

TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK: MIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

The database entitled *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by country of origin* provides estimates of the international migrant stock by origin and sex for 1 July 1990, 1 July 2000 and 1 July 2010. This is the first time that the Population Division has prepared such estimates. The total number of international migrants for each country is consistent with those provided in *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008), except for five countries (Occupied Palestinian Territory, Peru, Singapore, Sweden and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) which have been updated due to new data becoming available .

In response to a growing demand for data on international migrants, the Population Division has developed the Global Migration Database. This database contains the most complete set of official statistics on the foreign-born and the foreign population enumerated in the countries or areas of the world and classified by country of origin, sex and age. Depending on the available data, country of origin is represented either as the country of birth or the country of citizenship. The Global Migration Database can be accessed free of charge from the migration website of the Population Division (www.unmigration.org).

The statistics contained in the Global Migration Database provided the basis for the estimation of the number of international migrants in each country or area of the world by origin for 1990, 2000 and 2010. The estimates were produced for each of the 230 countries and areas in 2010.

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE DATASET

This section describes the worksheets contained in the Excel workbook UN_MigrantStockByOrigin_2012.xls. Each worksheet has a name located on its tab. The description of each worksheet is presented below following its name.

Contents: The workbook opens on this worksheet, which provides an index to the rest of the worksheets in the workbook and has links that take the user to the selected worksheet by clicking either on its name (left column) or on the title of each table. The contents of the workbook are described below.

1. Worksheets providing estimates

The estimates for the period 1990-2010 are presented in 9 tables, numbered 1 to 9, each presented on a separate worksheet. In all of these tables, the classification of countries or areas by region, major area and development group is the same and corresponds to the classification currently used in reporting population information. It contains estimates for each of the 230 countries or areas that constituted the world in 2010.

Each table presents estimates for the regions, major areas, development groups and the world as a whole according to the definition of regions used currently and presented in the annex of the workbook. The tables have a consistent layout that includes a first column showing the sort order of the items listed, a second column showing the name of each country, area and geographical grouping, a third column showing the existence of notes that provide special information on particular entries (see the description of the worksheet Notes below), and a fourth column showing the “country code” for each country, area or geographical grouping. For countries or areas, this code consists of three digits and was established by the International Standards Organization (ISO). For geographical groupings, the codes presented are those

used by the Population Division. These four columns are repeated in all the tables. The fifth column contains codes indicating the type of data used in deriving the estimates presented. The codes used are: B, which indicates that estimates were derived from data on the foreign-born population; C, which indicates that estimates were derived from data on foreign citizens, also called foreigners; R, which indicates that the number of refugees or persons in refugee-like situations as reported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were added to the estimates, and I, which indicates that there were no data on international migrants for the country or area concerned and that the estimates presented were imputed. A short description of each of the tables follows.

Table 1: *Total International migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area, 2010.* This Table presents the complete set of estimates of the total international migrant stock by origin and by major area, region, country or area for 1 July 2010.

Table 2: *Male International migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area, 2010.* This Table presents the complete set of estimates of the male international migrant stock by origin and by major area, region, country or area for 1 July 2010.

Table 3: *Female International migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area, 2010.* This Table presents the complete set of estimates of the female international migrant stock by origin and by major area, region, country or area for 1 July 2010.

Table 4: *Total International migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area, 2010.* This Table presents the complete set of estimates of the total international migrant stock by origin and by major area, region, country or area for 1 July 2000.

Table 5: *Male International migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area, 2010.* This Table presents the complete set of estimates of the male international migrant stock by origin and by major area, region, country or area for 1 July 2000.

Table 6: *Female International migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area, 2010.* This Table presents the complete set of estimates of the female international migrant stock by origin and by major area, region, country or area for 1 July 2000.

Table 7: *Total International migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area, 2010.* This Table presents the complete set of estimates of the total international migrant stock by origin and by major area, region, country or area for 1 July 1990.

Table 8: *Male International migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area, 2010.* This Table presents the complete set of estimates of the male international migrant stock by origin and by major area, region, country or area for 1 July 1990.

Table 9: *Female International migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area, 2010.* This Table presents the complete set of estimates of the female international migrant stock by origin and by major area, region, country or area for 1 July 1990.

Annex: *Classification of countries and areas by major area and region.* This Table presents the list of countries or areas ordered alphabetically and the major area and region to which each belongs. It also identifies the countries or areas included in the more developed regions, the group of least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa. In this series, 230 countries or areas are covered and their classification by development group, major area and region is the one currently used by the Population Division.

Notes: This worksheet lists the notes that provide certain specificities about the countries or areas covered or the nature of the estimates presented.

B. METHODOLOGY FOR ESTIMATING THE MIGRANT STOCK BY ORIGIN AND SEX

This section provides information on the type of data and sources that have been used to collect the information and on the methodologies that have been applied to estimate the distribution of the migrant stock by age and sex.

