International migration in GCC countries

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations, New York

Regional symposium on foreign workers in the GCC:
Towards a common strategy
Doha, Qatar
17-19 April 2007

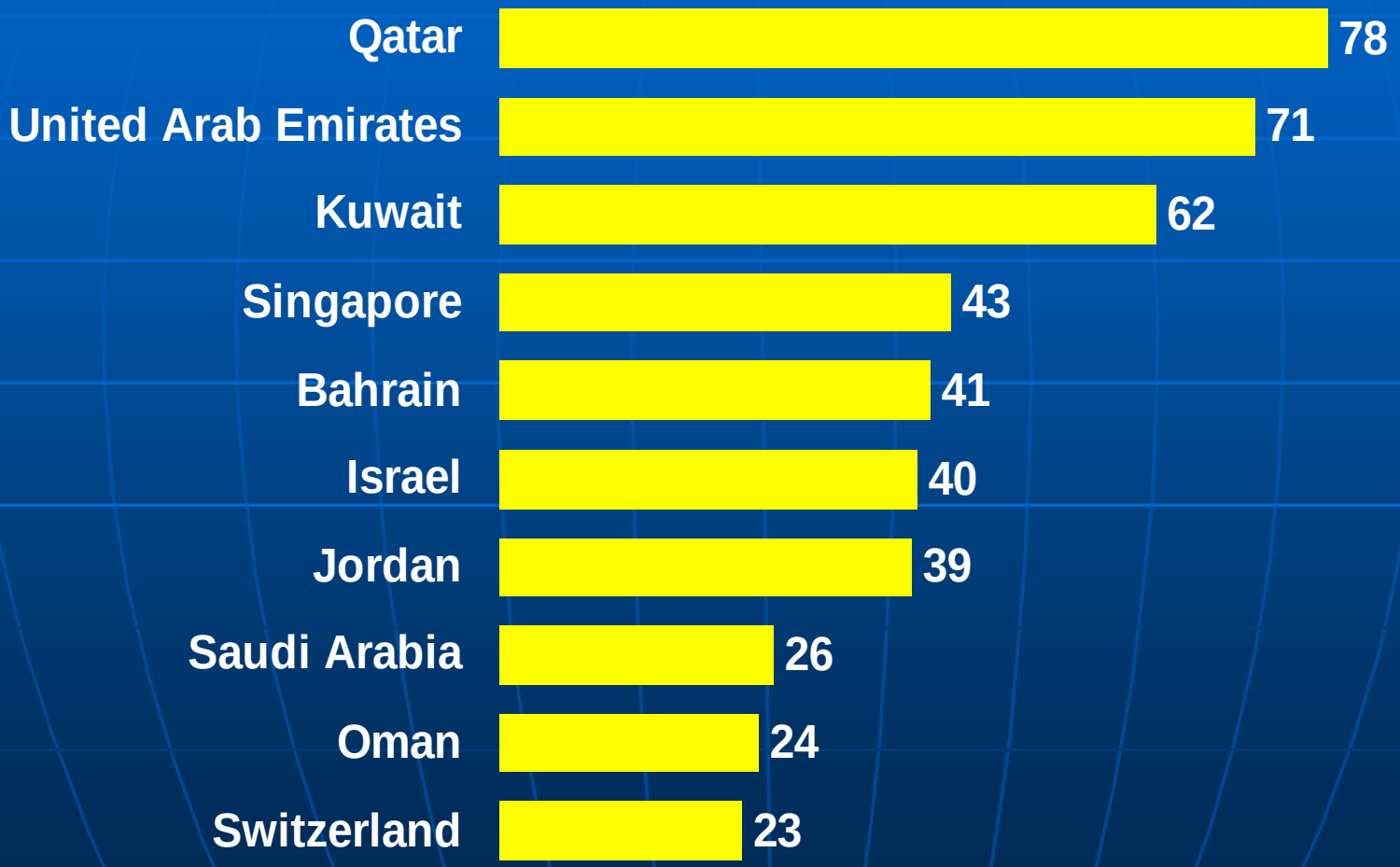
- **International migration trends and their demographic consequences**
- International migration policies and their implications for development
- Recommendations

Global migrant stock, 1990 – 2005
(millions)

Region	1990	2005	Change
World	155	191	23%
More developed regions	82	115	40%
Less developed regions	73	75	4%
GCC countries	9	13	49%

Ten countries with the highest percentage of international migrants, 2005

(Countries with more than 500,000 inhabitants)



