

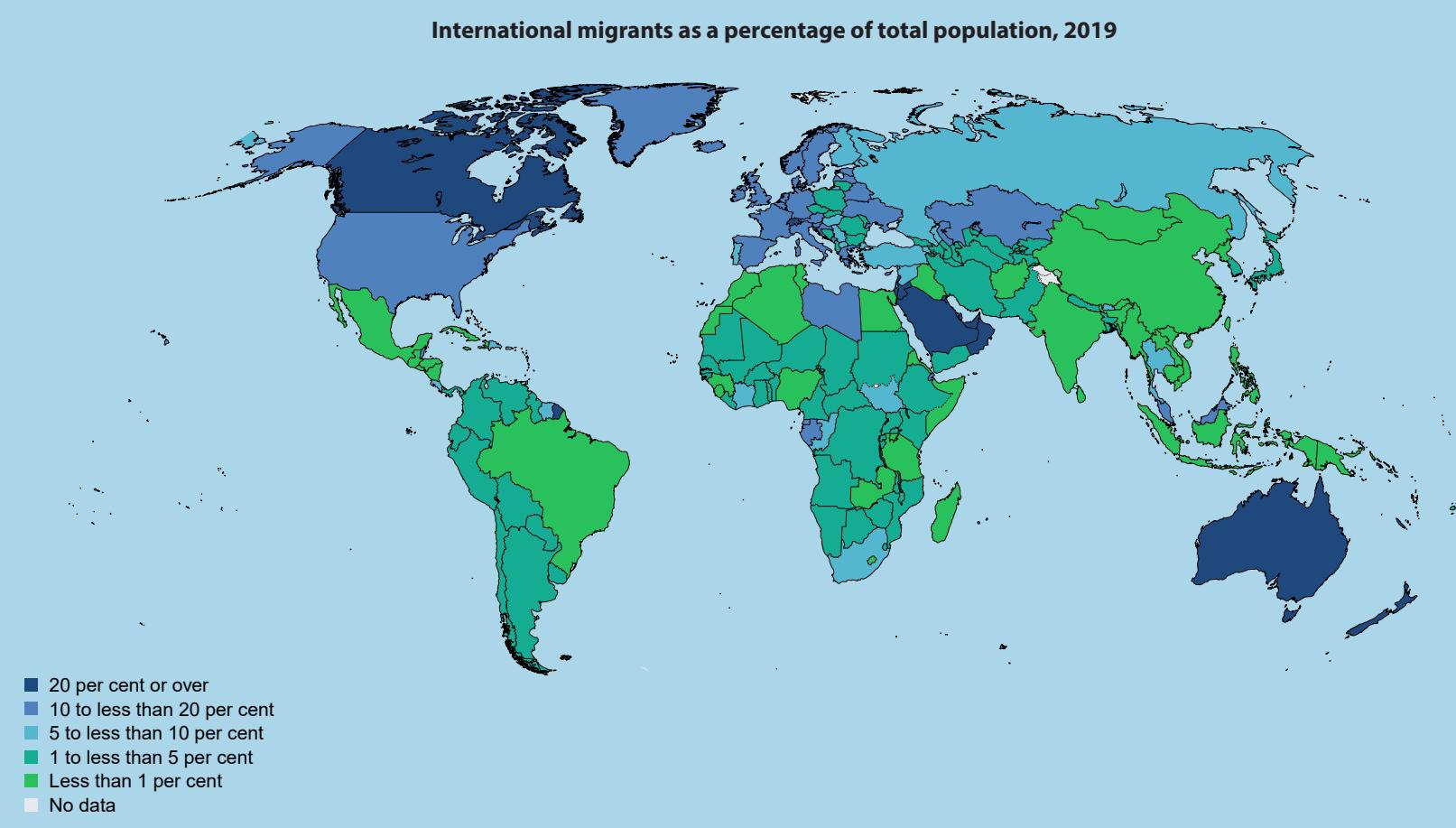


**United  
Nations**

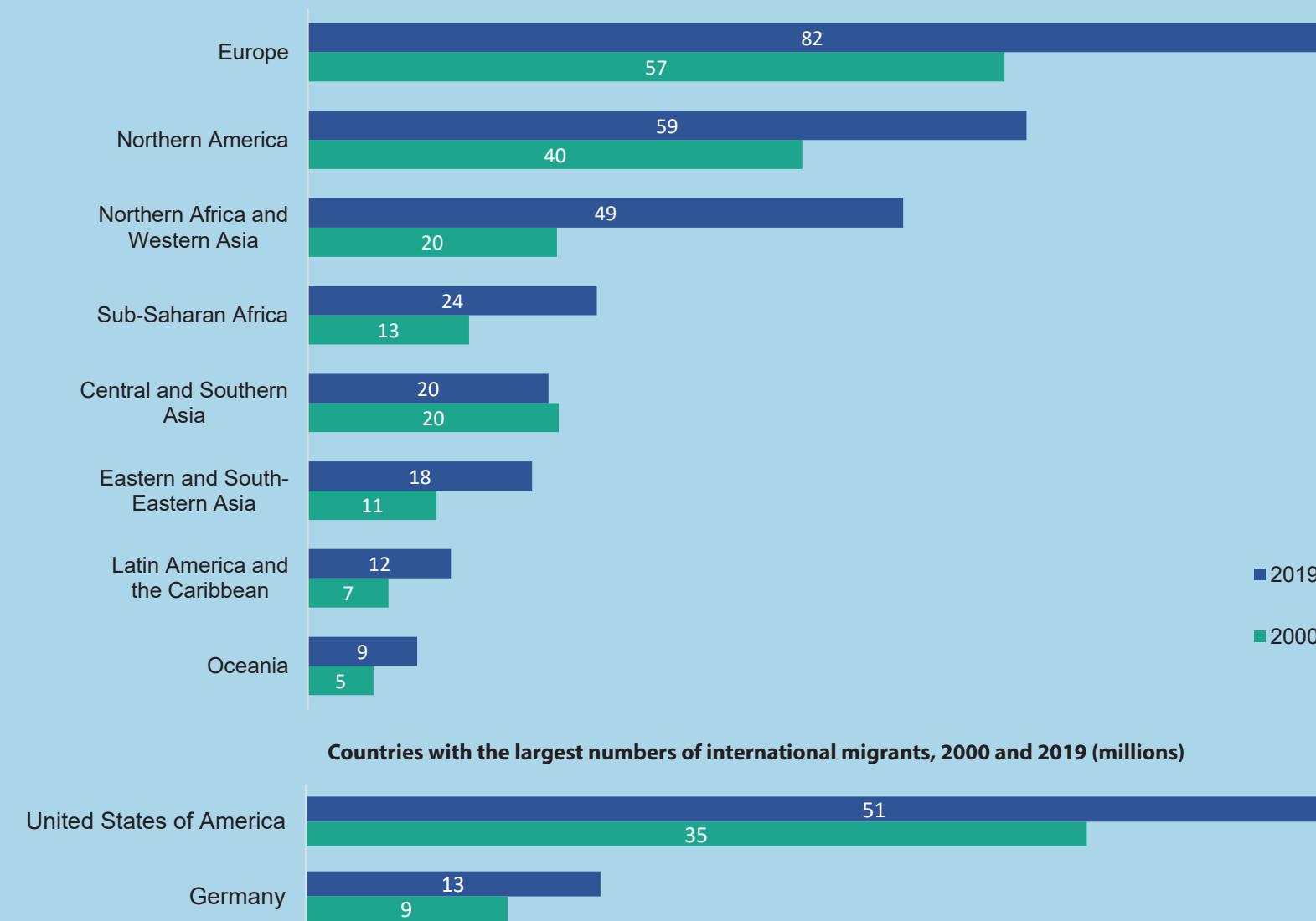
Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

