



# INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION 2002

**Introduction.** As the issue of international migration has moved to the forefront of the international agenda, demands for accurate, timely and comparable information on international migration levels, trends and policies have increased tremendously. However, the available data have not kept pace with these demands. In particular, the data needed to describe international population movements and monitor changes over time are greatly deficient. Nevertheless, in its continuing efforts to address these issues, the Population Division is issuing this year's report, which presents the latest available information and imputed estimates for key parameters on international migration for the year 2000. In addition, the Division is also issuing a companion publication, *International Migration Report, 2002* (ESA/P/WP.178), which provides additional national, regional and global information on international migration for 2000 as well as for 1990.

**Total population.** At the close of the twentieth century, world population stood at 6.1 billion. The less developed regions account for 80 per cent of the world's inhabitants, with China and India together (2.3 billion) representing 38 per cent of the world total. The current annual increase for the world is 77 million, of which 97 per cent is taking place in less developed regions. Six countries account for half of the world's annual population growth, i.e., India (21 per cent), China (12 per cent), Pakistan (5 per cent), Nigeria (4 per cent), Bangladesh (4 per cent) and Indonesia (3 per cent).

**igrant stock.** Around 175 million persons currently reside in a country other than where they were born. The number of migrants has more than doubled since 1975. Sixty per cent of the world's migrants currently reside in the more developed regions and 40 per cent in the less developed regions. Most of the world's migrants live in Europe (56 million), Asia (50 million) and Northern America (41 million). Migrants currently make up about 3 per cent of the world population.

Almost 1 of every 10 persons living in the more developed regions is a migrant. In contrast, nearly 1 of every 70 persons in developing countries is a migrant.

**Number of refugees.** The number of refugees in the world at the end of 2000 stood at 15.9 million, of whom 12.0 million are under the mandate of UNHCR and 3.9 million under the mandate of UNRWA. Three million of the refugees are in developed countries and 12.9 million in developing countries. The largest number of refugees was found in Asia, 9.1 million. Africa hosted the second largest refugee population in the world, 3.6 million.

**Net migration.** During 1995-2000, the more developed regions of the world, on an annual basis, gained an estimated 2.3 million migrants from the less developed regions, or 11.6 million over the whole period. The greatest gains in terms of net numbers of international migrants were made by Northern America, which absorbed 1.4 million migrants annually. It was followed by Europe with an annual net gain of 0.8 million and then by Oceania, with a more modest net intake of 900,000 migrants annually. The net migration rate was highest for Northern America, at an annual average of 4.6 migrants per 1,000 population during 1995-2000. Oceania's net migration rate was only slightly lower at 3 migrants per 1,000, with Europe recording a low of 1 migrant per 1,000. The net migration rate was highest for Latin America and the Caribbean, where it amounted to a loss of 1 migrant per 1,000 population. For Africa and Asia, the net migration rates were estimated to be lower, at 0.6 and 0.4 migrants per 1,000 population, respectively.

**Workers' remittances.** Remittances are one of the major contributors' earnings sent back from the country of employment to the country of origin. For some countries, remittances are a major source of foreign exchange earnings and are an important addition to gross domestic product. For example,

in 2000, remittances from abroad augmented GDP by over 10 per cent for such countries as El Salvador, Eritrea, Jamaica, Jordan, Nicaragua and Yemen. Remittances can be used to import capital goods and provide investment funds for entrepreneurs. At the microlevel, remittances can add to household income and savings and be used for the purchase of consumer products.

**Government views and policies on immigration.** Beginning in the late 1970s, major changes in Governments' views on the level of immigration have been taking place, as a result of growing concerns with the economic, political and social consequences of immigration. By 2001, almost one quarter of all countries viewed immigration levels as too high. Although developed countries are more inclined towards lowering immigration, developing countries are also moving in the similar direction towards more restrictive policies. In 2001, 44 per cent of developed countries had policies aiming to lower immigration levels, as did 39 per cent of developing countries.