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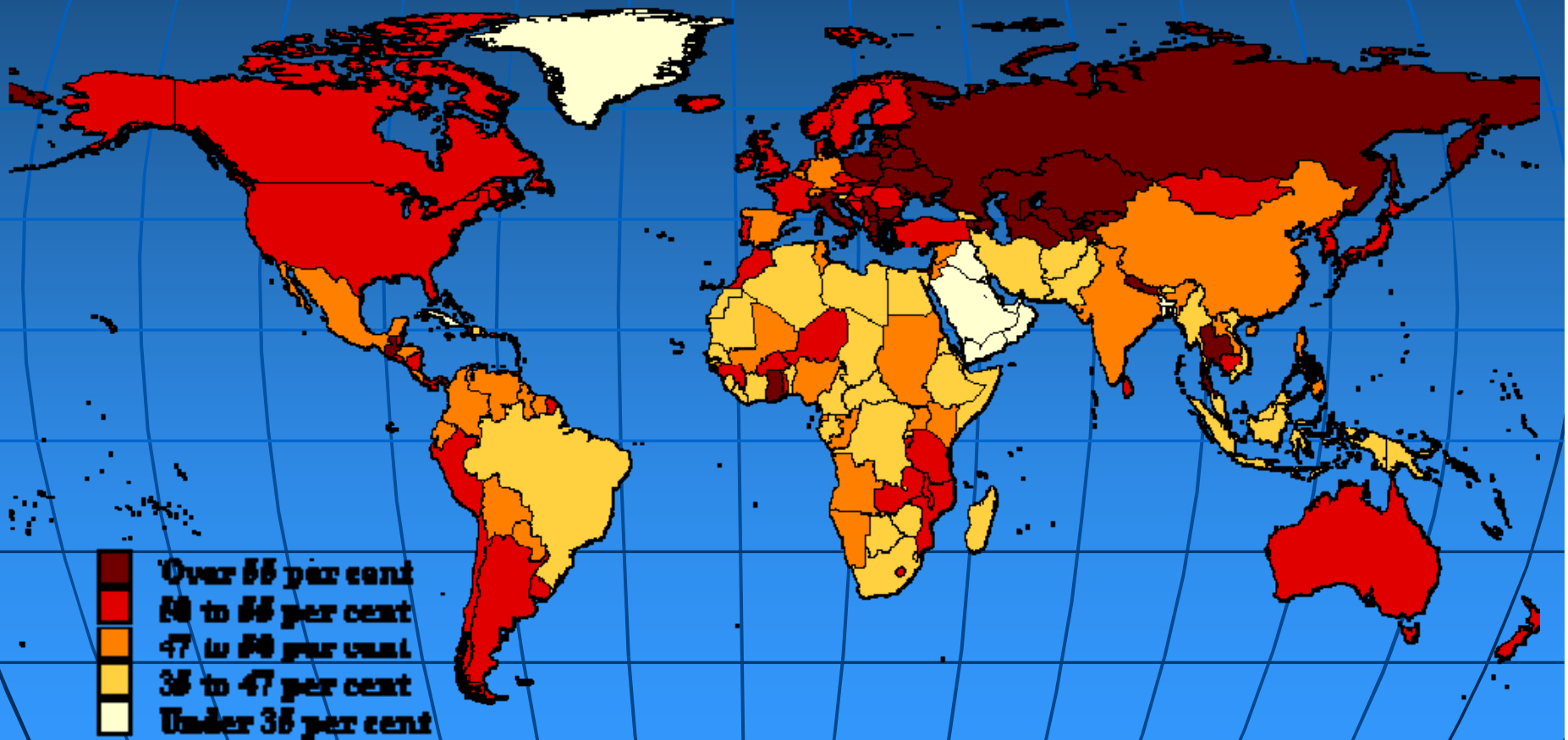
Percentage of female migrants, 2005