# International Migration 2019

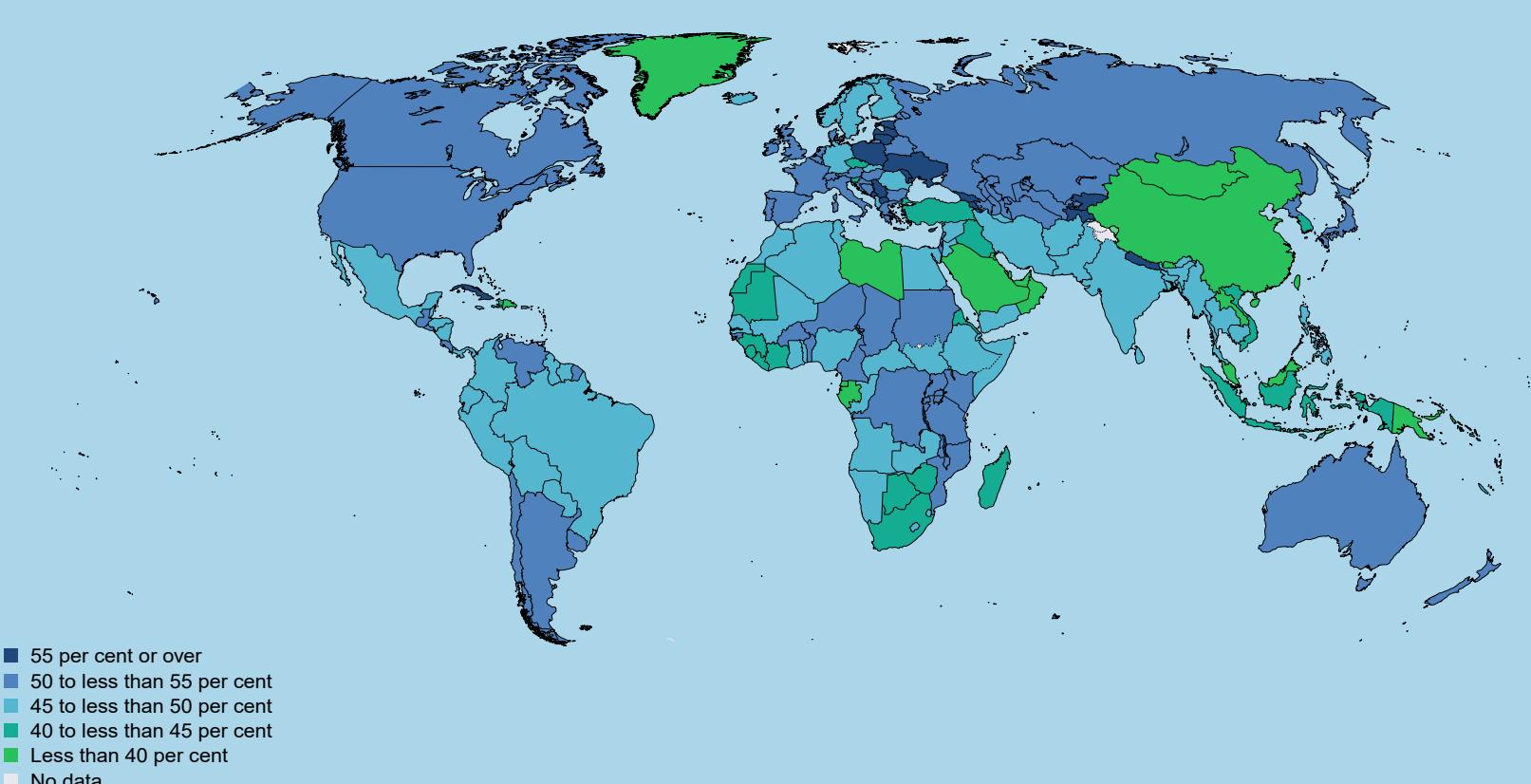
Population Division  
[www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org)



