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International Migration Report 2011



United Nations

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Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

International Migration Report 2011



United Nations

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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

The designations employed in this report and the material presented in it 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.

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PREFACE

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for providing the international community with up-to-date and objective information on population and development. The Population Division provides guidance to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development on population and development issues. The Division also undertakes regular studies on population levels, trends and dynamics, including trends of international migration, changes in population policies and the interrelationships between population and development.

In the area of international migration, the Population Division estimates the global number of international migrants at regular intervals, monitors levels, trends and policies of international migration, and collects and analyses information on the relationship between international migration and development. The Migration Section also convenes the interagency coordination meeting on international migration and organizes expert group meetings. As part of its monitoring activities, the Migration Section within the Population Division maintains the United Nations Global Migration Database, which contains the most complete set of statistics on international migrants enumerated in the countries or areas of the world and classified by country of birth or citizenship, sex and age. The Migration Section represents DESA in the interagency Global Migration Group (GMG). The Section also services the intergovernmental process on international migration and development at the General Assembly and acts within the Secretariat as the focal point for the State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

This report presents information on international migration levels, trends and legal instruments for major areas, regions and countries of the world. The data for the international migrant stock described in chapter I and chapter II are taken from the publication *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin* and *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex*, while the estimates on the total population in chapter I are based on *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, DVD Edition*. The data on migration flows in chapter III are taken from the publication *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision*. Chapter IV provides an analysis of the ratification status of migration-related legal instruments for Member States of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization (ILO), based on information from the United Nations Treaty Section and the NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards, which can be accessed at <http://treaties.un.org> and <http://www.ilo.org>, respectively. For more information on the data and methodology used for calculating the various indicators used in this report, please see the above-mentioned publications.

The present report has been issued without formal editing. Responsibility for this report rests with the Population Division.

For further information about this publication, please contact the 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 in the area of international migration can be found at www.unmigration.org.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The following symbols are used in the tables shown in this report:

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

Three dots (...) indicate that the treaty was not ratified.

An em dash (—) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

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.

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.

Due to rounding, the numbers and percentages displayed in tables may not add up to the corresponding totals.

The terms “more developed” and “less developed” regions are used for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment as to the developmental stage of a particular country or area. Where appropriate, the term “country” may refer to a territory or area.

The more developed regions are comprised of all countries of Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan. The term “developed countries” refers to countries in the more developed regions.

Less developed regions are comprised of all countries of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan) and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The term “developing countries” is used to designate countries in the less developed regions.

The group of least developed countries, as defined by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, 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, Zambia.

The designation sub-Saharan Africa refers to all countries in Africa except Algeria, Egypt, Libya, 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 are further divided into 21 geographical regions.

Country names and the composition of geographical areas follow those of “Standard country or area codes for statistical use” (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/49/Rev.3), available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>.

The following abbreviations have been used:

DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
ILO	International Labour Organization

EXPLANATORY NOTES *(continued)*

NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY MAJOR AREA AND REGION OF THE WORLD

AFRICA				
<i>Eastern Africa</i>	<i>Middle Africa</i>	<i>Northern Africa</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>	<i>Western Africa</i>
Burundi	Angola	Algeria	Botswana	Benin
Comoros	Cameroon	Egypt	Lesotho	Burkina Faso
Djibouti	Central African Republic	Libya	Namibia	Cape Verde
Eritrea	Chad	Morocco	South Africa	Côte d'Ivoire
Ethiopia	Congo	Sudan	Swaziland	Gambia
Kenya	Democratic Republic	Tunisia		Ghana
Madagascar	of the Congo	Western Sahara		Guinea
Malawi	Equatorial Guinea			Guinea-Bissau
Mauritius ¹	Gabon			Liberia
Mayotte	Sao Tome and Principe			Mali
Mozambique				Mauritania
Réunion				Niger
Rwanda				Nigeria
Seychelles				Saint Helena ²
Somalia				Senegal
Uganda				Sierra Leone
United Republic of Tanzania ³				Togo
Zambia				
Zimbabwe				

ASIA				
<i>Central Asia</i>	<i>Eastern Asia</i>	<i>South-Eastern Asia</i>	<i>Southern Asia</i>	<i>Western Asia</i>
Kazakhstan	China ⁴	Brunei Darussalam	Afghanistan	Armenia
Kyrgyzstan	China, Hong Kong Special	Cambodia	Bangladesh	Azerbaijan ⁵
Tajikistan	Administrative	Indonesia	Bhutan	Bahrain
Turkmenistan	Region ⁶	Lao People's Democratic	India	Cyprus ⁷
Uzbekistan	China, Macao Special	Republic	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Georgia ⁸
	Administrative	Malaysia ⁹	Maldives	Iraq
	Region ¹⁰	Myanmar	Nepal	Israel
	Democratic People's	Philippines	Pakistan	Jordan
	Republic of Korea	Singapore	Sri Lanka	Kuwait
	Japan	Thailand		Lebanon
	Mongolia	Timor-Leste		Oman
	Republic of Korea	Viet Nam		Qatar
				Saudi Arabia
				State of Palestine ¹¹
				Syrian Arab Republic
				Turkey
				United Arab Emirates
				Yemen

¹ Including Agalega, Rodrigues and Saint Brandon.

² Including Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

³ Including Zanzibar.

⁴ For statistical purposes, the data for China do not include Hong Kong and Macao, Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of China.

⁵ Including Nagorno-Karabakh.

⁶ As of 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.

⁷ Including Northern-Cyprus.

⁸ Including Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

⁹ Including Sabah and Sarawak.

¹⁰ As of 20 December 1999, Macao became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.

¹¹ Including East Jerusalem. Refugees are not part of the foreign-born migrant stock in the State of Palestine.

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY MAJOR AREA AND REGION OF THE WORLD (continued)

EUROPE			
<i>Eastern Europe</i>	<i>Northern Europe</i>	<i>Southern Europe</i>	<i>Western Europe</i>
Belarus	Channel Islands ¹²	Albania	Austria
Bulgaria	Denmark	Andorra	Belgium
Czech Republic	Estonia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	France
Hungary	Faeroe Islands	Croatia	Germany
Poland	Finland ¹³	Gibraltar	Liechtenstein
Republic of Moldova ¹⁴	Iceland	Greece	Luxembourg
Romania	Ireland	Holy See ¹⁵	Monaco
Russian Federation	Isle of Man	Italy	Netherlands
Slovakia	Latvia	Malta	Switzerland
Ukraine	Lithuania	Montenegro	
	Norway ¹⁶	Portugal	
	Sweden	San Marino	
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ¹⁸	Serbia ¹⁷	
		Slovenia	
		Spain ¹⁹	
		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ²⁰	

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>Central America</i>	<i>South America</i>
Anguilla	Belize	Argentina
Antigua and Barbuda	Costa Rica	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Aruba	El Salvador	Brazil
Bahamas	Guatemala	Chile
Barbados	Honduras	Colombia
British Virgin Islands	Mexico	Ecuador
Cayman Islands	Nicaragua	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
Cuba	Panama	French Guiana
Dominica		Guyana
Dominican Republic		Paraguay
Grenada		Peru
Guadeloupe ²¹		Suriname
Haiti		Uruguay
Jamaica		Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Martinique		
Montserrat		
Netherlands Antilles		
Puerto Rico		
Saint Kitts and Nevis		
Saint Lucia		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		

¹² Refers to Guernsey and Jersey.

¹³ Including Åland Islands.

¹⁴ Including Transnistria.

¹⁵ Refers to the Vatican City State.

¹⁶ Including Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands.

¹⁷ Including Kosovo.

¹⁸ Also referred to as United Kingdom.

¹⁹ Including Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.

²⁰ Also referred to as TFYR Macedonia.

²¹ Including Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin (French part).

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY MAJOR AREA AND REGION OF THE WORLD (continued)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (continued)			
<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>Central America</i>	<i>South America</i>	
Trinidad and Tobago			
Turks and Caicos Islands			
United States Virgin Islands			
NORTHERN AMERICA			
Bermuda			
Canada			
Greenland			
Saint Pierre and Miquelon			
United States of America			
OCEANIA			
<i>Australia and New Zealand</i>	<i>Melanesia</i>	<i>Micronesia</i>	<i>Polynesia</i>
Australia ²²	Fiji	Guam	American Samoa
New Zealand	New Caledonia	Kiribati	Cook Islands
	Papua New Guinea	Marshall Islands	French Polynesia
	Solomon Islands	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Niue
	Vanuatu	Nauru	Pitcairn
		Northern Mariana Islands	Samoa
		Palau	Tokelau
			Tonga
			Tuvalu
			Wallis and Futuna Islands

²² Including Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Norfolk Island.

I. LEVELS AND TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK

A. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The Population Division estimates that, worldwide, there were 214.2 million international migrants in 2010, up from 178.3 million in 2000 and 155.2 million in 1990 (table I.1). Some 127.8 million of those migrants, or 59.6 per cent, lived in the more developed regions, while the less developed regions hosted 86.4 million migrants, equivalent to 40.4 per cent of the world's total.

Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants grew in both the more developed regions and the less developed regions. The more developed regions gained 45.7 million international migrants, equivalent to a 55.7 per cent increase. The less developed regions added some 13.3 million migrants during the same period; or 18.1 per cent more in 2010 than in 1990.

Refugees accounted for a relatively small share of the total number of international migrants. Worldwide the number of refugees was estimated at 15.5 million in 2010, down from 18.5 million in 1990. The less developed countries hosted the overwhelming majority of all refugees: 86.8 per cent in 2010. Yet the number of refugees

residing in the developing world declined by about 18.7 per cent between 1990 and 2010. In the less developed regions, the share of refugees in all migrants fell from 22.5 per cent in 1990 to 15.5 per cent in 2010. In the more developed regions, the share of refugees in all international migrants also declined, from 2.5 per cent in 1990 to 1.6 per cent in 2010.

Box I.1. Who is an international migrant?

For the purpose of estimating the international migrant stock, international migrants are equated either with the foreign-born or with foreign citizens. When the data on place of birth are available, they are generally given precedence.

Of the 230 countries and areas in *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin*, data on the foreign-born were available for 173, or 75.2 per cent, of them. Data on foreign citizens were used for 32 countries (or 13.9 per cent of all countries or areas), while in the remaining 25 cases (representing about 10.9 per cent) data were lacking on either the foreign-born or foreign-citizens. For those countries, data were imputed by the Population Division.

TABLE I.1. NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS, THEIR PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION AND SHARE IN THE TOTAL POPULATION, AND NUMBER OF REFUGEES, BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND MAJOR AREA, 1990 TO 2010

Development group or major area	Number of international migrants (millions)			Percentage distribution of international migrants			International migrants as a percentage of the total population			Number of refugees (millions)		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
World	155.2	178.3	214.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.9	2.9	3.1	18.5	15.6	15.5
More developed regions	82.0	104.2	127.8	52.9	58.5	59.6	7.2	8.7	10.3	2.0	3.2	2.1
Less developed regions	73.2	74.1	86.4	47.1	41.5	40.4	1.8	1.5	1.5	16.5	12.4	13.3
Africa	16.0	17.1	19.3	10.3	9.6	9.0	2.5	2.1	1.9	5.4	3.6	2.4
Asia	50.9	51.9	61.3	32.8	29.1	28.6	1.6	1.4	1.5	9.9	8.8	10.5
Europe	49.1	57.4	69.9	31.6	32.2	32.6	6.8	7.9	9.5	1.3	2.5	1.6
Latin America and the Caribbean..	7.1	6.5	7.7	4.6	3.6	3.6	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.4
Northern America.....	27.8	40.4	50.0	17.9	22.7	23.4	9.8	12.7	14.2	0.6	0.6	0.4
Oceania.....	4.4	5.0	6.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	16.2	16.1	16.8	0.1	0.1	0.0

Sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2012). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2012) and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*. Extended Dataset: Disk 1. (United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.XII.6).

Globally, the proportion of international migrants in total population remained limited to about three per cent. Yet the gap between the more developed regions and the less developed regions continued to widen owing in part to the rapid growth in the size of the total population of the less developed regions compared to that of the more developed regions during the period 1990 to 2010. By 2010, the proportion of international migrants in total population in the more developed regions had reached 10.3 per cent up from 7.2 per cent in 1990, while in the less developed regions it had fallen to 1.5 per cent down from 1.8 per cent in 1990.

While 59.6 per cent of international migrants worldwide lived in a developed country, over two thirds of the world's migrants in 2010 was born in a developing country, indicating a net transfer of about 61.0 million migrants from the less developed regions to the more developed regions. The majority of international migrants in the more developed regions were born in a developing country: 74.3 million in 2010 or 58.2 per cent. By contrast, the overwhelming majority of international migrants in the less developed regions, around 73.2 million or 84.6 per cent, originated from a country within the same development group. Only 13.3 million, or 15.4 per cent, of the 86.4 million migrants living in the less developed regions originated from a developed country.

Between 1990 and 2010, the difference between the more developed regions and the less developed regions in terms of the origin of international migrants became more pronounced. The more developed regions witnessed an increase in both the number and the share of international migrants originating from the developing world, while in the less developed regions, both the number and percentage of international migrants coming from within that development group grew. As of 2010, the number of migrants who had moved from the less developed regions to the more developed regions (or "South-to-North" migration) was nearly of the same order of magnitude as the number of persons who had moved within the less developed regions (or "South-to-South" migration): 74.3 million compared to 73.2 million.

B. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK BY MAJOR AREA

Europe hosted the largest number of international migrants in 2010 (69.9 million), equal to nearly one in every three of the 214.1 million international migrants worldwide. Asia hosted the second largest number of international migrants in 2010 (61.3 million), followed by Northern America (50.0 million), Africa (19.3 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (7.7 million), and Oceania (6.0 million).

Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants increased in all major areas. Europe and Northern America witnessed the largest gains: 20.8 million and 22.3 million, respectively. Europe and Northern America each added more international migrants between 1990 and 2010 than the other four major areas combined. Together they accounted for nearly three in every four of the 59.0 million international migrants added worldwide during that period. The other major areas gained much smaller numbers of international migrants between 1990 and 2010, with Asia adding 10.4 million migrants, followed by Africa (3.3 million), Oceania (1.6 million) and Latin America and the Caribbean (0.6 million).

As a result of the disproportionate number of migrants gained between 1990 and 2010 by Europe and Northern America, the share of international migrants living in Europe and Northern America grew to 32.6 per cent and 23.4 per cent in 2010, respectively, up from 31.6 per cent and 17.9 per cent in 1990. During the same period, the share of international migrants living in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean declined. The decline was particularly noteworthy in Asia, where the share of international migrants fell from 32.8 per cent in 1990 to 28.6 per cent in 2010. As of 2000, Europe surpassed Asia as the major area hosting the largest number of international migrants in the world.

While the proportion of international migrants in total population worldwide remained small, there were significant differences among the major areas (figure I.1). Oceania hosted the

highest percentage of international migrants relative to total population in 2010 (16.8 per cent), followed by Northern America (14.2 per cent) and Europe (9.5 per cent), while in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean international migrants accounted for less than two per cent of the total population.

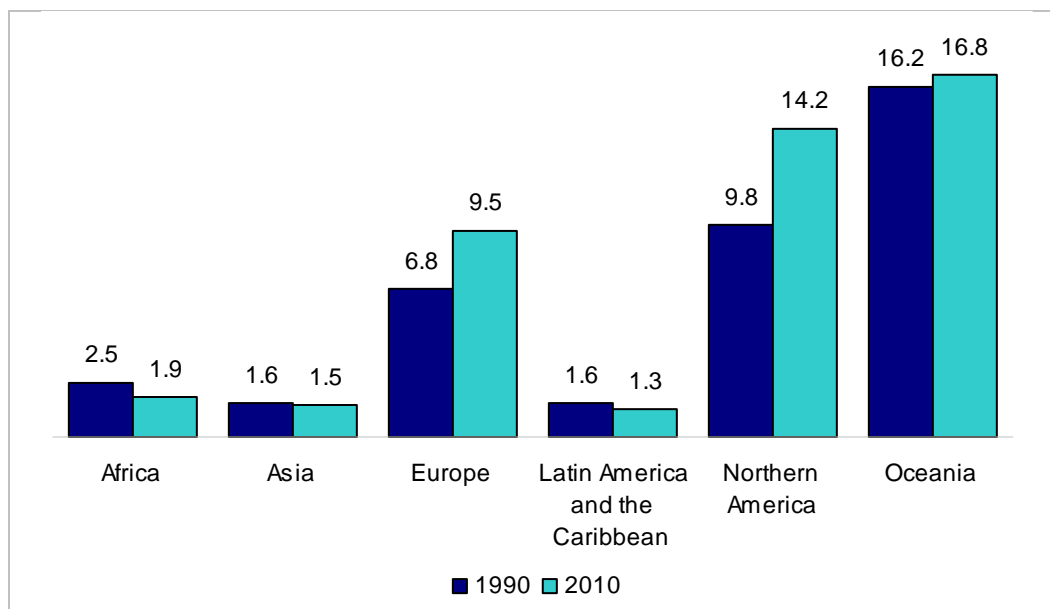
The gap between major areas in terms of the percentage of international migrants in total population also continued to widen between 1990 and 2010. Large gains in migrant stock, coupled with moderate population growth during the same period, produced an increase in the share of international migrants in total population in Europe, Northern America and Oceania. By contrast, in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean the overall population grew at a faster pace than the international migrant stock, resulting in a decline in the percentage of international migrants in total population between 1990 and 2010.

In terms of the origin of international migrants, the largest number of international

migrants in 2010 was born in Asia (82.6 million), equal to 38.6 per cent of the international migrant stock worldwide (table I.2). The second largest number of international migrants was born in Europe (58.7 million), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (32.8 million) and Africa (29.2 million). Relatively few international migrants worldwide originated from Northern America and Oceania: 4.1 million and 1.6 million, respectively.

As of 2010, about half (49.4 per cent) of all international migrants worldwide had moved within the same major area they were born in. Nonetheless, considerable differences existed between major areas (figure I.2). The majority of international migrants living in Africa (80.5 per cent), Asia (75.2 per cent), Europe (53.3 per cent), and Latin America and the Caribbean (60.2 per cent) in 2010 came from within the same major area. In contrast, in Northern America (97.2 per cent) and Oceania (84.7 per cent) the majority of international migrants originated from a different major area.

Figure I.1. Percentage of international migrants in total population by major area, 1990 and 2010



Sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2012). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2012) and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*. Extended Dataset: Disk 1. (United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.XII.6).

