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TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK: THE 2008 REVISION

CD-ROM DOCUMENTATION

United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

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DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

This publication has been issued without formal editing.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for providing the international community with up-to-date and objective information on population and development.

In the area of international migration, the Population Division has developed the United Nations Global Migration Database, which includes the most complete set of official statistics on the foreign-born or the foreign population enumerated in the countries or areas of the world and classified by origin, sex and age. Depending on the nature of the national data available, country of origin is recorded either as country of birth or country of citizenship. The sources of the statistics presented are mostly population censuses or, where available, population registers. In some cases, the data are derived from nationally representative surveys. The database allows registered users to download the statistics available for particular countries of origin or countries of destination. In building the database, the Population Division obtained inputs from the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Population Division of ECLAC, the World Bank, the University of Sussex and the Minnesota Population Center (IPUMS-International). Financial support from UNICEF and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) accelerated the completion of the database. Access to the Global Migration Database may be obtained through www.unmigration.org.

This report describes the contents of *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision*, a United Nations dataset distributed on CD-ROM. This dataset contains time-series of estimates and projections of the number of international migrants in each of the countries or areas of the world at mid-year (1 July) for each year that is a multiple of five over the period 1960-2010. The estimates are presented in an Excel file which, together with this report, is contained on the CD-ROM. The estimates presented are entirely the responsibility of the Population Division. Their preparation was facilitated by the collaboration of other United Nations offices. The Population Division thanks the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for their continuing cooperation. In addition, the Population Division gratefully acknowledges the support of UNICEF and the South-South Unit of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the completion of this work.

For further information about *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision*, please contact Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA by telephone (+1 212) 963-3179, fax (+1 212) 963-2147 or email (migrationp@un.org). More information on the activities of the Population Division on international migration can be found at www.unmigration.org.

CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

The following symbols have been used in the tables throughout this report:

> Two dots (..) indicate that the data are not available or are not reported separately.
> A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.
> A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease.
> A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.
> A zero (0) indicates that the value is zero or rounded to zero.
> Years given refer to 1 July.
> Use of a hyphen (-) between years, for example, 1990-2000, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the first year to 1 July of the second year.
>
> Numbers and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

References to countries and areas:

The designations employed and the material in this publication 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 or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The designation "more developed" and "less developed" regions are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. The term "country" as used in this publication also refers, as appropriate, to areas.

More developed regions comprise all regions of Europe plus Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan.

Less developed regions comprise all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan) and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

The group of least developed countries currently comprises 49 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

The designation sub-Saharan Africa is used to indicate all of Africa excluding Algeria, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Tunisia and Western Sahara.

Countries and areas are grouped geographically into six major areas: Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Northern America; and Oceania. These major areas are further divided into 22 geographical regions.

Names and compositions of geographical areas follow those of "Standard country or area codes for statistical use" available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm as of December 2008.

I. Trends in International Migrant Stock, the 2008 Revision: Main findings

In 2010, the total number of international migrants in the world is expected to reach 214 million. From 2005 to 2010, the global number of international migrants is projected to increase by 10 per cent, which is slightly more than during the preceding five-year period (9 per cent), but below the increases recorded during 1975-1980 (13 per cent), 1980-1985 (11 per cent) and 1985-1990 (37 per cent).[1]

Because the international migrant stock represents the cumulative effect of international migration trends, it is not very sensitive to short-term shocks. For that reason, the economic and financial crisis that began in 2008 appears not to have had as yet major effects on the average growth of the migrant stock during the 2005-2010 period. Although the economic downturn is affecting negatively most national economies and the lives of millions of people, including international migrants and their families, the most recent data on the number of international migrants in major receiving countries still show increases or, at worst, stagnation rather than declines. In interpreting the estimates presented here, one should bear in mind that they represent the number of international migrants who have ever changed their country of residence. Data on recent migration flows are more sensitive to economic shocks and, though still sparse, indicate slowdowns in the migration intake of key receiving countries.

The percentage of international migrants among the world population has increased only slightly. In 2010, it is expected to reach 3.1 per cent, up from 2.9 per cent in 1990. Before the dissolution of the former USSR in 1991, the proportion of international migrants among the world population had been declining from 1960 to 1975, passing from 2.6 per cent to 2.2 per cent, and then had stabilized at 2.3 per cent during the 1980s.