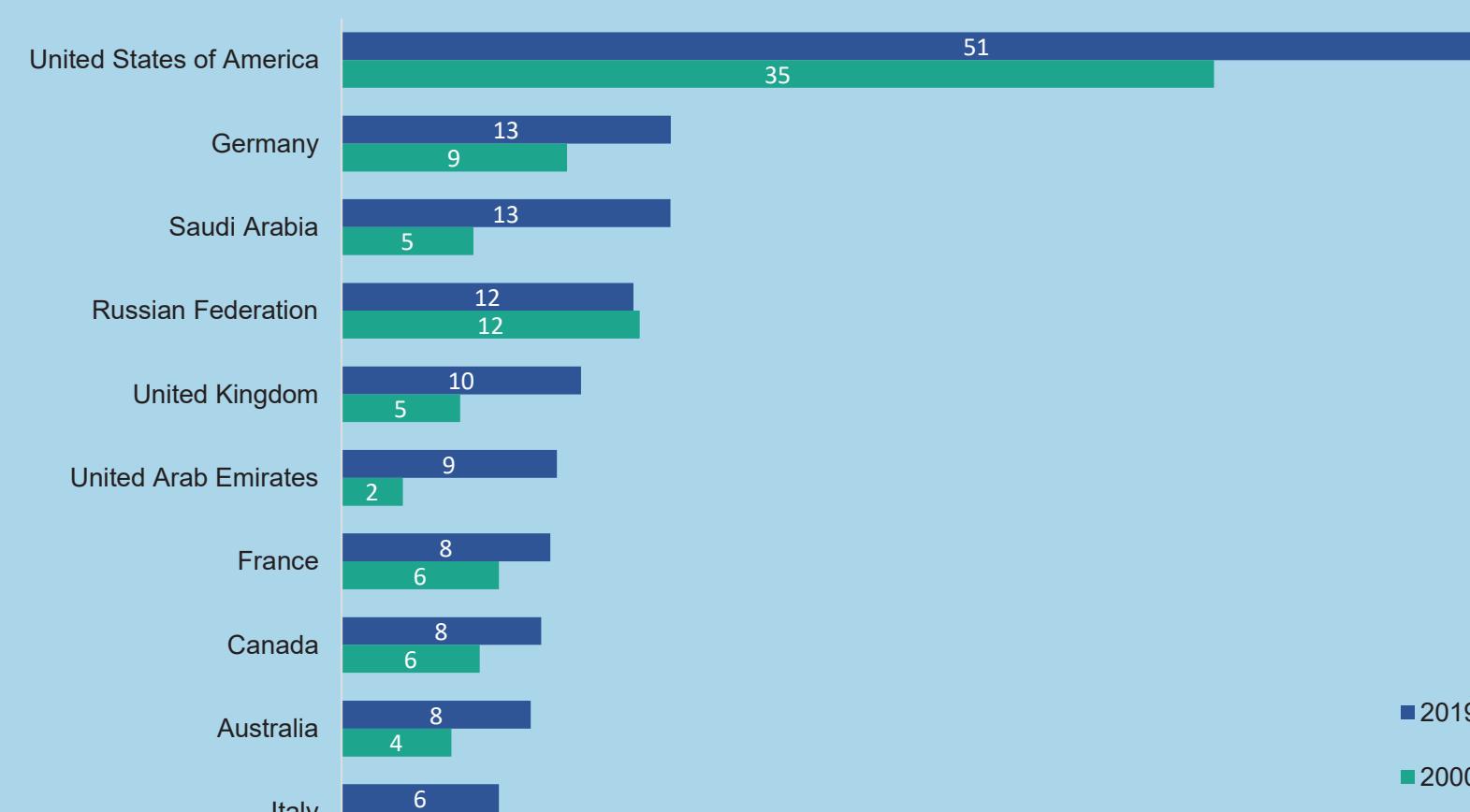
International migrants by SDG region, 2000 and 2019 (millions)



Percentage of females among all international migrants, 2019



Countries with the largest numbers of international migrants, 2000 and 2019 (millions)



Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *International Migrant Stock 2019*. Available at: [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org).

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control of Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

## Definitions

**International migrants:** The midyear (1 July) estimate of the number of people living in a country or area other than that in which they were born. Where the number of foreign-born was not available, the estimate refers to the number of people living in a country other than that of their citizenship. Data are presented in thousands.

**International migrants as a share of total population:** The number of international migrants divided by the total population. Data are expressed as percentages.

**Females among all international migrants:** The number of migrant women and girls divided by the total number of international migrants. Data are expressed as percentages.

**International migrants by age group in 2019:** The number of international migrants in a particular age group divided by the total number of international migrants. The data are shown for three age groups: 0-19, 20-64 and 65 or over. Data are expressed as percentages.

**Median age of international migrants:** The age that divides the migrant population in two parts of equal size, that is, there are as many persons with ages above the median as there are with ages below the median. Data are presented in years.

