).

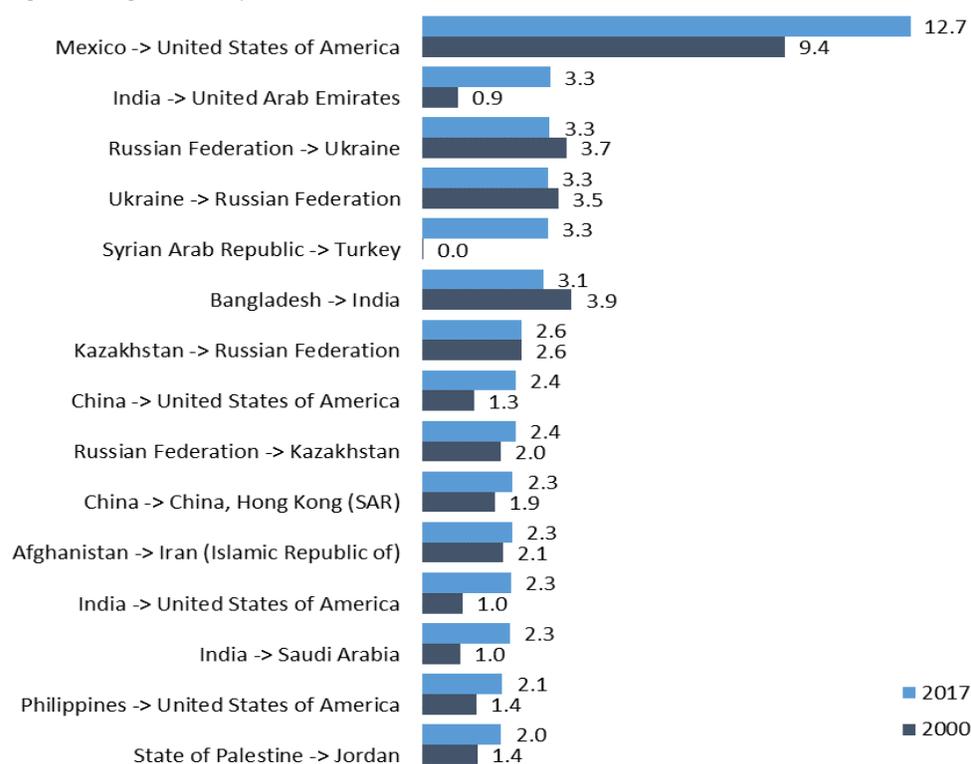
For persons born in Europe, one of the fastest-growing destinations was Africa (3.5 per cent per annum). Similarly, the number of migrants from Northern America residing in Latin America and the Caribbean witnessed an important relative increase (3.1 per cent per annum). In part, these movements reflect the return of migrants with children born abroad.

Albeit small in absolute numbers, the fastest growing destination for international migrants born in Oceania and in Latin America and the Caribbean was Africa with a 7 per cent increase per year (15,000 and 22,000 migrants, respectively).

Migratory movements between pairs of countries are referred to as “bilateral corridors”. The largest bilateral corridor in 2017 was that between Mexico and the United States of America. The latter hosted 98 per cent of all Mexican-born individuals (12.7 million) residing abroad (figure 8). Other examples where bilateral corridors account for a major share of the total number of international migrants from specific origin countries include migrants from Algeria in France, from Burkina Faso in Côte d’Ivoire, from Cuba and El Salvador in the United States of America, and from New Zealand in Australia. In contrast, similar numbers of migrants from India now reside in multiple destination countries, including the United Arab Emirates (3 million), the United States of America and Saudi Arabia (2 million each). Persons born in several countries of the former Soviet Union, including the Russian Federation and Ukraine, are also more evenly distributed among the relevant destination countries. Due to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Syrian-born population in Turkey grew from just under 5,000 persons in 2000 to 3.3 million in 2017.

Figure 8

**Fifteen largest populations of international migrants from a single country or area of origin living in a single country or area of destination, 2000 and 2017 (in millions)**



Source: United Nations (2017a)

Note: “China, Hong Kong SAR” stands for China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

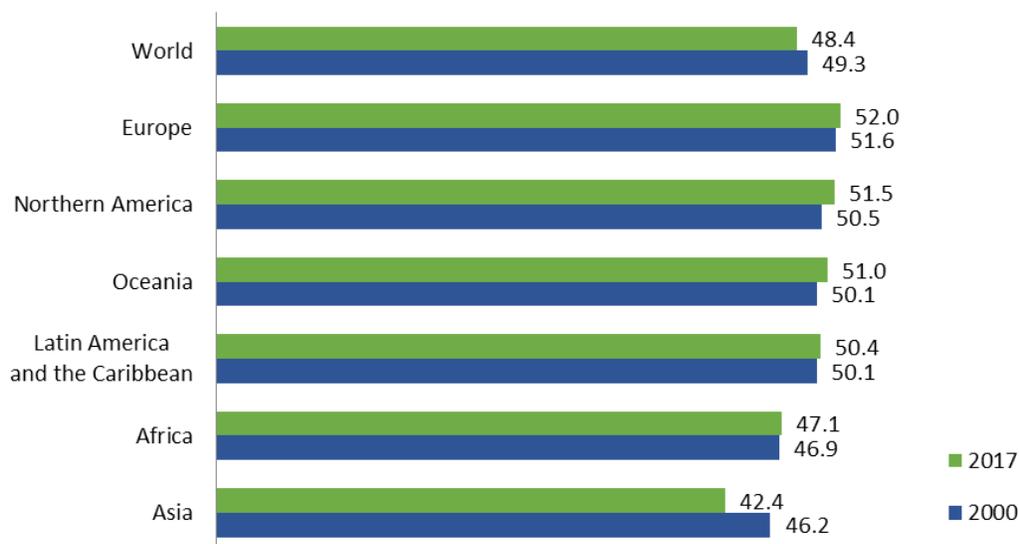
## Demographic characteristics of international migrants

Women comprise slightly less than half of all international migrants worldwide. Globally, the proportion of women of all ages among all international migrants fell slightly, from 49.3 per cent in 2000 to 48.4 per cent in 2017. Much of this decline is due to the growing share of male migrants in high-income countries located in the less developed regions. Between 2000 and 2017, the proportion of female migrants in high income countries fell from 49.0 to 47.7 per cent. The share of female migrants also declined in middle-income countries, but increased somewhat in low income countries.

The proportion of women among all international migrants varies considerably across geographic regions (figure 9). Since 2000, the proportion of female migrants increased in all regions except for Asia. In Europe, the share of female migrants rose from 51.6 per cent in 2000 to 52.0 per cent in 2017. Likewise, in Northern America, the percentage of women among all international migrants rose from 50.5 to 51.5 per cent during this period. The larger proportion of female migrants in those regions was mainly the result the aging of migrants who had arrived decades earlier and the fact that, in general, women have a higher life expectancy than men. By contrast, the percentage of female migrants in Asia dropped from 46.2 per cent in 2000 to 42.4 per cent in 2017.