Globally, female migrants constitute almost half of the international migrant stock. By 2010, the proportion female among international migrants is projected to be 49.0, down from 49.4 per cent in 2000. The percentage of female migrants will continue to be highest in Europe (52.3 per cent). Furthermore, in three other major areas female migrants are also expected to exceed the number of male migrants, constituting 51.2 per cent of the international migrants in Oceania and 50.1 per cent in both Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America by 2010. However, whereas the proportion female has increased slightly in Latin America and the Caribbean, it has been declining in Northern America where it reached an all time high in 1980 (at 52.5 per cent). In the other two major areas, male migrants still outnumber female migrants by wide margins: in Asia, they are expected to constitute 55.4 per cent of the migrant stock in 2010 and in Africa, 53.2 per cent.
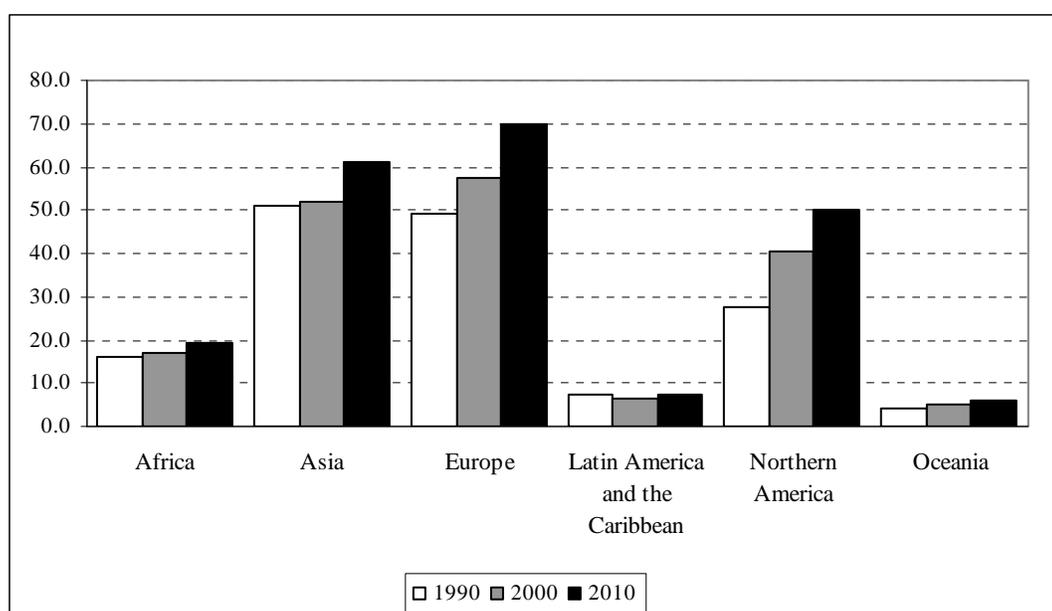
The more developed regions are projected to experience the largest increase in the migrant stock. Between 1990 and 2010, the more developed regions are expected to gain 45 million international migrants, an increase of 55 per cent. In 2010, international migrants are projected to account for 10 per cent of the total population residing in the more developed regions, up from 7.2 per cent in 1990. In the less developed regions, the migrant stock is expected to increase by 13 million (18 per cent) from 1990 to 2010. The proportion of international migrants in the total population of the less developed countries

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[1] The increase of 37 per cent during the period 1985-1990 was in large part the result of the 1991 disintegration of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), which led to the creation of 15 independent States and resulted in the reclassification of millions of persons who had been internal migrants within the USSR into international migrants because their place of birth became part of a different country. The estimates presented in this report backdate the effect of the disintegration of the USSR to 1990 and the estimates for that date are based on the 1989 census of the USSR.

fell slightly from 1990 (1.8 per cent) to 2000 (1.5 per cent), but is expected to stabilize by 2010 (1.5 per cent). The increase in the migrant stock in the least developed countries will be limited to 410,000 between 1990 and 2010 (4 per cent). The proportion of international migrants in the least developed countries is projected to fall from 2.1 per cent in 1990 to 1.3 per cent in 2010.

In 2010, Europe is expected to host almost 70 million international migrants, one-third of the global total. Asia will host the second largest migrant population (61 million), followed by Northern America (50 million), Africa (19 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (7 million) and Oceania (6 million), as shown in figure I. Regarding the increase in the migrant stock between 2000 and 2010, it is expected to be highest in Northern America, at 24 per cent, followed by Europe (21 per cent), Oceania (20 per cent), Asia (18 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (16 per cent) and Africa (13 per cent).