**Migrants originating from the same SDG region:** The number of international migrants born in a country of the same SDG region where they reside divided by the total number of international migrants residing in the country with known origin. Unknown origin residents were not imputed. SDG sub-regions Europe and Northern America are treated separately. Data are expressed as percentages.

**Refugees:** The number of people that are recognized as refugees under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol or under the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; those granted refugee status in accordance with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Statute; those granted humanitarian status or temporary protection by the State in which they find themselves; those in refugee-like situations; and Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Data include asylum-seekers and are presented in thousands.

**Refugees as a share of international migrants:** The number of refugees and asylum-seekers in 2017 divided by the number of international migrants in 2019. Data are expressed as percentages.

**Inflows of migrant remittances:** Remittances are defined as the sum of three components: (a) workers' remittances recorded under the heading "current transfers" in the current account of the balance of payments; (b) compensation of employees which includes wages, salaries, and other benefits of border, seasonal, and other nonresident workers (such as local staff of embassies) and which are recorded under the "income" subcategory of the current account; and (c) migrants' transfers which are reported under "capital transfers" in the capital account of the IMF's *Balance of Payments Yearbook* (item codes 2391, 2310, and 2431 respectively). Regional and other aggregates were calculated by the United Nations Population Division. All data are reported in current (nominal) US dollars and are presented in millions.

**Ratification of legal instruments related to international migration:** The legal instruments related to international migration ratified by each Member State or Permanent Observer State of the United Nations. The legal instruments refer to: (a) the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, (b) the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, (c) the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, (d) the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and (e) the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Data are presented by type of legal instrument.

**Adoption of global compacts:** Countries that voted "Yes" on the adoption of the global compacts related to international migration in the 73rd General Assembly of the United Nations. The global compacts refer to: (A) the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, (B) the Global Compact on Refugees. Data are presented by type of global compact.

## Sources

For the international migrants by sex, age and origin: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *International Migrant Stock 2019*. See: [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org).

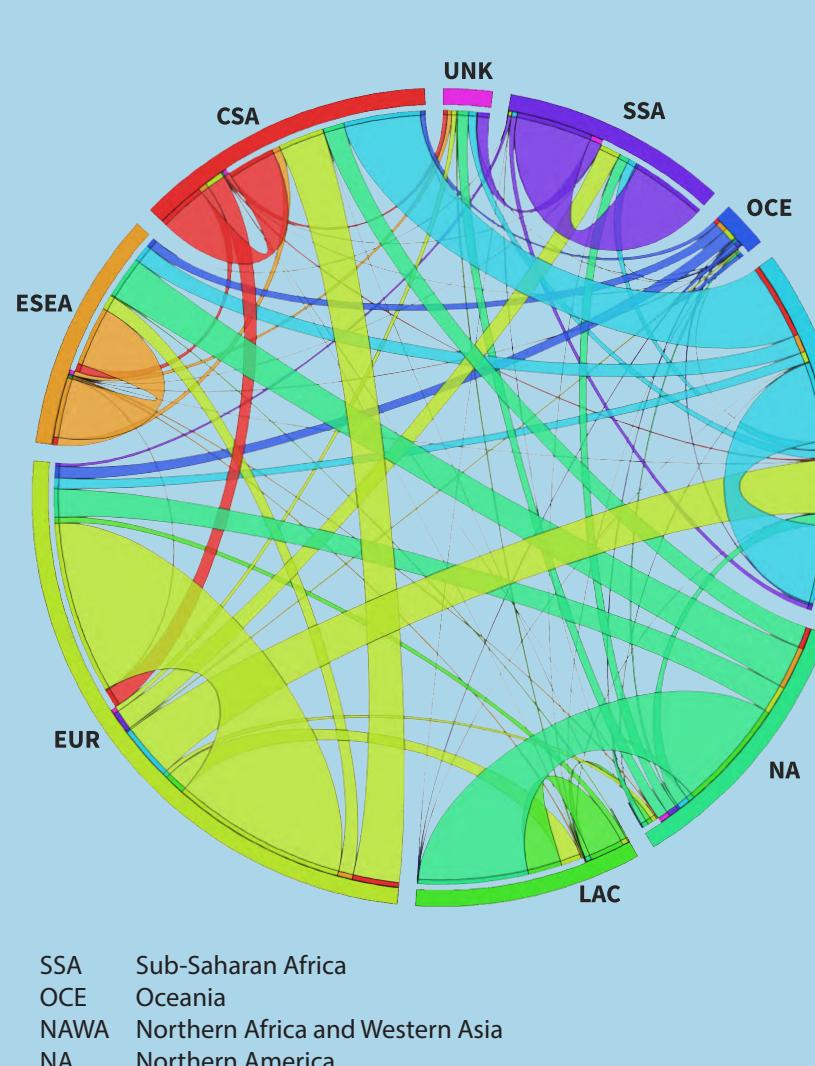
Total population: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Population Prospects 2019*. See: <http://population.un.org/wpp>.

For refugees and asylum-seekers: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2019). UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database. See: <http://popstats.unhcr.org>. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (2019). UNRWA in figures. See: [www.unrwa.org](http://www.unrwa.org).

For remittances: World Bank (2019). *Annual Remittance Data: Migrant Remittance Inflows*. See: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migration/remittances-diasporas/brief/migration-remittances-data> (as of April 2019).

For legal instruments: United Nations Treaty Collection; see <http://treaties.un.org> (as of 17 May 2019).

For global compacts: United Nations Digital Library; see <https://digitallibrary.un.org> (as of 21 May 2019).