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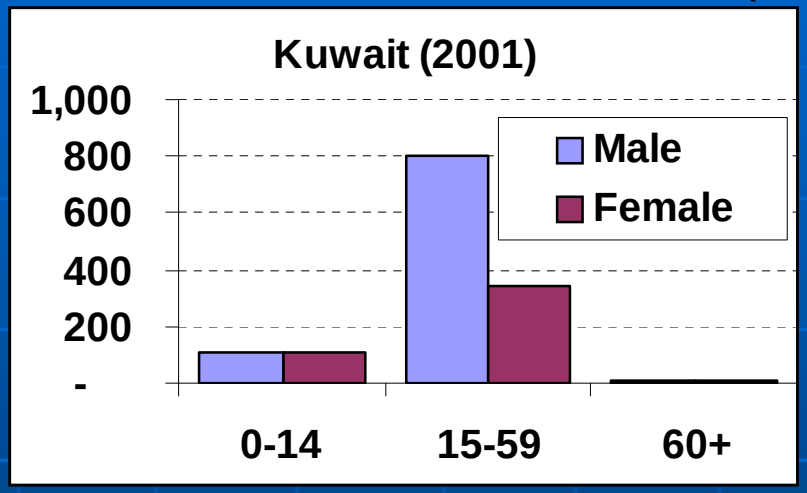
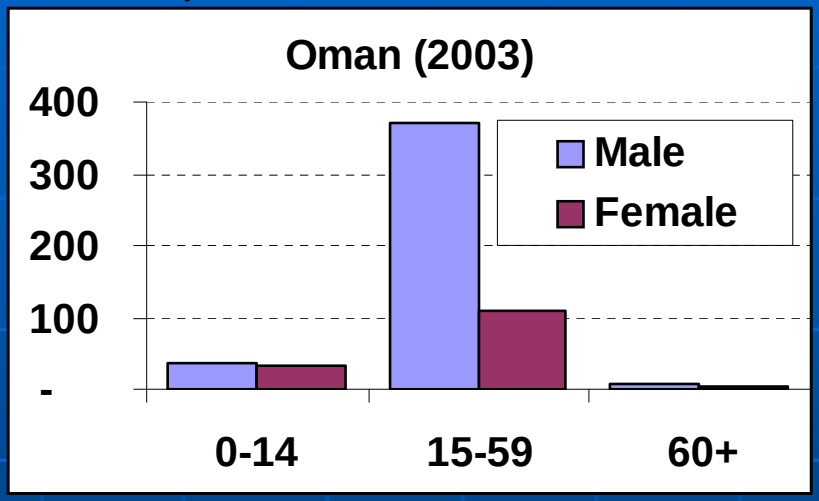
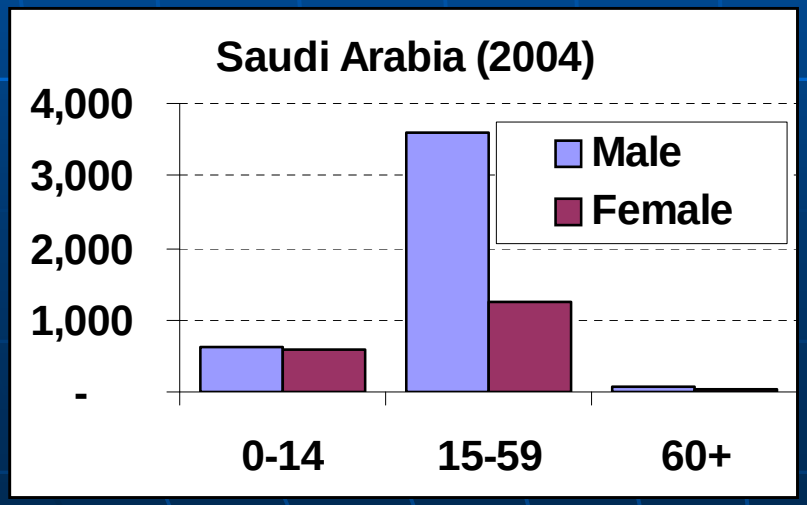
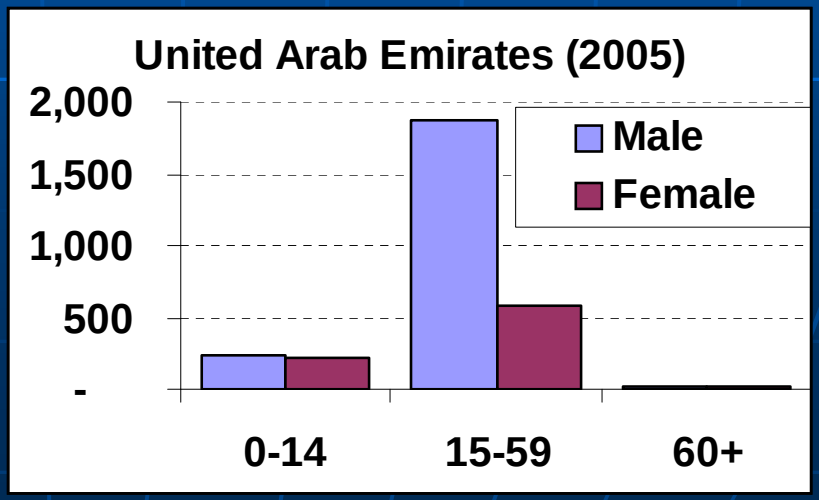
Foreign population by age and sex in four GCC countries

(thousands)