TABLE I.2. NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS, BY MAJOR AREA OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, 2010 (millions)

Major area of origin	Major area of destination						World
	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Northern America	Oceania	
Africa	15.5	4.0	7.7	0.0	1.7	0.4	29.2
Asia	1.0	46.1	19.0	0.3	14.2	2.0	82.6
Europe	0.8	7.8	37.3	1.5	9.0	2.4	58.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.0	0.6	3.9	4.6	23.5	0.1	32.8
Northern America	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.2	4.1
Oceania	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.6
Other North	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.7
Other South	1.2	1.6	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	3.4
World	19.3	61.3	69.9	7.7	50.0	6.0	214.2

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2012). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2012).

Migration between major areas was more widespread in 2010 than in 1990. Globally, the share of international migrants who had moved from one major area to another rose from 45.5 per cent in 1990 to 50.6 per cent in 2010. That increase was mainly the result of the large inflow of foreign immigrants to Europe from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean that took place between 1990 and 2010 (see chapter III).

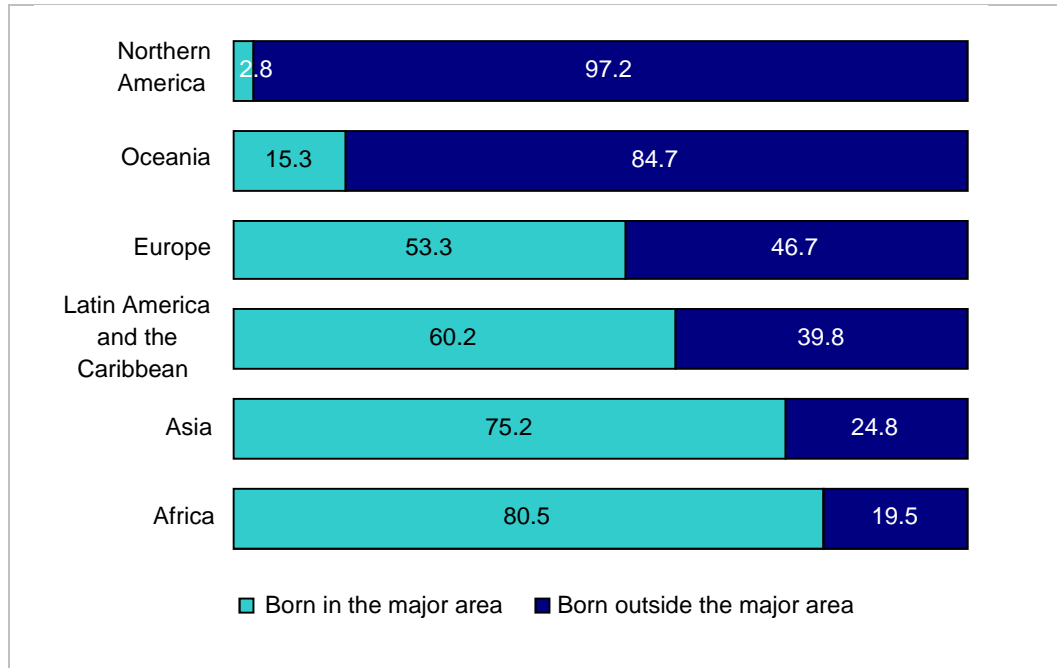
As the proportion of international migrants moving across major areas changed, so too did the composition of international migrants by major area of origin. Globally, the share of international migrants born in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania increased between 1990 and 2010, while the proportion of international migrants born in Europe declined.

Those changes were particularly pronounced for Europe. In 2010, international migrants from Europe accounted for 27.4 per cent of all migrants worldwide compared to 31.9 per cent in 1990. The reasons for that decline vary among major areas. In Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, for instance, where the share of international migrants from Europe fell from 16.6 per cent and 25.4 per cent in 1990 to 12.8 per cent and 19.1 per

cent in 2010, respectively, much of that decline can be attributed to the age structure of international migrants from Europe living in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean; many of whom were older persons who died or emigrated between 1990 and 2010.

In contrast, in Northern America, where the share of international migrants from Europe fell from 27.7 per cent in 1990 to 17.9 per cent in 2010, much of that decline resulted from an increase in the number of foreign immigrants from Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. As of 2010, international migrants from Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 28.5 per cent and 46.9 per cent of all international migrants living in Northern America, respectively, up from 24.2 per cent and 41.1 per cent in 1990. Likewise in Oceania the share of international migrants from Europe fell from 57.3 per cent in 1990 to 39.2 per cent in 2010 mainly as a result of the large inflow of international migrants from Asia (see chapter III). Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants from Asia living in Oceania doubled, from 1 million to 2 million, while the number of international migrants from Europe fell from 2.5 million in 1990 to 2.4 million in 2010.

Figure I.2. Distribution of international migrants by major area of destination and major area of birth, 2010 (percentage)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2012). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2012).

C. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK BY COUNTRY OR AREA

International migration remained highly concentrated, with a relatively small number of countries hosting most of the world's international migrants (table I.3). In 2010, the ten countries with the largest number of international migrants accounted for 51.6 per cent of the total international migrant stock, compared to 53.1 per cent in 2000 and 52.2 per cent in 1990.

The United States of America hosted the largest number of international migrants in 2010 (42.8 millions), equivalent to one in every five international migrants worldwide and more than the sum of the next four major countries of destination of international migration combined (table I.3). The Russian Federation with 12.3 million, hosted the second largest number of international migrants, followed by Germany (10.8 million), Saudi Arabia (7.3 million) and Canada (7.2 million).

Compared to previous decades, there was little change in the composition of countries hosting the largest number of international migrants, with eight of the ten countries remaining the same. The two exceptions were Spain, which rose in the ranking of major host countries from thirty-eighth place in 1990 to eighth place in 2010 and the Islamic Republic of Iran which fell from the tenth place in 1990 to twenty-third place in 2010.

Between 1990 and 2010, the number of countries or areas hosting a sizable migrant population increased. The number of countries with one million or more international migrants rose from 34 in 1990 to 43 in 2010, while the number of countries hosting at least 500,000 international migrants reached 64 in 2010, up from 57 in 1990.

The number of countries where international migrants constituted 10 per cent or more of the population also rose from 74 in 1990 to 85 in 2010. Among the countries with the highest proportion of international migrants in total population three were countries of the Gulf

Cooperation Council: Kuwait (68.8 per cent), Qatar (86.5 per cent) and the United Arab Emirates (70 per cent), all of which relied heavily on migrant workers to fulfil their labour demands.

Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants grew in 160 countries or areas. Seventeen countries gained over one million international migrants over that period,

while 34 countries gained 500,000 or more international migrants. Among the ten countries that gained the largest number of international migrants between 1990 and 2010, four were in Europe (Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom), two in Northern America (Canada and the United States of America) and four in Western Asia (Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates)

TABLE I.3. TEN COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS IN 2010, 2000 AND 1990

Rank	Country or area	Migrant stock (millions)	Migrants as a percentage of		Cumulative percentage of international migrants
			the country's total population	all international migrants	
<i>2010</i>					
1.	United States of America	42.8	13.5	20.0	20.0
2.	Russian Federation	12.3	8.7	5.7	25.7
3.	Germany	10.8	13.1	5.0	30.7
4.	Saudi Arabia.....	7.3	27.8	3.4	34.1
5.	Canada.....	7.2	21.3	3.4	37.5
6.	France.....	6.7	10.7	3.1	40.6
7.	United Kingdom.....	6.5	10.4	3.0	43.6
8.	Spain	6.4	14.1	3.0	46.6
9.	India	5.4	0.4	2.5	49.2
10.	Ukraine.....	5.3	11.6	2.5	51.6
<i>2000</i>					
1.	United States of America	34.8	12.1	19.5	19.5
2.	Russian Federation	11.9	8.1	6.7	26.2
3.	Germany.....	10.0	12.2	5.6	31.8
4.	India	6.4	0.6	3.6	35.4
5.	France.....	6.3	10.6	3.5	38.9
6.	Canada.....	5.6	18.1	3.1	42.0
7.	Ukraine.....	5.5	11.3	3.1	45.1
8.	Saudi Arabia.....	5.1	24.7	2.9	48.0
9.	United Kingdom	4.8	8.1	2.7	50.7
10.	Pakistan	4.2	2.9	2.4	53.1
<i>1990</i>					
1.	United States of America	23.3	9.1	15.0	15.0
2.	Russian Federation	11.5	7.8	7.4	22.4
3.	India	7.5	0.9	4.8	27.2
4.	Ukraine.....	6.9	13.4	4.4	31.7
5.	Pakistan	6.6	5.7	4.2	35.9
6.	Germany.....	5.9	7.5	3.8	39.7
7.	France.....	5.9	10.4	3.8	43.5
8.	Saudi Arabia.....	4.7	29.2	3.1	46.6
9.	Canada.....	4.5	16.2	2.9	49.5
10.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	4.3	7.6	2.8	52.2

Sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2012). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2012) and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008).

The United States of America gained the largest number of international migrants between 1990 and 2010 (19.6 million), equivalent to one third of the 59 million migrants added to world's migrant stock during that period. Spain added the second largest number (5.5 million) between 1990 and 2010, followed by Germany (4.8 million), Italy (3.0 million), and Canada and the United Kingdom (2.7 million each).

Among the 160 countries or areas that experienced an increase in the number of international migrants between 1990 and 2010, there were considerable differences in the pace and timing of change. For instance, in the United States of America the annual rate of growth of international migrant stock slowed, with fewer migrants (8 million) added in the period 2000 to 2010, compared to the period 1990 to 2000 (11.6 million). The major countries of origin of international migrants living in the United States of America in 2010 were China, India, Mexico and the Philippines.

Likewise, in Germany 83.9 per cent of the gain in international migrant stock that took place between 1990 and 2010 occurred during the first decade of that period. Between 1990 and 2000, Germany added 4 million international migrants, compared to only 0.8 million international migrants in the period 2000 to 2010. The major countries of origin for international migrants living in Germany in 2010 were Greece, Italy, Poland and Turkey.

Conversely in Spain, where the migrant population increased by nearly eightfold between 1990 and 2010, over half of that gain occurred after 2000, as a result of the inflow of large numbers of foreign immigrants from Ecuador, Morocco and Romania (see chapter III).

Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic also experienced a rapid growth in the size of migrant stock after 2000, having added five and a half times more migrants between 2000 and 2010 than in the previous decade. In Saudi Arabia most of the new immigrants were males of working age recruited as temporary workers from countries in Northern Africa, Southern Asia and South-Eastern Asia, whereas in the Syrian Arab Republic the inflow of refugees in the aftermath of the war in Iraq accounted for nearly half of the 1.5 million migrants added between 1990 and 2010.

While the number of international migrants increased in the majority of countries between 1990 and 2010, in 70 countries or areas it remained constant or declined. Among the ten countries that experienced the largest declines in international migrant stock, in six—Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malawi, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan—the reduction was linked, at least in part, with the decline in the number of refugees living in their territory. Excluding refugees, the number of international migrants in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Somalia and Sudan would have actually increased during that period.

In the four remaining countries that experienced the sharpest decline in the number of international migrants between 1990 and 2010—India, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan—most of the decline can be attributed to the age structure of international migrants living in the country. Specifically, the number of international migrants aged 65 or over in those four countries was more than two and a half times smaller in 2010 than what would have been expected, in a zero net migration and a zero mortality scenario, based on the number of international migrants aged 45 or over in 1990, suggesting that a large number of elderly migrants in those countries had either died or emigrated between 1990 and 2010.

II. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK BY AGE AND SEX

A. MEASURING THE AGE AND SEX OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

Estimates of the number of international migrants by age and sex, available for the first time for every country in the world, indicate that, globally, international migrants are significantly older than the total population.¹ Whereas half of all international migrants were 38.8 years or older in 2010, half of the total population was composed of persons 28.4 years or older (figure II.1). The relatively high median age of international migrants is partly due to the way children born to international migrants are classified, since in most cases, children born to international migrants in the country of destination are not considered international migrants.

While migrants are, on average, older than the overall population, the international migrant stock has aged less rapidly than the total population. Between 1990 and 2010, the median age of the global migrant stock rose by 3.3 years, or 9.3 per cent. During the same period, the median age of the total population increased by 4.4 years, or 18.1 per cent. The relatively slower ageing of the international migrant stock compared to the overall population is an outcome the dynamics of international migration, characterized by a

continuous inflow of international migrants of working age coupled with the return of migrants at older ages.

International migrants living in the developed countries tend to be older than international migrants living in the developing world. The median age of international migrants in the more developed regions was 42.1 years in 2010, whereas in the less developed regions it was just 33.9 years. International migrants in the least developed countries tended to be even younger, with a median age of 29.5 years in 2010.

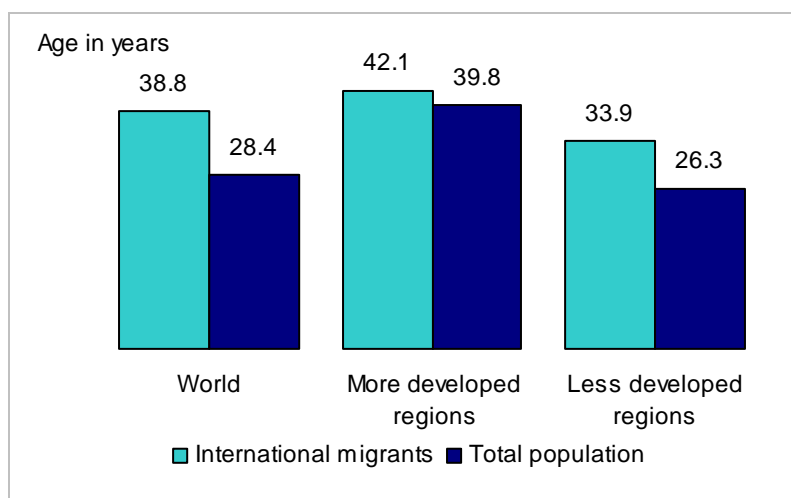
The difference in the median age of the migrant stock by development level parallels to some extent that of the overall population. In the more developed regions, the median age of the total population was 39.8 years in 2010, compared to 26.3 years in the less developed regions. Yet the gap between the median ages of migrants and the overall population was greater in developing countries than in developed countries. On average, international migrants in the more developed regions were almost 2.3 years older than the total population, while in the less developed regions the equivalent age gap was 7.7 years. Globally, international migrants were 10.5 years older than the total population.

TABLE II.1. NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS, THEIR PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, AND SHARE IN THE TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE AND MEDIAN AGE, BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND MAJOR AREA, 2010

	<i>Number of international migrants by age (millions)</i>			<i>Percentage distribution of international migrants by age</i>			<i>International migrants as a percentage of the total population by age</i>			<i>Median age of international migrants</i>
	<i>0-19</i>	<i>20-64</i>	<i>65+</i>	<i>0-19</i>	<i>20-64</i>	<i>65+</i>	<i>0-19</i>	<i>20-64</i>	<i>65+</i>	
World.....	33.3	155.9	24.7	15.6	72.9	11.6	1.3	4.0	4.7	38.8
More developed regions	13.3	97.6	16.8	10.4	76.4	13.1	4.8	12.8	8.5	42.1
Less developed regions.....	20.0	58.3	8.0	23.2	67.6	9.2	0.9	1.8	2.4	33.9
Africa.....	5.5	13.0	0.8	28.3	67.4	4.3	1.0	2.8	2.3	29.9
Asia.....	13.1	41.9	6.3	21.3	68.4	10.3	0.9	1.7	2.3	34.9
Europe	7.5	52.6	9.7	10.8	75.3	13.9	4.9	11.5	8.1	42.1
Latin America and the Caribbean....	1.7	4.9	0.9	22.5	64.9	12.6	0.8	1.5	2.3	37.0
Northern America	4.9	39.3	5.9	9.7	78.5	11.8	5.2	18.6	12.8	42.0
Oceania.....	0.7	4.3	1.1	11.3	71.0	17.7	5.9	20.8	27.5	45.5

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010).

Figure II.1. Median age of international migrants and total population, 2010
(years)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010).

Partly as a result of the greater propensity of international migrants living in the developing world to return to their countries of origin, the median age of the international migrant stock increased less rapidly in the less developed regions than in the more developed regions. Between 1990 and 2010, the median age of international migrants in the less developed regions rose by 1.9 years, or 5.8 per cent, while the median age of international migrants in the more developed regions increased by 3.5 years, or 9.2 per cent.

The different age distribution of international migrants compared to the total population also translates into very different support ratios. The support ratio, defined as the number of persons of working age (those aged 20 to 64) per dependant person (those under age 20 plus those aged 65 or over), was two times higher for international migrants in 2010 than for the total population: 2.7 vs. 1.3.

Between 1990 and 2010, the support ratio of the total population increased by 24.1 per cent owing to the declining share of people under age 20 in the overall population. The support ratio among international migrants rose even more quickly (by 30.1 per cent) on account of the increase in the number of international migrants

of working age that took place during the same period.

As with the median age, the more developed regions recorded a higher support ratio (3.2 in 2010) than the less developed regions (2.1 in 2010). The difference between the support ratios of migrants and the total population was also greater for the more developed regions than for the developing world. Compared to the overall population, international migrants in the developed countries included, on average, 1.6 additional persons of working age per dependent person. The equivalent figure for the developing countries was 0.8.

In terms of their sex distribution, international migrants were slightly less “feminized” than the overall population. Almost half (49.0 per cent) of all international migrants worldwide were female in 2010. By contrast, females accounted for 49.6 per cent of the overall population. Yet there were considerable differences in terms of the proportion female among all international migrants by development level. Females made up the majority of all international migrants in the more developed regions (51.5 per cent in 2010); a figure that was comparable to the share of females in total population in the developed countries (51.4 per

cent in 2010). By contrast, females accounted for 45.3 per cent of all international migrants in the less developed regions. The gap between the share of females among international migrants and the overall population in the developing world in 2010 was nearly four percentage points, signifying that the sex distribution of international migrants in the developing world was even more skewed towards males than that of the overall population.