The infographics represent international migration patterns as vectors from origin to destination by SDG regions. For more information on international migration patterns by origin and destination, please see [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org).

## Levels and trends in international migration

In 2019, the number of international migrants worldwide was nearly 272 million, up from 221 million in 2010 and 174 million in 2000. More than half of all international migrants lived in Europe (82 million) or Northern America (59 million). Northern Africa and Western Asia hosted the third largest number of international migrants (49 million), followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (24 million), Central and Southern Asia (20 million), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (18 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (12 million), and Oceania (9 million).

In many parts of the world, migration occurred primarily between countries within the same region. Most international migrants in sub-Saharan Africa (88.9 per cent), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (83.1 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (72.5 per cent), Central and Southern Asia (63.0 per cent), and Europe (51.6 per cent) originated from another country in the same region where they resided. By contrast, the majority of international migrants that lived in Northern America (97.5 per cent), Oceania (87.9 per cent), and Northern Africa and Western Asia (94.9 per cent) were born in a region other than the one they were residing in.

In 2019, two thirds of all international migrants were living in just 20 countries. The largest number of international migrants (51 million) resided in the United States of America, equal to about 19 per cent of the world's total. Germany and Saudi Arabia hosted the second and third largest numbers of migrants worldwide (around 13 million each), followed by the Russian Federation (12 million), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (10 million), and the United Arab Emirates (9 million). Of the 20 main destination countries of international migrants worldwide, seven were in Europe, four in Northern Africa and Western Asia, three in Central and Southern Asia, two in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, two in Northern America, and one each in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania.

## Demographic characteristics of international migration

Women comprised slightly less than half of all international migrants. The share of women in the total number of international migrants fell from 49.3 per cent in 2000 to 47.9 per cent in 2019. The share of migrant women varied across regions. In 2019, the percentage of females among all international migrants was highest in Northern America (51.8 per cent) and Europe (51.4 per cent), Oceania (50.4 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (49.9 per cent), Central and Southern Asia (49.4 per cent), and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (49.3 per cent) hosted an almost equal proportion of female and male migrants. The proportion of female migrants was lowest in sub-Saharan Africa (47.5 per cent) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (55.5 per cent).

The median age of international migrants worldwide was 39 years in 2019. International migrants living in sub-Saharan Africa were the youngest, with a median age of 30.9 years in 2019, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (33.8 years), Northern Africa and Western Asia (34.0 years), and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (35.7 years). In contrast, migrants were older in Central and Southern Asia (40.8 years), Europe (42.7 years), Oceania (42.9 years), and Northern America (43.5 years).

One out of every seven international migrants was below the age of 20. In 2019, the number of international migrants below age 20 reached 38 million, or 13.9 per cent of the global migrant stock. Sub-Saharan Africa hosted the highest proportion of young persons among all international migrants (27.3 per cent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean, and Northern Africa and Western Asia (21.6 per cent each). The share of those under age 20 among all migrants was smaller in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (13.3 per cent), Central and Southern Asia (13.2 per cent), Oceania (11 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (68.9 per cent), and sub-Saharan Africa (68.2 per cent).

In 2019, approximately 32 million international migrants, or 11.8 per cent of the global migrant stock, were aged 65 years or over. Oceania recorded the highest share of older persons among all international migrants in 2019 (18.8 per cent), followed by Northern America, Central and Southern Asia, and Europe (16.2 per cent, 15.9 per cent, and 14.4 per cent, respectively). International migrants aged 65 or over represented 9.5 per cent of all migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, 9.2 per cent in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, 4.5 per cent in Northern Africa and Western Asia, and 4.5 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Refugees and asylum-seekers

In 2017, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers worldwide was nearly 29 million. Two thirds of all refugees and asylum-seekers lived in Northern Africa and Western Asia (13.1 million) and sub-Saharan Africa (5.9 million). Central and Southern Asia as well as Europe each hosted 3.6 million refugees and asylum-seekers. The remaining four regions hosted a combined total of 2.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers.

Around 10.6 per cent of all international migrants were refugees and asylum-seekers. The share of refugees and asylum-seekers in the total number of migrants was an estimated 27 per cent in Northern Africa and Western Asia, 25.2 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, and 18.4 per cent in Central and Southern Asia. By contrast, refugees and asylum-seekers represented 5.2 per cent of international migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, 4.4 per cent in Europe, 3.5 per cent in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, 1.9 per cent in Northern America, and 1.2 per cent in Oceania.

## Migrant remittances

In 2018, migrant remittances reached an estimated US\$688 billion globally. Remittances to developing countries have risen from around US\$76 billion in 2000 to an estimated US\$498 billion in 2018. Countries in Europe recorded the highest inflow of remittances in 2018 (US\$173 billion), followed by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (US\$155 billion), Central and Southern Asia (US\$142 billion), Latin America and the Caribbean (US\$90 billion), Northern Africa and Western Asia (US\$69 billion), sub-Saharan Africa (US\$46 billion), Northern America (US\$9 billion), and Oceania (US\$4 billion).