1. *Types of data, definitions and sources*

Estimates of the total number of international migrants by country or area and by sex for the years 1990, 2000 and 2010 included in this dataset were derived from *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008). The exception is the following five countries which were updated due to new data becoming available. The countries are; Occupied Palestinian Territory, Peru, Singapore, Sweden and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Most of the statistics obtained to estimate the international migrant stock by country or area and by sex were obtained from population censuses. Additionally, population registers and nationally representative surveys provided information on the number and composition of international migrants.

In estimating the international migrant stock, international migrants have been equated with the foreign-born whenever possible. In most countries lacking data on place of birth, information on the country of citizenship of those enumerated was available and was used as the basis for the identification of international migrants, thus effectively equating international migrants with foreign citizens. Of the 230 countries and areas listed in *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Country of Origin*, data on the foreign-born were available for 161, or 75 per cent, of them. Data on foreign citizens were used for 33 countries, that is, 14 per cent of them. Twenty five countries, representing eleven per cent of the total, lacked data on either the foreign-born or foreigners altogether. In terms of coverage, over ninety percent of the international migrant stock has information about the origin for at least one point in time.

The availability of information on international migrants has not kept pace with the growing interest in the subject. For 1990, the first data point of this dataset, information on the international migrant stock by country of origin was available for 166 countries. During the 2000 census round, the number of countries reporting statistics on the number of the foreign-born population or the number of foreign citizens by country of origin had dropped to 148. A key challenge for the 2010 round of population censuses will be to reverse this trend.

The approach of equating international migrants with foreign citizens when estimating the migrant stock has important shortcomings. In countries where citizenship is conferred on the basis of *jus sanguinis*, people who were born in the country of residence may be included in the number of international migrants even though they may have never lived abroad. Conversely, persons who were born abroad and who naturalized in

their country of residence are excluded from the stock of international migrants when using citizenship as the criterion to define international migrants.

Using country of citizenship as the basis for the identification of international migrants has also an important impact on the age distribution of international migrants. In countries where citizenship is conferred mainly on the basis of *jus sanguinis*, children born to international migrants tend to be considered as foreign citizens and are thus included in the count of international migrants. Conversely, in countries where citizenship is conferred mainly on the basis of *jus soli*, children born to international migrants are granted citizenship upon birth and are thus excluded from the migrant stock. Despite these drawbacks, information by country of citizenship was used because ignoring it would have resulted in a lack of data for 14 per cent of the countries.

The coverage of refugees in population censuses is uneven. In countries where refugees have been granted refugee status and allowed to integrate, they are normally covered by the population census as any other international migrant. In such cases, there is no reason to make a special provision for the consideration of refugees in estimating the international migrant stock. However, in many countries, refugees lack freedom of movement and are required to reside in camps or other designated areas. In these cases, population censuses may ignore refugees. Furthermore, when refugee flows occur rapidly in situations of conflict, it is uncommon for a population census to take place soon after and to reflect the newly arrived refugee population. Consequently, for many countries hosting large refugee populations, the refugee statistics reported by international agencies are the only source of information on persons who are recognized as refugees or find themselves in refugee-like situations. In order to ensure that the estimates of the international migrant stock reflect properly the numbers of refugees, the refugee figures reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA) were added to the estimates of the international migrant stock for most developing countries. In doing so, care was taken to estimate refugee stocks at mid-year (1 July) from the UNHCR data, which usually refer to the end of the year. For developed countries, where refugees admitted for resettlement as well as recognized asylum-seekers are routinely included in population counts, be it by censuses or population registers, no such adjustment was made.

Further information on the methodology for estimating the global migrant stock can be obtained from the CD-ROM documentation accompanying *The 2008 Revision*.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTRIES BY AVAILABILITY OF DATA FOR THE ESTIMATION OF THE AGE OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

Major area	Number of available data sets				Total
	0	1	2	3	
Africa	9	20	25	3	57
Asia	17	15	13	5	50
Europe	5	7	14	22	48
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	15	25	4	46
Northern America	1	1	0	3	5
Oceania	2	8	9	5	24
World	36	66	86	42	230

2. *Estimates for countries with two or more data sources*

For the 86 countries or areas with information by country of origin for at least two points in time, interpolation and extrapolation was used to estimate the age and sex distribution of the migrant stock on 1 July of the reference year, namely 1990, 2000 and 2010. For countries where the change in the total migrant stock was significant or where the period for extrapolation was longer than five years, the estimation method also looked at the events responsible for the change in stock size.

3. *Estimates for countries with only one data source*

For countries or areas with only one data set, the estimation followed one of two options based on the specific country. A) Where the change in the total stock was under five percent, a constant distribution of the origin was maintained; B) Where the change in the total stock was over five percent, the distribution of the origin was applied according to the underlying causes for the change in stock or following the trend of similar countries.

4. *Estimates for countries with no data sets*

For countries or areas without any data sets, another country or group of countries was used as a model. These “model” countries were selected on the basis of various characteristics, including the use of the same criterion for enumerating international migrants, geographical proximity and migration experience.