

THE GLOBAL MIGRATION PHENOMENON

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A. Quick Migration Facts

Today, we are in an age of mobility where the movement of people will continue to increase in the decades ahead.

Worldwide

- In 2005, 190 million individuals (nearly 3% of world population) lived outside their country of birth.
 - For the last 40 years, 2-2.5% of the world population has always moved
- 28 countries host 75% of all migrants worldwide but virtually every country is a player.
- Almost half of all metropolitan areas with over 1 million immigrants are in the United States.

About a third of the world's migrants are in Europe (34 percent); 28 percent in Asia; 23 percent in North America; 9 percent in Africa; 3 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean; and 3 percent also in Oceania.

OECD (30 most industrialized countries)

- Legal migration to OECD countries in the last several years has been increasing by more than 10% per year.
- Illegal immigration across the OECD is increasing by about 1.2 million to 1.5 million per year.
 - 750,000+ to North America
 - 500,000 to the U.S.
 - 200,000+ to Mexico
 - 50,000 or so to Canada
 - 500,000+ to the EU27
- More than 50% of the foreign born in the most industrialized EU countries (including Ireland) come from other EU15 or OECD countries.

Europe

- Approximately 40 million foreign-born individuals in the EU27 or 8.3% of its total population.
 - There are no official estimates for illegal immigration in the EU.
- In 2005, the main sending countries to Europe were Poland, Romania, Morocco and Bulgaria.
- Europe's native-born workforce will decline by over 16 million by 2025, and by nearly 44 million by 2050.
- Immigration from the newer EU Member States in Eastern Europe will continue to increase in the short- to medium-term, but will decelerate and stabilize at very low rates once economic conditions at home make the need for emigration less compelling.
- Population growth in most of Africa will remain high and many will seek work in Europe and elsewhere.

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- India and China are also likely to send more migrants to Europe.
- Much of the growth in the employment rates of immigrant women over the last decade (particularly in southern Europe) has been in low-skilled occupations (domestic services, health care, social services, tourism, catering services, and education).

Asia

- Asia is home to 57% of the world's population – major source of skilled migrants for several developed nations.
- Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan offer wages and conditions that equal those in OECD countries, and have low fertility rates and aging workforces.
- Many Australians are moving to Asia on a long-term basis to live and work.
- China, Singapore, and Hong Kong are looking for skilled temporary migrants.
- The shortage of skilled workers in China has been a problem for development in the country.
- Portraying Asia, Africa and Latin America as “underdeveloped” and Europe, North America, Japan and Oceania as “developed” is now wrong and will become even more so in the coming decades.
- Since the 1980s, there has been an increasing “feminization of migration” from and within Southeast Asia to fuel labor demand in the service and entertainment industries in the Middle East and Asia.
 - In the Philippines and Indonesia, women are mostly employed as domestic workers and entertainers.
- The ten countries with the highest numbers of immigrants in 2005 were (in order): the United States, the Russian Federation, Germany, France, Saudi Arabia, Canada, India, the United Kingdom, Spain and Australia (see Appendix I).
- The countries with the highest immigrant density are in the Middle East, most notably 78.3 percent of the total population is foreign in Qatar; 71.4 percent in the United Arab Emirates; 62.1 percent in Kuwait (see Appendix II).

B. Immigration by Stream: Family, Work and Humanitarian Immigration Streams

Family migration has been the cornerstone of many countries' immigration policies, but increasingly governments will have to focus more on maximizing the benefits of economic migration.

Overall Annual Migration Flow

- Overall annual migration flow is likely to be in the vicinity of 20 million.
 - About 2.5 million of them are international students.
 - 12 to 15 million gain access to the advanced industrial societies each year, about 90% of them legally.
 - A significant, but decreasing, proportion enters through the asylum route.
 - Vibrant economies in the top quintile of the developing world absorb most of the rest.

Family migration

- Family migration dominates all types of permanent flows and is a key multiplier of every immigration system.
 - 70% of all immigration to the United States
 - Most immigration to most European Union (EU) countries is family and asylum (OECD, 2007).
 - 62% of all immigration to France
 - 58% of all immigration to Italy
 - 57% of all immigration to Sweden
 - About 40% of all immigration in the most “selective” systems (Canada and Australia) – unless one counts the families of selected “points-tested” workers. It then goes back up to 60% or higher.

Economic migration

- Work-related immigration is the second most common flow.
 - In 2005 (OECD, 2007):
 - Australia (about two-thirds of total)
 - Canada (almost 60% of total)
 - The United Kingdom (45%)
 - Switzerland (42%)
 - Denmark (42%)
 - Portugal (41%)
 - Belgium (39%)
 - Among OECD countries, work-related immigration flows are smallest in the United States (10%) and France (13%)

→ Europe is trying to increase its attractiveness and labor circulation of highly skilled migrants by introducing its Blue Card system. After 2 years, Blue Card holders may seek and gain employment in any other Member State without further immigration processes.