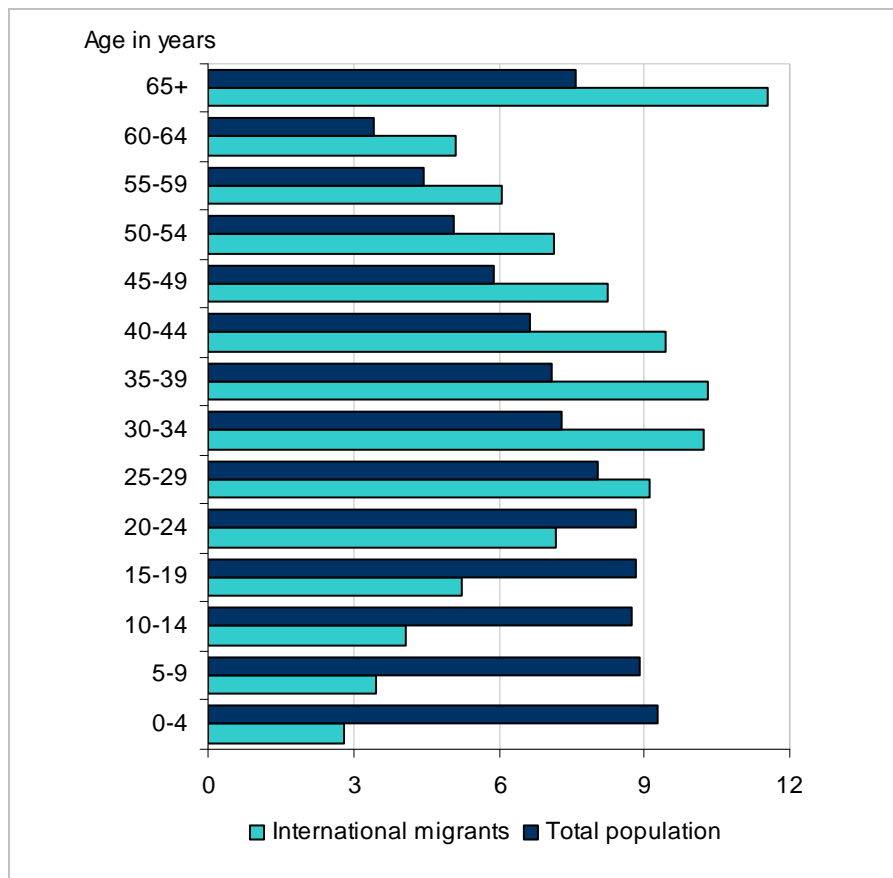
There was little change in the share of females among all international migrants between 1990 and 2010: 49.1 per cent in 1990 vs. 49.0 per cent in 2010. Contrary to popular perception, both the more developed regions and less developed regions experienced a slight decline—around half a percentage point—in the proportion of women

to all migrants between 1990 and 2010. During that period, most of the growth in migrant stock was due to male rather than female migrants.

B. YOUNG INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

The proportion of young people² among all international migrants was relatively small compared to the equivalent share in the total population. Globally, there were 33.3 million international migrants under the age of 20 in 2010, accounting for 15.6 per cent of all international migrants (figure II.2.). In comparison, persons under the age of 20 constituted 35.8 per cent of the world's population. Children under the age of 10 made up an even smaller share of the migrant stock

Figure II.2. Age distribution of international migrants and total population, 2010
(percentage)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010).

compared to the overall population: 6.2 per cent vs. 18.2 per cent. Those striking differences resulted, at least in part, from the fact that the children of international migrants born in a country of destination are generally not considered international migrants.

As of 2010, most young migrants lived in a developing country. Of the 33.3 million international migrants under age 20 in 2010, 20.0 million, or 60.0 per cent, lived in the less developed regions, while 13.3 million, or 40.0 per cent, lived in the more developed regions. The difference was even greater at younger ages: the developing countries hosted 69.8 per cent of all international migrants under the age of 10, compared to 30.2 per cent in the developed countries. The higher percentage of refugees, whom often comprise sizable shares of children and adolescents, is one of the reasons for the surplus of young migrants in the less developed regions compared to the more developed regions.

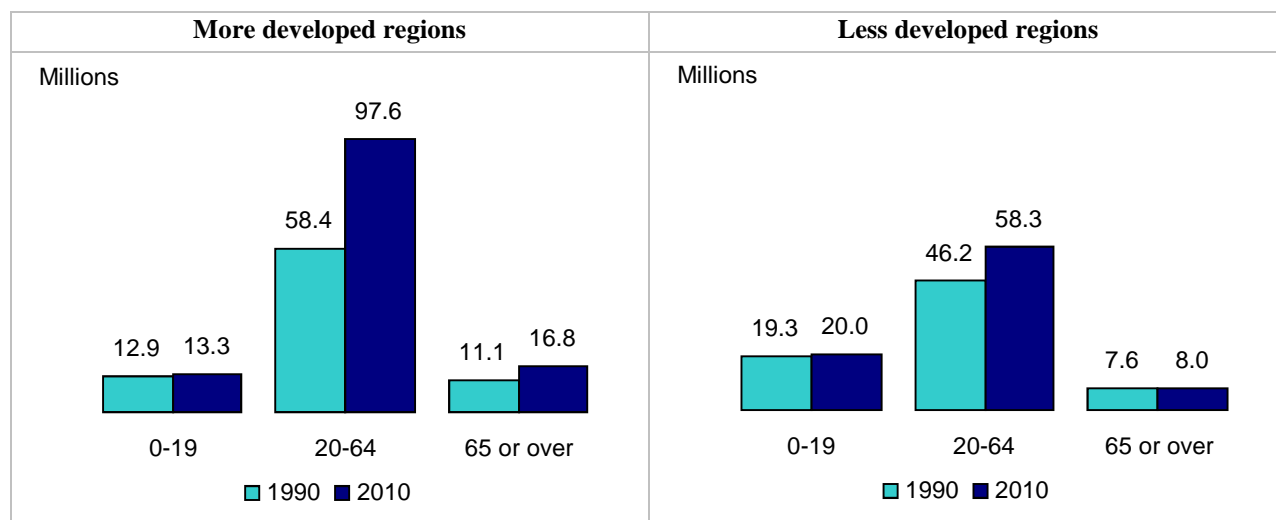
Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants under age 20 rose slowly: by 1.1 million, or 3.5 per cent. Both the more developed regions and the less developed regions recorded little change in the number of young migrants during that period (figure II.3). The

developed countries gained an additional 0.5 million (or 3.7 per cent) migrants under age 20 in 2010 compared to 1990, while the developing countries added 0.6 million (or 3.3 per cent) more young migrants during the same period. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants under age 10 rose by 0.6 million (or 6.9 per cent) in the developing world, while it slightly declined in the more developed regions.

Asia, the most populous region in the world, hosted the largest number of young migrants in 2010. Nearly 13.1 million international migrants under the age of 20 lived in Asia in 2010; equal to 39.3 per cent of all young international migrants worldwide. Europe hosted the second largest number of international migrants under age 20 in 2010 (7.5 million), followed by Africa (5.5 million), Northern America (4.9 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (1.7 million), and Oceania (0.7 million).

All major areas with the exception of Europe registered modest gains in the number of young international migrants between 1990 and 2010. Northern America added the largest number of young migrants during that period (0.6 million), followed by Africa (0.4 million). By contrast, in Europe, the number of young migrants declined

Figure II.3. Number of international migrants by age and by development group, 1990 and 2010
(millions)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010).

by 0.2 million or by 2.9 per cent. Most of that decline was owing to the reduction in the number of international migrants under age 10.

Five countries hosted at least one million international migrants under the age of 20 in 2010. The United States of America hosted the largest number of migrant children and youth (4.1 million), equal to one in every eight young migrants worldwide. Pakistan hosted the second largest number of young migrants (2.2 million), followed by Saudi Arabia (1.7 million), the Russian Federation (1.3 million) and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (1.1 million). Between 1990 and 2010, the number of young migrants declined in both Pakistan and the Russian Federation, while it increased in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America.

International migrants made up a relatively small percentage of all young people (1.3 per cent in 2010). There were, however, differences among the major areas. Oceania hosted the highest percentage of young migrants among those under age 20 in 2010 (5.9 per cent), followed by Northern America (5.2 per cent) and Europe (4.9 per cent). By contrast, international migrants constituted only a small percentage of the overall population under age 20 (one per cent or less) in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Between 1990 and 2010, the percentage of young migrants among those under age 20 declined in Africa, Northern America and Oceania, while it remained constant in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. In contrast, the share of young migrants among those under age 20 increased by nearly one percentage point in Europe: from 3.9 per cent in 1990 to 4.9 per cent in 2010. That increase, which took place in spite of the slight decline in the number young migrants in Europe between 1990 and 2010, provides an indication of the growing prevalence of migrants under age 20 in that major area.

In most countries or areas of the world, the share of young migrants among those under age 20 was small. In 2010, international migrants made up less than two per cent of all young

people in 105 countries or areas. Yet in 33 countries or areas, migrants accounted for at least one in every ten young people. Among the countries with the highest percentage of migrants in total population under age 20 were Kuwait (51.6 per cent), Qatar (73.3 per cent), and the United Arab Emirates (57.8 per cent). All three of those countries used citizenship rather than place of birth as the criterion for identifying international migrants, implying that children of international migrants born in those countries were considered international migrants.

Among young international migrants, male children and adolescents slightly outnumbered their female counterparts in both developed and developing countries (figure II.4). While there was no difference in the proportion of females among all migrants under age 20 by development level (48.8 per cent in both the more developed regions and the less developed regions in 2010), there were considerable differences among the major areas. Africa registered a relatively high proportion of females among all young migrants (51.9 per cent), compared to Asia (47.6 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (48.8 per cent), and Northern America (47.1 per cent). In Europe and Oceania, females made up roughly half of all international migrants under age 20: 49.7 per cent and 49.3 per cent, respectively.

C. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS OF WORKING AGE

The proportion of international migrants of working age, those aged 20 to 64, was relatively large compared to the equivalent share in the total population. Globally, there were 155.9 million international migrants aged 20 to 64 in 2010, representing 72.9 per cent of all international migrants. In comparison, persons aged 20 to 64 made up 56.7 per cent of the world's total population in 2010.

The gap between international migrants and the overall population was particularly pronounced among those aged 30 to 49 (figure II.2). In 2010, persons aged 30 to 39 accounted for 20.5 per cent of the international migrant stock compared to 14.4 per cent of the total population.

Among persons aged 40 to 49, the corresponding shares were 17.7 per cent and 12.5 per cent, respectively. The age selectivity of international migration (see box II.1), coupled with the return of previous waves of international migrants, are among the reasons for the surplus of working aged persons among international migrants compared to the overall population.

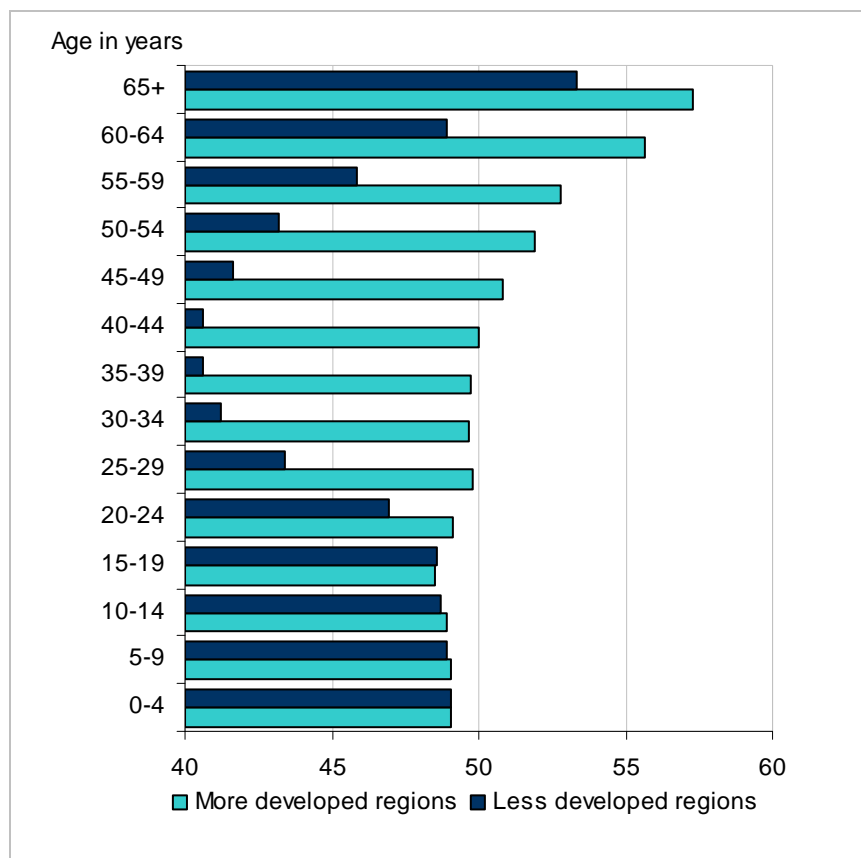
As of 2010, the number of migrants aged 20 to 64 reached 155.9 million, up from 104.6 million in 1990, or 49.0 per cent more in 2010 than in 1990. Some 6.4 million international migrants aged 20 to 29 were added worldwide between 1990 and 2010, while some 14.0 million migrants aged 30 to 39 were added during the same period.

Unlike young migrants, who predominantly lived in the less developed regions, the majority of

international migrants of working age lived in the more developed regions. Of the 155.9 million international migrants aged 20 to 64 in 2010, 97.6 million, or 62.6 per cent, lived in the more developed regions, while 58.3 million, or 37.4 per cent, lived in the less developed regions.

Both the developed countries and the developing countries recorded a sharp upturn between 1990 and 2010 in the number of migrants of working age. In the more developed regions, the number of international migrants aged 20 to 64 rose from 58.4 million in 1990 to 97.6 million in 2010, or by 67.2 per cent (figure II.3). The number of international migrants of working age in the less developed regions increased from 46.2 million in 1990 to 58.3 million in 2010, or by 26.1 per cent. The share of migrants of working age among all international migrants also increased

Figure II.4. Percentage female among all international migrants by age and by development group, 2010

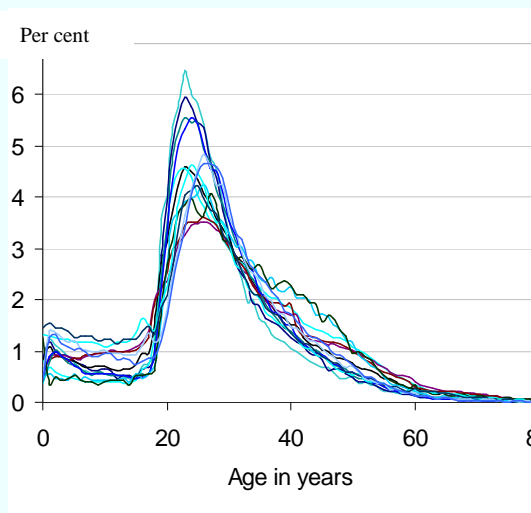


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010).

Box II.1. The age selectivity of international migration

Data on the age distribution of foreign immigrants, shown below for seven countries in Europe for the period 2008 to 2009, indicate that between one-third and one-half of all newly arriving migrants are aged 20 to 30, while, combined, those under age 20 and those aged 65 or over account for less than one in every four foreign immigrants.

Figure II.5. Age distribution of foreign immigrants, selected countries, 2008-2009 (percentage)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). International Migration in a Globalizing World: The Role of Youth, Technical Paper No. 2011/1.

Note: The data refer to foreign immigrants in the following countries: Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden.

Because international migrant stocks include not only newly arrived immigrants but also migrants who have lived in a country for years, the median age of immigrants is, on average, considerably lower than that of the migrant stock. As an illustration, the median age of immigrants for the seven countries shown in figure II.5 is approximately 16 years younger than the median age for the same countries based on estimates of migrant stocks in 2010.

during the same period. As of 2010, persons of working age constituted 76.4 per cent of all

international migrants in the developed countries, up from 70.9 per cent in 1990. In the developing countries, the share of those aged 20 to 64 in all migrants rose from 63.2 per cent in 1990 to 67.6 per cent in 2010.

Europe hosted the largest number of international migrants aged 20 to 64 in 2010 (52.6 million), equal to more than one in every three international migrants of working age worldwide. Asia hosted the second largest number of international migrants of working age (41.9 million), followed by Northern America (39.3 million) and Africa (13.0 million). Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania hosted relatively few international migrants of working age: 4.9 million and 4.3 million, respectively.

The number of international migrants of working age increased in all major areas between 1990 and 2010. The largest gains were recorded by Northern America, with 19.4 million more international migrants of working age in 2010 than in 1990. Asia and Europe also added large numbers of international migrants aged 20 to 64 during the same period: 9.8 million and 17.8 million, respectively.

As of 2010, 33 countries or areas hosted at least one million international migrants of working age, while seven countries hosted at least five million international migrants aged 20 to 64. The United States of America was home to the largest number of international migrants aged 20 to 64: 34.2 million in 2010. The Russian Federation hosted the second largest number of such migrants (9.6 million), followed by Germany (8.5 million), Saudi Arabia (5.5 million), Canada (5.1 million) and Spain and the United Kingdom (5.0 million, each).

Thirteen countries or areas gained at least one million migrants of working age between 1990 and 2010. The United States added the largest number of international migrants aged 20 to 64 during that period: 17.6 million, bringing the total number of working age migrants to more than twice the level recorded in 1990. Other countries that gained large numbers of migrants of working age between 1990 and 2010 were, in order of magnitude, Spain (4.5 million), Germany (3.7

million), Italy (2.6 million), the United Kingdom (2.4 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.0 million).

Box II.2. Estimating net inflows of foreign migrants

Trends in migrant stocks by age provide a “window” into the migration history of a country over the previous 50 to 80 years. This is particularly the case at older ages, since older people have a lower propensity to move compared to younger persons (see figure II.5).

In order to control for the migration history of a particular county or area, it is useful to compare the number of migrants in a certain age cohort with number of migrants in that age cohort ten or twenty years later. Any differences between those numbers can be attributed to the arrival of new immigrants, or the death or departure of migrants already living in the country or area considered.

Based on that comparison, it is possible to estimate that, worldwide, the number of new immigrants of working age who arrived between 1990 and 2010 was greater than the number of international migrants of the same age who returned to their country of origin or died during the same period. Specifically, the number of international migrants aged 20 to 64 in 2010 was 50 per cent larger than what might have been expected based on the number of international migrants aged 0 to 44 in 1990. The more developed regions gained the overwhelming majority of those new migrants (88.6 per cent); an indication not only of the greater magnitude of inflows of international migrants to the developed countries between 1990 and 2010, but also of the higher levels of return migration that characterized the developing world during the same period.

As of 2010, the highest percentage of migrants among the working age population was found in Oceania, where international migrants accounted for 20.8 per cent of the total population aged 20 to 64. The major area with the second highest proportion of international migrants among its working age population was Northern America (18.6 per cent), followed by Europe

(11.5 per cent). International migrants made up only a small share of the working age population in Africa (2.8 per cent), Asia (1.7 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (1.5 per cent).