Figure 9

### Percentage of female migrants worldwide and by region of destination, 2000 and 2017



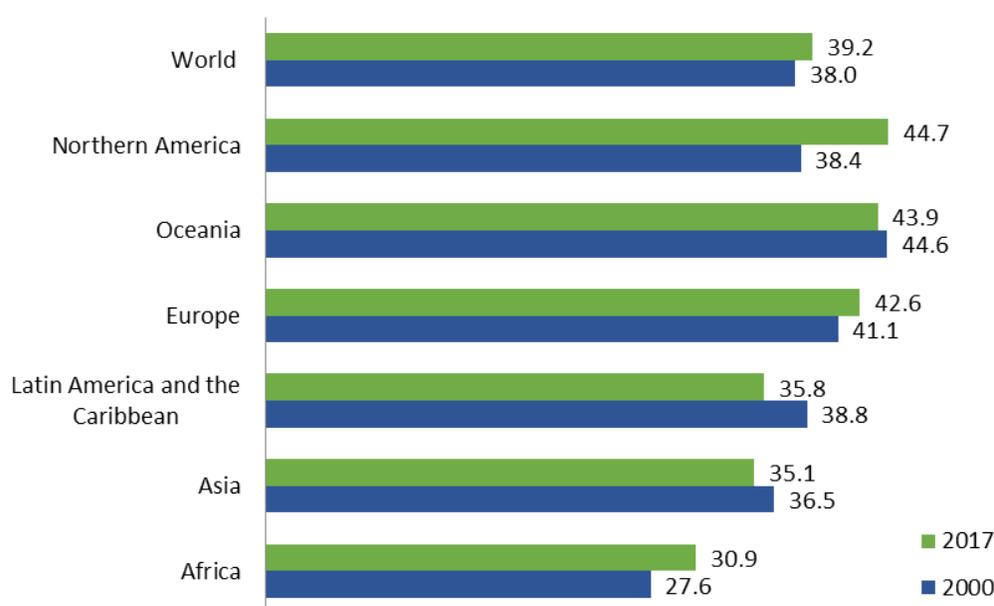
Source: United Nations (2017a)

In Asia, the number of male migrants grew by 73 per cent, from 26 million in 2000 to 46 million in 2017. This increase was fuelled in part by the strong demand for male migrant workers in the oil-producing countries of Western Asia. The number of female migrants in Asia increased by 48 per cent, from 23 million in 2000 to 34 million in 2017. In all other regions, the increase in the number of female migrants outpaced that of male migrants.

Worldwide, the median age of migrants has been increasing. The median age of all international migrants in 2017 was 39.2 years, compared with 38.0 years in 2000. Given the earlier finding that most migrants move within their region of birth, it is not surprising that the median age of migrants was highest in the high-income countries (40.6 years), followed by migrants in middle-income countries (37.3 years) and low-income countries (29.8 years). International migrants living in Africa were the youngest, with a median age of 30.9 in 2017, followed by Asia (35.1 years) and Latin America and the Caribbean (35.8 years). In contrast, migrants were older in Europe, Oceania and Northern America, where the median age was 42.6, 43.9 and 44.7 years, respectively (figure 10).

Figure 10

**Median age among international migrants worldwide and by region of destination, 2000 and 2017**

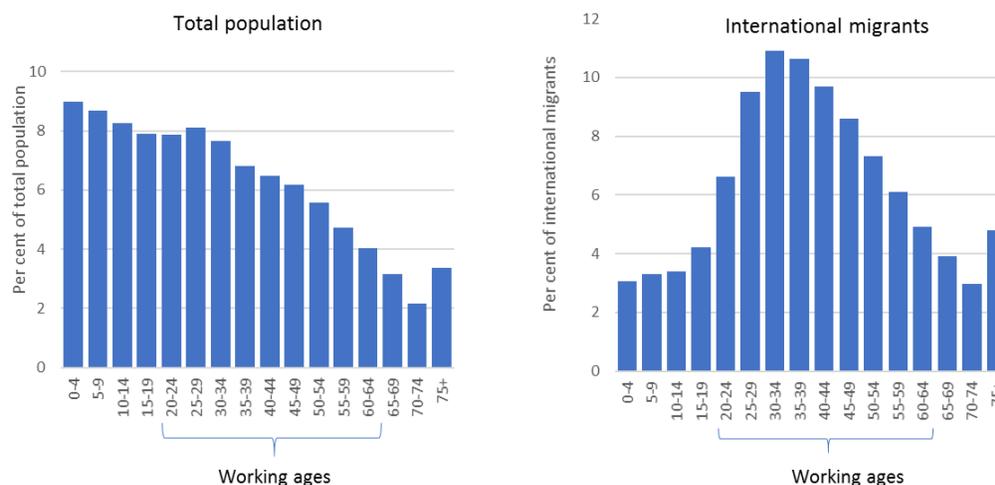


Source: United Nations (2017a)

Despite the global increase in the median age of migrants, in some regions the migrant population is actually becoming younger. Between 2000 and 2017, the median age of international migrants declined in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania. In Asia, the median age of female migrants decreased by almost two years while the median age of male migrants decreased by only one year. Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the most substantial ‘rejuvenation’ of its migrant population during this period with a reduction of the median age by about three years, owing both to the inflow of recent, younger migrants<sup>3</sup> as well as the death or return of older migrants, many of whom had arrived from European countries decades earlier. Conversely, in Africa, Europe and Northern America, the median age of international migrants increased between 2000 and 2017. Northern America experienced the most pronounced increase (of more than six years) in the median age of migrants.

<sup>3</sup> Because the population of international migrant includes not only immigrants who have recently arrived in the country, but also immigrants 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 all international migrants.

Figure 11

**Age distribution of the total population and of international migrants worldwide, 2017**

Source: United Nations (2017a).

The large majority of migrants are of working age. In 2017, 74 per cent of all international migrants were aged 20 to 64 years, compared to 57 per cent in the total population (figure 11). Younger persons, below age 20, tend to be underrepresented amongst international migrants: globally, 14 per cent of all migrants were under the age of 20 years, compared to a proportion of 34 per cent of the total population. Due in part to relatively small number of migrant children, twelve per cent of migrants worldwide were at least 65 years old, compared to nine per cent in the total population. The shape of the age distribution of the population of international migrants is influenced by a combination of factors, including the fact that, upon arrival, most international migrants are of working age and that children born to migrants in the country of destination are often not considered international migrants.