**Government views and policies on emigration.** Developed and developing countries are strikingly similar in their views and policies concerning levels of emigration. About three quarters of both developed and developing countries view their level of emigration as satisfactory. One in five countries have policies in place to lower levels of emigration.

**Parties to United Nations instruments.** While not creating a right to asylum, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, ratified by 141 countries, was a landmark in setting standards for the treatment of refugees. It established legal protections and a clear definition of the status of refugees. It also prohibited the expulsion or forcible return of persons accorded refugee status. The 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, ratified by 139 countries, was formulated to extend the scope of the 1951 Convention, which benefited only persons who became

refugees as a result of events occurring prior to 1 January 1951. The 1967 Protocol extended the application of the Convention to persons who became refugees after that date. The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families has been ratified by 19 countries. For the Convention to enter into force, 20 Member States need to ratify it. This Convention established for the first time an international definition of the different categories of migrant worker and represented a major step forward in formalizing the responsibility of receiving States in regard to upholding the rights of migrants and assuring their protection. In recent years, trafficking in human beings and its close linkage to transnational organized crime have arisen as new challenges to migration management. The 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified by 18 countries, aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children; to protect and assist the victims of such trafficking; and to promote cooperation among States parties to meet these objectives. The 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified by 17 countries, provides an effective tool to combat and prevent the smuggling of human cargo, reaffirming that migration in itself is not a crime, and that migrants may be victims in need of protection.

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Country or area	Net migration (average annual)				Workers' remittances		Immigration level	Emigration level	Parties to United Nations instruments
	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000			
<b>World</b>	<b>6 059 715</b>	<b>174 731</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>15 863</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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Country or area	Net migration (average annual)				Workers' remittances		Immigration level	Emigration level	Parties to United Nations instruments
	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000			
<b>More developed regions</b>	<b>1 191 428</b>	<b>104 819</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>2 012</b>	<b>2.21</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>12 335</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Less developed regions</b>	<b>4 868 286</b>	<b>70 862</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>12 857</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>49 704</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Least developed countries</b>	<b>667 613</b>	<b>10 458</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>3 066</b>	<b>-3.06</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Africa</b>	<b>793 927</b>	<b>16 277</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>9 077</b>	<b>-44.7</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>8 785</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Eastern Africa</b>	<b>250 318</b>	<b>4 515</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1 662</b>	<b>-276</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Burundi</b>	<b>6 356</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-80</b>	<b>-12.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Northern Europe (cont'd)</b>	<b>5 172</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>3 803</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Middle Africa</b>	<b>95 404</b>	<b>1 480</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>-332</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Angola</b>	<b>14 134</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cameroon</b>	<b>13 676</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Southern Europe</b>	<b>144 935</b>	<b>4 069</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Albania</b>	<b>3 134</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>-19.0</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>Andorra</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Western Africa</b>	<b>224 198</b>	<b>6 782</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>-119</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Benin</b>	<b>6 272</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>70<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	<b>11 535</b>	<b>1 124</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>518 809</b>	<b>5 944</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-494</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>17 131</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>37 941</b>	<b>1 071</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-72</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Aruba</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Southern Asia</b>	<b>49 567</b>	<b>1 544</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Botswana</b>	<b>1 541</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Lesotho</b>	<b>2 035</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>37 941</b>	<b>1 071</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-72</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Bahamas</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Barbados</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Eastern Asia</b>	<b>3 672 942</b>	<b>49 761</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>9 121</b>	<b>-3 311</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>24 205</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>1 275 133</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>-881</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>China, Hong Kong SAR<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6 880</b>	<b>2 701</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>314 113</b>	<b>40 444</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>1 384</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Bermuda</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>4 024</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>Too high</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>South-eastern Asia</b>	<b>522 121</b>	<b>4 126</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>-352</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>13 104</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>30 521</b>	<b>5 835</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Australia<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>19 138</b>	<b>4 705</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>3 778</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Europe</b>	<b>727 304</b>	<b>56 100</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>2 310</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>11 854</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Belarus</b>	<b>10 187</b>	<b>1 284</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>7 049</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>314 113</b>	<b>40 444</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>1 384</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>USA</b>	<b>241 223</b>	<b>28 530</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>1 077</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>72 890</b>	<b>11 914</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000	1995-2000	2000
<b>Northern Europe (cont'd)</b>	<b>5 172</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>5 220</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>1 263</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-9.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Country or area
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### The international response