Figure I
Estimated number of international migrants by major area, 1990-2010 (*millions*)
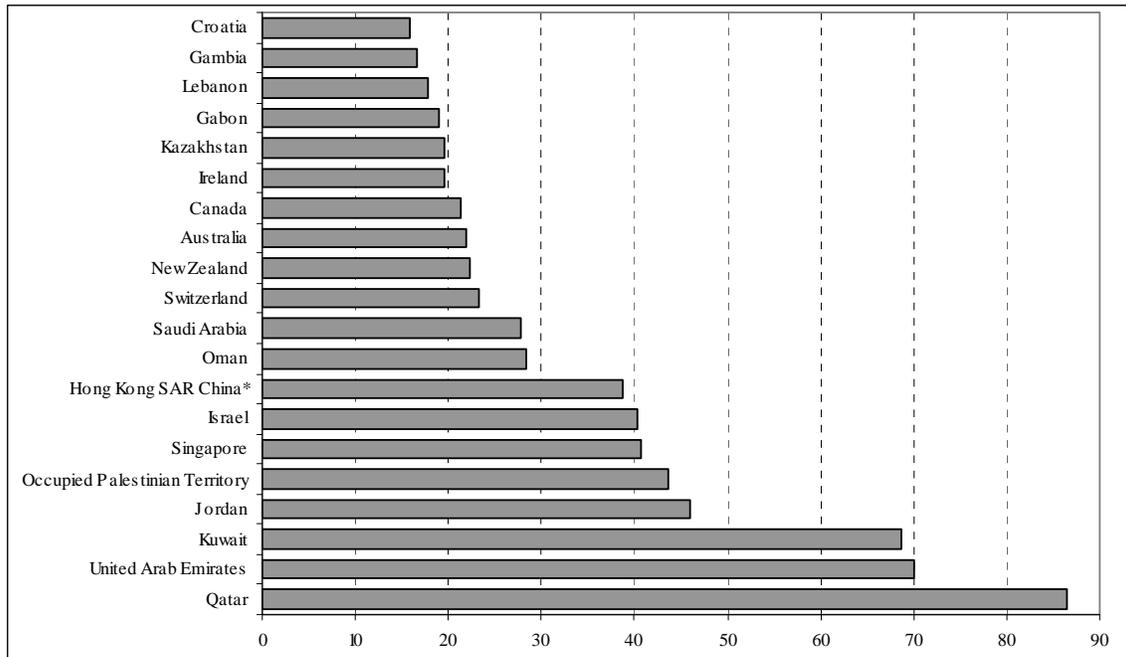

Refugees constitute an important share of the total number of international migrants. By 2010, the global refugee stock is projected to reach an estimated 16.3 million persons, a figure 4 per cent higher than in 2000 (15.6 million), but 12 per cent below that in 1990 (18.5 million). The proportion of refugees among all international migrants declined from 12 per cent in 1990 to 9 per cent in 2000 and is expected to drop further by 2010, to reach 8 per cent.

In 2010, Asia is expected to host 10.9 million refugees or 66 per cent of the global number of refugees. Africa, the second largest haven for refugees, will host 2.6 million refugees in 2010 (16 per cent), followed by Europe with 1.6 million refugees (10 per cent). Comparatively smaller refugee populations are hosted by Northern America (730,000) and Latin America and the Caribbean (530,000). Between 2000 and 2010, the global number of refugees will have dropped sharply in Europe (by 36 per cent) and Africa (by 28 per cent), but it would have increased markedly in Asia (by 23 per cent). The tenfold increase in the refugee population in Latin America and the Caribbean between 2000 and 2010 is due to the recent inclusion of persons in refugee-like situations in several countries in the region, which were not reported before by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The United States of America is the largest recipient of international migrants and is projected to host 42.8 million migrants in 2010. It is followed by the Russian Federation (12.3 million), Germany (10.8 million), Saudi Arabia (7.3 million) and Canada (7.2 million). The number of countries hosting more than 500,000 international migrants is projected to increase from 57 in 1990 to 64 in 2010.

A relatively small number of countries host most of the world's international migrants. In 2010, the 29 countries with the largest migrant populations accounted for 75 per cent of all international migrants worldwide, compared to 30 countries in 2000. Between 2000 and 2010, nine countries gained over a million international migrants, including the United States (8.0 million), Spain (4.6 million), Italy (2.3 million), Saudi Arabia (2.2 million), the United Kingdom (1.7 million), Canada (1.6 million), the Syrian Arab Republic (1.3 million) as well as Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (1.0 million each). The largest reductions in the number of international migrants from 2000 to 2010 are projected to take place in India (975,000) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (675,000).