## Legal instruments related to international migration

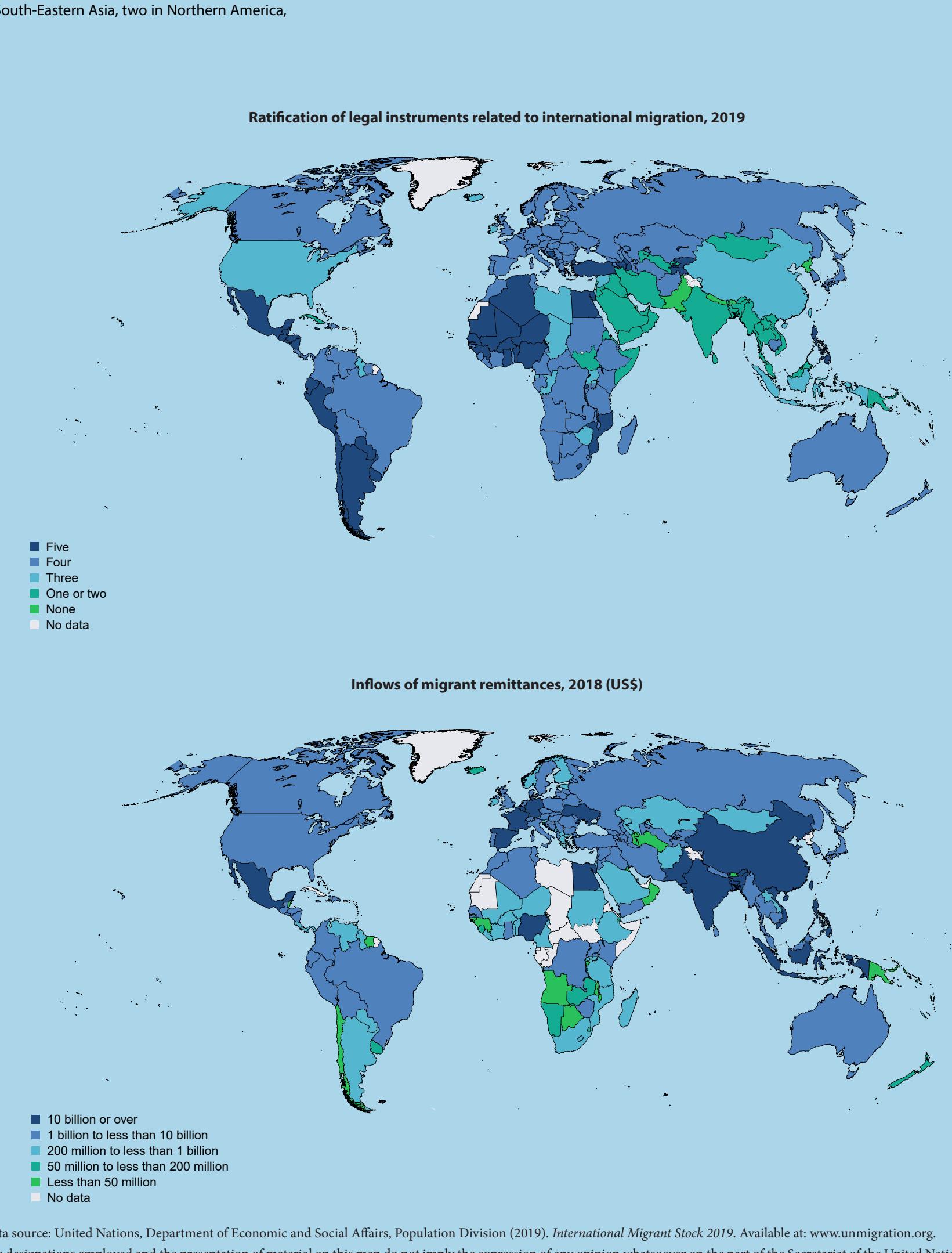
**Ratification of legal instruments related to international migration increased, but remained uneven.** By 2019, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol had been ratified by 146 and 147 Member States or Permanent Observer States of the United Nations, respectively. Likewise, 147 countries had ratified the protocol seeking to combat migrant smuggling, and 172 countries had ratified the protocol to combat human trafficking. However, only 54 United Nations Member States, or around one quarter of all countries, had ratified the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families.

**Two global compacts related to international migration were adopted by a majority of United Nations Member States in December 2018.** Of 193 Member States, 181 voted in favour of the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees, while 152 states voted in favour of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