A fundamental characteristic of people has been their movement from place to place. The right to move was recognized globally over a half-century ago with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration states in article 13 that "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state" and "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

As noted in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, orderly international migration can have positive impacts on both the communities of origin and the communities of destination. Migration also has the potential of facilitating the transfer of skills and contributing to cultural enrichment. Today the number of people residing outside their country of birth is at an all-time high of about 175 million, more than double the number a generation ago. The vast majority of migrants are making meaningful contributions to their host countries. At the same time, however, international migration entails the loss of human resources for many countries of origin and may give rise to political, economic or social tensions in countries of destination.

The United Nations system is addressing the various dimensions of international migration. For example, the United Nations Secretariat has focused on the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the levels, trends and national policies of international migration. Other parts of the United Nations have been concerned with issues of human rights, internally displaced persons, family reunification, undocumented migrants, trafficking and the social and economic integration of migrants. In addition, specialized agencies have focused on issues related to their expertise and mandates, such as labour flows, refugees and asylum-seekers and remittances.

Since 1994, the United Nations General Assembly has addressed on a variety of occasions the issue of international migration and development. Recently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/203 of 21 December 2001, called upon the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to continue to address the issue of international migration and development and to provide appropriate support for processes and activities on international migration and development. In response to this resolution, and also to provide further information on international migration to the General Assembly, the United Nations Secretariat organized in July 2002 the first system-wide Coordination Meeting on International Migration.

International migration, with its intricate web of demographic, social, economic and political consequences, is at the forefront of national and international agendas. However, the many questions arising from growing concerns about international migration have few clear answers and are posing unprecedented challenges. In addressing some of these questions, the United Nations can contribute to and facilitate meaningful dialogue and cooperation among nations, build capacities to manage migration, and hence effectively tackle these unprecedented challenges.

### The national response

As a global phenomenon involving a growing number of countries, international migration has been thrust to the forefront of the international policy agenda. When the United Nations Secretariat began systematically tracking international migration policies in the 1970s, following the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest, international migration was an issue of secondary interest to most Governments. Major demographic concerns at that time included high levels of population growth, fertility and mortality. Government policies on migration focused mainly on the administrative regulation of national borders.

As concerns with the demographic, economic, social and political consequences of international migration have significantly increased, so has the implementation of policies to affect levels and patterns of migration. Beginning in the 1980s, interest in migration intensified and spread to all world regions. Discussions on such issues as sustained low fertility and population ageing, unemployment, brain drain and brain gain, worker remittances, human rights, social integration, xenophobia, human trafficking and national security have led to a re-examination of international migration policies and the potential benefits and disadvantages accruing to sending, receiving and transit countries.

Over the past decades, the number of Governments adopting new measures to influence migration has grown rapidly. In particular, the number adopting policies to lower immigration rose from 6 per cent in 1976 to 40 per cent in 2001. While developed countries are more inclined towards lowering immigration, a similar trend is also under way in developing countries. As of 2001, 44 per cent of developed countries and 59 per cent of developing countries have implemented policies aimed at lowering immigration. As regards emigration, about three quarters of developed and developing countries in 2001 viewed the level of emigration as satisfactory and one in five countries have policies aimed at lowering emigration.

International migration policies reflect the changing demographic, political, economic and social context in which they are formulated. Nevertheless, running through all discussion of migration policies are three common threads, namely the yawning lack of data on migration, the absence of a coherent theory to explain international migration and the very weak understanding of the complex interrelationships between migration and sustainable development.

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