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The Blue Card also offers a three-month "grace" period if employment is lost, and allows immediate family reunification and the right to work for spouses.

→ Denmark introduced a points system in 2007 called the Danish Greencard Scheme that seeks offers residence and a work permit for up to three years, extendable for up to one year if the applicant has a permanent job in Denmark. Other countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, and the Czech Republic have introduced points systems that focus on attracting the individuals who possess the skills in demand.

→ Since 1998, Immigration New Zealand, in partnership with private company Working In, has organized expos abroad, in places such as South Africa and the United Kingdom, to bring New Zealand employers together with job seekers abroad. Australia also has a similar expo program.

Humanitarian migration

- Flow of asylum seekers to OECD countries is small and decreasing; in 2005 it dropped to almost half the level observed in 2000 and continues to decline.
 - 85% of all asylum requests in the world are lodged with European countries.

International Students

- Competition for international students is fierce for two main reasons: (a) as a source of foreign exchange; (b) as an easily accessible talent pool.
- There are about 2.5 million international students today (students are not included in the "stock" numbers).
 - 1 in 5 international students around the world is from China (15.2 percent) or India (5.2 percent).
 - The top five destinations for international students today are:
 - United States (≈590,000); UK (≈318,000); Germany (≈260,000); France (≈ 237,000); and Australia (≈177,000). Italy ranks 11th (≈ 45,000).

→ The United Kingdom will soon allow its international students to work in the country for up to 2 years upon graduation, a year longer than what is currently allowed. The student-to-worker transition is becoming an increasing policy focus among many governments.

→ Former international students who seek to become workers in the country of intended immigration also receive bonus points in several countries with points systems.

C. Trends to Look Out For

Overall Migration

- Most migration in the Western Hemisphere will continue to be intra-hemispheric but destinations will gradually become dispersed.

Economic Migration

- Europe's native-born workforce will decline by over 16 million by 2025, and by nearly 44 million by 2050.
- Immigration from the newer EU Member States in Eastern Europe will be robust in the short- to medium-term, but will decelerate and stabilize at low levels once the social safety net improves and better economic conditions at home make the need for emigration less compelling.
- India, China, and Southeast Asia will send more immigrants/workers to the rest of the world for the foreseeable future, North America and Europe (in that order) will be key destinations.
- Virtually all *new* (rather than *replacement*) jobs across the advanced industrial world will go to immigrants.
- Assuming no net migration flow, the EU27 will experience a decline of approximately 25 million workers in its labor force by 2025, and of approximately 65 million workers by 2050.
- Even if we assumed a net migration flow of 40 million immigrants from third countries (non-EU), the EU27 would still experience a decline of approximately 15 million workers by 2025 and of 42 million workers by 2050.

Migration and Development

- Migration as a spur to development and as an essential lifeline for large numbers of households in developing countries.
 - Financial remittances sent worldwide through formal channels amounts to US\$318 billion.
 - US\$240 billion of this total flows to developing countries.
 - In 2007, India was first in remittance receipts (US\$27 billion), followed by China (US\$26 billion) and Mexico (US\$25 billion). Italy was the 35th largest recipient of formal remittances (\$2.6 billion).

Demographics

- Population growth in most of Africa will remain high and many will seek work elsewhere, primarily in Europe.
- The most demographically worrisome countries are Japan and Italy. Spain and Germany also face aging populations.

Appendix I: Ten Countries with the Highest Numbers of Immigrants in 2005

Country	Numbers of immigrants (Millions)	As percentage of total (%)
United States	38.4	20.2
Russian Federation	12.1	6.4
Germany	10.1*	5.3
France	6.5	3.4
Saudi Arabia	6.4	3.3
Canada	6.1	3.2
India	5.7	3.0
United Kingdom**	5.4	2.8
Spain**	4.8	2.5
Australia	4.1	2.1
Italy	2.5	1.3
Top 10 + Italy Total	102.1	53.5

*As countries collect statistics on immigrants in varying ways, it is often difficult to harmonize them across countries; differences in counting deeply affect rank orders.

**Both countries are newcomers (less than 10 years old) in the big migration stakes.

Source: United Nations, *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*, data in digital form, 2006.

Appendix II: Immigrant “Density” (foreign born per capita) in 2005*

Tiers	Country	Share of Foreign Born in Total Population (%)
More than 1 in 2	Qatar	78.3
	United Arab Emirates	71.4
	Kuwait	62.1
About 1 in 3	Luxembourg	37.4
About 1 in 4	Australia**	23.1
	Switzerland	22.9
About 1 in 5	Canada	18.9
About 1 in 8	Ireland	14.1
	United States	12.9
	Sweden	12.4
	Germany	12.3
About 1 in 10	Spain	11.1
	France	10.7
	The Netherlands	10.1
	Greece	8.8
About 1 in 25	Italy	4.3

*Differing counting methodologies make true comparisons difficult. **Australian Census, 2001.

Source: United Nations, *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*, data in digital form, 2006