DOCUMENTATION

GENERAL

Entries under Origin/Destination indicate the name of the country of origin for immigrants or the name of the country of destination for emigrants. For net migration, this column indicates the name of the country recording a net inflow or outflow of migrants, depending on the sign of the data in the cells that follow to the right.

The data series in this publication generally do not contain an exhaustive list of countries of origin for immigrants or countries of destination for emigrants. In practice, many countries that report migration data combine data for countries of origin or destination when the number of migrants involved is small. Such data are then reported in a separate category often labelled as “Other”.

The country nomenclature used in this dataset conforms as closely as possible to current United Nations practices. However, an effort has been made to preserve the information contained in the original sources when it does not conform to current practice. Thus, whenever standardization was not possible, the original nomenclature was maintained. In the case of the United Kingdom, for instance, the grouping “Commonwealth countries” has been used as a regional aggregate although it does not conform to United Nations practices.

Given that the data shown span a long period, changes in the names of countries or the territories that they cover needed to be accommodated. Country names that no longer exist due to a break-up are followed by the suffix “former”, including Czechoslovakia (former), Serbia and Montenegro (former) and Yugoslavia (former). In the case of Ethiopia, the country name remained unchanged following the secession of Eritrea in 1993. Country names that have changed are depicted by their most recent name. Entries that show countries that have merged are generally depicted by the name of the successor state. Examples include Germany since 1990 and Yemen since 1990. However, for some countries, data on immigration from, or emigration to, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Macao Special Administrative Region of China and Taiwan, Province of China are not included under China, but shown separately.

The regional aggregates follow the standard M49 codes used by the United Nations Secretariat. These codes coincide with those set by the International Organization for Standardization as part of the ISO 3166 standard.

COUNTRY DOCUMENTATION

Armenia: Immigration and emigration data are collected through statistical forms that are completed by citizens as well as by foreigners with valid residence permits at police offices once they register or deregister their residence. These forms are then forwarded to the national statistical office for further data processing. The immigration data cover citizens and foreigners who intend to stay for more than three months. The emigration data cover persons who deregistered their place of residence in Armenia.

Australia: Data on international migration are obtained from incoming or outgoing passenger cards completed at the border. The data series by country of birth refers only to permanent movements, while the data series by country of residence includes both long-term and permanent movements. The data series by country of birth refers to the fiscal year, from first July of the year
shown to 30 June of the following year. For 1976 to 2003, data reflect overseas arrivals and departures showing the number of permanent and long-term arrivals to Australia and permanent and long-term departures abroad. Permanent arrivals (settlers) include persons holding a permanent visa, a temporary (provisional) visa with a clear intention to settle, citizens from New Zealand who indicate an intention to settle, and persons who are otherwise eligible to settle, for instance children of Australian citizens who were born abroad. Long-term arrivals include persons who intend to stay in Australia or abroad but not permanently. Emigration data report permanent and long-term departures. Permanent departures include Australian residents (including former settlers) who state at their departure that they are departing permanently. Long-term departures cover persons who intended to stay abroad for one year or more but not permanently. For 1976 to 1984, the emigration data refer to the number of former settlers departing. From 1985 onwards, the emigration data refer to all residents departing for one year or more or permanently from Australia. Short-term movements and changes of status (in terms of residence permit held) are not included in the series. From 2004 onwards, migration data are based on a new estimation method introduced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2007, the net overseas migration (NOM). NOM reports the actual number of persons moving and not the number of movements (arrivals/departures) as did the overseas arrivals and departures statistics. Based on individual characteristics of travellers that are now captured in the Traveller's Characteristics Database, multiple movements of the same traveller are excluded from the statistics. ABS reported that in the financial year 2006-2007 there were over 10 million multiple movements accounting for 44 per cent of all movements. The new estimation method also refers to the travellers’ actual stay or absence and not to the intended duration of stay or absence the traveller states on his or her passenger card. The individual’s actual travel behaviour is measured using the ’12/16 month rule’ where the traveller can be added or subtracted from NOM if he or she has actually stayed in or has been absent from Australia for a period of 12 months or more over a 16-month period. The period of 12 months does not have to be continuous.