On account of the large gains in the number of international migrants of working age recorded by Europe and Northern America between 1990 and 2010, the percentage of migrants in total population of working age grew in those two major areas. By contrast, the share of international migrants among those aged 20 to 64 declined or remained constant in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania; an indication that in those major areas the overall population of working age grew at a faster pace between 1990 and 2010 than the migrant stock of the same age.

There was also considerable variability among countries in terms of the proportion of migrants in total population of working age. Migrants made up at least half of the total working age population in 11 countries in 2010. Six of those countries were small territories or island states, while five countries were in Western Asia, among them the two with the highest share of migrants among the working age population: Kuwait (77.8 per cent) and Qatar (90.6 per cent). In contrast, international migrants accounted for less than five per cent of the total population aged 20 to 64 in 105 countries or areas. Among the countries with the lowest percentage of international migrants in total population of working age were India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan and Pakistan; all of which hosted at least one million migrants aged 20 to 64 in 2010.

Females were underrepresented among international migrants of working age. In 2010, women accounted for 47.9 per cent of international migrants aged 20 to 64, whereas among all international migrants, the percentage female was 49.0 per cent. The percentage female was lowest among international migrants aged 30 to 34 (46.1 per cent) and highest among migrants aged 60 to 64 (53.7 per cent).

Yet there were considerable differences by development level. In the more developed regions, women accounted for 50.8 per cent of the international migrants aged 20 to 64 in 2010,

whereas in the less developed regions they constituted just 43.0 per cent of the international migrants in that age group. Both the more developed regions and less developed regions experienced a slight decline in the proportion of women among all migrants of working age between 1990 and 2010. During that period, the annual rate of change of migrant stock among male migrants of working age grew at a faster pace than the rate for migrant females of corresponding age.

At the level of the major areas, females outnumber males among migrants of working age in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania. By contrast, there were more males than females among migrants of working age in Africa, Asia and Northern America. Asia recorded the lowest percentage of females among all migrants aged 20 to 64 in 2010 (42.1 per cent), followed by Africa (44.8 per cent), while Europe had the highest share of females among all migrants of working age (51.8 per cent), followed by Oceania (51.3 per cent). In Africa, Europe and Northern America the proportion of females among all migrants of working age was lower in 2010 than

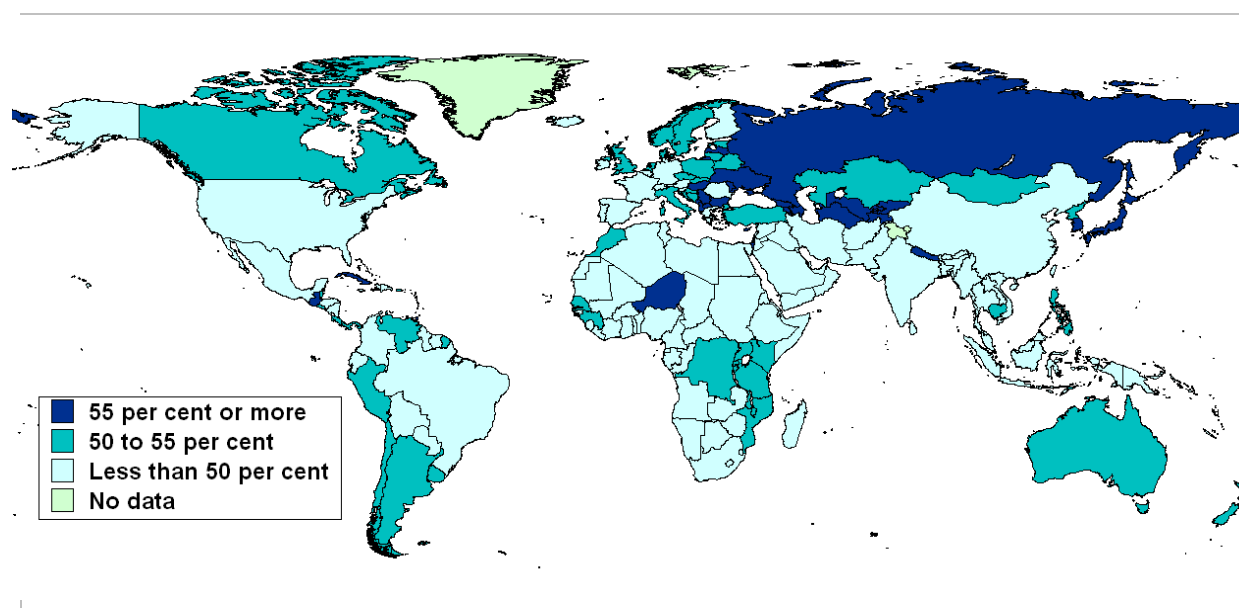
in 1990, suggesting that international migration had become less feminized.

There were considerable differences among countries in terms of the percentage female among all migrants aged 20 to 64 (figure II.6). In 107 countries or areas, females made up less than half of all migrants of working age in 2010. Among the countries with the lowest proportions were Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, where males outnumbered females among migrants aged 20 to 64 by at nearly five to one. In contrast, females accounted for more than half of all migrants aged 20 to 64 in 89 countries or areas. Among the countries with the highest percentage of females among migrants of working age in 2010 were the Russian Federation (58.1 per cent) and Ukraine (56.2 per cent).

D. OLDER INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

Older persons were overrepresented among international migrants compared to the total population.³ Globally, some 24.7 million international migrants were aged 65 or over in

Figure II.6 Female migrants aged 20 to 64 as a percentage of all international migrants aged 20 to 64, 2010



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010).

Note: The boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

2010, equal to 11.6 per cent of all international migrants. In comparison, persons aged 65 or over accounted for only 7.6 per cent of the world's population (figure II.2).

As of 2010, the majority of older migrants lived in developed countries. Among the 24.7 million international migrants aged 65 or over, 16.8 million, or 67.8 per cent, lived in the more developed regions, while 8.0 million, or 32.2 per cent, lived in the less developed regions. Just half a million older international migrants resided in the 48 least developed countries. The fact that many countries in the more developed regions had long been magnets of immigration, combined with the greater propensity among international migrants living in the developing world to return to their countries of origin, as well as lower life expectancy were among the reasons for the smaller numbers of older migrants residing in the developing countries compared to the developed countries.

Europe hosted the largest number of international migrants aged 65 or over in 2010 (9.7 million), equal to almost four out of every ten older migrants in the world. Asia hosted the second largest number (6.3 million), followed by Northern America (5.9 million). Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania hosted around one million older migrants each.

The number of international migrants aged 65 or over rose in all major areas, with the exception of Latin America and the Caribbean. Europe recorded the largest gains, with 2.8 million older migrants added between 1990 and 2010. Northern America gained the second largest number of older migrants during that period (2.3 million), followed by Oceania (0.5 million), Asia (0.4 million), and Africa (0.2 million).

In Latin America and the Caribbean the number of older migrants slightly declined between 1990 and 2010 as a result of the death or, in some cases, the return to their country of origin of previous waves of migrants. By contrast, the rapid increase in the number of older migrants that took place in Europe, Northern America and Oceania between 1990 and 2010 was mainly the

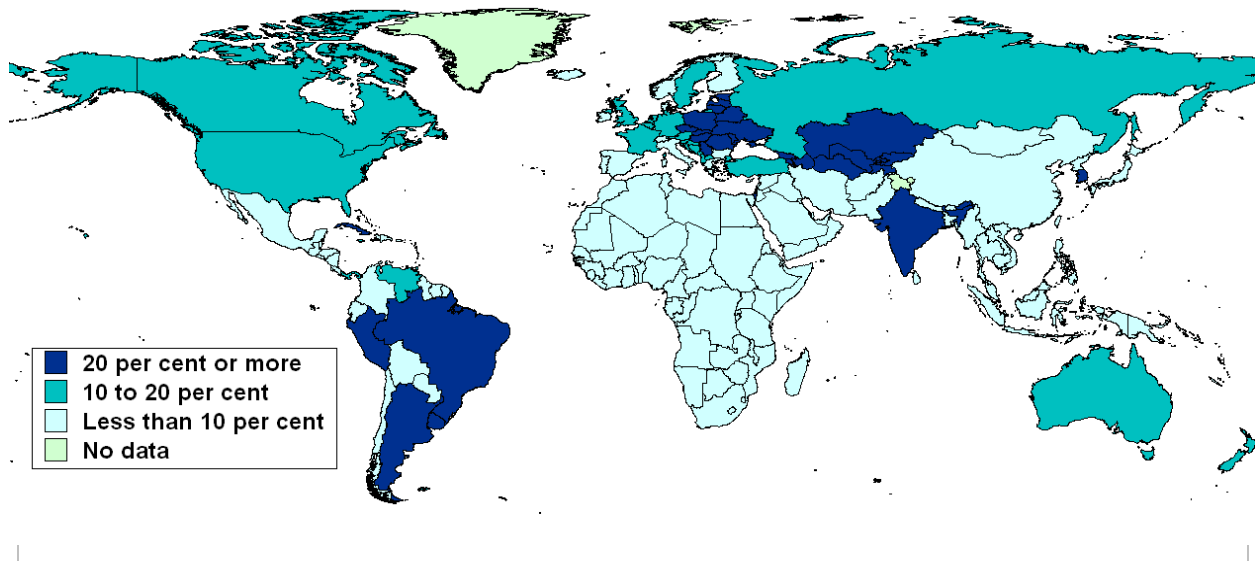
outcome of the aging in place of migrants who had arrived decades earlier.

Most countries or areas of the world hosted a relatively small number of older migrants (100,000 or less). Seven countries, however, hosted at least one million migrants aged 65 or over in 2010. The United States of America hosted the largest number of such migrants (4.5 million), followed by India (1.8 million) and the Ukraine (1.6 million). Other countries that hosted at least one million older migrants were Canada, France, Germany and the Russian Federation. Many of those countries—Canada, France, Germany and the United States of America—were long established countries of immigration that had, over the years, attracted a sizable number of migrants who had remained in the country, thus growing old. In India, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine, on the other hand, the large number of migrants aged 65 or over was linked, at least in part, to changes in those countries' political boundaries, which resulted in the reclassification of persons, who had previously moved internally, as international migrants. Older persons, who have a lower propensity to move compared to younger persons, often remained behind in the newly formed countries, thus becoming international migrants.

While the number of older migrants increased in nearly all major areas between 1990 and 2010, the share of older persons among all international migrants remained constant or declined in four out of the six major areas. Asia and Northern America, for instance, both of which recorded an increase in the number of migrants aged 65 or over, saw the share of older migrants decline by 1.3 percentage points, each. That decline resulted from the fact that the number migrants of working age had grown at a faster pace between 1990 and 2010 than the number of older migrants.

Oceania hosted the highest percentage of older persons among all international migrants in 2010 (17.7 per cent), followed by Europe (13.9 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (12.6 per cent), Northern America (11.8 per cent) and Asia (10.3 per cent). In Africa the share of migrants aged 65 or over among all international migrants was much smaller: 4.3 per cent in 2010.

Figure II.7. Migrants stock aged 65 or over as a percentage of all international migrants, 2010



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010).

Note: The boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

In 29 countries or areas, older migrants made up at least 20 per cent of all international migrants (figure II.7). Among the countries with the highest proportion of older persons among those aged 65 or over, many were in Latin America and the Caribbean (including Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Uruguay), in Eastern Europe (including Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and the Ukraine), or in Central Asia or Western Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

Major areas with a well-established history of immigration, such as Europe, Northern America and Oceania hosted the highest percentage of older migrants in all persons aged 65 or over. Oceania hosted the highest percentage of such persons in 2010 (27.5 per cent), followed by Northern America (12.8 per cent) and Europe (8.1 per cent). By contrast, in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, older migrants made up less than three per cent of all those aged 65 or over.

In most countries or areas of the world, the share of older migrants among those aged 65 or over was small. In 106 countries or areas migrants

made up less than five per cent of those aged 65 or over in 2010. Yet in 32 countries or areas, older migrants accounted for at least one in every five older persons. Israel had the highest percentage of international migrants among those aged 65 or over: 91.1 per cent in 2010. Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China) (77.9 per cent), Kazakhstan (72.2 per cent), Macao (Special Administrative Region of China) (69.7 per cent), and Qatar (68.4 per cent) also hosted high percentages of international migrants among their older population.

Women outnumbered men among older migrants both in developed countries and in developing countries, owing partially to women's longer life expectancy compared to men. Globally, 56.0 per cent of all international migrants aged 65 or over were female. The proportion of older migrants who were women was higher in the more developed regions (57.3 per cent) than in the less developed regions (53.3 per cent).

All major areas with the exception of Africa hosted more females than males among migrants aged 65 or over. North America hosted the highest

percentage of females among all older migrants: 58.3 per cent. Europe hosted the second highest percentage (57.3 per cent), followed by Asia (54.8 per cent), Oceania (52.2 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (51.8 per cent). By contrast in Africa, 43.9 per cent of all older migrants were females.

In most countries and areas of the world, females made up more than half of all older migrants and in 33 countries or areas, females accounted for at least 60 per cent of all migrants aged 65 or over. Estonia (69.7 per cent), Finland (72.7 per cent) and Nepal (69.7 per cent) hosted the highest shares of females among all older migrants. The countries with the lowest percentage of females among older migrants were Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sierra Leone, where females made up less than one third of all older migrants.

NOTES

¹ The chapter reviews data from *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/ Rev.2010). This dataset contains time-series of estimates and projections of the number of international migrants in the 196 countries or areas with 100,000 inhabitants or more as of mid-2010 for the years 1990, 2000 and 2010. The data on migrant stock presented in chapter I, based on *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/ Rev.2012), are more up-to-date than those shown in *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex*. As a result there are some small differences in the numbers of international migrants at the level of development group, major areas and regional aggregates.

² Young international migrants refer to persons under age 20.

³ Older international migrants refer to persons aged 65 or over.

III. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION FLOWS

In addition to estimating international migrant stocks by age, sex and origin, the Population Division also collects and compiles data on international migration flows for some 43 countries worldwide.¹ In analysing those data, the chapter focuses on three distinct geographical groups: Northern America, Australia/New Zealand, and Europe. Immigration and emigration flows of both citizens and foreigners are described where available.

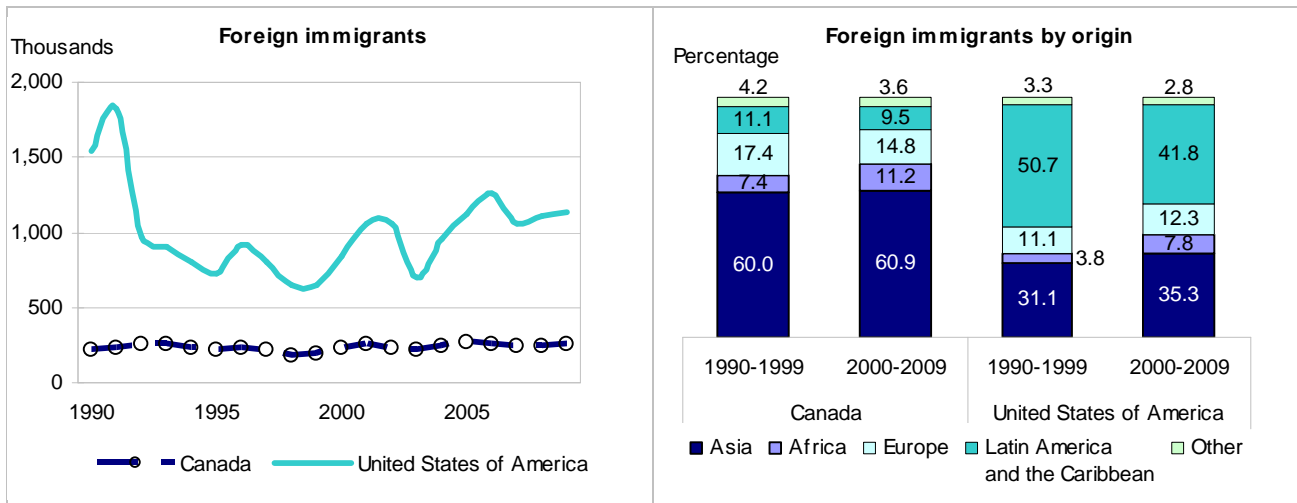
A. NORTHERN AMERICA

Between 1990 and 2009, patterns of immigration to Northern America were dominated by flows to the United States of America.² The United States of America, the host of the largest number of international migrants in the world (chapter I), continued to admit the largest number of foreign immigrants worldwide among the 43 countries with data, with an average of about one million permanent residence permits granted per annum between 1990 and 2009. The number of permanent residence permits issued to foreign

immigrants to Canada was roughly one-fourth during the same period: equal to approximately 231,000 per year.

Both Canada and the United States of America witnessed an increase between 1990 and 2000 in the intake of foreign immigrants. Between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009 the number of long-term residence permits issued to foreign-born persons rose by 9.5 per cent per annum in Canada and by 5.3 per cent per annum in the United States of America. However, since the data for both Canada and the United States of America refer to residency permits, administrative as well as policy considerations need to be taken into consideration when interpreting those trends. The spike in number of permanent residence permits issued in the United States of America between 1990 and 1994, for instance, was mainly the outcome of the large number of regularizations which took place in the aftermath of the implementation of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. By contrast, the drop in the number of permits issued in the United States of America during the biennium 1997 to 1998 can be attributed to

Figure III.1. Foreign immigrants to Canada and the United States of America by major area of origin, 1990 to 2009



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Flow/Rev.2010).

Notes: Data refer to foreigners by place of birth. The category "Other" includes Northern America and Oceania. Data for the United States of America refer to financial years. The data for the United States of America between 1990 and 1994 include regularization under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

backlog in processing immigrant applications created by a temporary provision in the immigration law which caused applications for adjustment of status to nearly double.³

Canada and the United States of America were characterized by somewhat different patterns in terms of the origin of foreign immigrants. In Canada, the origin of international migrants remained highly concentrated, with 60.5 per cent of all immigrants between 1990 and 2009 coming from Asia. Europe was the second major area of origin for foreign immigrants to Canada over the period 1990-2010 (16.0 per cent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (10.3 per cent), and Africa (9.4 per cent). Intra-regional migration from other countries in North America, namely the United States of America, was small (less than three per cent).