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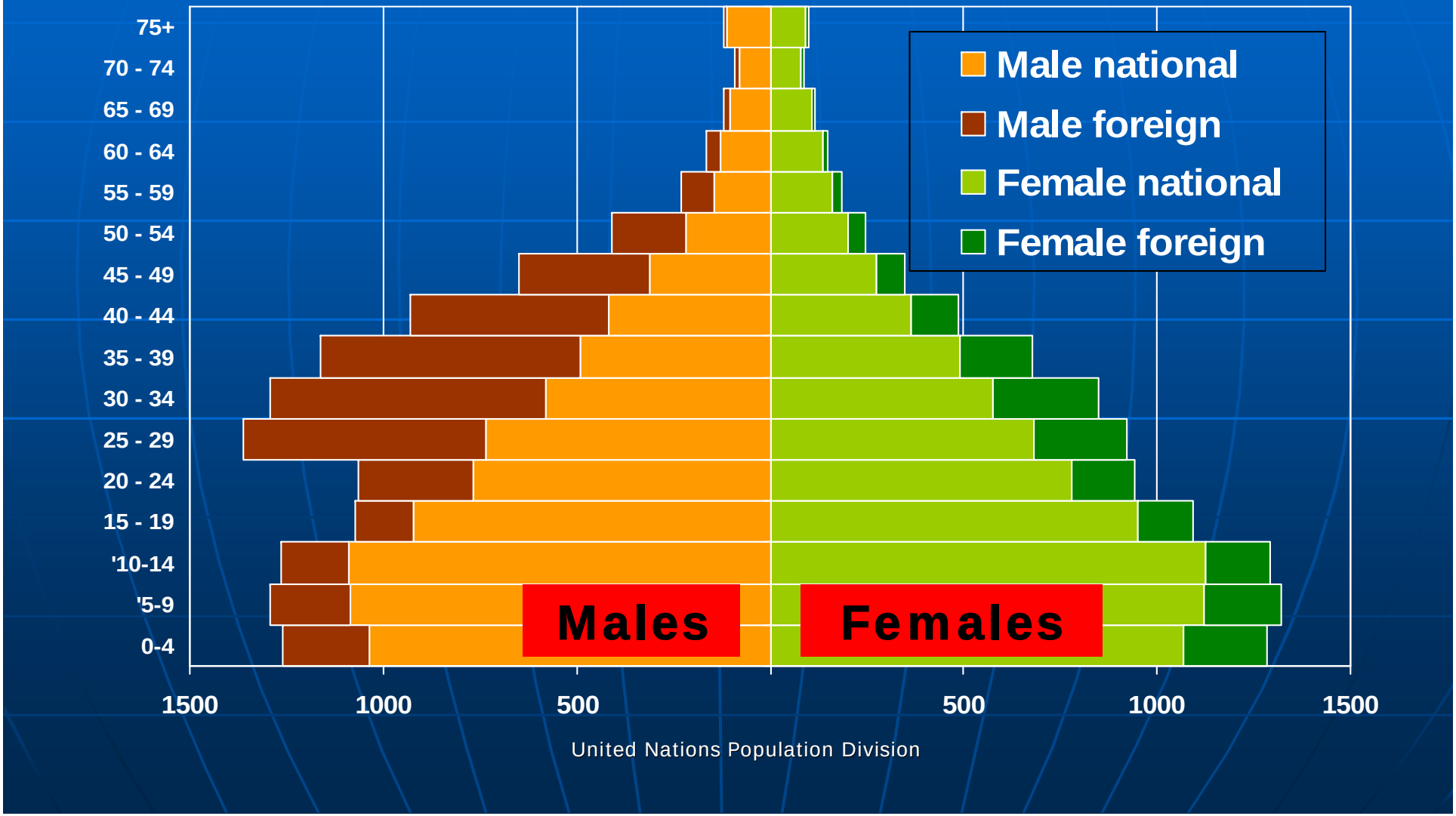
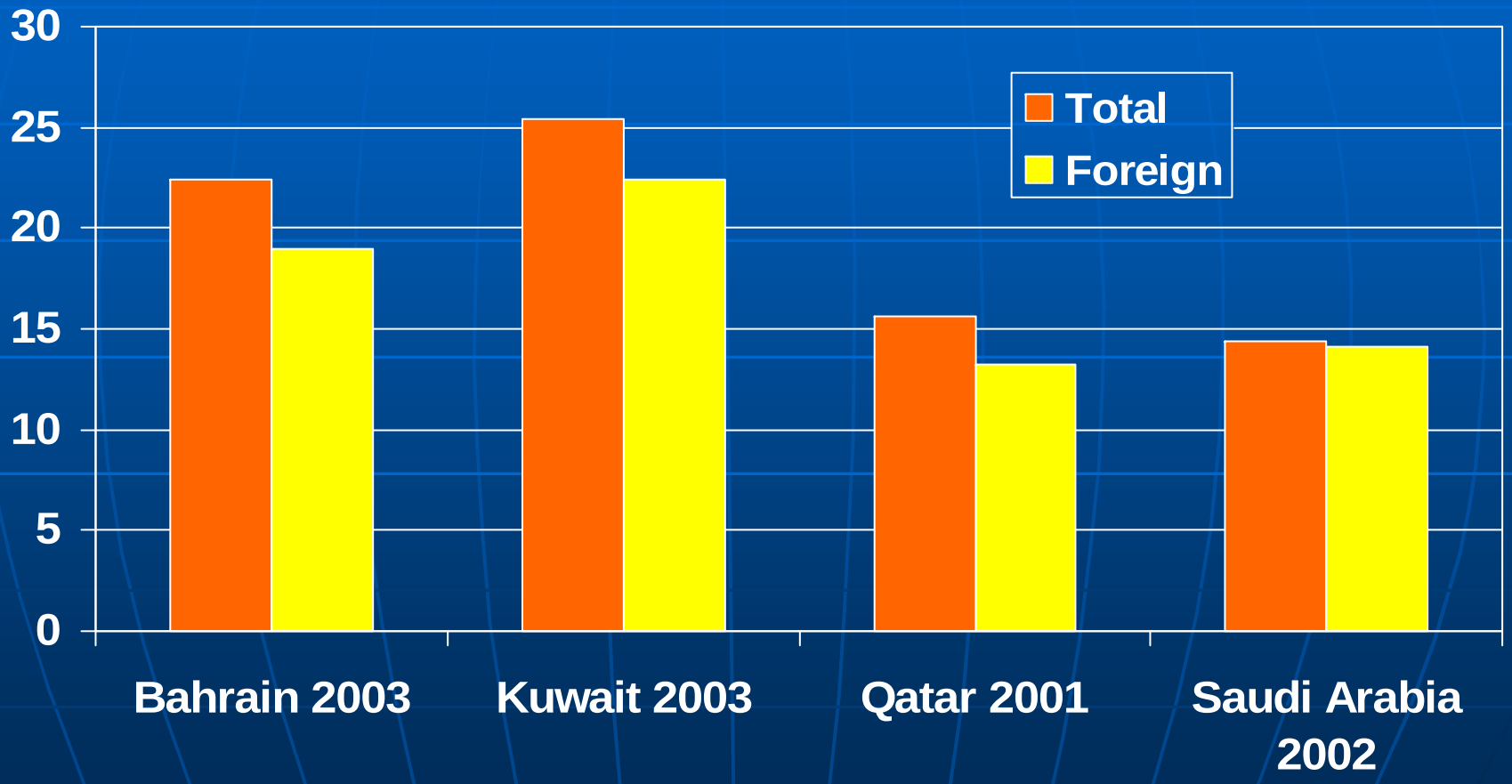
National and foreign population by sex and age, Saudi Arabia, thousands

(2004 census)