Austria: International migration data are derived from population registers and are available since 1996. The immigration data refer to the number of persons who register in order to establish their main place of residence in Austria. Emigration data refer to persons who leave the country in order to reside abroad. For the period 1996 to 2001, Austrian statistics did not specify a minimum length of stay for persons to be considered international migrants. From 2002 onwards, persons are considered international migrants if they intend to stay or leave for at least 90 days. Due to the high number of unknown countries of previous or next residence for Austrian citizens, the 2010 Revision includes only data on the immigration and emigration of foreigners by country of previous or future residence. The data series by citizenship cover both citizens and foreigners.

Azerbaijan: Immigration and emigration data are collected through statistical forms that are filled out during the process of registration at police offices and are submitted for processing to the national statistical office. Persons moving more than once a year are recorded as an international migrant multiple times. Immigrants refer to persons with permission to enter the country for permanent residence and emigrants refer to persons who leave the country and intend to establish their permanent residence abroad. Emigration from countries outside the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) for the period 1995 to 1997 include persons 18 years or over only.

Belarus: Immigration and emigration data are collected through statistical forms at the point of registration by the ministry of interior for persons arriving or departing. Immigration data include citizens as well as foreigners with residence permits who registered their permanent residence in Belarus upon arrival. Emigration data refer to citizens and foreigners who deregister their permanent residence to move abroad.
**Belgium:** The main source of international migration statistics is the population register. The statistics on immigration refer to the legal entry of foreigners who intend to stay in the country for at least three months as well as citizens who intend to stay in the country for at least three months. The statistics on emigration include all persons departing with the intention to stay abroad for at least three months. Emigration data are subject to administrative corrections.

**Bulgaria:** International migration data for citizens are derived from the population register and for foreigners they are derived from residence permits. The data on international migration only include persons who have declared their change of residence to the administrative authorities. Immigration data refer to citizens who register their residence in Bulgaria and foreigners who receive a permanent residence permit for Bulgaria. Emigration data refer to persons who deregister their residence in Bulgaria to move abroad. Often Bulgarian citizens living abroad declare their emigration when applying for Bulgarian identification documents in their new country of destination. Their departure is then reported for the year they declared their change of residence and not for the year they actually left Bulgaria.

**Canada:** International migration data are derived from administrative sources recording foreigners who were granted permission to reside permanently in Canada. Canada does not gather data on emigration. Since 1980, the annual number of immigrants is subject to administrative corrections made by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

**Croatia:** International migration data are generated by the population register. The immigration data include citizens and foreigners who have established permanent residence in Croatia and whose previous place of permanent residence was outside the country. An emigrant is defined as a person who cancelled his or her permanent residence in Croatia with the intention of residing abroad.

**Cyprus:** Migration statistics are based on a passenger survey conducted among airline passengers upon arrival in Cyprus and before departure abroad. For sea passengers, basic information is collected from passenger manifests using systematic sampling. Immigrants include persons who enter Cyprus with the intention to settle for one year or more. Emigrants include Cypriots and foreigners who have left Cyprus with the intention to settle abroad for one year or more. Emigration data include persons who depart from Cyprus after having stayed for more than one year after their employment contract has expired and international students having completed their studies in Cyprus and returning home. The data series for long-term immigrants is available from 1997 and for long-term emigrants from 2002 onwards.

**Czech Republic:** International migration data are obtained from the population register and permit data. Immigration data report the number of persons who register their permanent or long-term residence in the Czech Republic. Foreigners from the European Economic Area (EEA) who stay for a period of at least three months and citizens of other countries who have been granted a one-year permit are also included. Emigration data refer to persons who cancel their permanent residence in the Czech Republic in order to move abroad as well as foreigners whose residence permits have expired.