## The contribution of international migration to population dynamics

International migration makes an important contribution to population growth in many parts of the world and even reverses population decline in some countries or areas.<sup>4</sup> In figure 12, the projected change in total population is considered under two scenarios: the “medium-variant scenario”, assuming a continuation of recent levels of net migration, and the “zero-net-migration scenario”, which assumes that the number of immigrants equals the number of emigrants for all time periods starting in 2015-2020.

Between 2000 and 2015, positive net migration<sup>5</sup> contributed 42 per cent of the population growth in Northern America and 31 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. In Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, net migration, which was negative, did not significantly affect the size of the total population.

Net migration is projected to have an increasingly important impact on the future size of populations (figure 12). In Europe, while the continuation of current trends in migration (as assumed with the medium-variant scenario) will not be sufficient to compensate for the total excess of deaths over births between 2020 and 2025, the decline in the European population would be even more pronounced, and would start earlier, by 2015-2020, under a zero-net-migration scenario. Likewise, in Northern America the population would start to decline in absolute terms in 2040 under a zero-net-migration scenario, while in Oceania the decline in total population change would be twice as large by 2050 as compared with the medium-variant scenario.

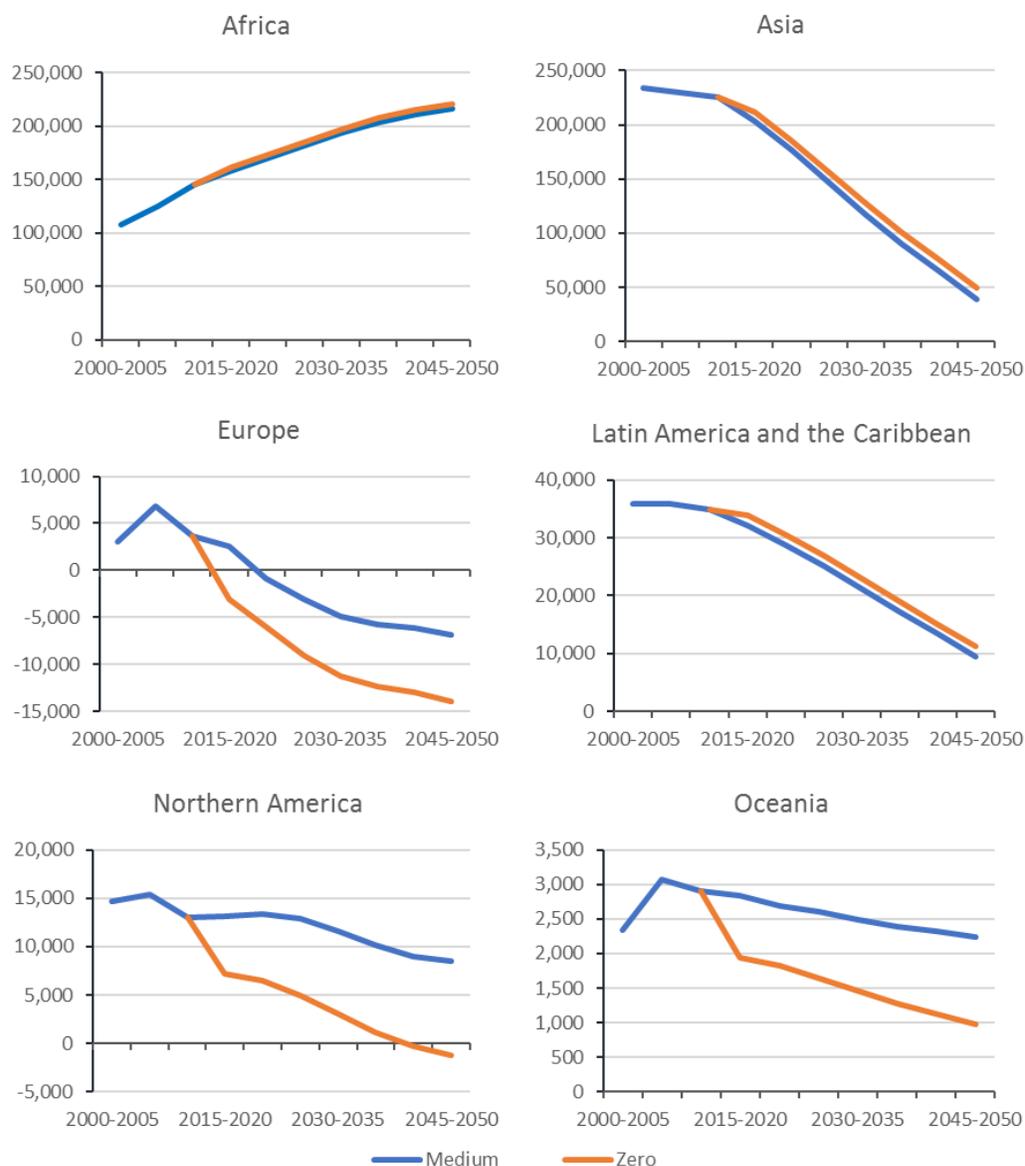
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<sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise stated, the source of the estimates and projections presented in this Chapter is United Nations (2017b).

<sup>5</sup> Net international migration refers to the difference between the number of international migrants arriving in and the number departing from a given country, irrespective of country of birth or citizenship. If more people immigrate to a country than emigrate from it, the country gains population from positive net migration. When more people emigrate than immigrate, the country loses population through negative net migration.

Figure 12

**Estimated and projected change in total population over five-year time periods by region, from 2000 to 2050, with and without international migration starting in 2015 (in thousands)**



Source: United Nations (2017b).

Note: "Medium" refers to the "medium variant" scenario which assumes a continuation of recent levels of net migration. "Zero" refers to the "zero-net-migration" scenario which assumes that the number of immigrants equals the number of emigrants for all time periods starting in 2015-2020.

The trend towards population ageing is global and irreversible. The world's population aged 60 years or over is projected to double from 962 million today to 2.1 billion in 2050. Similarly, the global median age, the age at which half the population is older and half is younger, is projected to increase from 30 to 36 years between 2015 and 2050. However, the future pace of population ageing is expected to vary significantly across the world's regions. In the more developed regions, the median age is projected to increase from 41 years in 2015 to 45 years in 2050, while in the less developed regions, it is projected to rise from 28 years in 2015 to 35 years in 2050. It is anticipated that population aging will be

particularly rapid in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia, with the median age projected to increase by 12 and 9 years, respectively, during the same period. The median age in Africa, currently the lowest at 19 years, is projected to rise to 25 years in 2050.