Figure II
Countries or areas with the highest proportion of international migrants in 2010 among those with at least one million inhabitants

* Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.

The number of countries with more than one million inhabitants where international migrants constitute more than 10 per cent of the population is expected to rise from 29 in 1990 to 38 in 2010. Countries with the highest projected proportion of international migrants in 2010 are Qatar (87 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (70 per cent) and Kuwait (69 per cent), as shown in figure II.

II. CD-ROM DOCUMENTATION

The CD-ROM entitled *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision*[2] provides revised and updated estimates of the international migrant stock. The previous version of such estimates was issued in February 2006 under the title *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*.[3]

In response to growing demand for data on international migrants, the Population Division has developed the Global Migration Database. The database contains the most complete set of official statistics on the foreign-born or the foreign population enumerated in the countries or areas of the world and classified by origin, sex and age. Depending on the nature of the national data available, country of origin is either country of birth or country of citizenship. The sources of the statistics presented are mostly population censuses or, where available, population registers. In some cases, the data are derived from nationally representative surveys. The database allows registered users to download the statistics available for particular countries of origin or countries of destination. In building the database, the Population Division obtained important inputs from the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Bank, the University of Sussex and the Minnesota Population Center (IPUMS-International). Financial support from UNICEF and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) accelerated the preparation of the database. Access to the Global Migration Database may be obtained through www.unmigration.org.

A subset of the statistics contained in the Global Migration Database provided the basis for the estimation of the number of international migrants in each country or area of the world as of 1 July of the years that are multiple of five in the period 1960-2010. The figures presented for 2010 are extrapolations or projections of the estimates referring to past years. The estimates were produced for each of the 230 countries and areas that constituted the world in 2008. In deriving these estimates, an international migrant was equated to a person living in a country other than that in which he or she was born. That is, the number of international migrants, also called the international migrant stock, would represent the number of foreign-born persons enumerated in the countries or areas constituting the world. However, because several countries lack data on the foreign-born, data on the number of foreigners, if available, were used instead as the basis of estimation. Consequently, the overall number of migrants in world regions or at the global level do not quite represent the overall number of foreign-born. In the *2008 Revision*, data on the foreign-born were available for 78 per cent of all countries or areas, while a further 18 per cent only had data relative to foreigners. The other 4 per cent lacked data on international migrants altogether.

A. IMPACT OF THE DISINTEGRATION AND REUNIFICATION OF COUNTRIES

The disintegration and reunification of countries causes discontinuities in the change of the international migrant stock. In recent times, the largest discontinuity stems from the disintegration of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1991 and, to a lesser extent, from those of the former Yugoslavia (starting in 1992 and continuing until 2006 when Serbia and Montenegro separated), and the former Czechoslovakia (1993). For purposes of estimation the changes in state configurations occurring in the early 1990s were backdated to mid-year 1990. The effects of the separation of Serbia and Montenegro were backdated to mid-year 2005.

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[2] United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008.
[3] United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Rev.2005.

Because an international migrant is equated with a person who was born outside the country in which he or she resides, when a country disintegrates, persons who had been internal migrants because they had moved from one part of the country to another may become, overnight, international migrants without having moved at that time. Such changes introduce artificial but unavoidable discontinuities in the trend of the international migrant stock.

The reunification of States also introduces discontinuities, but in the opposite direction. Thus, in October 1990, when the former Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) became a united Germany, persons who had been born in the former GDR but were residing in the former FRG or vice-versa ceased being international migrants.

Because of the paucity of data on the foreign-born in the former Czechoslovakia, USSR and Yugoslavia, it was not possible to derive estimates for the entities that would become their successor States for the period 1960-1985. The same holds for Serbia and Montenegro as distinct units during 1990-2000. Consequently, to produce a consistent series of estimates for country aggregates (regions, major areas and development groups) over time, two series are presented. The first covers the period 1990-2010 and shows estimates for 230 countries or areas separately. The second covers a longer period, 1960-2010, but covers only 212 countries or areas maintaining the entities that existed before disintegration.