**Denmark:** International migration statistics are derived from the central population register. Citizens from the EEA and Switzerland who move to Denmark are counted as immigrants if their stay in Denmark is to last at least six months. Citizens from countries outside the Nordic region, the EEA and Switzerland are counted as immigrants if they intend to stay for at least three months and hold a valid residence permit. Data on emigration include all foreigners and citizens leaving Denmark for a period of at least six months. The time criterion applied for emigration to another Nordic country depends on rules established by the receiving country. The emigration data are
subject to administrative corrections.

**Estonia:** The population register is the source of data on international migration. Immigration data include persons who have changed their country of permanent residence for a period that is expected to last at least one year and who have registered their arrival in Estonia. Emigration data cover all persons who change their country of residence for a period that is expected to last at least one year and who have registered their departure from Estonia. For quality reasons, Statistics Estonia only publishes data from 2004 onwards.

**Finland:** International migration data in Finland are derived from the population register and cover all persons who change their country of permanent residence. The statistics on immigration include all foreigners who have obtained a residence permit for at least one year as well as Finish citizens who have returned after having resided abroad. The statistics on emigration include all residents departing who intend to stay abroad for at least one year. For Nordic citizens who move to another Nordic country, the time criterion for being counted as an emigrant depends on the registration criterion applied by the immigration country.

**France:** Since 1994, immigration data in France are derived from a centralized register of residence permits. The statistics refer to the number of foreigners who obtain a residence permit for one year or more. The data were estimated by the Institut national d’études démographiques (INED) in order to conform to the definition of a long-term migrant recommended by the United Nations. The estimates include minors who are admitted under family reunification provisions, but who do not receive an individual residence permit. The estimates also include the number of foreigners from EEA countries who do not require a residence permit. France does not collect data on emigration.

**Germany:** International migration data in Germany are derived from the population register. The data before 1991 refer to the former Federal Republic of Germany. The data on immigration refer to persons arriving from abroad who register their dwelling as their only or main place of residence in Germany. The immigration data include all foreigners who hold a residence permit. The emigration data refer to persons leaving the country to establish their only or main residence abroad. The data on immigrating citizens include persons of German descent who moved to Germany and who have the right to German citizenship (Aussiedler) as well as citizens from the former Democratic Republic of Germany who moved to the former Federal Republic of Germany (Uebersiedler). Because there is no minimum residence requirement, persons moving more than once a year are recorded multiple times as an international migrant.

**Greece:** The source of immigration data are residence permits. The immigration data reflect the number of residence permits issued to foreigners. Greece does not publish data on the migration of citizens and on the emigration of foreigners.

**Hungary:** International migration data for foreigners are derived from the number of residence or settlement permits issued to foreigners. Foreign immigrants are defined as persons who have applied for a residence or settlement permit. Residence permits are usually valid for one year. Foreigners can apply for a settlement permit after having legally and continuously resided in the country for at least three years. A foreigner emigrating is defined as a person who has a residence permit or settlement permit and who has left Hungary without intending to return, a foreigner whose permit has expired and has not applied for extension or someone whose permit was invalidated by the authorities. For Hungarian citizens data are derived from a centralised population register. Immigrating citizens cover persons who register their residence in Hungary with the intention to stay in Hungary for three months or more. Data on emigrating citizens cover persons who deregister their residence with the intention to live abroad for three months or more.
**Iceland:** Statistics on international migration are derived from the population register. Persons staying or intending to stay for six months or more must register their permanent residence in Iceland. Registration is optional for persons staying or intending to stay between three and six months because of work or study. Data on emigration refer to persons intending to move their permanent residence abroad. The Nordic Treaty on Public Registration stipulates a minimum period of stay of six months in order to qualify as an immigrant and a minimum period of absence of six months in order to qualify as an emigrant. The time criterion applied for emigration to another Nordic country depends on rules established by the receiving country.