Without migration, the median age in the more developed regions in 2050 would be 1.7 years higher than with migration remaining at current levels. Northern America would add 2.0 years, Oceania 1.6 years and Europe 1.1 years to their median age in 2050 if net migration were to equal zero between 2015 and 2050. In contrast, net outmigration is expected to have a negligible effect on population age structure in the less developed regions: the median age would be only 0.1 years lower in 2050 if net migration equalled zero between 2015 and 2050.

Because international migrants comprise a larger proportion of working-age persons compared to the overall population, positive net migration can help to reduce the old-age dependency ratio.<sup>6</sup> In some parts of the world, the old-age dependency ratio would be higher in the absence of migration. Assuming zero net migration, in 2050 the number of persons aged 65 or over per 100 persons of working age would rise to 57, compared to 53 per 100 assuming a continuation of current migration patterns. For Northern America and Oceania, the old-age dependency ratio would rise to 47 and 37 per 100, respectively, with zero net migration compared to 41 and 33 per 100 if current levels of migration would continue.

While international migration can play a role in reducing dependency ratios in countries of destination, it cannot halt, let alone reverse, the trend of population ageing. Even assuming a continuation of current migration patterns, most regions of the world are projected to have significantly higher old-age dependency ratios in 2050. In Europe, for every 100 persons of working age, there will be 53 persons aged 65 or older in 2050, compared to a ratio of 29 older persons per 100 working-age adults in 2015. Likewise, during the period 2015-2050, old-age dependency ratios are projected to increase from 13 to 34 per 100 in Latin America and the Caribbean, from 13 to 31 per 100 in Asia, from 25 to 41 per 100 in Northern America, and from 21 to 33 per 100 in Oceania. Only Africa is projected to experience a modest increase in the old-age dependency ratio, rising from 8 older persons per 100 persons of working age in 2015 to 11 in 2050.

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<sup>6</sup> The old-age dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the population aged 65 years or older by the working-age population aged 20 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.

# 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 steadily increased in importance. 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 intergovernmental conference on international migration, 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 global forum on 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 report of the Global Commission on International Migration, published in 2005, 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 22 entities of the United Nations system.

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 succeed the MDGs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes several migration-related targets and calls for follow-up and review processes based, where relevant, on data disaggregated by migratory status. The use of disaggregated data will help to ensure that the needs and concerns of migrants are understood and addressed by governments as part of their national development planning. Furthermore, the 2030 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, the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in 2015, contains several practical proposals to strengthen the development outcomes of migration.

On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, at which the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was adopted. In the Declaration, Member States reaffirmed the need to protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of their status. Further, the Declaration contains a set of commitments that apply to both refugees and other migrants, as well as separate sets of commitments for refugees and for migrants. In the Declaration, Member States recognized and committed to address, in accordance with their obligations under international law, the special needs of all people in vulnerable situations travelling as part of large movements of refugees and migrants, including women at risk, children, especially those who are unaccompanied or separated from their families, members of ethnic and religious minorities, victims of violence, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons who are discriminated against on any basis, indigenous peoples, victims of human trafficking, and victims of exploitation and abuse in the context of the smuggling of migrants. Member States called further for the adoption by the General Assembly of two global compacts in 2018. The global compact on refugees, to be prepared by UNHCR, will seek to share the burden and the responsibility of hosting refugees and funding refugee programmes more equitably. The comprehensive refugee response framework, from Annex I of the New York Declaration, provides a roadmap for the operationalization of the commitments pertaining to refugees contained in the Declaration.

The global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to be negotiated by the General Assembly, will seek to improve the governance of migration, dealing with all aspects of international migration including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration. It will be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The global compact for migration is being prepared in three phases. From April to November 2017, during the first phase of consultations, the General Assembly held six informal thematic sessions to discuss issues relating to human rights, the drivers of migration, international cooperation and governance, contributions of migrants, migrant smuggling and human trafficking as well as labour mobility. In addition, the United Nations regional economic commissions organized consultations within their respective regions in 2017 to examine regional and sub-regional dimensions of international migration. During the second phase of consultations, the General Assembly will bring together all the inputs received at a meeting Mexico to be held in December 2017. In January 2018, the Secretary-General will present his recommendations for the global compact in a report that will include facts and figures as well as challenges and opportunities concerning international migration. The third phase of intergovernmental negotiations for the global compact will begin in February 2018 and is intended to finish by July 2018, with a view to adopting the global migration compact at an intergovernmental conference on international migration in December 2018.

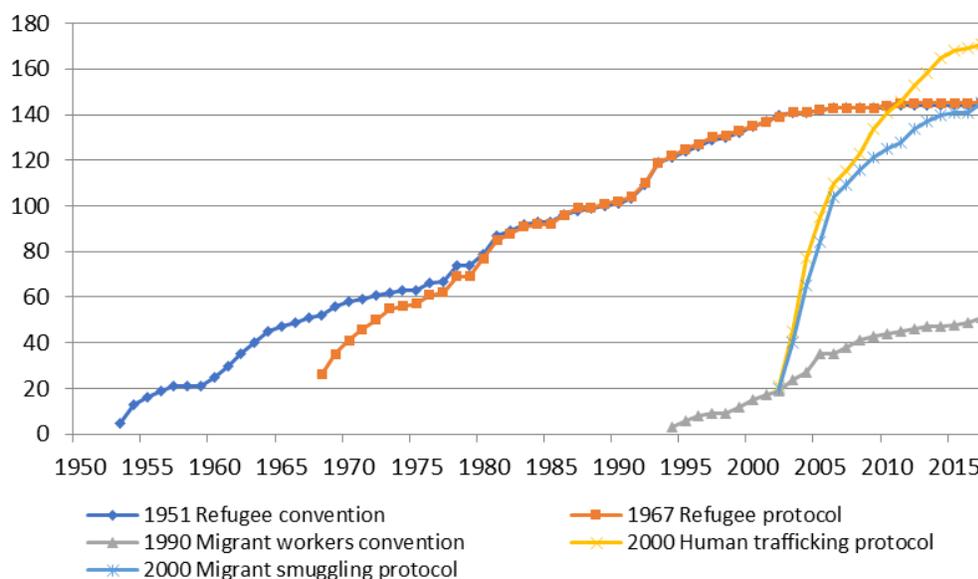
During its 71st session, the General Assembly decided to hold future high-level dialogues on international migration and development on a quadrennial basis, with the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held during the first half of 2019. As envisioned in the New York Declaration, these periodic high-level dialogues may play a role in reviewing the implementation of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

## Ratification of legal instruments related to international migration

The United Nations has several legal instruments related to international migration. The main instruments 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 Migrant Workers 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. These instruments, together with those on the rights of migrant workers adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), form the basis of the international normative and legal framework on international migration.

Figure 13

**Number of ratifications of the five United Nations legal instruments related to international migration, as of September 2017**



Source: United Nations Treaty Collection; see <http://treaties.un.org> (as of September 2017).