The disintegration of the former USSR and the reunification of Germany limit the comparability of regional aggregates over time. In the series of estimates for the period 1990-2010, the 15 successor States of the former USSR are included in the United Nations major areas and regions according to the classification contained in Annex 1 of the Excel workbook. In the longer series, spanning the 1960-2010 period, the former USSR is presented as a separate entity with the consequence that its 15 successor States are not included in the major areas and regions of the world. Three regions, in particular, have fewer members in the 1960-2010 series than in the 1990-2010 series, namely, Northern Europe, Eastern Europe and Western Asia, and the 1990-2010 series has an additional region, Central Asia, which does not exist in the 1960-2010 series. In addition, in the 1960-2010 series, estimates relative to the former German Democratic Republic are included in Eastern Europe and those for the former Federal Republic of Germany are included in Western Europe over the period 1960-1985. Since 1990, reunited Germany is included in Western Europe. The successor States of the former Czechoslovakia remain in Eastern Europe while those of the former Yugoslavia remain in Southern Europe, therefore having no compositional effects on the coverage of those regions.

The dissolution of the former USSR also changed the composition of the major development groups. Before the break-up, the former USSR as a whole was part of the more developed regions. Following its dissolution, the successor States located in Asia became part of the less developed regions, whereas the successor States located in Europe remained part of the more developed regions. To maintain consistency within each series, the estimates for 1960-2010 include the former USSR in the more developed regions, whereas the estimates in the series for 1990-2010 divide the successor States of the former USSR between the more and the less developed regions as indicated above.

Note that, for the purposes of analysis, the estimates for regions, major areas and development groups presented within each series, 1990-2010 and 1960-2010, are consistent and comparable within the same series. However, the compositional changes detailed above imply that the regional estimates in the 1960-2010 series are not necessarily comparable to those of the 1990-2010 series, in particular for the development groups and for the regions of Western Asia, Eastern Europe and Northern Europe.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ESTIMATES IN THE VARIOUS WORKSHEETS

This section describes the worksheets contained in the Excel workbook UN_MigStock_2008.xls. Each worksheet has a name located on its tab. The description of each worksheet is presented below following its name.

Contents: The workbook opens on this worksheet, which provides an index to the rest of the worksheets in the workbook and has links that take the user to the selected worksheet by clicking either on its name (left column) or on the title of each table. The workbook contains two sets of tables. The first set covers the 1990-2010 period and contains time series estimates for 230 countries or areas including each of the successor States of the former Czechoslovakia, the former USSR and the former Yugoslavia. The second set covers the 1960-2010 period and contains time series estimates for 212 countries or areas one of which is the former USSR presented as a single unit. In addition, the workbook contains three worksheets providing additional information. The contents of each part of the workbook are described below.

1. Worksheets showing estimates for 1990-2010

The estimates for the period 1990-2010 are presented in six tables, numbered 1a to 1f, each presented on a separate worksheet. In all of these tables, the classification of countries or areas by region, major area and development group is the same and corresponds to the classification currently used in reporting population information. Hence, it contains estimates for each of the 230 countries or areas constituting the world and lists separately the two successor States of the former Czechoslovakia (the Czech Republic and Slovakia), the six successor States of the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia,[4] Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the 15 successor States of the former USSR (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).

Each table presents estimates for the regions, major areas, development groups and the world as a whole according to the definition of regions used currently and presented in Annex 1. The tables have a consistent layout that includes a first column showing the sort order of the items listed, a second column showing the name of each country, area and geographical grouping, a third column showing the existence of notes that provide special information on particular entries (see the description of the worksheet called Notes below), and a fourth column showing the "country code" for each country, area or geographical grouping. For countries or areas, this code consists of three digits and was established by the International Standards Organization (ISO). For geographical groupings, the codes presented are those used by the Population Division. These four columns are repeated in all the tables. The sixth column, which contains codes indicating the type of data used in deriving the estimates presented, is included only in the tables showing estimates of the international migrant stock or indicators derived from those estimates. The codes used are: B, which indicates that estimates were derived from data on the foreign-born population; C, which indicates that estimates were derived from data on foreign citizens, also called foreigners; R, which indicates that the number of refugees or persons in refugee-like situations as reported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were added to the estimates, and I, which indicates that there were no data on international migrants for the country or area concerned and the estimates presented were imputed. A short description of each of the tables in the first series follows.

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[4] Montenegro and Serbia were treated as one single entity in 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Table 1a: *International migrant stock at mid-year by sex and by major area, region, country or area, 1990-2010*: Presents the complete set of estimates of the international migrant stock by sex and by major area, region, country or area for every year that is a multiple of five during the period 1990-2010. The last point is the result of extrapolation. The estimates refer to the mid-point (1 July) of each year indicated.

