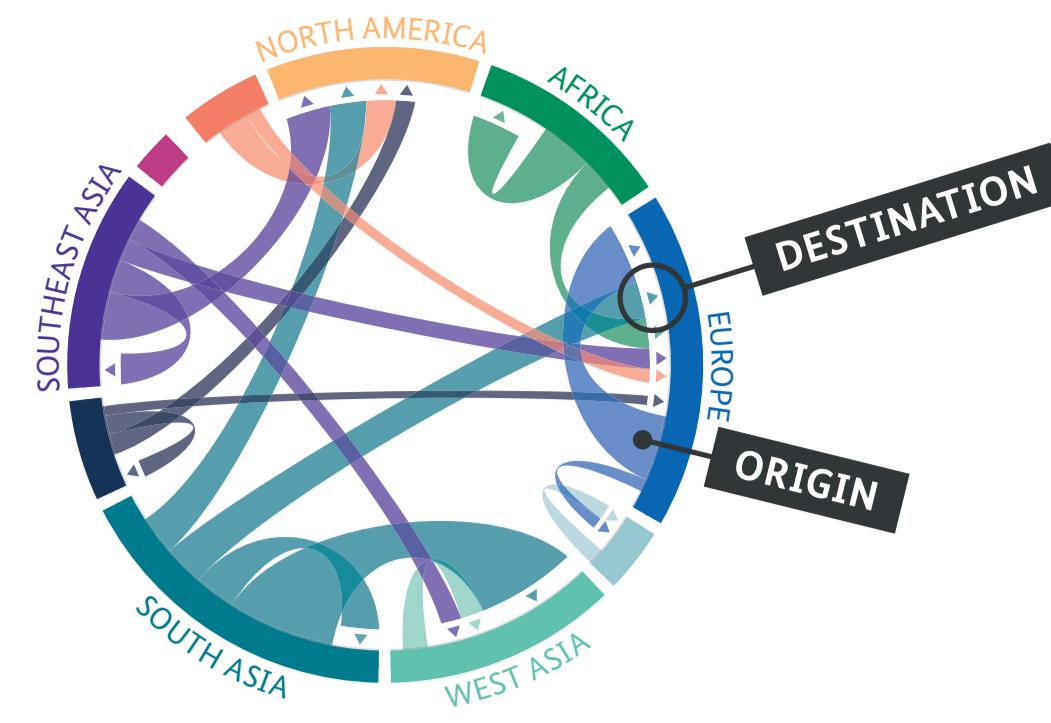


Global Migration Flows 2015–2020



How to read to plot

The outer circle segments represent origins and destinations of migration flows. Every country is assigned a unique colour. Migration flows are shown as links between origins and destinations, lightly coloured the same as the origin country. The width of a flow reflects the number of people moving.

The direction of a flow is indicated by its connection to the circle: → no gap between flow and circle segment indicates the migrant origin.