The ratification of the United Nations legal instruments related to international migrants and migration, while steadily increasing over time, remains uneven. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol have been ratified by 145 and 146 United Nations Member States, respectively. Likewise, 171 countries have ratified the protocol to combat human trafficking and 145 countries have ratified the protocol seeking to stem migrant smuggling. However, only 51 countries have ratified the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. As of September 2017, 37 Member States had ratified all five United Nations legal instruments related to international migration, while 13 Member States had ratified none of the relevant instruments.

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## Photo credits

Syrian refugee family in Serbia by IFRC/Stephen Ryan, used under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0, cropped from original, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ifrc/20763157396/in/photolist-xCLBjm>

Migrant healthcare in Thailand by ILO/Min Oo, used under CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO, cropped from original, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/iloasiapacific/8223665662/in/album-72157632113726942/>

Group of migrant workers cutting steel in UAE by ILO/ Apex Image

## Annex

Major area, region, country or area of destination	Number of international migrants (thousands)		International migrants as percentage of total population		Females among international migrants (percentage)		Median age of international migrants (years)	
	2000	2017	2000	2017	2000	2017	2000	2017
<b>WORLD</b>	172,604	257,715	2.8	3.4	49.3	48.4	38.0	39.2
More developed regions	103,418	145,984	8.7	11.6	51.1	51.8	40.0	43.4
Less developed regions	69,186	111,732	1.4	1.8	46.6	43.9	34.8	34.3
Least developed countries	10,073	14,442	1.5	1.4	50.0	50.4	26.9	29.7
Less developed regions, excl. least developed countries	59,155	97,331	1.4	1.8	46.0	42.9	36.2	34.9
High-income countries	100,405	164,847	9.6	14.1	49.0	47.7	38.5	40.6
Middle-income countries	64,042	81,440	1.4	1.4	49.6	49.3	38.5	37.3
Low-income countries	7,733	10,915	1.8	1.6	50.5	50.9	27.1	29.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	13,717	22,976	2.0	2.2	47.4	47.8	27.3	30.6
<b>AFRICA</b>	14,800	24,650	1.8	2.0	46.9	47.1	27.6	30.9
<b>Eastern Africa</b>	4,845	7,592	1.9	1.8	48.8	50.1	28.5	29.5
Burundi	126	300	2.0	2.8	51.4	50.7	30.2	31.0
Comoros	14	13	2.5	1.5	52.8	51.6	31.9	36.7
Djibouti	101	116	14.0	12.1	47.3	47.4	28.5	30.8
Eritrea	13	16	0.4	0.3	47.1	44.6	30.1	31.2
Ethiopia	611	1,227	0.9	1.2	47.3	49.1	29.4	22.1
Kenya	699	1,079	2.2	2.2	50.1	50.1	20.0	24.6
Madagascar	24	34	0.1	0.1	43.6	43.0	41.1	42.5
Malawi	233	237	2.0	1.3	52.1	52.4	31.5	34.5
Mauritius <sup>1</sup>	16	29	1.3	2.3	63.3	44.6	28.8	39.0
Mayotte	45	74	30.2	29.4	48.2	53.7	26.6	33.9
Mozambique	196	247	1.1	0.8	47.3	51.1	24.6	30.0
Réunion	101	129	13.7	14.7	48.1	49.3	31.2	31.2
Rwanda	347	443	4.3	3.6	49.4	50.2	29.0	29.2
Seychelles	7	13	8.1	13.6	41.6	30.0	33.4	37.8
Somalia	20	45	0.2	0.3	47.1	47.5	26.0	28.1
South Sudan <sup>2</sup>	..	845	..	6.7	..	48.9	..	29.4
Uganda	635	1,692	2.6	3.9	50.5	53.1	29.2	30.5
United Republic of Tanzania <sup>3</sup>	928	493	2.7	0.9	49.3	50.1	31.2	34.3
Zambia	321	157	3.0	0.9	49.1	49.5	27.0	33.9
Zimbabwe	410	404	3.4	2.4	43.0	43.1	33.6	38.3
<b>Middle Africa</b>	1,757	3,540	1.8	2.2	48.5	48.4	27.0	29.0
Angola	46	638	0.3	2.1	49.3	51.8	27.4	21.9
Cameroon	228	540	1.5	2.2	45.4	50.6	33.5	28.9
Central African Republic	124	89	3.3	1.9	46.9	47.0	27.9	32.0

Chad	105	490	1.3	3.3	46.1	53.9	22.5	25.9
Congo	305	399	9.5	7.6	49.9	45.2	28.5	31.9
Democratic Republic of the Congo	744	879	1.6	1.1	51.0	51.3	23.9	28.0
Equatorial Guinea	5	222	0.7	17.5	47.0	22.9	32.4	33.8
Gabon	196	280	15.9	13.8	42.9	42.9	28.2	32.0
Sao Tome and Principe	4	2	3.1	1.1	49.3	50.0	43.4	44.1
<b>Northern Africa</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>32.3</b>
Algeria	250	249	0.8	0.6	45.2	47.2	34.8	39.6
Egypt	173	478	0.2	0.5	46.8	46.1	30.1	34.3
Libya	567	788	10.6	12.4	35.0	28.8	29.6	32.2
Morocco	53	96	0.2	0.3	48.6	49.8	35.9	34.8
Sudan <sup>4</sup>	802	736	2.9	1.8	49.7	49.9	22.5	27.6
Tunisia	36	58	0.4	0.5	49.2	48.2	35.8	38.2
Western Sahara	3	5	1.0	1.0	44.1	40.9	35.9	37.0
<b>Southern Africa</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>4,338</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>33.7</b>
Botswana	57	166	3.3	7.3	42.4	45.3	30.0	34.1
Lesotho	6	7	0.3	0.3	45.9	45.9	26.7	37.3
Namibia	134	95	7.1	3.8	46.1	46.1	29.6	35.2
South Africa	1,002	4,037	2.2	7.1	40.1	44.4	36.4	33.7
Swaziland	23	33	2.2	2.4	42.9	48.2	31.8	36.4
<b>Western Africa</b>	<b>5,091</b>	<b>6,770</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>30.1</b>
Benin	134	253	1.9	2.3	46.4	43.9	23.6	31.1
Burkina Faso	520	709	4.5	3.7	51.8	52.4	16.7	31.0
Cabo Verde	11	15	2.5	2.8	47.8	49.4	30.5	38.3
Côte d'Ivoire	1,994	2,197	12.0	9.0	44.6	44.6	29.1	36.2
Gambia	183	205	14.8	9.8	46.8	47.3	25.0	30.8
Ghana	192	418	1.0	1.4	49.2	49.1	17.9	28.0
Guinea	560	123	6.4	1.0	50.2	41.1	21.2	27.6
Guinea-Bissau	20	23	1.6	1.3	50.3	51.5	21.2	25.6
Liberia	152	99	5.3	2.1	45.9	43.0	23.5	29.6
Mali	189	384	1.7	2.1	48.4	48.8	18.6	26.9
Mauritania	57	168	2.1	3.8	45.7	43.5	26.0	25.0
Niger	122	296	1.1	1.4	52.4	52.6	22.5	25.2
Nigeria	488	1,235	0.4	0.6	44.6	45.1	20.2	18.9
Saint Helena <sup>5</sup>	0	1	7.9	15.0	46.9	44.4	..	..
Senegal	232	266	2.3	1.7	47.6	46.9	27.9	29.1
Sierra Leone	98	95	2.2	1.3	44.4	45.2	23.5	28.6
Togo	138	284	2.8	3.6	49.9	49.7	21.3	23.1
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>49,198</b>	<b>79,587</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>35.1</b>
<b>Central Asia</b>	<b>5,184</b>	<b>5,463</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>42.9</b>
Kazakhstan	2,871	3,635	19.1	20.0	54.0	50.4	45.7	38.9
Kyrgyzstan	390	200	7.9	3.3	58.2	59.6	46.0	46.9
Tajikistan	299	273	4.8	3.1	56.1	56.9	50.3	54.0