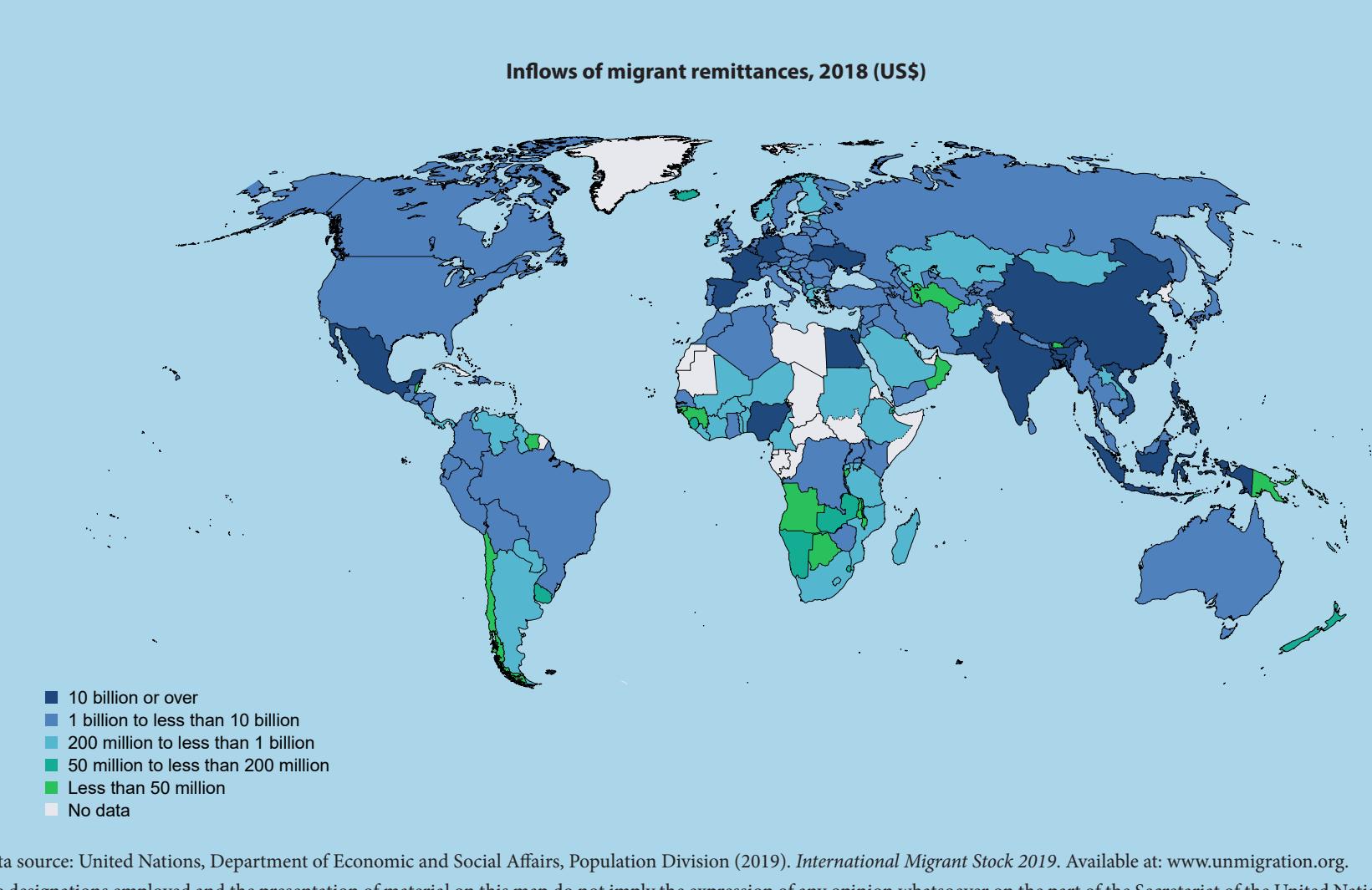
## Age and sex distribution of international migrants by SDG region, 2019 (percentage)