Percentage of women in the labour force in four GCC countries



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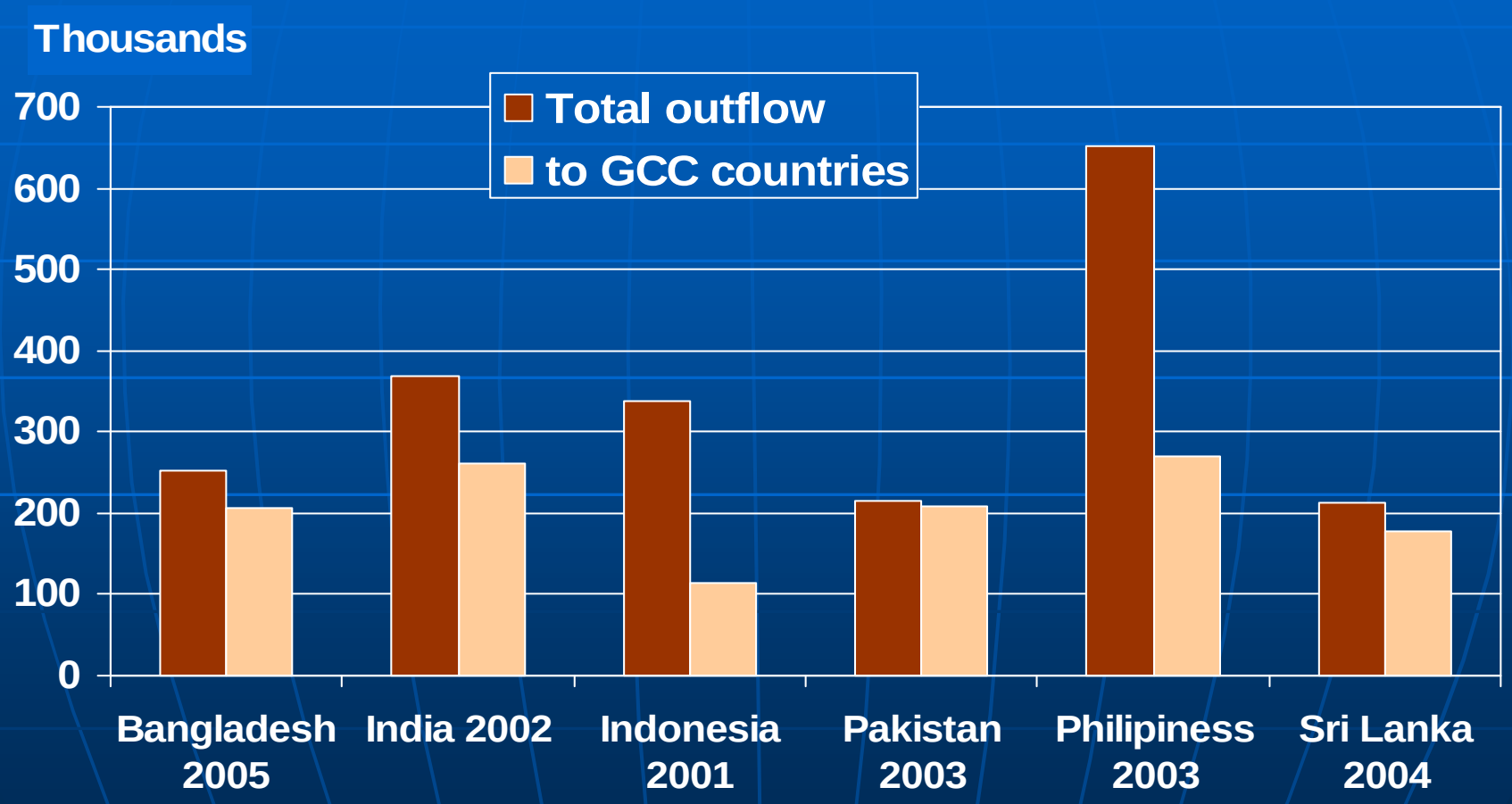
Outflow of migrant workers from selected countries in Asia to GCC countries

(latest available year)