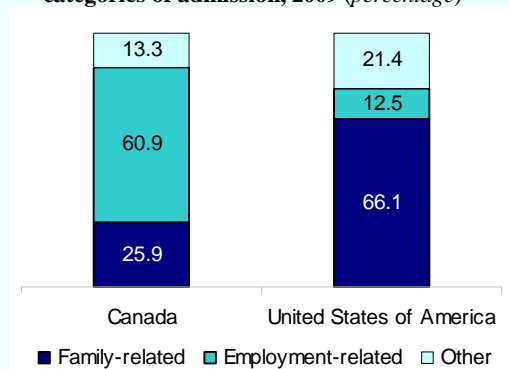
In the United States of America the origin of foreign immigrants was more equally distributed among major areas. Less than half (46.2 per cent) of all permits granted to foreign-born immigrants in the period 1990-2010 were to persons from Latin America and the Caribbean. Asia was the second major area of origin of foreign immigrants to the United States of America (33.2 per cent), followed by Europe (11.7 per cent) and Africa (5.9 per cent). As with Canada, intra-regional migration accounted for less than two per cent of all permanent residency permits granted by the United States of America between 1990 and 2010.

Both Canada and the United States of America experienced a sharp increase between 1990 and 2009 in the number of permits issued to immigrants from Africa and Asia. In Canada, the average number of permits issued to immigrants from Africa rose from over 16,000 per year in the period 1990-1999 to nearly 27,000 per year in the period 2000-2009; equal to a 65.0 per cent increase. In the United States of America, the number of immigrants from Africa more than doubled between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009. As of 2000-2009, Africa accounted for 7.8 per cent of all permits issued to foreign immigrants in the United States of America, up from 3.8 per cent in the 1990s.

Box III.1. Permanent residency permits by major categories of admission

Canada and the United States of America are characterized by very different patterns in terms of the types of immigrants who are granted permanent residency. In the United States of America, persons admitted for family-related reasons accounted for nearly two thirds of all permanent residency permits issued between 1990 and 2009. By contrast, in Canada the overwhelming majority of permanent residency permits granted between 1990 and 2009 were for economic migrants.

Figure III.2. Permanent residency permits by major categories of admission, 2009 (percentage)



Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Available at <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/LPR11.shtm>. and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Available at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2010/permanent/01.asp> (Accessed on 10 May 2012)

The two countries have also followed very different trends. Between 2005 and 2009, for instance, the number of permanent residency permits issued for employment-based preferences in the United States of America declined by 42.9 per cent. Skilled workers, professionals and unskilled workers were particularly affected. During the same period the number of permanent residency permits granted to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens increased by 22.8 per cent. In Canada the number of permanent residency permits issued to economic migrants rose by 56.7 per cent between 1990 and 2009, while the number of family-related permits declined by 12.7 per cent during the same period.

Likewise, in Canada, 15,000 additional permits per year were issued to immigrants from Asia in the period 2000-2009 compared to the period 1990-1999. The corresponding figure for the United States of America was 59,000. The share of permanent permits granted to persons born in Asia also rose in both countries. The increase was particularly noteworthy in the United States of America, where the share of foreign-born immigrants from Asia rose from 31.1 per cent in the 1990s to 35.3 per cent during the period 2000-2009.

By contrast, the average number and share of foreign immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean declined in both Canada and the United States of America. In Canada, the share of migrants born in Latin America and the Caribbean among all foreign immigrants declined from 11.1 per cent in the period 1990-1999 to 9.5 per cent in the period 2000-2009. In the United States of America, the corresponding share fell from 50.7 per cent in the 1990s to 41.8 per cent in the period 2000-2009. Between 1990 and 2009, the number of permits granted in the United States of America to immigrants born in Latin America and the Caribbean declined. As of 2010, Asia surpassed Latin America and the Caribbean as the major source of foreign immigrants to the United States of America.

In terms of the main countries of origin, persons from China received the largest number of permanent residence permits to Canada between 1990 and 2009 (on average 29,000 per year), accounting for 12.6 per cent of all permits issued. India was the country with the second largest average number of permits granted from Canada (24,000 per year), followed, in order of magnitude, by the Philippines (15,000 per year), Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China) (11,000 per year), Pakistan (9,000 per year), and Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Sri Lanka (6,000 per year, each). Outside of Asia, the major recipients of permanent residency permits from Canada were persons born in the United Kingdom and the United States of America with, respectively, 6,000 and 7,000 permits issued per year between 1990 and 2010.

Mexico dominated migrant inflows to the United States of America, with approximately 224,000 permits granted per annum between 1990 and 2009, accounting for 22.3 per cent of that country's total migrant intake. Mexico was the source of the same number of foreign immigrants as the next five major countries of origin combined. Excluding the period 1990-1995, however, which as indicated above was strongly affected by the 1986 regularization programme,⁴ the share of permits granted to persons from Mexico was much lower: around 17.2 per cent.

Persons from China, India and the Philippines were also granted large numbers of permits to the United States of America between 1990 and 2009. Between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009, the average number of permanent residence permits issued to persons born in China, India and the Philippines increased, whereas the number of permits granted to persons born in Mexico declined during the same period.

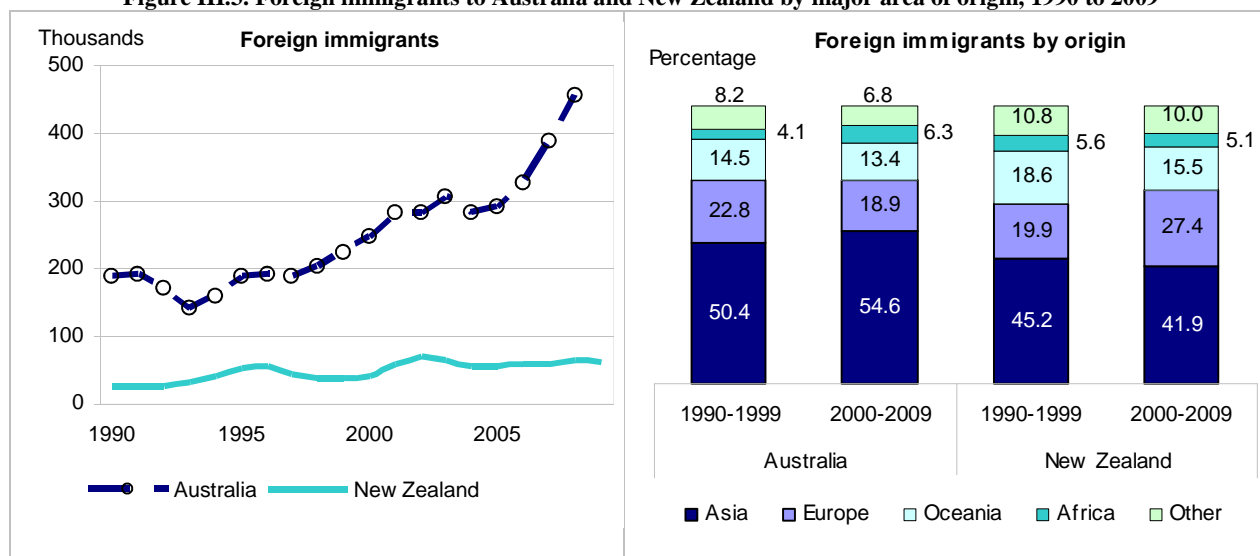
B. AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Between 1990 and 2009, immigration to the region Australia/New Zealand⁵ was dominated by flows to Australia. During that period, the average number of foreign immigrants admitted to Australia stood at 248,000 per year, while the annual intake of foreigners to New Zealand was around 49,000 per annum.

Between 1990 and 2009, both countries experienced a sharp upturn in the number of foreign immigrants (figure III.3). In Australia, the number of long-term and permanent foreign migrants admitted nearly doubled, from an average of 184,000 per year in the 1990s to an average of 318,000 per year during the period 2000-2009. In New Zealand, the average number of foreign immigrants arriving from overseas who intended to stay for a period of one year or more or permanently, rose to 59,000 per year during the period 2000-2009, up from 38,000 per year in the 1990s.

Much of that increase was linked to an expansion of the number of permits issued to

Figure III.3. Foreign immigrants to Australia and New Zealand by major area of origin, 1990 to 2009



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Flow/Rev.2010).

Notes: Data refer to foreigners by place of previous residence. The category “Other” includes Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America. The methodology for counting foreign immigrants to Australia changed after 2004.

highly skilled foreigners and foreign students. In Australia, for example, the number of permanent permits or long-term visas granted to highly skilled persons or for purposes related to business—the so-called skills stream—more than doubled between 1990 and 2009. The number of visas granted to students from overseas as well as employer sponsored visas also grew rapidly in Australia.

Between 1990 and 2009, Australia and New Zealand had relatively similar pattern in terms of the origin of their foreign immigrants. In both countries, the largest foreign inflows came from Asia: 52.9 per cent of those admitted to Australia and 43.2 per cent of those arriving in New Zealand. Europe was the second major area of origin, accounting for 20.4 per cent of all foreign immigrants admitted to Australia between 1990 and 2009 and 24.5 per cent of those arriving in New Zealand during the same period. The intake of foreign immigrants from Oceania was smaller by comparison, although it still accounted for approximately one sixth of all foreign migrant inflows to Australia and New Zealand during the period 1990-2009.

In Australia, the largest and second largest number of foreign immigrants during the period 1990-2009 came from New Zealand (29,000 per annum) and the United Kingdom (28,000 per annum), respectively. Large inflows of foreign immigrants also came from countries in Asia, notably China (18,000 per year), Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China) (13,000 per year), India (14,000 per year), Malaysia (11,000 per year), Japan and Singapore (10,000 per year, each). Many of those countries recorded a rapid increase in the number of their nationals admitted to Australia between 1990 and 2009. For instance, the average number of foreign immigrants from China to Australia grew by over fourfold between 1990 and 2010, or from less than 8,000 per year in the period 1990-1999 to over 30,000 per year during the period 2000-2009. A similar increase was recorded for India, which saw the number of its nationals granted long-term or permanent migration status in Australia climb from 5,000 per annum in the 1990s, to nearly 23,000 per annum between 2000 and 2009. On account of the large inflows from Asia, the share of foreign immigrants to Australia from traditional areas of origin such as Europe or Oceania declined between 1990 and 2009.

By contrast in New Zealand, the share of foreign immigrants from Europe continued to rise, reaching an average of 27.4 per cent in the period 2000-2009, up from nearly 19.9 per cent in the period 1990-1999. Much of that increase was due to the inflow of persons born in the United Kingdom. Between 1990 and 2010, the average number of foreign immigrants from the United Kingdom more than doubled: from 5,000 per annum in the 1990s to over 11,000 in the period 2000-2009. As of the period 2000-2009, nearly one in every five foreign immigrant to New Zealand originated from the United Kingdom compared to slightly over one in eight during the 1990s. Part of that shift was owing to changes in the language requirements for skilled migrants which were introduced after 2002, which made it comparatively easier for native English speakers to qualify.⁶

As a result of the large inflow of immigrants from Europe during between 1990 and 2009, the share of immigrants to New Zealand from other major areas, notably Africa, Asia and Oceania, declined even though the number of foreign immigrants from those major areas continued to increase. After the United Kingdom, the major countries of origin for foreign immigrants to New Zealand during the period 1990-2009 were Australia and China (5,000 per year, each), and India and Japan (3,000 per year, each).

A relatively large number of foreigners who immigrated to Australia and New Zealand between 1990 and 2009 returned to their countries of origin. Between 1990 and 1999 an average of 79,000 foreign immigrants per year left Australia, while 13,000 foreign immigrants per year left New Zealand. During the period 2000-2009, the respective figures were 107,000 per annum for Australia and 20,000 per annum for New Zealand.

A relatively large number of citizens from Australia and New Zealand emigrated between 1990 and 2009. An average of 92,000 citizens per annum left Australia during the period 1990-2009, while some 44,000 per annum left New Zealand. The top five countries of destination for Australian nationals between 1990 and 2009 were, in order of magnitude, the United Kingdom, the United States, New Zealand, Hong Kong (Special

Administrative Region of China) and Singapore. The main destinations for citizens emigrating from New Zealand between 1990 and 2009 were Australia and the United Kingdom.

Net migration of citizens was negative for both Australia and New Zealand during the period 1990-2009. The number of citizens leaving Australia and New Zealand was, respectively, one and a half and two times greater than the number of those returning to those countries. Between the periods 1990-1999 and 2000-2009, the average gap between the inflow and outflow of citizens continued to widen for both countries. The net loss of citizens for Australia was nearly twice as large in the period 2000-2009 as in the period 1990-1999. Likewise, for New Zealand the gap in number of citizens who left the country between 2000 and 2009 and those who returned during the same period was one and a half times larger than the corresponding difference in the 1990s.

C. EUROPE

Europe is characterized by diverse international migration flows. Europe comprises countries that have long been destinations of immigrants such as France, Germany or the United Kingdom; countries such as Italy or Spain that became net recipients of immigrants only after the 1990s, as well as countries such as the Republic of Moldova, Romania or the Ukraine characterized by high levels of negative net migration. Further, most migration in Europe occurs within the major area, often within smaller regions. The sections below focus on four distinct regions in Europe: Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe and Western Europe. The composition of each of those regions is provided in annex.

1. Eastern Europe

Among the nine countries in Eastern Europe with data,⁷ the Czech Republic recorded the largest average annual inflows of foreign migrants during the period 2000-2009:⁸ 51,000 per annum. The Russian Federation recorded the second largest inflows of foreigners during that period among the countries in Eastern Europe with data

(nearly 30,000 per year), followed by Hungary (23,000 per year), the Ukraine (nearly 20,000 per year) and Slovakia (nearly 9,000 per year). In the remaining countries with data—Bulgaria, Poland, Republic of Moldova and Romania—the average annual number of foreign immigrants between 2000 and 2009 was less than 2,000 per annum.

All nine countries in Eastern Europe with data recorded an increase in the number of foreign immigrants between 2000 and 2009. In Poland and the Russian Federation, the average annual number of foreign immigrants tripled during between the first half and the second half of that period (figure III.4). Other countries that witnessed a steep upturn in the number of foreign immigrants between 2000 and 2009 were the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia. Since the onset of the crisis, however, the intake of foreign migrants declined in several countries in Eastern Europe. Particularly noteworthy were the declines in the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation and Slovakia.

During the period 2000-2009, most of the international migration inflows in Eastern Europe occurred within the region. With the exceptions of Bulgaria, Romania and the Russian Federation, at least one in every three foreign immigrants to countries in Eastern Europe came from another country in Eastern Europe. The Czech Republic (67.1 per cent), Hungary (58.7 per cent) and Poland (57.1 per cent) had the highest shares of immigrants from Eastern Europe among all foreign immigrants during the period 2000-2009, while Bulgaria (25.3 per cent) and the Russian Federation (23.7 per cent) had the lowest shares.

Foreign inflows from other regions of Europe were less common, constituting less than one in ten foreign immigrants in the Czech Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine. In Bulgaria and Slovakia, however, immigrants from other parts of Europe accounted for a sizable share of all foreign immigrants. In Bulgaria, 41.2 per cent of all foreigners who received a permanent residence permit between 2000 and 2009 were from Southern Europe, notably from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In Slovakia, 10.9 per cent of all foreign immigrants came from

Southern Europe, mainly Serbia, while an additional 13.5 per cent came from Western Europe, notably from Austria and Germany.

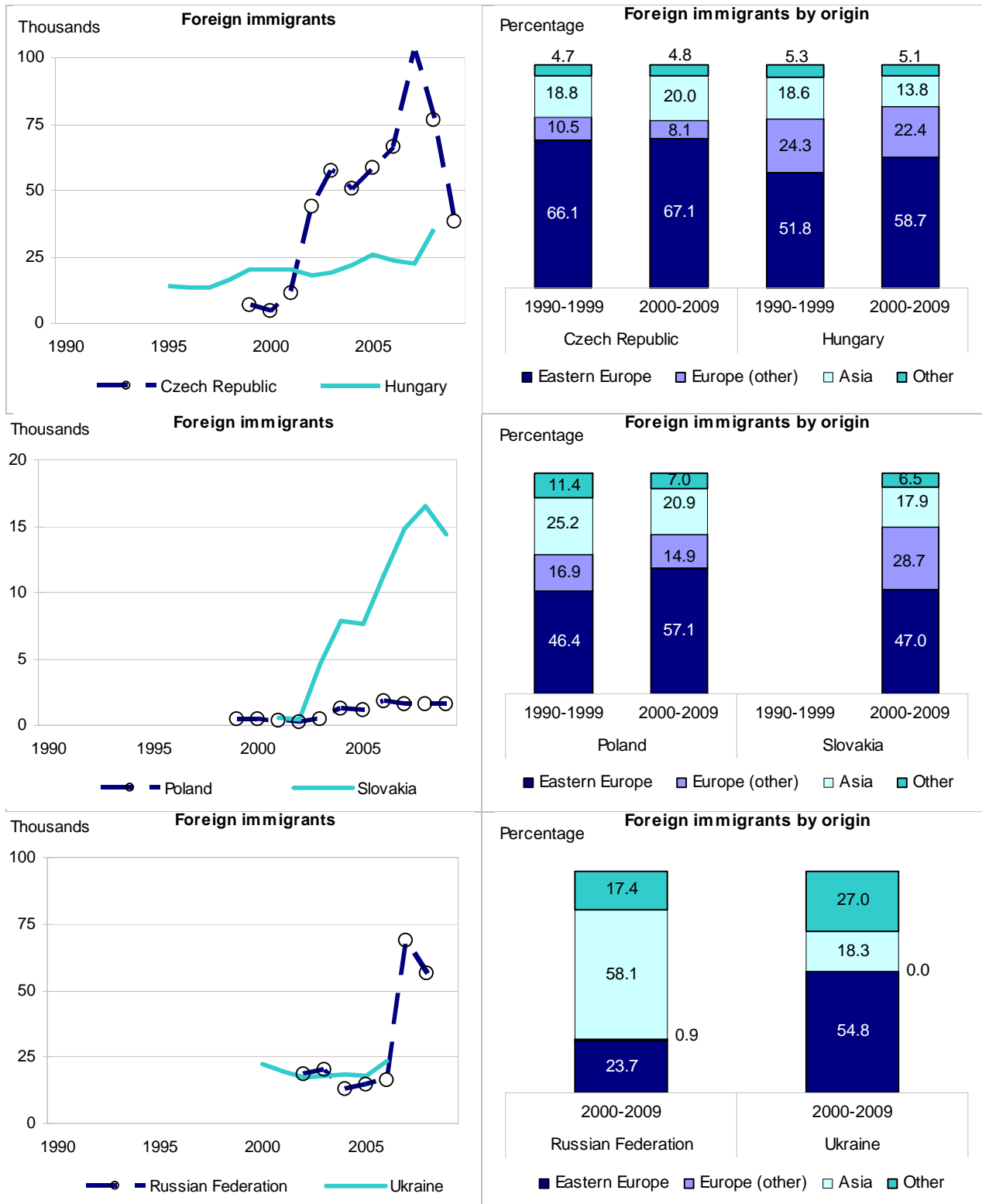
Several countries in Eastern Europe also recorded large inflows of foreign migrants from Asia. In the Russian Federation, the largest number of foreigners during the period 2000-2009 came from that major area, equal to 58.1 per cent of all foreign inflows. Many of those immigrants originated from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Central Asia and Western Asia. After the Ukraine, the largest number of foreign immigrants to the Russian Federation during the period 2000-2009 came from Uzbekistan (over 5,000 per year), followed by Armenia (3,000 per year), and Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan (over 2,000 per year, each). Persons from Asia also accounted for a large share of all foreign immigrants in Bulgaria (28.4 per cent) and the Republic of Moldova (43.7 per cent).