Table 1b: *Total population at mid-year by sex and by major area, region, country or area, 1990-2010 (thousands)*: Presents estimates of the total population obtained from *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision* (forthcoming). The estimates refer to the mid-point (1 July) of each year indicated.

Table 1c: *International migrant stock as a percentage of the total population by sex and major area, region, country or area, 1990-2010*: The percentages shown are calculated by dividing the entries in table 1a by those in 1b and expressing the results in percentages. The estimates refer to the mid-point (1 July) of the year indicated.

Table 1d: *Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock by major area, region, country or area, 1990-2010.* The figures in this table are obtained by dividing the number of female international migrants by the total migrant stock and expressing the result as a percentage.

Table 1e: *Annual rate of change of the migrant stock by sex and by major area, region, country or area, 1990-2010 (percentage)*: Presents the estimated exponential annual rate of change of the international migrant stock, expressed as a percentage.

Table 1f: *Estimated refugee stock at mid-year by major area, region, country or area, 1990-2010*: Presents the number of refugees, the refugee population as a percentage of the total migrant stock and the estimated exponential rate of change of the refugee population per year expressed as a percentage. All these indicators are based on the estimates of refugee populations or persons in refugee-like situations prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and, where appropriate, by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Annex 1: *Classification of countries and areas by major area and region (1990-2010)*: Presents the list of countries or areas ordered alphabetically and the major area and region to which each belongs. It also identifies the countries or areas included in the more developed regions, the group of least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa. In this series, 230 countries or areas are covered and their classification by development group, major area and region is the one currently used by the Population Division.

2. Worksheets pertaining to the period 1960-2010

Tables in the second series contain a time series of estimates covering the period 1960-2010 and are numbered 2a to 2f. To maintain consistency in the composition of regions, major areas and development groups within this series, the former USSR is maintained as a single unit. So are the former Czechoslovakia and the former Yugoslavia. In addition, the former Federal Republic of Germany and the former German Democratic Republic are presented separately from 1960 to 1985. The estimates for the former Czechoslovakia, the former USSR and the former Yugoslavia from 1990 to 2010 are the sum of those for their respective successor States as presented in the series pertaining to 1990-2010 (see table 1a). The former USSR is presented as a separate major area. Note that in this series, the regions named Western Asia, Eastern Europe and Northern Europe exclude the successor states of the former USSR (see Annex 3). In addition, Eastern Europe includes the former German Democratic Republic and Western Europe includes the former Federal Republic of Germany. This series does not contain a region called Central Asia.

Table 2a: *International migrant stock at mid-year by sex and by major area, region, country or area, 1960-2010*: Presents the complete set of estimates of the international migrant stock by sex and by major area, region, country or area for every year that is a multiple of five during the period 1960-2010. The last point is the result of extrapolation. The estimates refer to the mid-point (1 July) of each year indicated.

Table 2b: *Total population at mid-year by sex and by major area, region, country or area, 1960-2010 (thousands)*: Presents estimates of the total population obtained from *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision* (forthcoming). The estimates refer to the mid-point (1 July) of each year indicated.

Table 2c: *International migrant stock as a percentage of the total population by sex and major area, region, country or area, 1960-2010*: The percentages shown are calculated by dividing the entries in table 1a by those in 1b and expressing the results in percentages. The estimates refer to the mid-point (1 July) of the year indicated.

Table 2d: *Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock by major area, region, country or area, 1960-2010.* The figures in this table are obtained by dividing the number of female international migrants by the total migrant stock and expressing the result as a percentage.

Table 2e: *Annual rate of change of the migrant stock by sex and by major area, region, country or area, 1960-2010 (percentage)*: Presents the estimated exponential annual rate of change of the international migrant stock, expressed as a percentage.

Table 2f: *Estimated refugee stock at mid-year by major area, region, country or area, 1960-2010*: Presents the number of refugees, the refugee population as a percentage of the total migrant stock and the estimated exponential rate of change of the refugee population per year expressed as a percentage. All these indicators are based on the estimates of refugee populations or persons in refugee-like situations prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and, where appropriate, by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Annex 2: *Classification of countries and areas by major area and region (1960-2010)*: Presents the list of countries or areas ordered alphabetically and the major area and region to which each belongs. It also identifies the countries or areas included in the more developed regions, the group of least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa. In this series, 212 countries or areas are covered. Their classification by development group, major area and region is consistent with that used in the 1980s when the USSR was a single entity.