## International Migration Report 2017: Highlights

Turkmenistan	218	195	4.8	3.4	56.9	53.4	49.2	53.0
Uzbekistan	1,405	1,159	5.7	3.6	56.9	53.4	49.2	51.6
<b>Eastern Asia</b>	<b>5,393</b>	<b>7,777</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>39.2</b>
China <sup>6</sup>	508	1,000	0.0	0.1	50.0	38.6	34.8	36.8
China, Hong Kong SAR <sup>7</sup>	2,669	2,883	40.1	39.1	54.1	60.5	47.9	46.1
China, Macao SAR <sup>8</sup>	241	354	56.3	56.8	54.6	54.6	40.6	43.9
Dem. People's Republic of Korea	36	49	0.2	0.2	51.0	50.2	36.3	36.3
Japan	1,687	2,321	1.3	1.8	52.7	55.0	33.1	34.3
Mongolia	8	18	0.3	0.6	44.4	27.0	36.9	38.8
Republic of Korea	244	1,152	0.5	2.3	41.4	43.9	30.3	35.4
<b>Southern Asia</b>	<b>15,278</b>	<b>13,582</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>39.4</b>
Afghanistan	76	134	0.4	0.4	43.6	50.1	30.0	24.2
Bangladesh	988	1,501	0.8	0.9	46.2	47.3	30.4	31.7
Bhutan	32	52	5.6	6.5	18.5	18.9	31.8	35.5
India	6,411	5,189	0.6	0.4	48.5	48.8	50.7	45.6
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2,804	2,699	4.2	3.3	40.7	47.0	29.1	30.2
Maldives	27	67	9.7	15.4	45.0	12.3	33.0	32.4
Nepal	718	503	3.0	1.7	66.3	69.4	32.5	40.7
Pakistan	4,182	3,398	3.0	1.7	46.2	48.7	42.0	43.0
Sri Lanka	40	40	0.2	0.2	45.3	47.8	55.2	25.3
<b>South-Eastern Asia</b>	<b>4,927</b>	<b>9,874</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>34.5</b>
Brunei Darussalam	96	109	28.9	25.3	44.1	43.4	33.7	35.8
Cambodia	146	76	1.2	0.5	51.0	46.1	17.9	34.9
Indonesia	292	346	0.1	0.1	47.6	41.8	25.5	29.8
Lao People's Democratic Republic	22	45	0.4	0.7	47.3	46.3	29.5	36.8
Malaysia <sup>9</sup>	1,277	2,704	5.5	8.5	44.2	39.6	27.6	33.0
Myanmar	98	75	0.2	0.1	46.8	45.2	31.7	36.9
Philippines	318	219	0.4	0.2	49.1	48.2	31.0	34.0
Singapore	1,352	2,623	34.5	46.0	55.5	55.9	37.0	39.4
Thailand	1,258	3,589	2.0	5.2	48.5	49.8	26.1	33.5
Timor-Leste	11	12	1.2	0.9	51.9	49.4	29.7	37.1
Viet Nam	57	76	0.1	0.1	42.2	42.1	27.2	36.5
<b>Western Asia</b>	<b>18,417</b>	<b>42,891</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>33.1</b>
Armenia	658	191	21.4	6.5	58.9	59.5	37.0	52.7
Azerbaijan <sup>10</sup>	328	259	4.0	2.6	56.9	52.1	42.6	43.2
Bahrain	239	723	36.0	48.4	30.9	27.7	33.8	35.1
Cyprus <sup>11</sup>	80	189	8.5	16.0	56.6	56.2	32.2	34.4
Georgia <sup>12</sup>	76	78	1.6	2.0	56.2	56.2	51.6	40.6
Iraq	211	367	0.9	1.0	42.8	41.8	28.3	33.7
Israel	1,851	1,962	30.8	23.6	53.9	54.6	51.9	47.8
Jordan	1,928	3,234	37.8	33.3	49.0	49.6	21.6	21.0
Kuwait	1,128	3,123	55.0	75.5	32.5	32.0	28.4	34.9
Lebanon	693	1,939	21.4	31.9	49.0	51.9	25.1	23.8