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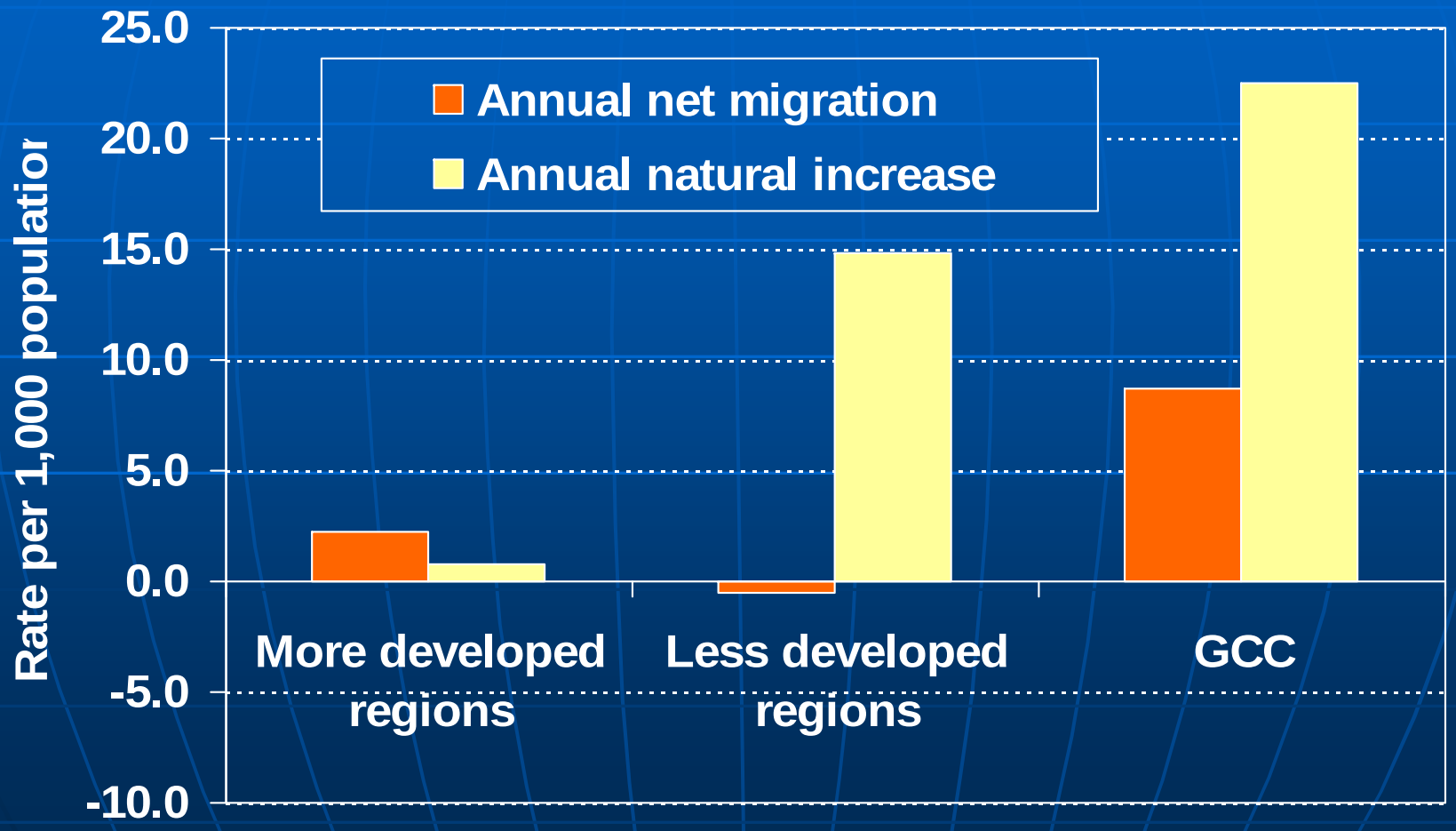
International migration as a component of population growth, 2000-2005