3. Additional information

Annex 3: This worksheet presents a comparison of the composition of the regions affected by the disintegration of the former USSR so that the user can bear those differences in mind in considering the two time series included in the workbook: that for 1990-2010 based on the successor States of all countries that disintegrated in the early 1990s, and that for 1960-2010 that "sets back the clock" to the composition of regions before disintegration.

Notes: Lists the notes that provide certain specificities about the countries or areas covered or the nature of the estimates presented. Note that for many areas that are not independent States, the estimates presented generally consider as foreign-born all persons born outside of those areas.

C. METHODOLOGY FOR ESTIMATING THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK

1. Types of data and their sources

About 70 per cent of the statistics used to estimate the international migrant stock by country or area in the *2008 Revision* were derived from population censuses held between 1955 and 2008. A further 17 per cent of the statistics used were obtained from population registers, and the remaining 13 per cent were generated either by nationally representative surveys or by sources that could not be identified.

In the majority of cases, the sources available had gathered information on the place of birth of the enumerated population, thus allowing the identification of the foreign-born population. In estimating the international migrant stock, international migrants have been equated with the foreign-born whenever possible. In most countries lacking data on place of birth, information on the country of citizenship of those enumerated was available and was used as the basis for the identification of international migrants, thus effectively equating international migrants with foreign citizens. Although this approach is less than ideal because, in countries where citizenship is conferred on the basis of *jus sanguinis*, people may remain foreigners even when they are born in the country in which they reside and are therefore not actual migrants, this evidence was nevertheless used because ignoring it would have resulted in having no data for about one in every five countries.

Table 1 presents the distribution of countries according to whether the basic data used for estimation purposes were classified according to country of birth or country of citizenship. It shows that data on the foreign-born were used in 78 per cent of the 230 countries or areas considered, that is, for 179 of them. Data on foreigners were used for 18 per cent of the countries or areas considered, or 42 of them. Only 9 countries, representing 4 per cent of the total, lacked data on either the foreign-born or foreign citizens.

Table 1
Distribution of countries by type of data for the estimation of the migrant stock

Major area	*Number of countries*				*Percentage*			
	Country of birth[1]	*Country of citizenship*	*No data*	*Total*	*Country of birth*	*Country of citizenship*	*No data*	*Total*
Africa	40	14	3	57	70	25	5	100
Asia	29	18	3	50	58	36	6	100
Latin America and the Caribbean	45	1	0	46	98	2	0	100
Northern America	5	0	0	5	100	0	0	100
Europe	40	6	2	48	83	13	4	100
Oceania	20	3	1	24	83	13	4	100
World	179	42	9	230	78	18	4	100

[1] For two countries in Africa, a combination of data by country of birth and country of citizenship was used.

For most countries or areas, persons whose country of birth or of citizenship was reported as unknown were considered to be foreign-born or foreign citizens, respectively, and included in the total.

The availability of information has generally increased over time. For the 1960 round of censuses, which covers the period 1955-1964, at least one data source on the international migrant stock was available for 134 countries. The equivalent figure for the 1970 census round (1965-1974) was 135. For the 1980 round, it increased to 149 and reached a peak with the 1990 round, with 175 countries. However, for the 2000 round of censuses, only 150 countries have reported some data on either the foreign-born or the number of foreigners in their territories.

2. Refugees

The coverage of refugees in population censuses is uneven. In countries where refugees have been resettled, granted refugee status and allowed to integrate, they are normally covered by the population census as any other migrant. In such cases, there is no reason to make a special provision for the consideration of refugees in estimating the international migrant stock. However, in many places, refugees are required to reside in camps and other designated areas. In most countries in which refugees are maintained segregated from the rest of the population, it is unlikely that population censuses cover them. Furthermore, when refugee flows occur rapidly in situations of conflict, it is uncommon for a population census to take place soon after and to reflect the newly arrived refugee population. Consequently, for many countries hosting large refugee populations, the refugee statistics reported by UNHCR are the only source of information on persons who are recognized as refugees or find themselves in refugee-like situations. In order to ensure that the estimates of the international migrant stock reflect properly the numbers of refugees, the refugee figures reported by UNHCR and UNWRA were added to the estimates of the international migrant stock for most developing countries. In doing so, care was taken to estimate refugee stocks at mid-year (1 July) from the UNHCR data, which usually refer to the end of the year.

For developed countries, where most refugees have been admitted for resettlement and are routinely included in population counts, be it by censuses or population registers, no such adjustment was made. Nor was any adjustment made to reflect the number of asylum-seekers.