**Ireland:** The principal source of information for the estimation of the annual migration flow data is a quarterly national household survey. The migration estimates are compared with information from other sources, including the personal public service number allocated to non-Irish citizens, work permits that have been issued and asylum applications that have been lodged. The migration flows represent movements over a twelve months period starting in mid-April. Immigrants are defined as individuals who are usual residents of Ireland and did not usually live in the country twelve months ago. Emigrants are defined as individuals who usually lived in the household in the previous year but are now living abroad.

**Israel:** Immigration data are derived from forms filled out at border checkpoints, which are transferred to the population register. Immigration data cover foreign immigrants entering the country with the intention to take up permanent residence as well as persons who are entitled to an immigrant visa or certificate and who want to stay in Israel for up to three years to examine the possibility of settling (“potential immigrants”). Changes in visa status from tourist to immigrant or potential immigrant are recorded in the year in which the status was changed.

**Italy:** International migration data are generated from the population register. The statistics on immigration include Italian citizens who move into a dwelling after having resided abroad. Foreigners from EEA member countries are included in the statistics if their intended stay is one year or more. Citizens from non-EEA countries holding a residence permit of at least one year should also register. The statistics on emigration refer to all residents departing with the intention of establishing their residence abroad for one year or more. Since relatively few countries of origin or destination are shown in the tabulations prior to 1995, sub-totals at the regional level markedly underestimate the number of migrants from or to those regions.

**Kazakhstan:** Data on international migration are based on tabulations of statistical forms filled out by government offices upon arrival and departure of migrants. Immigration data refer to citizens as well as to foreigners holding a residence permit who register their place of residence in Kazakhstan and intend to stay for six months or more. Emigration data cover citizens and foreigners who deregister their place of residence in Kazakhstan to move abroad.

**Kyrgyzstan:** Data are derived from statistical forms collected by the ministry of interior when migrants register or deregister their place of residence. Immigration data refer to citizens and foreigners holding a residence permit who register their place of residence in Kyrgyzstan and intend to stay for six months or more. Emigration data cover citizens and foreigners who cancel their registration at their place of residence in Kyrgyzstan to move abroad.

**Latvia:** The source of international migration data is the population register. Data on immigration and emigration refer to persons who intend to change their country of residence for one year or more.
**Lithuania:** International migration data are derived from the population register. Immigration statistics refer to persons who arrive from abroad with the intention to reside in the country for a period of at least six months. In addition, foreigners should hold a residence permit valid for one year or longer. Emigration statistics refer to persons who have declared — at the time of their departure—that they intend to stay abroad for at least six months or more. The official emigration statistics are based on the number of persons who have declared their intention to emigrate, which underestimates actual emigration. Statistics Lithuania estimates that the level of undeclared emigration exceeded declared emigration during 2001-2006. Undeclared emigration had decreased to 37 per cent of total emigration in 2009.

**Luxembourg:** International migration data are generated by the population register. Immigration statistics include foreigners entering the country with the intention of establishing residence. Emigration statistics cover all foreigners who leave the country with the intention of establishing residence abroad. The international migration statistics do not distinguish between permanent and temporary immigrants or emigrants. However, the figures exclude visitors, that is, non-residents who intend to stay in the country for up to three months without exercising a remunerated activity as well as border workers, that is, persons residing in border regions who need to cross the border frequently in order to exercise a remunerated activity. Data are classified by country of residence up to 1989 and by country of citizenship since 1990.

**Netherlands:** International migration data are derived from the municipal population register. Until September 1994, the statistics on immigration included foreigners who held a residence permit and intended to stay in the country for more than 180 days as well as citizens who intended to stay in the country for at least 30 days. Statistics on emigration included all citizens and foreigners who intended to leave the Netherlands for a period exceeding 360 days. Since October 1994, persons who wish to stay in the country for at least four months are considered immigrants, while persons leaving the country for at least eight months are considered emigrants. The emigration data include administrative corrections. Asylum-seekers who are not staying in reception centres are included. Dutch citizens include persons from Suriname who opted for Dutch nationality when their country became independent in 1976 and who migrated subsequently to the Netherlands. Regional aggregates for 1970 to 1972 are significantly underestimated owing to the limited number of countries of origin and destination used in classifying migration statistics.

