

These infographics represent international migration patterns as vectors from origin to destination by geographical area and country. For more information on how to interpret this representation, please see www.unmigration.org.

LEVELS AND TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

In 2015, the number of international migrants worldwide reached 244 million, an increase of 71 million, or 41 per cent, compared to 2000. Nearly two-thirds of all international migrants live in Europe (76 million) or Asia (75 million). Northern America hosts the third largest number of international migrants (54 million), followed by Africa (21 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (9 million) and Oceania (8 million).

About 3.3 per cent of the world population are international migrants, compared to 2.8 per cent in 2000. The share of international migrants in total population varies considerably across major areas. Oceania (20.6 per cent), Northern America (15.2 per cent) and Europe (10.3 per cent) record the highest proportions of international migrants in total population. In contrast, international migrants represent 1.7 per cent of the total population in Africa and Asia, and 1.5 per cent of the total population in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Between 2000 and 2015, Asia added more international migrants than any other major area. Asia gained some 26 million international migrants during this period or 1.7 million additional migrants per annum. Europe added the second largest number of international migrants between 2000 and 2015 (20 million or 1.3 million per year), followed by Northern America (14 million or 0.9 million per year) and Africa (6 million or 0.4 million per year). Both Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania added comparatively smaller numbers of migrants during this period (3 million or 0.2 million per year each).

In many parts of the world, migration occurs primarily between countries that are located within the same major area. The majority of the international migrants living in Africa (87 per cent), Asia (82 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (66 per cent) and Europe (53 per cent) originate from another country located in the same major area. In contrast, the majority of international migrants living in Northern America (98 per cent) and Oceania (87 per cent) were born in a major area other than the one they are residing in.

In 2015, two-thirds (67 per cent) of all international migrants were living in just 20 countries. The largest number of international migrants (47 million) resides in the United States of America, equal to about a fifth (19 per cent) of the world's total. Germany and the Russian Federation host the second and third largest

numbers of migrants worldwide (12 million each), followed by Saudi Arabia (10 million), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (nearly 9 million), and the United Arab Emirates (8 million). Of the top 20 destinations of international migrants worldwide, 9 are in Asia, 7 in Europe, 2 in Northern America and one in Africa and Oceania, respectively.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

Women comprise slightly less than half of all international migrants. The female share of the total number of international migrants fell from 49.1 per cent in 2000 to 48.2 per cent in 2015. In 2015, the percentage female among all international migrants was highest in Europe (52.4 per cent) and Northern America (51.2 per cent). Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania host an almost equal proportion of female and male migrants. In contrast, male migrants significantly outnumber female migrants in Asia (58.0 per cent) and Africa (53.9 per cent).

In recent years, Asia has witnessed a rapid increase in the number of male migrants. The stock of male migrants in Asia grew by 62 per cent, from 27 million in 2000 to 44 million in 2015. The stock of female migrants increased by more than 40 per cent from 22 million in 2000 to 32 million in 2015. Africa also experienced a more pronounced growth in male migrants compared to females. In contrast, in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania the female migrant stock grew more than the male migrant stock. The increase in male migrants in Asia has been fuelled by the strong demand for migrant workers in the oil-producing countries in Western Asia.

The median age of international migrants worldwide was 39 years in 2015, a slight increase from 38 years in 2000. Yet in some major areas, the migrant stock is becoming younger. International migrants living in Africa were the youngest, with a median age of 29 in 2015, followed by Asia (35 years) and Latin America and the Caribbean (36 years). In contrast, migrants were older in Europe, Northern America and Oceania, where the median age was 43, 42 and 44 years, respectively.

Today, one out of every six international migrants is under the age of 20. In 2015, the number of international migrants below age 20 reached 37 million or 15 per cent of the global migrant stock. Among major areas, Africa hosts the highest proportion of young persons among all international migrants (34 per cent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (24 per cent) and Asia (18 per cent). In Europe (9 per cent), and Northern America and Oceania (11 per cent, each) the share of those under age 20 among all migrants is smaller.

Most international migrants are of working age. In 2015, 177 million international migrants, equal to 72 per cent of the global migrant stock, were between the ages of 20 and 64. Europe and Northern America host the highest share of persons of working age among all international migrants (75 per cent, each), followed by Asia (73 per cent) and Oceania (71 per cent).

The share of older migrants worldwide remains small. In 2015, the world hosted an estimated 30 million international migrants aged 65 and over or 12 per cent of the global migrant stock. Europe and Oceania recorded the highest share of older persons among all international migrants in 2015 (16 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively), while in Africa (5 per cent) and Asia (9 per cent) the share of older migrants was small.