## Ratification of legal instruments related to international migration, 2019



## Inflows of migrant remittances, 2018 (US\$)



Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *International Migrant Stock 2019*. Available at: [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org). The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control of Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Region, sub-region, country or area <sup>a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q,r,s,t,u,v,w,x,y,z</sup>	International migrants (thousands)	International migrants as a share of total population (percentage)	Females among all international migrants (percentage)	International migrants by age group in 2019 (percentage)	Median age of international migrants (years)	Migrants originating from same SDG region (percentage)	Refugees as a share of international migrants (percentage)	Refugees as a share of international migrants (percentage)	Inflows of migrant remittances (millions of US\$)	Ratification of legal instruments related to international migration (type)	Adoption of global compact (type)					
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
<b>WORLD</b>	<b>17,588.4</b>	<b>271,642.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>28,711.5</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>126,749.7</b>	<b>680,168.1</b>	
More developed regions <sup>c</sup>	10,962.0	152,069.3	6.7	12.0	51.1	51.5	8.9	75.8	15.2	42.9	31.1	4,913.6	3.2	50,306.5	189,951.2	
Less developed regions <sup>c</sup>	6,826.5	11,972.8	1.4	1.9	46.5	43.4	20.3	72.2	7.5	34.5	62.1	23,397.9	2.0	76,443.2	492,216.9	
Least developed countries <sup>c</sup>	10,063.9	16,289.0	1.5	1.6	50.0	50.4	33.8	62.3	3.9	28.2	68.7	6,949.4	4.2	4,743.8	45,886.7	
Less developed regions, excluding least developed countries	59,562.5	103,283.8	1.4	1.9	46.0	42.3	16.1	73.7	8.1	35.3	61.1	16,848.6	16.4	70,223.4	452,348.2	
High-income countries	10,302.97	175,811.1	9.3	14.0	49.1	47.6	10.6	78.5	12.8	47.0	29.7	4,734.8	2.7	52,069.1	160,102.4	
Middle-income countries	6,115.9	82,237.7	1.3	1.4	49.5	48.2	18.1	70.9	11.0	36.6	70.4	18,489.7	2.5	71,643.7	497,461.8	
No income group available	2,411.5	4,145.5	1.7	1.7	50.4	50.3	31.9	64.1	4.0	28.9	85.1	5,478.0	4.1	3,037.1	30,603.9	
Africa	15,017.1	26,529.3	1.9	2.0	46.9	47.0	17.8	75.8	6.7	30.9	53.3	7,299.5	1.9	10,904.8	66,309.6	
Asia	45,394.3	83,559.2	1.3	1.8	45.2	41.5	17.4	74.4	8.2	35.6	55.0	16,101.7	19.2	46,475.4	325,804.4	
Europe	56,858.8	82,304.5	7.8	11.0	51.6	51.4	18.8	74.4	14.4	42.7	51.6	3,595.7	4.4	42,392.5	172,927.9	
Latin America and the Caribbean	6,570.7	11,673.3	1.3	1.8	49.1	49.0	21.6	83.6	9.5	33.8	72.5	6,073.7	5.2	20,347.6	89,771.8	
Northern America	4,035.17	58,647.8	12.9	16.0	50.5	51.8	8.8	75.1	16.2	43.5	2.5	1,068.3	1.9	4,400.0	9,420.8	
Oceania	5,381.2	8,927.9	17.1	21.2	50.1	50.4	11.0	70.3	18.8	42.9	12.1	2,230.2	1.2	2,340.2	3,940.7	
<b>SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>1,518.2</b>	<b>23,573.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>5,932.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3,659.1</b>	<b>45,785.9</b>	
<b>Eastern Africa</b>	<b>4,847.1</b>	<b>7,908.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>3,829.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>550.3</b>	<b>8,278.2</b>	
Burundi <sup>d</sup>	12.6	321.0	2.0	2.8	51.4	50.7	30.0	64.1	5.1	31.1	95.7	6,595.0	2.5	36.0	a, b, d, e	
Comoros <sup>d</sup>	13.8	12.6	2.5	1.5	52.6	51.8	18.4	76.2	5.4	35.4	95.7	0.0	0.0	a, b		
Djibouti <sup>d</sup>	10.3	11.5	1.9	1.9	47.5	47.5	17.4	72.4	5.7	35.7	95.7	2,337.9	12.5	63.4	a, b, d, e	
Eritrea <sup>d</sup>	13.0	1.6	0.5	0.5	47.1	44.6	31.6	65.3	2.1	28.5	93.1	2.4	14.9	3.3	a	
Ethiopia <sup>d</sup>	611.4	1,253.1	0.9	1.1	47.3	49.1	48.5	60.2	1.3	20.9	95.5	892.0	7.2	53.2	a, b, d, e	
Kenya <sup>d</sup>	70.9	1,044.4	2.2	2.0	50.1	50.0	31.2	64.0	4.8	31.2	98.0	4,684.7	4.6	2,179.7	a, b, d, e	
Madagascar <sup>d</sup>	23.5	34.9	0.1	0.1	43.6	43.0	20.5	61.8	17.7	40.7	46.7	0.1	0.2	11.3	a, b, c, d, e	
Malawi <sup>d</sup>	23.2	247.7	2.1	1.3	52.1	52.4	18.7	73.2	8.1	34.2	98.0	35.0	14.1	0.7	a, b, d, e	
Mauritius <sup>d</sup>	15.5	28.8	1.3	2.3	63.3	44.6	9.0	76.7	3.4	42.0	11.2	0.0	0.0	177.0	245.5	
Mayotte <sup>d</sup>	45.5	74.6	30.2	28.0	48.2	53.7	19.3	75.4	5.3	34.8	86.7	0.0	0.0	..	..	
Mozambique <sup>d</sup>	195.7	334.7	1.1	1.1	47.3	51.7	27.8	69.2	2.9	30.7	97.3	23.7	7.1	36.8	354.1	
Reunion <sup>d</sup>	100.7	129.2	1.3	1.7	48.1	49.3	31.8	64.1	4.1	31.2	96.7	1,260.1	1.9	51.1	a, b, d, e	
Rwanda <sup>d</sup>	10.7	14.1	4.4	4.4	52.6	52.6	25.7	62.7	1.5	30.0	95.7	1,174.0	1.9	30.0	..	
Uganda <sup>d</sup>	247.9	539.1	3.3	50.2	51.8	57.6	40.6	18.8	1.8	35.4	95.5	1,395.1	8.0	230.0	1,246.0	
United Republic of Tanzania <sup>d</sup>	948.6	509.2	2.8	0.9	49.3	50.6	22.7	69.6	7.6	34.4	97.6	352.7	1.2	4,290.0	1,246.0	
Zambia <sup>d</sup>	343.7	170.7	3.3	1.0	49.1	49.4	19.8	73.3	6.9	34.2	93.3	45.9	2.7	100.9	a, b, d, e	
Zimbabwe <sup>d</sup>	410.1	411.3	3.5	2.8	43.0	43.2	15.2	76.9	7.8	38.3	95.8	15.9	3.9	1,856.0	a, b, d, e	
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>	<b>1,773.3</b>	<b>3,785.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>3,141.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3,769.4</b>	<b>17,694.1</b>	
Cameroun <sup>d</sup>	46.1	66.9	0.3	0.1	49.3	49.0	22.0	73.0	5.1	33.6	96.4	71.3	10.6	1.5	a, b, d, e	
Central African Republic <sup>d</sup>	23.3	36.4	0.3	0.3	45.5	45.5	18.0	76.0	5.5	30.0	95.7	1,144.0	1.2	1,144.0	a, b, d, e	
Chad <sup>d</sup>	164.9	512.2	1.3	3.2	46.1	53.3	17.7	69.5	5.5	26.4	92.0	4,251.1	6.5	1,057.0	a, b, d, e	
Congo <sup>d</sup>	30.5	401.9	1.7	7.5	49.9	45.2	27.8	71.5	5.1	31.6	95.4	5,195.0	5.5	55.6	a, b, d, e	
Democratic Republic of the Congo <sup>d</sup>	744.4	963.8	1.6	1.1	51.0	51.9	23.6	71.4	5.0	30.5	95.4	537.9	5.5	1,405.3	a, b, d, e	
Equatorial Guinea <sup>d</sup>	4.5	22.7	0.6	1.7	47.0	22.9	2.3	97.2	0.5	31.5	33.2	0.0	0.0	..	a, b, d, e	
Gabon <sup>d</sup>	214.4	411.5	17.5	18.9	42.6	35.0	28.0	67.4	3.8	30.8	94.6	0.8	0.2	61.1	a, b, d, e	
Sao Tome and Principe <sup>d</sup>	4.4	2.2	3.1</													