While some of the foreign immigrants to Eastern Europe returned to their respective countries of origin, many remained. Net migration of foreigners among the eight countries with data was positive, signalling that those countries received a greater number of foreign immigrants between 2000 and 2009 than they lost due to emigration. The Czech Republic, Hungary and the Russian Federation were among the countries with the largest surplus of foreign immigrants compared to foreign emigrants during that period. The Russian Federation received almost ten times more foreign immigrants during the period 2000-2009 than it lost due to emigration. Nearly half of those immigrants were from Armenia, the Ukraine or Uzbekistan.

In addition to receiving large inflows of foreign migrants, a large number of citizens from countries in Eastern Europe emigrated. The Russian Federation lost an average of 67,000 citizens per year between 2000 and 2009, while Poland and the Ukraine lost an average of 27,000 and 55,000 citizens per annum, respectively during the same period.

Yet a relatively large percentage of citizens from countries in Eastern Europe returned to their

Figure III.4. Foreign immigrants to selected countries in Eastern Europe by major area of origin, 1990 to 2009



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Flow/Rev.2010).

Notes: Data refer to foreigners by citizenship. The category "Other" includes Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania.

countries of origin. In the Russian Federation, the number of citizens who returned between 2000 and 2009 was two and a half times greater than the number of those who left during the same period. In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the number of citizens who returned from abroad during the period 2000-2009 was roughly of the same order of magnitude as those who left. By contrast, net migration among citizens was negative in Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and the Ukraine. Since the onset of the economic crisis, several countries in Eastern Europe—notably Bulgaria, Poland and the Russian Federation—experienced an upturn in the number of citizens returning to their countries of origin; a return which was prompted both by the recession in countries of destination and by the greater economic prospects of some of the home countries.⁹

2. Northern Europe

Between 1990 and 2009, foreign immigration flows to Northern Europe were dominated by the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom received the largest inflow of foreign migrants during the period 1990-2009—349,000 per annum—nearly twice the levels of the other countries in Northern Europe with data combined. Globally, the United Kingdom admitted the third largest number of foreign immigrants among all countries with data for the period 1990-2009, after the United States of America and Germany.

Ireland received the second largest number of foreign immigrants among the ten countries in Northern Europe with data:¹⁰ on average, 62,000 per year between 1990 and 2009. Sweden recorded the third largest intake of foreigners during that period (61,000 per year), followed by Denmark (31,000 per year), Norway (29,000 per year) and Finland (11,000 per year). The number of foreign immigrants to the remaining countries in Northern Europe for which data were available—Estonia, Iceland, Latvia and Lithuania—was much smaller: less than 3,000 per annum.

Most of the countries in Northern Europe experienced an increase in the inflow of foreign migrants between 1990 and 2009. Between 2000

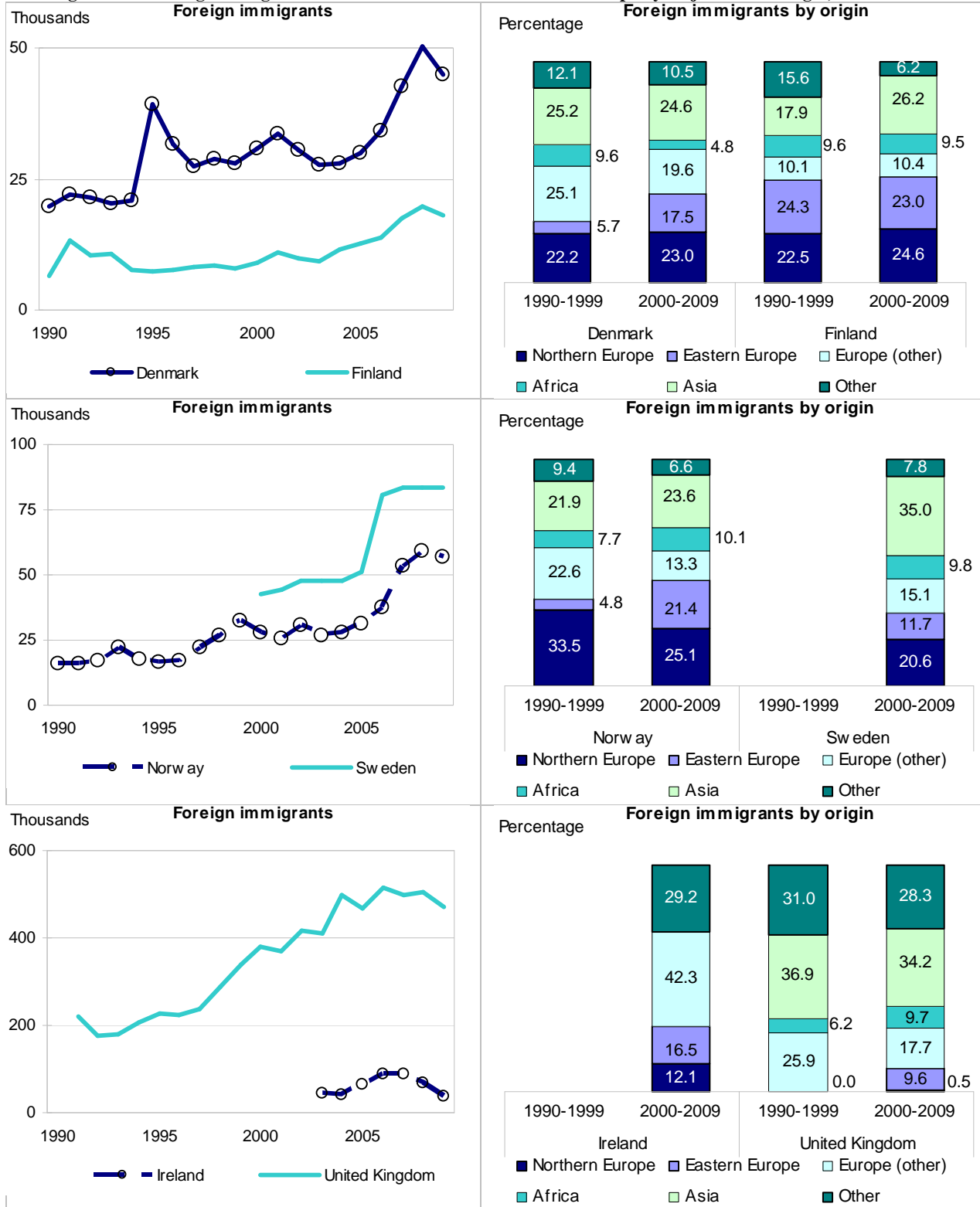
and 2009, the United Kingdom received, on average, 453,000 foreign immigrants per year, almost two times the levels recorded between 1990 and 1999 (figure III.5). Likewise in Norway, the annual number of foreign immigrants almost doubled from 20,000 in the 1990s to nearly 38,000 per year in the period 2000-2009. Since the onset of the economic and financial crisis, however, the intake of foreigners declined or stalled in a number of countries in Northern Europe. The decline was particularly noteworthy for Ireland, which saw its average intake of foreigners fall from 82,000 per year between 2005 and 2007 to 53,000 during the period 2008-2009.

As with Eastern Europe, intra-regional migration was widespread in Northern Europe. Foreign intakes from another country in Northern Europe accounted for at least one in every five immigrants between 1990 and 2009 in seven of the nine countries with data. Estonia had the highest share of foreign immigrants coming from another country in Northern Europe (32.8 per cent), followed by Norway (28.1 per cent) and Finland (23.8 per cent).

Large numbers of foreign immigrants to Northern Europe also originated from Eastern Europe. During the period 1990-2009, foreign immigrants from Eastern Europe accounted for 60.6 per cent of all foreign immigrants to Lithuania, 46.5 per cent of those coming to Latvia, and 39.2 per cent of those registering their permanent residence in Iceland. Eastern Europe was a smaller source of foreign immigrants to Denmark (12.5 per cent) and Sweden (11.7 per cent).

Between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009, the number of foreign immigrants from Eastern Europe increased in four out of the five countries with data. Norway recorded an eight fold increase in the number of foreign immigrants from Eastern Europe from the first to the second period. Over two thirds of those immigrants originated from Poland. Likewise in Denmark, the size of foreign inflows from Eastern Europe more than quadrupled between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009. Poland accounted for roughly half (45.6 per cent) of all foreign immigrants from Eastern Europe to Denmark between 2000 and 2009.

Figure III.5. Foreign immigrants to selected countries in Northern Europe by major area of origin, 1990 to 2009



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Flow/Rev.2010).

Notes: Data refer to foreigners by citizenship. The category "Other" includes Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania. For Ireland, data for Eastern Europe refer to Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, data for Northern Europe refer to the United Kingdom, while the category "Other" includes Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania.

Northern Europe also received large numbers of foreign immigrants from Africa and Asia. Asia accounted for at least one in every five foreign immigrants during the period 2000-2009 in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom, while migrants from Africa constituted approximately one in ten foreign immigrants in Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom during the same period. Sweden and the United Kingdom had the highest shares of foreign immigrants from Asia between 2000 and 2009 (35.0 per cent and 34.2 per cent, respectively), while Norway had the highest share of foreign immigrants from Africa (10.1 per cent).

Countries in Northern Europe were characterized by different patterns in terms of origin of migrant inflows from Africa and Asia. In the United Kingdom, for instance, the largest shares of foreign immigrants from Africa or Asia came from countries of the Commonwealth, notably India, Pakistan and South Africa. By contrast, in Denmark, Norway and Sweden the majority of the foreign immigrants from Africa or Asia who arrived between 2000 and 2009 came from Afghanistan, Iraq or Somalia. Many of those immigrants were refugees or asylum seekers.

In eight of the ten countries in Northern Europe, net migration of foreigners was positive. Finland and Sweden, for instance recorded nearly four times more foreign immigrants between 2000 and 2009 than foreign emigrants; while Estonia, Norway and the United Kingdom reported two and a half times more foreign inflows than outflows. Latvia and Lithuania were the only two countries, among those with data in Northern Europe, to record a net loss of foreigners between 2000 and 2009, resulting mainly from the emigration of persons originating in Belarus, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine.

While most countries in Northern Europe gained foreign residents between 2000 and 2009, they also experienced a net loss of citizens during the same period. Estonia and Latvia experienced the greatest relative loss, with over three times more citizens leaving than returning between 2000 and 2009. Lithuania and the United Kingdom also experienced large outflows of citizens, with, respectively, over two and a half times and nearly

two times more citizens emigrating than returning during the period 2000-2009. The main destinations for citizens leaving Northern Europe were Germany, Spain and the United States of America.

In many countries in Northern Europe, the negative gap between citizen leaving and returning widened between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009. Latvia and the United Kingdom were among the countries which saw that gap widen the most.

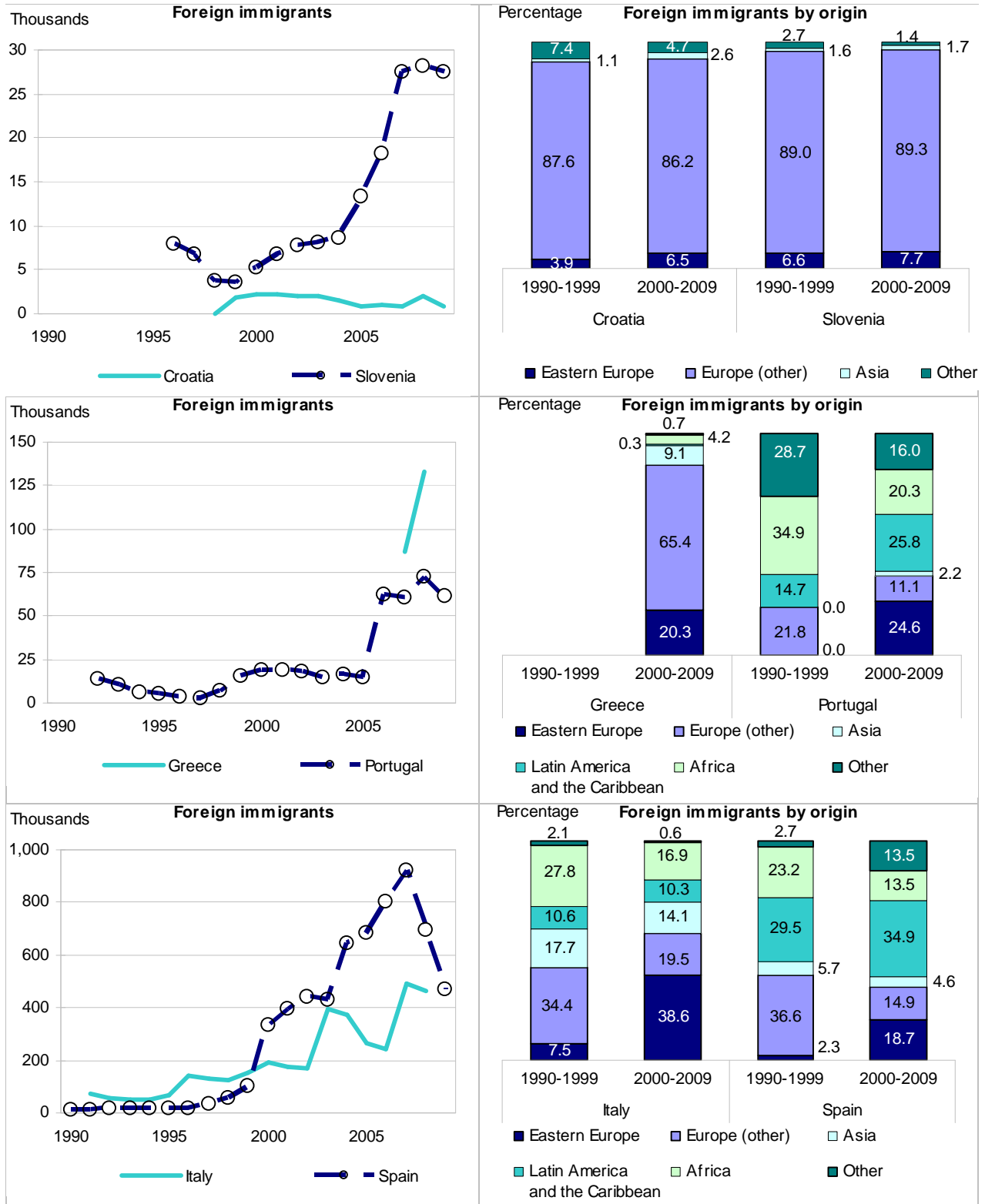
3. Southern Europe

Among the six countries in Southern Europe with data,¹¹ Spain recorded the largest inflows of foreign migrants between 1990 and 2009: an average of 306,000 per year. Spain admitted the fourth largest number of foreign immigrants among the 43 countries worldwide with data on international migration flows, after the United States of America, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Italy received the second largest number of foreign immigrants among six countries in Southern Europe during the period 1990-2009 (201,000 per year), followed by Greece (110,000 per year). The average size of foreign migrant inflows to the three remaining countries in Southern Europe with data was much smaller: 23,000 per year for Portugal, 12,000 per year for Slovenia and less than 2,000 per year for Croatia.

Between 1990 and 2009, the inflow of foreign migrants grew sharply in all five countries in Southern Europe with data (figure III.6). In Italy, the number of foreign immigrants admitted annually more than tripled, from an average of 95,000 per year in the period 1990-1999 to an average of 307,000 per year in the period 2000-2009. Likewise, in Portugal the average number of foreign immigrants increased by nearly fivefold. Spain experienced an even more striking change in the size of foreign migrant inflows: from an average of 30,000 foreign immigrants per year in the period 1990-1999 to an average of 581,000 foreign immigrants in the period 2000-2009.

Figure III.6. Foreign immigrants selected countries in Southern Europe by major area of origin, 1990 to 2009



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Flow/Rev.2010).

Notes: Data refer to foreigners by citizenship, with the exception of Spain where they refer to previous place of residence. The category "Other" includes Northern America and Oceania.

Since the onset of the financial crisis, the inflow of foreigners started to decline in many of the countries with data. The decline was particularly noteworthy in Spain, where the number of foreigners admitted fell from 92,000 in 2007 to 47,000 in 2009. Much of that decline was the result of the contraction in the number of admissions under the employer-nominated programme.

Between 2000 and 2009, relatively few foreign immigrants in Southern Europe returned to their countries of origin. In Italy, the number of foreign immigrants during the period 2000 to 2009 surpassed that of the foreign emigrants by nearly twenty-six to one. Likewise, in Spain there were roughly five times more foreign persons arriving than leaving during the same period. Yet the outflow of foreigners from Spain recorded a sharp upturn after the financial crisis, with over 288,000 foreigners leaving from Spain in 2009 compared to 199,000 in 2007. Policies that encouraged the return of foreign immigrants to their countries of origin as well as the declining economic opportunities for migrant workers in Spain are among the reasons for that increase.

For most countries in Southern Europe, the largest share of foreign immigrants came from a neighbouring country in Southern Europe. In Croatia, for instance, 70.7 per cent of all foreign immigrants who arrived between 2000 and 2009 came from other countries of the former Yugoslavia. Likewise, Greece was characterized by high levels of intra-regional migration, with 62.2 per cent of all residence permits issued to Albanian citizens between 2007 and 2008.

Eastern Europe was another important region of origin for migrant inflows to Southern Europe. Eastern Europe accounted for the largest share of the foreign intake to Italy during the period 2000-2009: 38.6 per cent. The majority of those immigrants came from Poland, Romania and the Ukraine. Italy also received a large inflow of migrants from Southern Europe, notably from Albania. Other countries in Southern Europe characterized by high levels of migrant inflows from Eastern Europe were Greece, Portugal and Spain, where citizens from Eastern Europe accounted for, respectively, 20.3 per cent, 24.6 per

cent and 18.7 per cent of all foreign immigrants during the period 2000-2009. Most of those immigrants came from Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and the Ukraine.