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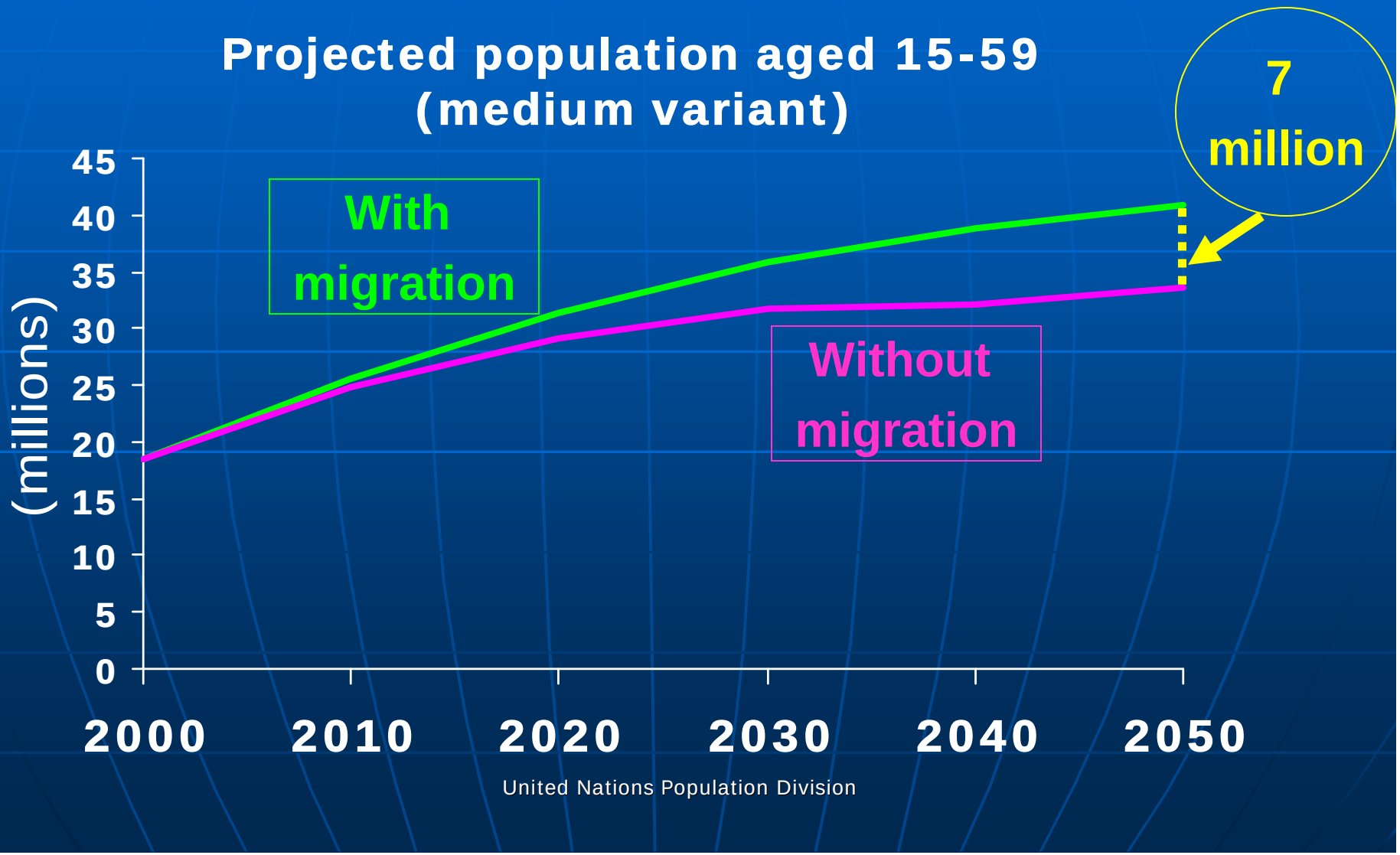
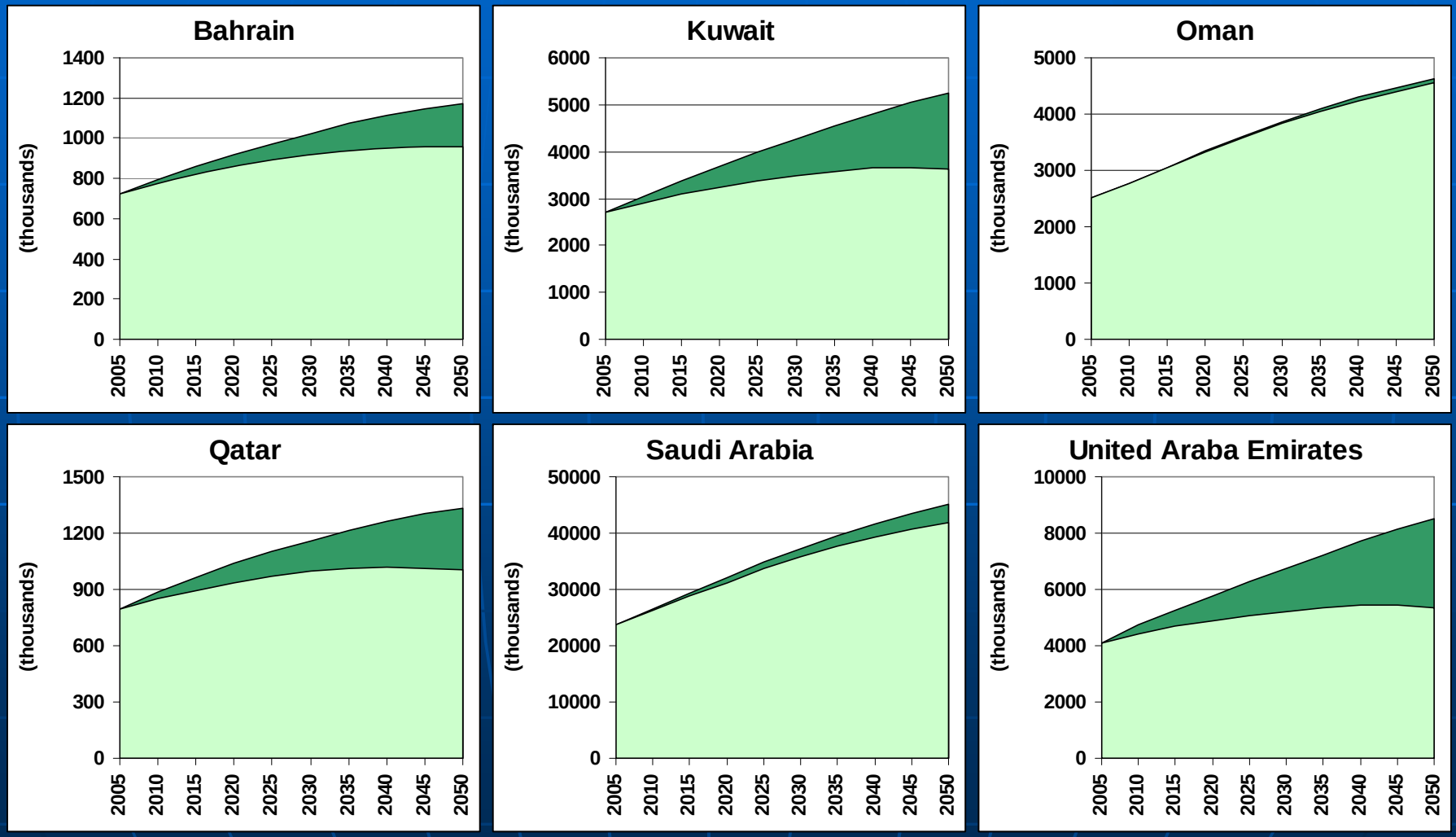
Projected working age population for GCC countries