**New Zealand:** International migration statistics are derived from arrival and departure cards completed at the border. The data series by country of birth refers to permanent movements before 1985 and are classified by fiscal year, which runs from 1st April of the year shown to 31st March of the next year. The immigration data refer to persons arriving from overseas who intend to stay for a period of one year or more, or permanently, including residents from New Zealand who are returning after an absence of one year or more. Emigrants include residents departing for an intended period of stay abroad of one year or more, or permanently, as well as overseas visitors departing from New Zealand after a stay of one year or more. Immigration data include students and those on working and holiday visas or permits who stay for more than one year, although they initially did not intend to stay for one year or longer.

**Norway:** International migration data are obtained from the population register. Statistics on immigration refer to all persons who wish to stay in the country for at least six months. The statistics on emigration include all residents leaving Norway for at least six months. The time criterion applied for emigration to another Nordic country depends on rules established by the receiving country.

**Poland:** Immigration data are collected through forms that are completed when persons register or deregister their permanent residence in Poland. Since 2006, data are captured directly
from the population register. Immigration refers to persons arriving from abroad who establish their permanent residence in the country, while emigration refers to persons who are leaving the country in order to establish their permanent residence abroad.

**Portugal:** Immigration data are derived from permit data. Immigration data cover foreigners who, in a given year, have applied for a resident permit. Foreigners submitting their first application for residence permits are considered as long-term immigrants. Residence permits can be temporary (valid for one year and renewable for periods of two years) or permanent (for those having a temporary permit for at least 5 years; it has no validity limit but should be renewed every 5 years). Portugal does not publish a continuous data series on the migration of citizens or on the emigration of foreigners.

**Republic of Moldova:** International migration data are derived from the population register. Immigration data refer to foreigners who obtain the right for permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Moldova and register their residence. Emigration data refer to citizens of the Republic of Moldova who move permanently or temporarily abroad.

**Romania:** The source of international migration data is the population register and the foreigner register. Immigration data refer to persons arriving from abroad who take up their residence in Romania with a intended duration of stay of at least one year. Emigration data refer to persons who establish their residence abroad and intend to stay abroad for one year or more.

**Russian Federation:** Data on international migration are collected primarily through statistical forms that are completed while person register or deregister at the place of residence. Officially reported international migration overestimates actual migration as the same person may change his or her place of residence more than once during a given year. Immigration data refer to arrivals of persons who register their place of residence in the Russian Federation. In order to deregister, foreigners must hold temporary or permanent residence permits. Emigration data refer to departures of person who establish their residence abroad. Before 1997, immigration and emigration from countries outside the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was only reported for persons admitted for permanent residence and for persons permitted to depart to settle abroad.

**Slovakia:** The foreigner register of the ministry of interior is the administrative source of data on migration of foreigners. Migration data for citizens are collected when persons register or deregister for the purpose of changing their country of residence. The registration forms are sent directly to the national statistical office. The data series by country of residence refer to permanent migration over the whole time period covered, while the data series by citizenship refer to permanent migration until 2002 and to long-term migration as of 2003. Permanent immigration data include all persons arriving from abroad who register their permanent residence in the country. Permanent emigration data include all residents who deregister as permanent residents in Slovakia in order to move abroad. Long-term immigrants are defined as persons who register their usual residence for a period that is, or is expected to be, at least one year, having previously resided in another country. Long-term emigrants are defined as persons who have cancelled their usual residence in Slovakia for a period that is, or is expected to be, of one year.