Between 1990 and 2009, the number and proportion of immigrants coming from Eastern Europe increased sharply in Southern Europe. Portugal and Spain, both of which received fewer than 1,000 immigrants per year from Eastern Europe prior to 2000, admitted, on average, 9,000 and 109,000 immigrants per year from that region, respectively, between 2000 and 2009. Likewise in Italy, inflows of migrants from Eastern Europe rose from 7,000 per annum during the 1990s to 118,000 per annum in the period 2000-2009.

The number of immigrants originating from outside of Europe also grew considerably in a number of countries in Southern Europe. In Spain, the average number of immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean increased nearly twenty-three fold from 1990-1999 to 2000-2009. During 2000-2009, Spain granted residence to an average of 203,000 immigrants from that major area per annum, comprising 34.9 per cent of all foreign immigrants and surpassing the foreign inflows from Europe (195,000 per year). The majority of those immigrants originated from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Ecuador.

Italy and Portugal also recorded large gains in the numbers of immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean between 1990 and 2010. In Italy, the number of foreigners admitted from that major area more than tripled from 1990-1999 to 2000-2009, while in Portugal the corresponding increase was over eightfold. Brazil, Ecuador and Peru were the main countries of origin of immigrants from Latin America to Italy, while Brazil was the main country of origin for Portugal.

Between 1990 and 2009, Italy, Portugal and Spain also recorded a sharp upturn in foreign inflows from Africa and Asia. In Italy, the number of immigrants from Africa and Asia doubled from 1990-1999 to 2000-2009. Likewise in Spain, the average number of immigrants from Asia increased from an average of 2,000 per year between 1990 and 1999 to an average of 27,000

per year during the period 2000-2009. During the same period, foreign inflows from Africa to Spain rose from an average of 7,000 per year to an average of 78,000 per year.

Most foreign immigrants in Southern Europe from Asia came from China, India, Pakistan or the Philippines, while the vast majority of foreign immigrants from Africa originated in Morocco. Thus, Spain received some 52,000 citizens from Morocco per year between 2000 and 2009, accounting for nearly one in every ten foreign immigrants during that period. Morocco was the second major country of origin of foreign immigrants to Spain during that period after Romania. Italy received some 23,000 immigrants per year from Morocco between 2000 and 2009, up from 11,000 per year in the 1990s. Morocco was the third major country of origin for foreign immigrants to Italy during the period 2000-2009 after Romania and Albania.

While the overall net migration to countries in Southern Europe was positive between 1990 and 2010, a large number of citizens emigrated from those countries as well. Italy lost some 41,000 citizens per year during the period 2000-2009, one of the highest levels of emigration among all countries in Europe. Spain also recorded high outflows of nationals, with an average of 25,000 citizens leaving per annum between 2000 and 2009. Yet, in Spain the number of citizens returning to Spain during that period was greater than those who left, while in Italy the number of citizens who emigrated exceeded those who returned. The main countries of destination for nationals emigrating from Italy between 2000 and 2009 were Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America; while France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America were the main destinations for citizens leaving Spain.

4. *Western Europe*

As with Northern Europe, the intake of foreign immigrants to Western Europe was highly skewed, with Germany recording more inflows of foreigners during the period 1990-2009—712,000 per annum—than the other six countries in Western Europe with data combined.¹²

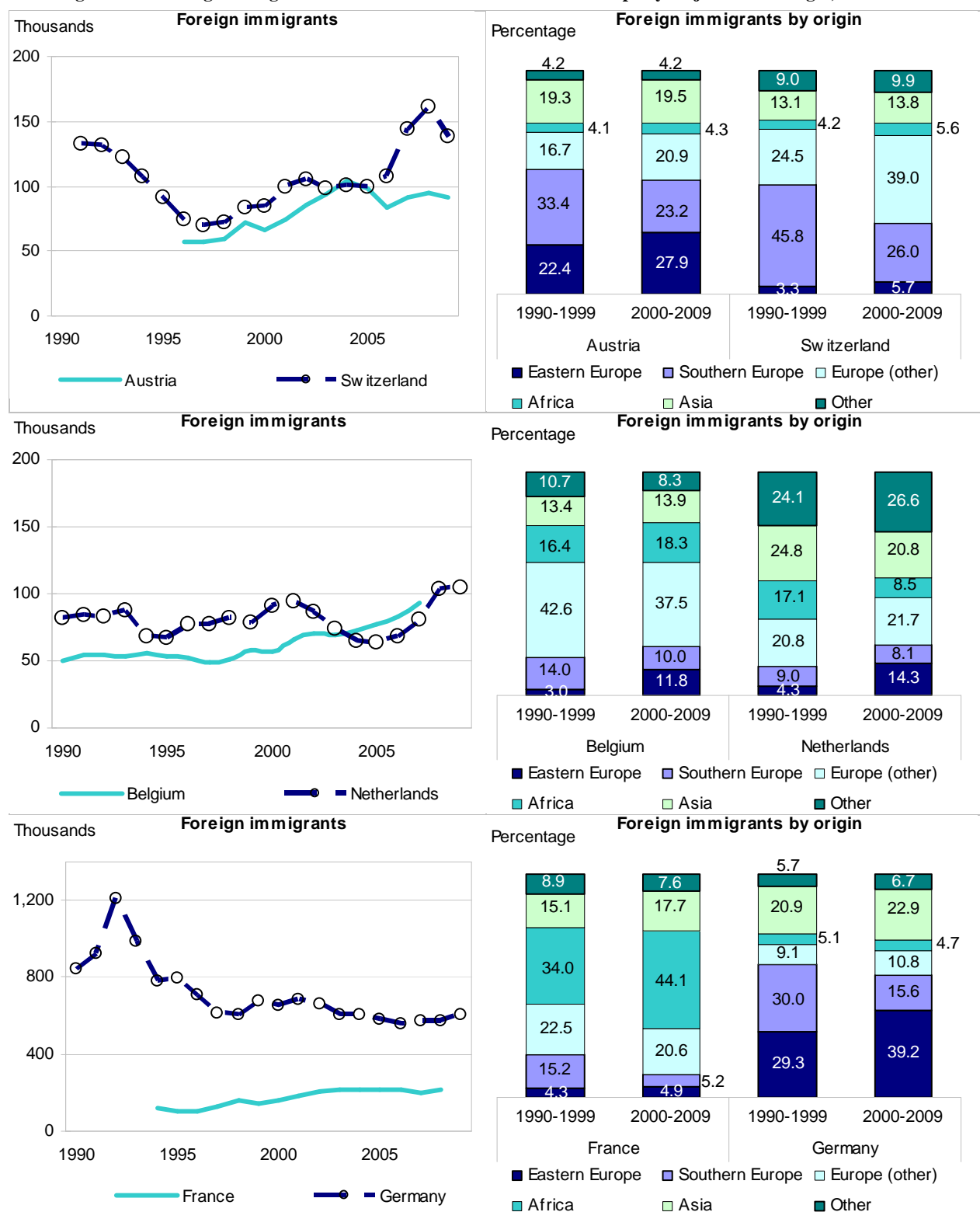
Between 1990 and 2009, Germany took in the second largest number of foreign immigrants in the world among countries with data after the United States of America. The inflow of foreigners to the other countries in Western Europe was much smaller during that period. France (172,000 per year) received the second largest number of foreign immigrants among six Western European countries during the period 1990-2009, followed by Switzerland (107,000 per year), Austria and the Netherlands (81,000 per year, each), Belgium (62,000 per year) and Luxembourg (12,000 per year).

While Germany recorded the largest inflows of foreigners between 1990 and 2009, the number of foreign immigrants to Germany declined by 25.2 per cent during that period (figure III.7). In the other six countries in Western Europe, the average number of foreign immigrants arriving per annum rose between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009. The increase was particularly pronounced in Austria, Belgium and France, each of which saw their average annual intake of foreigners increase by at least one-third during that period.

The difference in the number of foreign immigrants to Germany between 1990 and 1999 compared to the period 2000-2009 was mainly the result of the decline in the intake of foreigners from Southern Europe after 2000. Between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009, the inflow of foreigners to Germany from Southern Europe declined by an average of 149,000 per annum. The largest declines were recorded among foreigners from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Serbia and Montenegro. France and Switzerland also witnessed a sharp decline in the number of foreign immigrants from Southern Europe between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009. Much of that trend can be attributed to the decline in the numbers of immigrants from traditional countries of immigration to Western Europe, notably Italy, Portugal and Spain.

As with other regions in Europe, Western Europe witnessed an upturn in the number of foreign immigrants from Eastern Europe between 1990 and 2009. Inflows of foreigners from Eastern Europe to the Netherlands, for instance, increased by more than three and a half times

Figure III.7. Foreign immigrants to selected countries in Western Europe by major area of origin, 1990 to 2009



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011). *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Flow/Rev.2010).

Notes: Data refer to foreigners by citizenship. The category "Other" includes Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania.

during those two periods. The majority of those immigrants came from Bulgaria, Poland and Romania. In Germany—the country with the highest percentage of foreign immigrants from Eastern Europe (on average, 33.5 per cent during the period 1990-2009) among the six countries in Western Europe—the intake of immigrants from Eastern Europe remained constant from 1990-1999 to 2000-2009. However, owing to the decline in the number of immigrants from Southern Europe, the share of foreign immigrants from Eastern Europe in Germany rose by nearly ten percentage points from one period to the next. Thus, the number of foreign immigrants originating from Poland, Slovakia and the Ukraine increased considerably, while the number of foreign immigrants from Romania and the Russian Federation declined.

Migration within Western Europe, often facilitated by a common language and geographical proximity, was also widespread. In Luxembourg, for example, nearly one-third of all foreign immigrants during the period 1990-2009 came from Belgium, France or Germany. Likewise, immigrants from Germany accounted for 21.2 per cent of all foreign persons arriving from abroad to establish permanent or temporary residence in Switzerland during the period 2000-2009. From 1990-1999 to 2000-2009, the number of foreign immigrants in Switzerland originating from another country in Western Europe increased from 19,000 per year to 38,000 per year.

With the exception of France, the intake of foreign immigrants from outside Europe was relatively small. In France, inflows of immigrants from Africa accounted for 41.1 per cent of all foreign intakes during the period 1990-2009. Between 1990 and 2009, the number of foreign immigrants from Africa to France doubled, with an average of 89,000 per annum between 2000 and 2009, compared to an average of 43,000 during the period 1990-1999. The majority of those immigrants (28.8 per cent of the total) originated from Northern Africa, mainly Algeria and Morocco.

Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands also attracted relatively large inflows of foreign

immigrants from Africa during the period 1990-2009: 11,000 per year, 35,000 per year and 10,000 per year, respectively. The major countries of origin for those immigrants were, in order of magnitude, Morocco, Egypt, Ghana and Nigeria. Yet in both Germany and the Netherlands the number and the share of foreign immigrants from Africa declined from the first to the second decade of the period 1990-2009. In Germany, the intake of foreigners from Africa fell by an average of 12,000 per year between 1990 and 2009, equal to a 30.2 per cent decline. Likewise, in the Netherlands the number of immigrants from Africa declined by an average of 6,000 per annum, or by 47.2 per cent. Immigrants from Africa accounted for less than 8.5 per cent of all foreign intakes to the Netherlands during the period 2000-2009, compared to nearly 17.1 per cent of all foreign intakes in the 1990s.

A number of countries in Western Europe also recorded relatively large inflows of foreign migrants from Asia. The Netherlands had the highest share of immigrants originating from Asia in the period 1990-2009—equal to 22.7 per cent of all foreign immigrants—followed by Germany (21.8 per cent) and Austria (19.4). Yet in many of those countries, both the number and the share of foreign immigrants from Asia, and particularly those from Western Asia, declined from 1990-1999 to 2000-2009. In the Netherlands, the intake of foreigners from Asia declined by 11.4 per cent between those two periods, mainly on account of declines in foreign intakes from Iraq and Turkey. Germany witnessed an even sharper decline from 1990-1999 to 2000-2009 in the number of immigrants from Asia: by 17.8 per cent. The average number of Turkish immigrants to Germany—the main country of Asian foreign immigrants to Germany—fell from 68,000 per annum in the period 1990-1999 to 40,000 per annum in the period 2000-2009.

While all countries in Western Europe, recorded a net gain of foreigners between 1990 and 2009, Germany and the Netherlands saw that net intake decline substantially between the first and second decade of that period. In Germany much of that decline was due to the large outflow, including the return, of foreign immigrants from

Southern Europe, particularly from Greece, Italy, Portugal and the former Serbia and Montenegro. In Germany, net migration of foreigners from those countries went from being strongly positive in 1990s to being strongly negative during the period 2000 and 2009.

Five out of the six countries in Western Europe with data reported a net loss of citizens between 1990 and 2009. The Netherlands, for instance, lost some 18,000 citizens per year between 1990 and 2009. During the same period, Belgium and Switzerland lost an average of 7,000 and 6,000 citizens per annum, respectively. In both Belgium and the Netherlands the average net loss of citizens increased from 1990-1999 to 2000-2009. Germany, which recorded a net gain of citizens between 1990 and 2009, saw that net gain eroded from the first to second decade of the period, as the number of persons of German descent (*Aussiedler*) who arrived in Germany from countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union dwindled in the aftermath of that country's reunification.

and *Social Survey 2004: International Migration* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.II.C.3).

⁵ The region Australia/New Zealand comprises Australia and New Zealand.

⁶ Immigration New Zealand. Available at: <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/205C529D-49F1-4465-B91F-108B6BEADE54/0/Chapter2BackgroundCharacteristics.pdf> (Accessed on 10 May 2012).

⁷ Data for Eastern Europe were available for the following nine countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and the Ukraine.

⁸ For most countries in Eastern Europe, data were not available prior to the year 2000.

⁹ United Nations (2010) *World Population Policies 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.14).

¹⁰ Data for Northern Europe were available for the following ten countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

¹¹ Data for Southern Europe were available for the following six countries: Croatia, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

¹² Data for Western Europe were available for the following seven countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

NOTES

¹ The chapter reviews data from *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision* (United Nations database, POP/DB/ MIG/Flow/Rev.2010). The data presented in the chapter are rounded to the nearest thousand. Data on migration flows differ from those on international migrant stock presented in earlier chapters. International migrant stock refers to the number of persons living outside of their country of birth or citizenship at one point in time (1 July 1 in the case of the estimates produced by the Population Division). Migration flows refer to the number of persons who moved from one country (origin) to another (destination) in a given time period, usually one year.

² The major area Northern America comprises Canada and the United States of America.

³ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Available at: <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/tri3fullreport.pdf> and <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Resources/Reports/uscis-annual-report-2008.pdf> (Accessed on 10 May 2012).

⁴ Three-quarters of the 2.7 million immigrants whose status was regularized as a result of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 were Mexican citizens. Cited in United Nations (2004). *World Economic*

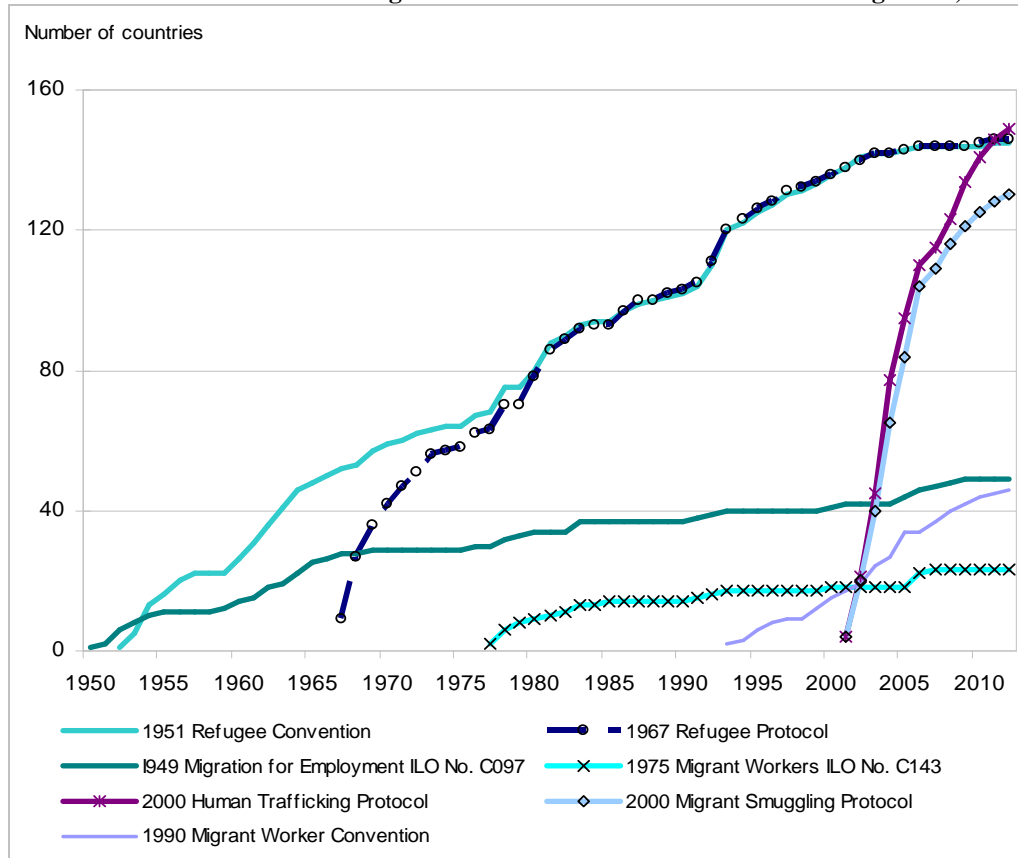
IV. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND POPULATION POLICIES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

A. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The international normative framework on international migration is based on (a) human rights instruments adopted by the General Assembly and (b) migrant worker rights instruments adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Instruments designed to protect refugees and to prevent and prosecute migrant smuggling and human trafficking have been ratified by more than 67 per cent of Member States as of 1 July 2012, whereas instruments protecting the rights of migrant workers have been ratified by 44 per cent of Member States (figure V.1).

The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, both relating to the Status of Refugees, are the central elements in the international regime of refugee protection, and vital to the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The 1951 Convention defines the term “refugee”, enumerates the rights of refugees, and establishes the legal obligation of States regarding refugee protection. The Convention prohibits the expulsion or forcible return of persons accorded refugee status: no refugee should be returned in any manner to any country or territory in which his or her life or freedom would be threatened (non-refoulement).