RATIFICATION OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

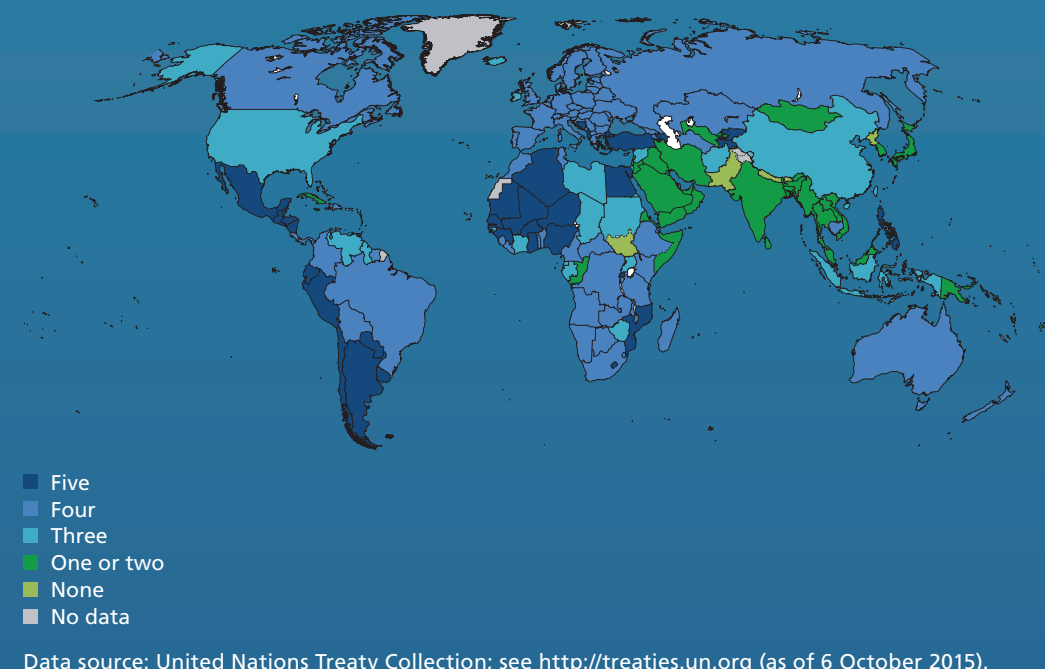
The ratification of legal instruments related to international migrants and migration remains uneven. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol have been ratified by 145 and 146 United Nations Member States, respectively. Likewise, two-thirds of countries have ratified the two protocols seeking to stem irregular migration in the form of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. However, only one-quarter of countries have ratified the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families. As of October 2015, 36 Member States had ratified all five legal instruments related to international migration, while 14 Member States had ratified none of the relevant instruments.



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION 2015

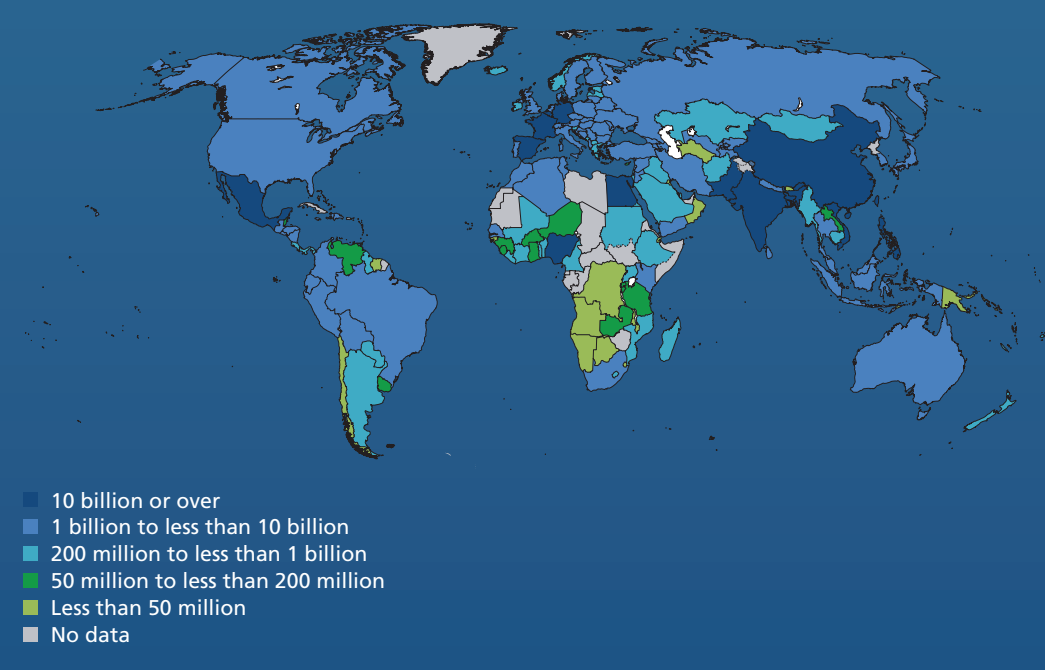


Ratification of legal instruments related to international migration, 2015 (absolute number)



Data source: United Nations Treaty Collection; see <http://treaties.un.org> (as of 6 October 2015).

Inflows of migrant remittances, 2014 (US\$)



Data source: World Bank (2015). Annual Remittances Data.

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