Projected population growth with and without migration, 2000-05 to 2045-50



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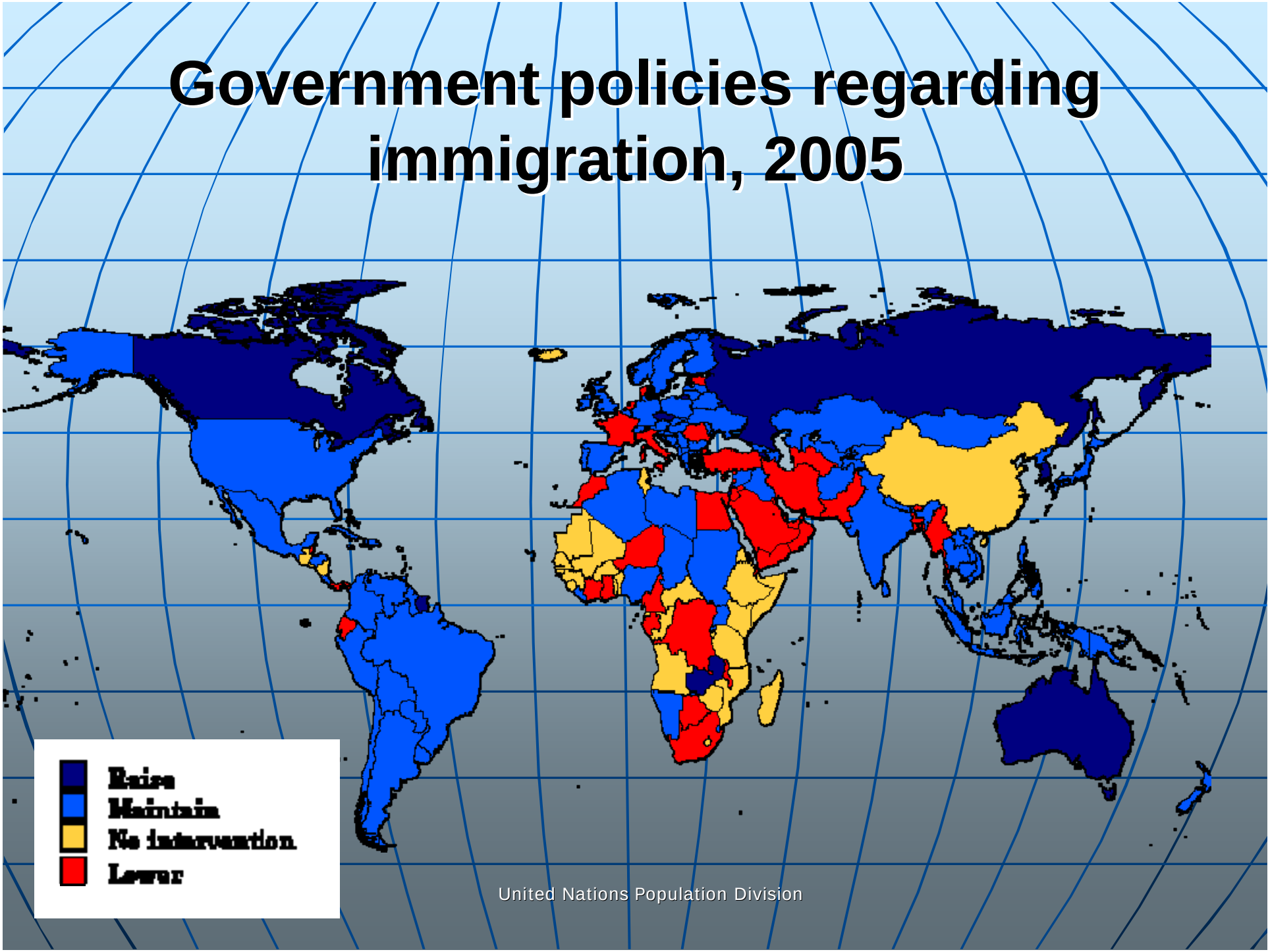
Government policies regarding immigration, 2005



International migration policies at the global level

- There is a great diversity in international migration policies
- Migration policies have become somewhat less restrictive
- Growing preference for temporary migration schemes, especially regarding skilled migration

States Parties to international Instruments related to international migration	World	Arab region	GCC
1949 ILO Convention concerning Migration for Employment	45	1	0
1975 ILO Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers	21	0	0
1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	36	5	0
2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	111	9	3
2000 Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea	105	8	3
1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees	144	5	0
1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees	144	5	0
Total number of countries	195	16	6

High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

- General Assembly, 14-15 September 2006
- President H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of Bahrain
- High-level participation
  - 132 Member States plus 14 observers
  - 90 Vice-Ministers or Ministers

Report of the UN Secretary-General for the High-level Dialogue: key messages

A. International migration is a key component of globalization

B. International migration is a positive force for development, both in countries of destination and in countries of origin

C. Strengthen international cooperation (Global Forum)

High-level Dialogue outcomes

1. Human rights, tolerance and mutual adaptation
2. Realize potential of migration as a force for development through co-development
3. Develop migration policies and reduce irregular migration
4. Combat trafficking and smuggling
5. Promote migrant entrepreneurship
6. Improve migration information and data

First meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development

- Organized by Government of Belgium, 9 to 11 July 2007, Brussels, Belgium
- Civil society meeting (9 July)
- Plenary and 3 round-tables (10-11 July)

- International migration trends and their demographic consequences
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- **Recommendations**

Recommendation 1

Improve collection, processing, tabulation and dissemination of data on the international migrant stock

- Core characteristics (sex, age, country of origin, education, occupation)
- Collect country of birth and country of citizenship
- 2010 round of census

Recommendation 2

Improve collection, processing, tabulation and dissemination of data on international migration flows

- Core characteristics (country of origin, admission category)
- Purpose of migration (work, study, family, settlement, asylum)
- Administrative data (residents permits, visa issuance)

Recommendation 3

Implement UN recommendations and adopt Conventions related to international migrants

- Implement UN statistical and census recommendations
- Adopt internationally accepted nomenclature
- Ratify international instruments

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www.unpopulation.org
www.unmigration.org