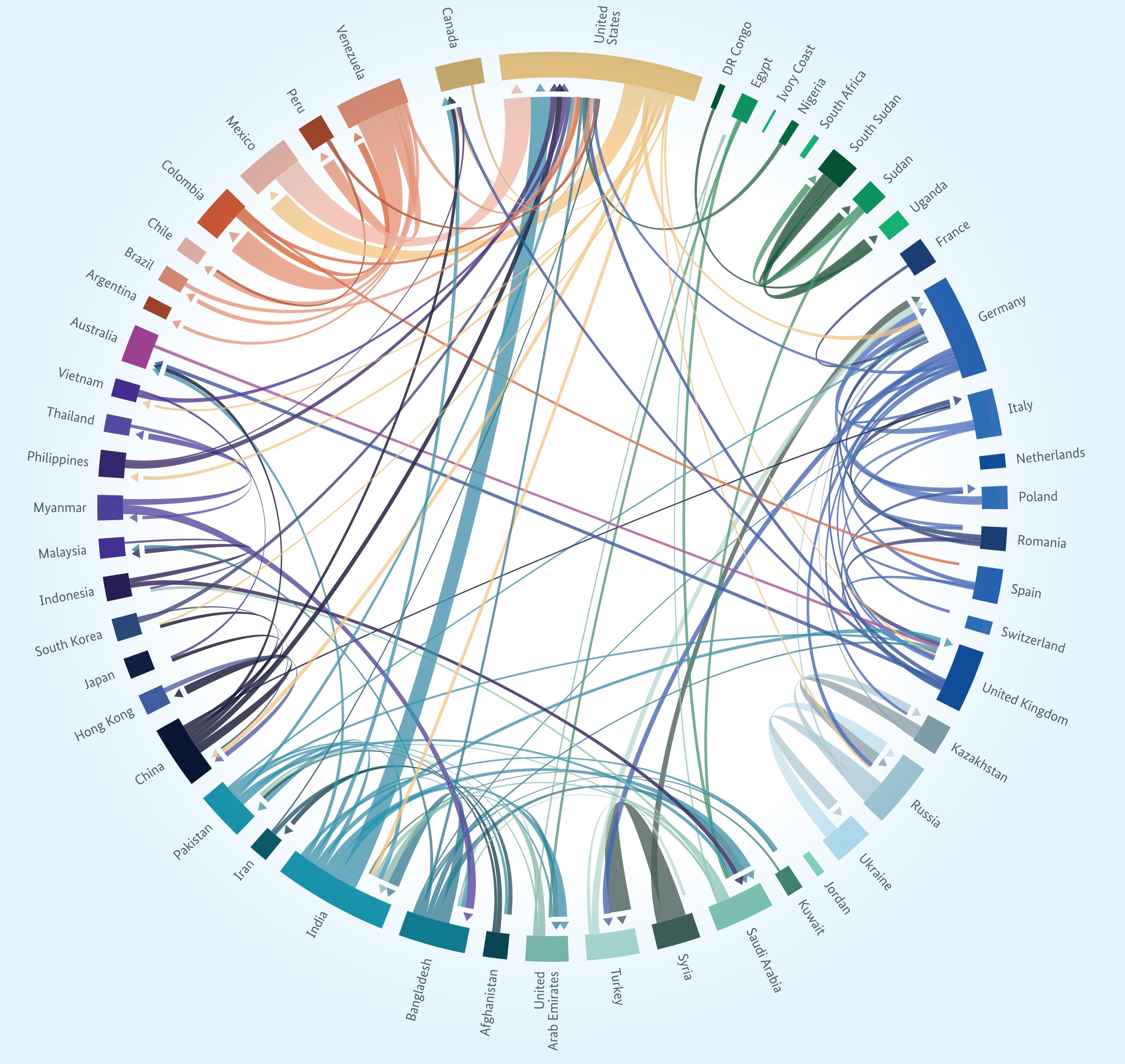
You can find an interactive visualisation of global migration flows here:
www.bib.bund.de/globalflows

Global Migration Flows 2015–2020

This poster shows international migration flows between the top-50 sending and receiving countries in the period 2015 to 2020. These flows represent about 75% of all human movement in the 5-year period.

Who moves where?

Estimated migration flows between the 50 countries with the highest migration volume worldwide.



What the plot shows

This circular plot shows international migration flows between 2015 and 2020 – in one single graphic.

Specifically, it shows estimated flows between the top-50 sending and receiving countries worldwide. Only flows of more than 100,000 people are shown. Flows to other countries that are not part of the top-50 are not shown.

What spatial patterns do we see?

The plot tells 3 important stories:

1. The largest migration flows occur *within* world regions instead of *between* them.
2. The flows that cross the centre of the circle occur over larger distances and are relatively small in volume. The flow from India to the US is a notable exception to this trend.
3. The US have by far the largest migration volume, with a diverse set of origins and destinations, followed by India and Germany as important sending and receiving countries.

How to read the plot

The outer segments of the circle are migrants' countries of origin and destination. Countries are clustered within world regions and share a similar colour (e.g. shades of blue for Europe). Flows have the same colour as the origin region.

The direction of a flow is also indicated by a small arrow. The wider a line in the plot, the larger the migration flow it represents.

The wider a country's segment, the larger its total migration volume. This also includes migration flows which are not shown. E.g., South Africa has a segment part to which no flows are attached, indicating smaller flows to/from countries not depicted here.

More details on the Circular Migration Plot can be found here: www.bib.bund.de/globalflows

Where do the migration data come from?

Given the lack of a globally comparable data set of migration flows, we use scientific estimates of international migration flows based on migrant stock data. The estimated numbers shown here are for the five-year period 2015–2020.

More details on the scientific estimation can be found here: Azose & Raftery, 2019: <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1722334116>. The data used originate from this data set (Abel, 2019): <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.4470464> (Version 9)