Oman	624	2,073	27.5	44.7	21.7	16.0	33.6	32.8
Qatar	360	1,721	60.7	65.2	23.8	16.1	32.9	32.8
Saudi Arabia	5,263	12,185	25.3	37.0	33.2	31.5	31.8	32.9
State of Palestine <sup>13</sup>	275	254	8.5	5.2	54.7	55.7	26.9	32.3
Syrian Arab Republic	832	1,014	5.1	5.5	48.7	48.9	35.5	34.1
Turkey	1,281	4,882	2.0	6.0	51.9	53.0	33.7	32.6
United Arab Emirates	2,447	8,313	77.6	88.4	28.2	25.3	30.7	33.8
Yemen	143	384	0.8	1.4	44.5	47.5	24.9	31.2
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>56,314</b>	<b>77,895</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>42.6</b>
<b>Eastern Europe</b>	<b>20,428</b>	<b>20,122</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>45.9</b>
Belarus	1,124	1,079	11.3	11.4	54.2	54.2	42.0	52.8
Bulgaria	43	154	0.5	2.2	57.9	55.6	41.2	32.7
Czechia	221	433	2.1	4.1	46.0	42.6	52.8	38.9
Hungary	297	504	2.9	5.2	53.5	50.0	49.3	41.2
Poland	825	641	2.1	1.7	59.0	57.2	64.7	69.2
Republic of Moldova <sup>14</sup>	248	140	5.9	3.5	56.0	64.6	50.3	52.3
Romania	127	371	0.6	1.9	52.4	46.9	60.7	25.1
Russian Federation	11,900	11,652	8.1	8.1	49.7	50.9	40.4	44.5
Slovakia	116	185	2.2	3.4	56.0	49.5	50.7	50.4
Ukraine <sup>15</sup>	5,527	4,964	11.3	11.2	57.1	57.0	46.9	49.1
<b>Northern Europe</b>	<b>7,901</b>	<b>13,946</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>38.2</b>
Channel Islands <sup>16</sup>	64	83	43.2	50.3	53.0	52.2	42.6	44.5
Denmark	371	657	6.9	11.5	51.5	50.6	34.5	37.0
Estonia	250	193	17.8	14.7	59.6	58.2	54.7	59.3
Faeroe Islands	4	6	7.6	11.6	46.5	48.7	31.0	29.4
Finland <sup>17</sup>	136	344	2.6	6.2	50.5	49.1	31.6	36.2
Iceland	16	42	5.7	12.5	54.7	50.5	33.7	33.1
Ireland	351	807	9.1	16.9	50.7	51.1	32.9	36.1
Isle of Man	39	46	53.8	54.4	52.0	50.5	46.4	42.9
Latvia	430	257	18.0	13.2	58.7	60.7	54.6	63.0
Lithuania	214	125	6.1	4.3	53.1	58.4	49.9	58.2
Norway <sup>18</sup>	292	799	6.5	15.1	50.5	47.8	34.9	36.3
Sweden	1,004	1,748	11.3	17.6	52.2	50.6	42.0	40.1
United Kingdom	4,730	8,842	8.0	13.4	52.9	52.4	40.1	37.4
<b>Southern Europe</b>	<b>7,517</b>	<b>15,958</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>40.8</b>
Albania	77	52	2.5	1.8	53.1	49.1	25.4	19.7
Andorra	42	41	64.5	53.3	47.6	47.5	42.5	47.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	83	37	2.2	1.1	52.2	52.3	35.0	37.1
Croatia	585	560	13.2	13.4	53.0	53.7	44.6	49.7
Gibraltar	8	11	25.8	32.3	52.0	49.5	33.1	33.7
Greece	1,112	1,220	10.0	10.9	49.6	54.5	32.4	42.4
Holy See <sup>19</sup>	1	1	100.0	100.0	51.8	53.4	..	..
Italy	2,122	5,907	3.7	10.0	54.0	54.4	34.6	39.2

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Malta	22	46	5.4	10.6	52.2	46.6	33.9	38.9
Montenegro	..	71	..	11.3	..	60.8	..	43.0
Portugal	651	880	6.3	8.5	50.8	53.3	31.3	41.7
San Marino	4	5	14.8	15.7	46.2	44.6	33.2	36.4
Serbia <sup>20</sup>	857	802	9.0	9.1	55.2	56.0	48.4	56.5
Slovenia	171	245	8.6	11.8	47.1	43.6	38.1	49.0
Spain <sup>21</sup>	1,657	5,947	4.1	12.8	49.4	51.4	33.4	39.7
TFYR Macedonia <sup>22</sup>	126	131	6.2	6.3	58.3	58.3	49.9	52.4
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>20,468</b>	<b>27,869</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>44.2</b>
Austria	997	1,660	12.3	19.0	52.0	52.0	40.5	44.9
Belgium	896	1,268	8.7	11.1	48.0	49.2	36.7	36.6
France	6,279	7,903	10.5	12.2	50.7	51.8	46.3	48.2
Germany	8,993	12,165	11.0	14.8	49.9	50.2	39.8	43.4
Liechtenstein	15	25	46.5	65.1	48.5	51.3	41.2	43.0
Luxembourg	140	264	32.0	45.3	50.4	49.2	38.2	41.7
Monaco	22	21	67.9	54.9	52.0	50.9	51.1	53.8
Netherlands	1,556	2,057	9.8	12.1	50.8	52.2	37.1	42.5
Switzerland	1,571	2,506	21.9	29.6	46.4	51.0	33.1	43.1
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>6,579</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>35.8</b>
<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>35.5</b>
Anguilla	4	6	36.7	37.4	53.0	52.6	31.3	36.7
Antigua and Barbuda	23	29	27.6	28.1	55.3	55.4	31.1	42.1
Aruba	30	36	33.1	34.5	55.1	55.5	35.4	41.1
Bahamas	36	62	12.2	15.6	46.7	49.4	37.9	39.3
Barbados	28	35	10.5	12.1	56.4	55.1	37.3	37.9
British Virgin Islands	13	20	62.8	64.0	50.7	50.7	35.1	37.7
Caribbean Netherlands <sup>23</sup>	46	14	..	53.2	55.7	51.6	36.3	40.3
Cayman Islands	19	24	46.2	39.6	49.6	48.8	34.8	38.1
Cuba	18	13	0.2	0.1	56.0	55.4	58.1	43.9
Curaçao	..	38	..	23.9	..	58.9	..	40.2
Dominica	4	7	5.3	9.2	47.5	47.5	20.7	25.3
Dominican Republic	356	425	4.2	3.9	39.3	39.4	26.1	29.9
Grenada	7	7	6.7	6.6	50.4	50.4	24.7	32.7
Guadeloupe <sup>24</sup>	83	99	19.6	22.1	52.2	55.5	32.3	32.3
Haiti	26	41	0.3	0.4	43.2	42.4	35.6	35.3
Jamaica	25	23	0.9	0.8	49.9	49.2	33.1	32.6
Martinique	54	62	14.1	16.0	53.3	56.3	29.4	34.4
Montserrat	1	1	24.4	26.3	48.6	48.5	31.0	33.9
Puerto Rico	355	273	9.4	7.5	52.5	53.3	33.2	42.2
Saint Kitts and Nevis	6	8	12.9	13.7	47.7	47.4	29.6	32.6
Saint Lucia	10	13	6.3	7.2	49.8	49.5	32.3	32.3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4	5	4.0	4.2	51.3	51.1	23.9	27.4

Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	..	28	..	70.4	..	52.1	..	37.0
Trinidad and Tobago	42	50	3.3	3.7	53.8	51.2	53.4	40.0
Turks and Caicos Islands	9	25	47.8	69.2	48.3	48.3	29.6	34.0
United States Virgin Islands	57	57	52.1	54.1	52.8	52.9	40.9	48.8
<b>Central America</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>2,093</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>24.8</b>
Belize	36	60	14.8	16.0	48.9	49.7	30.6	37.8
Costa Rica	311	414	7.9	8.4	49.6	52.0	28.5	39.9
El Salvador	32	42	0.5	0.7	53.0	52.4	27.1	34.3
Guatemala	48	82	0.4	0.5	55.9	52.6	31.2	35.1
Honduras	28	39	0.4	0.4	48.8	47.5	30.1	34.8
Mexico	538	1,224	0.5	0.9	49.7	49.3	14.8	13.3
Nicaragua	30	41	0.6	0.7	49.2	48.5	17.9	26.6
Panama	83	191	2.8	4.7	49.1	48.7	37.3	37.7
<b>South America</b>	<b>4,215</b>	<b>6,016</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>38.8</b>
Argentina	1,540	2,165	4.2	4.9	53.4	54.0	49.9	42.9
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	93	149	1.1	1.3	48.6	47.6	26.3	28.4
Brazil	685	736	0.4	0.4	46.5	46.0	58.3	42.2
Chile	177	489	1.2	2.7	52.2	52.9	29.6	32.3
Colombia	110	142	0.3	0.3	48.7	46.7	21.5	28.8
Ecuador	152	399	1.2	2.4	49.0	48.3	29.4	27.0
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	1	2	37.0	54.3	40.4	44.4	33.0	33.8
French Guiana	77	112	47.0	39.5	49.3	52.5	33.5	35.6
Guyana	9	16	1.1	2.0	46.4	46.5	24.4	32.1
Paraguay	177	161	3.3	2.4	47.9	48.0	31.5	37.0
Peru	66	94	0.3	0.3	50.3	49.9	34.7	35.4
Suriname	28	48	5.8	8.5	45.9	45.4	27.1	28.8
Uruguay	89	80	2.7	2.3	53.8	54.8	49.2	40.5
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1,014	1,426	4.1	4.5	49.8	49.9	43.6	40.1
<b>NORTHERN AMERICA</b>	<b>40,352</b>	<b>57,664</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>44.7</b>
<b>Bermuda</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>41.5</b>
Canada	5,512	7,861	17.9	21.5	51.8	52.1	45.5	44.6
Greenland	7	6	12.0	10.6	30.1	34.2	39.7	41.8
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	1	1	23.2	15.7	48.1	47.6	34.9	35.1
United States of America	34,814	49,777	12.3	15.3	50.3	51.4	37.5	44.7
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>5,360</b>	<b>8,411</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>43.9</b>
<b>Australia/New Zealand</b>	<b>5,065</b>	<b>8,103</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>44.2</b>
Australia <sup>25</sup>	4,386	7,036	23.0	28.8	50.1	51.1	45.8	44.4
New Zealand	679	1,067	17.6	22.7	51.4	51.6	41.1	42.8
<b>Melanesia</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>40.0</b>
Fiji	13	14	1.6	1.5	48.1	46.0	34.9	35.8
New Caledonia	50	66	23.3	23.9	45.8	46.1	39.8	44.5
Papua New Guinea	25	32	0.5	0.4	37.8	36.5	33.8	31.6
Solomon Islands	4	3	1.0	0.4	44.1	43.9	33.0	38.5

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Vanuatu	3	3	1.4	1.2	49.7	50.3	33.8	35.2
<b>Micronesia</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>36.9</b>
Guam	74	78	47.7	47.5	48.3	48.4	34.9	36.7
Kiribati	2	3	2.7	2.6	48.0	47.3	23.7	30.9
Marshall Islands	2	3	3.6	6.2	38.4	38.8	32.8	33.2
Micronesia (Fed. States of)	3	3	2.9	2.6	44.8	46.5	32.1	37.3
Nauru	2	4	23.9	32.7	46.4	37.5	33.9	35.1
Northern Mariana Islands	40	22	58.1	39.5	56.7	58.0	34.5	38.5
Palau	6	5	32.9	23.0	38.1	43.2	33.0	38.7
<b>Polynesia<sup>26</sup></b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>38.0</b>
American Samoa	25	24	43.3	42.3	48.2	49.0	32.0	39.1
Cook Islands	3	4	15.4	24.2	44.3	49.9	20.6	28.3
French Polynesia	30	31	12.8	10.8	42.0	43.0	36.5	42.1
Niue	0	1	26.2	34.2	46.2	45.8	21.0	22.5
Samoa	6	5	3.4	2.5	48.3	49.9	18.0	22.5
Tokelau	0	1	16.9	38.8	45.0	52.0	16.6	20.2
Tonga	4	5	3.8	4.6	46.2	45.7	25.9	31.6
Tuvalu	0	0	2.3	1.3	44.2	44.8	34.4	37.0
Wallis and Futuna Islands	2	3	13.9	23.6	49.5	49.5	25.4	32.5

<sup>1</sup> Including Agalega, Rodrigues and Saint Brandon.

<sup>2</sup> Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

<sup>3</sup> Including Zanzibar

<sup>4</sup> The estimates for 1990 to 2005 refer to Sudan and South Sudan.

<sup>5</sup> Including Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

<sup>6</sup> For statistical purposes, the data for China do not include Hong Kong and Macao, Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of China.

<sup>7</sup> As of 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.

<sup>8</sup> As of 20 December 1999, Macao became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.

<sup>9</sup> Including Sabah and Sarawak.

<sup>10</sup> Including Nagorno-Karabakh.

<sup>11</sup> Including Northern-Cyprus.

<sup>12</sup> Including Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

<sup>13</sup> Including East Jerusalem. Refugees are not part of the foreign-born migrant stock in the State of Palestine.

<sup>14</sup> Including Transnistria.

<sup>15</sup> Including Crimea.

<sup>16</sup> Refers to Guernsey, and Jersey.

<sup>17</sup> Including Åland Islands.

<sup>18</sup> Including Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands.

<sup>19</sup> Refers to the Vatican City State.

<sup>20</sup> Including Kosovo. The estimates for 1990 and 2000 refer to Serbia and Montenegro.

<sup>21</sup> Including Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.

<sup>22</sup> The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

<sup>23</sup> The estimates for 1990 to 2005 refer to the former Netherlands Antilles.

<sup>24</sup> Including Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin (French part).

<sup>25</sup> Including Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Norfolk Island.

<sup>26</sup> Including Pitcairn.

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Accurate, consistent and timely information on global levels and trends in international migration are critical for designing well-managed migration policies. This publication presents the highlights of the International Migration Report 2017 which analyses the latest estimates of the number of international migrants enumerated in countries or areas and classified by age, sex and country/area of birth or citizenship, as published in the *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*. The International Migration Report 2017 presents key trends in the stock of international migrants from 1990 to 2017, analyses estimates and projections of net international migration for the period 1950 to 2050, and provides the latest information on the status of ratification of legal instruments related to international migration by Member States.

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