**Slovenia:** Data on international migration are derived from the population and the foreigner register. From 2008 onwards, statistical definitions of international migrants are based on the concept of usual residence and are harmonized with definitions of population and migrants from the European Union Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council
on community statistics on migration and international protection. Since 2008, data on immigration refer to persons who register their usual residence in Slovenia and intend to stay for at least one year. Data on emigration are based on persons who deregister their residence and intend to stay abroad for at least one year. Before 2008, data on immigration included all persons arriving from abroad who intend to reside in the country for at least three months. Before 2008, data on the emigration of foreigners were estimated by the national statistical office on the basis of the number of foreigners present at the beginning and at the end of the calendar year. In addition, the number of births, deaths, arrivals and citizenship acquisitions of foreigners during each year were taken into consideration. The emigration statistics were corrected using information on residence permits that had expired. Citizens were included in the emigration statistics if they gave notice of leaving the country with the intention of residing abroad for more than three months. Before 1998, the emigration data excluded citizens who emigrated for more than three months, but not permanently, while the immigration data excluded citizens who returned to Slovenia after temporarily residing abroad.

**Spain:** Data on international migration are obtained from the municipal population register. Spain has produced immigration data by country of previous residence since 1983. Emigration data by country of next residence are available since 2002. The statistics on immigration include foreigners and citizens intending to establish residence in Spain. Since 2000, all immigrants, regardless of their legal status, are allowed to register. Data on emigration refer to persons leaving Spain with the intention of establishing residence abroad. Before 2004, international migration statistics did not include migrants whose country of residence was unknown. Since 2006, the emigration data include foreigners from outside the EU who do not hold permanent residence permits and who fail to re-register every two years. Because there is no minimum residence requirement, persons moving more than once a year are recorded multiple times as international migrants.

**Sweden:** International migration data are derived from the population register. The statistics on immigration include citizens and foreigners arriving from abroad intending to stay in the country for a year or longer. Foreigners must hold a valid residence permit. The statistics on emigration include all foreigners and citizens leaving the country with the intention of staying abroad for one year or longer. The time criterion applied for emigration to another Nordic country depends on rules established by the receiving country.

**Switzerland:** International migration data are derived from the population and foreigner register. Since 1991, the Swiss federal statistical office has compiled statistics on foreigners using various data sources. The immigration data cover all persons arriving from abroad to establish permanent or temporary residence in Switzerland, including citizens and permanent, temporary and short-term foreign residents holding a residence permit valid for at least one year. Emigrants are persons departing from the country in order to establish permanent or temporary residence abroad.

**Ukraine:** Data are derived from statistical forms processed by the ministry of interior at the time a migrant registers or deregisters his or her place of residence. Immigration data cover all citizens and foreigners holding a residence permit who take up residence in the Ukraine for more than six months. Emigration data include all persons leaving the Ukraine for six months or more to establish residence abroad.

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**United Kingdom:** Migration flows are estimated on the basis of the International Passenger Survey (IPS), a sample survey of passengers arriving at and departing from the main United Kingdom air and sea ports and the Channel Tunnel. Prior to 1991, the IPS excluded certain migrant categories, such as movements between the United Kingdom and Ireland, persons seeking asylum after having entered the country, and short-term visitors granted extensions of stay. The data on immigration include persons who have resided abroad for one year or more and who state on arrival their intention to stay in the United Kingdom for one year or more. The data on emigration include persons who have resided in the United Kingdom for one year or more and who state on departure their intention to stay abroad for one year or more. In 2005, the Office for National Statistics revised migration estimates retrospectively from 1991 onwards. Since the regional groupings used to classify the origin and destination of international migrants could not be harmonized with United Nations practices, the original groupings have been maintained.

**United States of America:** Immigration data are based on the number of foreigners granted permanent residence status and are reported by fiscal year. Before 1976, the fiscal year started on 1 July of the year shown and ran until 30 June of the following year. Since 1976, the fiscal year starts on 1 October of the year shown and runs until 30 September of the following year. Because of the transition, fiscal year 1976 includes an extra quarter. The United States does not collect data on immigrating citizens or on emigration. Persons legalized under the provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) are included in the statistics presented.