Global migration: Facts, figures and policies

Population Division

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Population Division
Work programme on international migration

• **Migration Section**
  – Estimates of the international migrant stock (biennial)

• **Population Estimates and Projection Section**
  – Estimates and projections of net international migration flows as part of World Population Prospects (biennial)

• **Policy Section**
  – Monitoring international migration policies (follow-up to ICPD PoA Chapter X; SDG 10.7) as part of World Population Policies (biennial)
Estimates of the international migrant stock: Evolution of work

- Before 2010: International migrant stock by country of residence and sex at regular intervals (1990, 1995, etc.)
- Since 2010: International migrant stock by country of residence, sex and five-year age group (60+)
- Since 2012: International migrant stock by country of residence and country of birth
- Since 2015: Expanded age-groups (75+)
- (In progress): Estimating inflows and outflows of international migrants, based on the international migrant stock
Annual rate of change of the international migrant stock (\%)  
1990-1995 to 2010-2015

[Bar chart showing the annual rate of change for different regions and time periods.]

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Share of the international migrant stock in total population, 2015

Migrant stock as a percentage of the total population:
- Less than 1 per cent
- Between 1 and 5 per cent
- Between 5 and 10 per cent
- Between 10 and 20 per cent
- More than 20 per cent

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Age distribution of the international migrant stock and the total population, 1990 and 2015

Migrant stock

Total population

Male 1990  Male 2015  Female 1990  Female 2015

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Estimating migration flows on the basis of the international migrant stock, 2010-2015

(Net inflow: 22 million; actual inflow 79 million)
Outflows as percentage of migrant stock at beginning of period, 2010-2015

- Africa: 29%
- Asia: 26%
- Europe: 20%
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 24%
- Northern America: 22%
- Oceania: 28%
Role of net international migration flows in overall population change

Actual and projected change in total population, with and without migration (millions)
Changes in the population of working age, 2015 – 2050 (%)

- Africa: 138% increase
- Asia: -12% decrease
- Europe: -20% decrease
- Latin America and the Caribbean: -21% decrease
- Northern America: -8% decrease
- Oceania: 29% increase

World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision
Meeting labour demands is the prevailing reason for countries’ immigration policy.

Rationale for current immigration policy among Governments, 2015 (percentage)

- To meet labour demands in certain sectors of the economy: 68%
- To safeguard employment opportunities for nationals: 46%
- To address population ageing: 15%
- To counter long-term population decline: 13%
- None of these: 3%

Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2016). Note: Based on 148 countries with available data.
More than half of all countries have a policy to promote the integration of migrants

Governments with a policy to promote the integration of immigrants, 2015 (percentage)

Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2016). Note: Based on 153 countries with available data.