To project the number of international migrants to 2010, the refugee component in those countries where the number of refugees had been added to the number of foreign-born or foreign citizens was projected by maintaining the mid-2007 figures derived from UNHCR reports[5] constant until mid-2010. In the case of Palestinian refugees, their number was assumed to grow between 2008 and 2010 at the same rate it had grown between 2005 and 2008, as reflected in the statistics published by UNRWA.[6] Note that in 2007 UNHCR began reporting the numbers of people in refugee-like situations who, though having left their countries before 2007, only appear in the statistics at that date. Their numbers have been included, as appropriate, in the 2010 projections of the international migrant stock.

3. Data coverage

Among the 230 countries or areas that constituted the world in 2008, 221, representing 91 per cent of the total, had at least one data source on the international migrant stock. For 179 of them, the data used as the basis for estimation were the number of foreign-born persons. For another 42, the number of international migrants was based on data regarding foreign citizens. The nine countries with no information include China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea and Somalia, which have not been major destinations for international migrants other than refugees, as well as some small island States and city States.

Data availability improved considerably between the *2005 Revision* and the *2008 Revision*. The number of countries without data declined from 13 to 9 and the number of countries with only one data source dropped from 38 to 26 (table 2). Overall, estimates in the *2008 Revision* are based on 1,248 data sources, 41 per cent more than those used in the *2005 Revision*. The largest number of data sources are for countries in Europe (389), followed by those for countries in Asia (255), Latin America and the Caribbean (249), Africa (178), Oceania (134), Northern America (42) and the former USSR (1).

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[5] See refugee population, end-of-year estimates by country of asylum, 1960-2007, at http://www.unhcr.org/statistics.html.
[6] See http://www.un.org/unrwa/publications/index.html.

Table 2
Distribution of countries by type of data and number of data sources

Number of data sources	2005 Revision			2008 Revision		
	Country of birth	Country of citizenship	Total	Country of birth	Country of citizenship	Total
0	0	0	13	0	0	9
1	26	12	38	24	2	26
2	24	11	35	23	13	36
3	18	7	25	15	3	18
4	30	6	36	25	9	34
5 and over	68	13	81	92	15	107
World	166	49	228	179	42	230

Information by sex was available for 211 countries or areas, constituting 95 per cent of the countries or areas with at least one source of information on the number of international migrants. Among them, data by sex and country of birth were available for 169 countries or areas, while data classified by sex and country of citizenship were available for 42 countries or areas. In the preparation of the *2005 Revision*, information by sex was available for 202 countries or areas.

4. Estimates for countries with two or more sources of data

Given the nature of the data available and the extent of their coverage, a straightforward method of estimation was used. For the 195 countries having information on the international migrant stock for at least two points in time, interpolation or extrapolation using an exponential growth rate was used to estimate the international migrant stock on 1 July of the reference years, namely, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010. In some instances, the estimates were adjusted on the basis of other relevant information, including the size of the total population in the country to ensure that the proportion of migrants in small populations did not increase to unacceptable levels.

5. Estimates for countries with only one source of data

Only one source of data was available for 26 countries, including seven of the 15 successor States of the former USSR. In the case of these seven successor States, estimates were derived by considering the number of persons enumerated by the 1989 census of the former USSR and taking into account the migration flows that have occurred between 1990 and 2005. The trend estimated was maintained constant in extrapolating to 2010. For all other countries with only one data source, including the former USSR until 1990, estimates for the reference years were derived by assuming growth rates of the migrant stock in the years preceding or following the only data source available.

6. Estimates for countries with no data

There were nine countries or areas for which no information was available on the international migrant stock. For these countries, a model, based on the general observation that the proportion of international migrants tends to be inversely related to the size of the total population, was used. Specifically, the following equation yielded the estimated migrant stock in countries or areas without any data:

$$F = 0.345(P)/exp(log_{10} P - 2)$$

where *P* is the total population in the country and *F* is the foreign-born population.

7. Estimates of female migrants in countries with no information by sex

In the 19 countries with no information by sex, the proportion of female migrants was assumed to equal the regional average. In the five successor States of the former USSR lacking data classified by sex, the proportion of female migrants among all migrants was assumed to equal the average proportion calculated from the 10 successor States having data classified by sex. For three countries in Western Asia hosting a significant number of Palestinian refugees, the proportion of female migrants among all migrants was assumed to equal that derived from UNRWA data.

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