Figure V.1. Status of ratification of legal instruments related to international migration, 1950-2012



Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection; see <http://treaties.un.org> (as of 1 July 2012) and NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards; see <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/> (as of 1 July 2012).

TABLE V.1. STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION^a

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Year of entry into force</i>	<i>Parties to international instruments</i>	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Refugees</i>			
1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees	1954	145	75
1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees	1967	146	76
<i>Migrant workers</i>			
1949 ILO Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised 1949) (No. 97)	1952	49	27
1975 ILO Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) (No. 143)	1978	23	12
1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	2003	46	24
<i>Smuggling and trafficking</i>			
2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2003	149	77
2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air	2004	130	67

Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection; see <http://treaties.un.org> (as of 1 July 2012) and NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards; see <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/> (as of 1 July 2012).

^a Of Member States of the International Labour Organization (185) or the United Nations (193).

The 1967 Protocol extended the application of the 1951 Convention to persons who became refugees after 1 January 1951, without any geographic limitation. By mid-2012, the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol had been ratified by 145 and 146 Member States, respectively; with 143 States Parties to both instruments (table V.1). The 148 States that had ratified either the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol collectively hosted 6.4 million refugees in 2008, 42 per cent of the global refugee population. This includes 4.8 million Palestinian refugees who fall under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). If they were excluded, the proportion of refugees hosted by States Parties would increase to 61 per cent.

The ILO has adopted two legally-binding instruments that specifically address the rights of migrant workers; the Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised 1949) (No. 97), and the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of

Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) (No. 143). Both have been complemented by non-binding recommendations.

The 1949 Convention concerning Migration for Employment covers recruitment and working conditions' standards for migrant workers. It establishes the principle of equal treatment of migrant workers and nationals with regard to laws, regulations and administrative practices that concern living and working conditions, remuneration, social security, employment taxes and access to justice.

The 1975 Convention was the first multilateral attempt to address irregular migration and to call for sanctions against "traffickers". It emphasized that Member States are obliged to respect the basic human rights of all migrant workers, including irregular migrants. It also provided that lawfully present migrant workers and their families should not only be entitled to equal treatment but also to equality of

opportunity, e.g. equal access to employment and occupation, trade union and cultural rights and individual and collective freedoms.

As of 1 July 2012, 49 ILO Member States out of 185 had ratified ILO Convention No. 97; 23 Member States had ratified No. 143; 17 Member States had ratified both instruments, representing nine per cent of ILO Member States and hosting five per cent of all international migrants worldwide (11.3 million) in 2010.

The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families is the third and most comprehensive international treaty on migrant worker rights. It establishes international definitions for categories of migrant workers and formalizes the responsibility of States in upholding the rights of migrant workers and members of their families. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights monitors the implementation of the convention and works to further its ratification.

As of mid-2012, 46 States (out of a total of 193 United Nations Member States) had ratified the migrant worker convention. They collectively hosted 17.7 million international migrants in 2010, about eight per cent of the global migrant population. None of the States Parties to the 1990 Convention were major migrant receiving countries, and only seven of them hosted more than one million international migrants.

Overall, 85 countries had ratified at least one of the three instruments regarding migrant workers. Together they hosted 70.7 million international migrants, 33 per cent of the world's migrant population in 2010.

The two protocols seeking to stem irregular migration concern human trafficking and migrant smuggling. They supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children took effect in 2003 and had been ratified by 149 countries as of 1 July 2012. The Protocol defines human trafficking as the

acquisition of people by improper means, such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. The Protocol aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, to protect and assist victims of such trafficking, in particular women and children, and to promote cooperation among States Parties.

The 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air took effect in 2004 and had been ratified by 130 countries as of 1 July 2012. As set out in the Protocol, smuggling of migrants involves the procurement for financial or other material benefit of the illegal entry of a person into a State of which the person is not a national or permanent resident. The Protocol is an effective tool for combating and preventing the smuggling of "human cargo". It reaffirms that migration in itself is not a crime, and that migrants may be victims in need of protection.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assists Member States in implementing the human trafficking and migrant smuggling protocols. The rapid increase in the ratification of the human trafficking and the migrant smuggling protocols indicates the growing concern of Member States about irregular migration and its detrimental effects.

Table V.2 shows the status of ratification for the above-mentioned conventions and protocols by development group and major area. For the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, both relating to the status of refugees, the rate of ratification is low in Asia (40 per cent) and in Oceania (57 per cent), while the remaining areas show ratification rates above 80 per cent for at least one of the two instruments. Ratification rates of the protocols relating to human trafficking and migrant smuggling are highest for Member States in Northern America (100 per cent) and Europe (95 and 88 per cent, respectively). Overall, the three instruments relating to migrant rights' protection show lower ratification rates compared to the other migration-related instruments in all major areas. Latin America and the Caribbean has the highest ratification rate for at least one migrant rights' instrument, whereas Northern America has not ratified any of those instruments.

TABLE V.2. STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND MAJOR AREA (number and percentage)

Development group or major area	United Nations instruments													
	ILO conventions				Convention				Protocol					
	1949 Migration for Employment No. 097		1975 Migrant Workers No. 143		1951 Status of Refugees		1990 Migrant Workers		1967 Status of Refugees		2000 Human Trafficking		2000 Migrant Smuggling	
No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	
World.....	49	26.5	23	12.4	145	75.1	46	23.8	146	75.6	149	77.2	130	67.4
More developed regions...	17	37.8	11	24.4	46	95.8	2	4.2	47	97.9	45	93.8	42	87.5
Less developed regions.....	32	22.9	12	8.6	99	68.3	44	30.3	99	68.3	104	71.7	88	60.7
Least developed countries...	5	10.4	5	10.4	39	79.6	11	22.4	38	77.6	32	65.3	29	59.2
Africa.....	10	18.9	7	13.2	48	90.6	17	32.1	48	90.6	41	77.4	36	67.9
Asia.....	7	15.6	4	8.9	19	40.4	10	21.3	19	40.4	32	68.1	24	51.1
Europe.....	16	40.0	11	27.5	42	97.7	2	4.7	42	97.7	41	95.3	38	88.4
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	15	45.5	1	3.0	27	81.8	17	51.5	27	81.8	29	87.9	27	81.8
North America.....	—	—	—	—	1	50.0	—	—	2	100.0	2	100.0	2	100.0
Oceania.....	1	9.1	—	—	8	57.1	—	—	8	57.1	4	28.6	3	21.4

Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection; see <http://treaties.un.org> (as of 1 July 2012) and NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards; see <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/> (as of 1 July 2012).

B. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICIES¹

In managing international migration flows, Governments focus on different types of international migrants, of which the most salient are migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers, highly skilled migrants, and migrants in an irregular situation. Increasing attention is being paid to transnational communities or diasporas, because of their potential role in the development prospects of countries of origin. There is general agreement that the contribution of international migrants to both their countries of destination and their countries of origin depends crucially on safeguarding their human rights and ensuring that they are not subject to discrimination or xenophobia. The economic and financial crises of recent years have underscored the importance of these concerns and made more urgent the effective implementation of policies that maximize the benefits of international migration while minimizing its negative aspects.

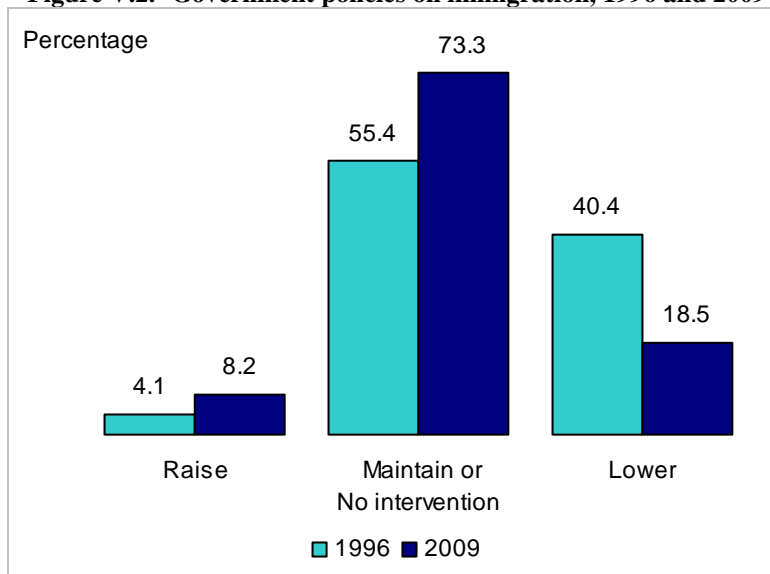
1. Government views and policies on immigration

In 2009, 78 per cent of Governments were satisfied with their immigration levels and 73 per

cent wished to maintain their current levels of immigration or did not intervene to change them. This level of satisfaction represented a major increase from the situation in 1996 when only 55 per cent of Governments wanted to maintain current immigration levels or did not intervene to change them and a further 41 per cent wished to lower immigration levels (figure V.2). In both Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, 82 per cent of Governments wished to maintain current immigration levels in 2009 or did not intervene to change them. In Asia, just 55 per cent of Governments had those policies and a further 30 per cent wished to reduce their immigration levels. At the world level, the percentage of Governments wishing to raise immigration levels doubled from 4 per cent in 1996 to 8 per cent in 2009.

The trend toward less restrictive immigration has been especially pronounced in developed countries, where the percentage of Governments having policies to lower immigration fell from 60 per cent in 1996 to 8 per cent in 2009. In 2009, only four developed countries—Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation—wished to reduce immigration, whereas six developed countries—Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, New Zealand and Sweden—wished to

Figure V.2. Government policies on immigration, 1996 and 2009



Sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2010). *World Population Policies 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.14).

increase immigration in line with their labour demands. Sweden introduced significant reforms in 2008 to ease the process of recruiting migrant workers abroad.²

The shift towards somewhat less restrictive immigration policies can be attributed to a number of factors including an improved understanding of the consequences of international migration; a growing recognition by Governments of the need to manage international migration better, rather than to limit it; the persistence of labour shortages in certain sectors of the economies of countries of destination; a global economy that was expanding until 2008; and the acceleration of population ageing in many developed countries.

2. Permanent settlement

With the advent of less costly and more rapid forms of transport, countries have become more diverse with respect to immigration policies and, in particular, to the length of stay of international migrants. At the world level, 74 per cent of countries desired to maintain the current level of admissions of permanent settlers or did not intervene, while 19 per cent of countries wanted

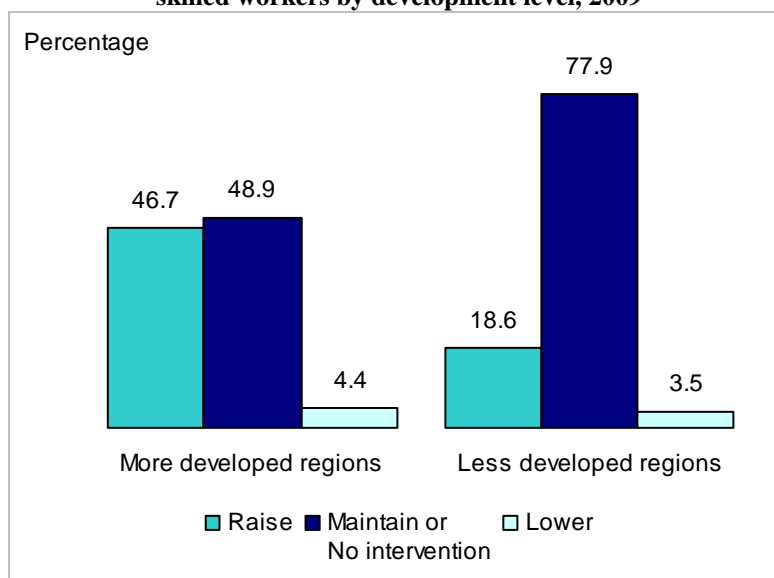
to lower it. In developed countries, 77 per cent of Governments wished to maintain their levels of settler migration or did not intervene and 13 per cent had policies to lower those levels.

3. Highly skilled migrants

Migration policies in countries of destination have become more selective, favouring the admission of international migrants with skills considered to be in short supply. In 2009, 27 per cent of Governments reported promoting the admission of highly skilled workers. Among developed countries, the Governments of 47 per cent wanted to increase the number of admissions of highly skilled workers compared to only 19 per cent of those of developing countries (figure V.3).

Labour migration has become increasingly selective, with the skills of migrants determining to a large extent the likelihood of their being admitted into countries of destination. Many countries amended their laws in the late 1990s to facilitate the entry of skilled migrants and launched specific recruitment programmes to attract them. Yet, in 2009, seven countries—Australia, Serbia, Botswana, Bhutan, Jordan, the

Figure V.3. Government policies on the immigration of highly skilled workers by development level, 2009



Sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2010). *World Population Policies 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.14).

Philippines and Saudi Arabia—reported that they wished to reduce the number of highly skilled migrants admitted in order to improve the employment prospects of their citizens.

4. *Temporary workers*

Although countries of destination have focused mainly on attracting highly skilled migrants, population ageing and rising job expectations have produced labour shortages in low-skilled sectors of the economy, sectors such as agriculture, construction and domestic services. Demand for low-skilled workers has generally been filled by temporary migrant workers. Several countries of destination have established annual quotas and signed bilateral agreements with countries of origin to recruit such migrants. Those bilateral agreements usually cover seasonal workers, contract and project-linked workers, guest workers and cross-border workers. Many of those workers are admitted on the basis of temporary contracts for a fixed period without the expectation of ever obtaining permanent resident status.

In 2009, 71 per cent of Governments wished to maintain the number of temporary migrants already present in their countries or did not intervene in this regard. In Asia and Oceania, however, 33 per cent and 50 per cent, respectively, of Governments wished to reduce the number of temporary migrants in their countries.

5. *Family reunification*

Most countries of destination allow migration for family reunification under specific conditions. However, family reunification is not universally accepted as a right. Most migrant workers moving under temporary contracts are not allowed to be accompanied by family members. In a number of countries of destination, debate has focused on the cost of providing migrants' dependants with health and education services or welfare benefits.

Since the 1980s, family reunification has been the major basis for immigration in many countries, particularly in Europe. A majority of legal migrants to Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, Sweden and the United States have been

admitted under family reunification. High levels of immigration for family reunification have been a contentious issue in a number of European countries. In recent years, several European countries have sought to limit admissions of family members, including Denmark, France, Ireland and Italy. While family reunification ensures the integrity of the family unit, it is a form of international migration that is open to potential abuse through fake marriages or adoptions. Such abuses have led some countries to tighten requirements for the immigration of spouses by, for instance, raising the minimum age required for spouses or granting permanent status to the migrant spouse only after a few years of stay and proof of successful integration.

Among the 153 countries having information on policies on international migration for family reunification in 2009, 6 per cent wished to lower immigration for that purpose, 87 per cent wished to maintain it or did not intervene, and 7 per cent had policies to raise it.

6. *Integration policies*

The successful integration of international migrants is a major concern for most countries of destination. The number of Governments that reported programmes to integrate non-citizens increased from 52 in 1996 to 82 in 2009. Developed countries are increasingly recognizing and promoting the benefits of diversity and 89 per cent of the Governments of those countries have explicit integration policies.

Many countries have adopted non-discrimination provisions to protect religious freedom and the use of other languages in addition to those of host countries. Developed countries have undertaken initiatives to make it easier for international migrants to become a part of society, in particular through language training and by providing courses to inform immigrants about the life and culture of the host country. The aim of such programmes is to offer support during the integration process, while instituting stricter requirements for admission. The integration process has not always been smooth, particularly in countries where foreigners experience higher unemployment than citizens and are thus more

dependent on welfare. To improve the access of international migrants to labour markets, many countries have expanded and improved education and employment training programmes for international migrants and their children.

In most countries, foreigners do not enjoy the same rights as citizens, especially with regard to political representation. Many countries have historically not regarded themselves as countries of immigration and thus have not encouraged foreigners to obtain permanent residence or to naturalize. In some countries, citizenship laws may disadvantage migrant women or women marrying foreigners.³ A growing number of countries—both of destination and origin—allow dual citizenship. By allowing naturalized citizens to maintain their original nationality, links with the country of origin are more likely to be maintained.

7. Emigration

The proportion of Governments that considered their level of emigration as too high has been increasing consistently, from 13 per cent in 1976 to 30 per cent in 2009. This increase has been more pronounced in developing countries than in developed countries. In 2009, more than one-half of the Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean considered their level of emigration as too high, compared with less than one-third in other world regions.

Despite the increasing proportion of Governments considering their level of emigration as too high, the proportion of Governments wishing to lower emigration has remained nearly constant, varying between 22 per cent and 23 per cent since the mid-1980s. While a number of developed and developing countries are concerned about the level of emigration, especially when it involves highly skilled workers, Governments of 10 developing countries, 7 of which are in Asia, have policies to increase emigration. These are countries with young populations, high unemployment, particularly among young people, and a tradition of emigration. Several countries, including Bangladesh, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, have established government units to manage emigration flows or entered into

bilateral agreements with receiving States to protect the rights of their citizens while abroad.

The sharp rise in the emigration of skilled workers has prompted many countries to address the challenges posed by the brain drain, particularly through initiatives to encourage the return of skilled citizens living abroad. In 2009, 89 countries had policies and programmes to encourage their citizens to return, up from 59 countries in 1996. The Philippines has established an Expatriate Livelihood Support Fund to provide loans for returnees wishing to start businesses. In addition, the Department of Labour of the Philippines has extensive programmes to assist returnees in finding employment.⁴

Emigration generates both opportunities and challenges for developing countries. Concerns have often been raised about the loss of highly skilled workers whose absence may hinder the development process. The provision of medical care in Africa has been particularly affected by the emigration of significant numbers of health workers. The negative effects of such emigration are not being counterbalanced by the remittances sent back by emigrants, although such financial flows play an important role in supporting national and local economies in some countries.

A number of Governments have undertaken initiatives to facilitate remittance transfers and promote the investment of remittances in development projects. Furthermore, more Governments are working to leverage the potential of emigration for the transfer of know-how and technology to countries of origin as well as for the generation of trade and investment. Governments are offering incentives to encourage their citizens abroad to invest in the countries of origin and to participate in transnational knowledge networks.

NOTES

¹ The following sections are extracts from United Nations (2010) *World Population Policies 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.14).

² Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2009) *International Migration Outlook*,

SOPEMI 2009: Managing Labour Migration Beyond the Crisis. Paris: OECD publications.

³ United Nations (2004) *2004 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Women and Migration*. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.IV.4.

⁴ Awad, Ibrahim (2009). *The Global Economic Crisis and Migrant Workers: Impact and Response*. Geneva: International Labour Office.