KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

2019 KENYA POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

VOLUME VIII: ANALYTICAL REPORT ON MIGRATION

HIGHLIGTHS ON KIAMBU COUNTY

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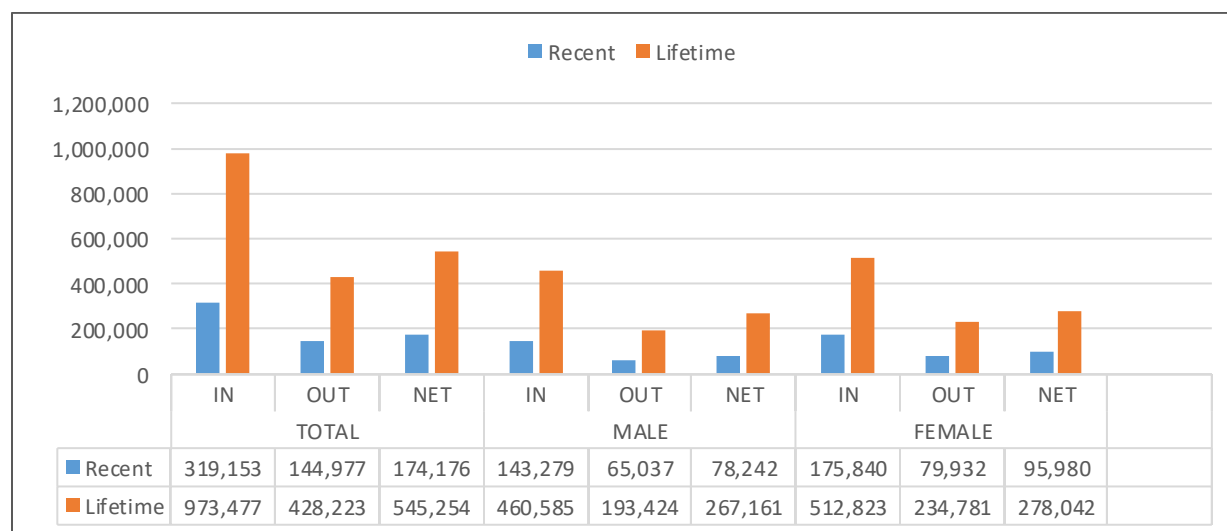
1 Introduction

This report highlights both internal and international migration in Kiambu County, reporting on the size, composition, trends and socioeconomic characteristics of migrants in the county as analyzed in the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census.

1.1 Objectives

   i. To identify the size, composition, trends and socioeconomic characteristics of internal migration in Kiambu County.
   ii. To identify the size, composition, trends and socioeconomic characteristics of international migration in Kiambu County.

2 Trends of Internal Migration

Figure 1: Recent and Lifetime In-migrants, out-migrants and Net migrants by sex in Kiambu, 2019

	TOTAL			MALE			FEMALE		
	IN	OUT	NET	IN	OUT	NET	IN	OUT	NET
Recent	319,153	144,977	174,176	143,279	65,037	78,242	175,840	79,932	95,980
Lifetime	973,477	428,223	545,254	460,585	193,424	267,161	512,823	234,781	278,042

2.1 Recent Migration

This constituted the population whose county of residence in August 2018 was different from their county of enumeration in August 2019.

Kiambu County had the 2nd highest number of recent in-migrants (973,477) after Nairobi (2,569,222). Female recent migrants (175,840) were higher than male recent

migrants (143,279). The county experienced more in-migration than out-migration with a net migrant of (174,176).

2.2   Lifetime Migration

Kiambu County is considered a lifetime in-migration county as the number of people who moved in exceed those that moved out.

2.3   Lifetime Net Migration

Lifetime net migration is the difference between lifetime in-migration and lifetime out-migration. During past censuses, the county was an area of net loss of lifetime migrants but in the recent 2019 Census saw the county become an area of net gain of lifetime migrants.

3   Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Migrants

Socio-economic factors included in this section are: educational attainment, marital status and economic activity and place of residence. The socioeconomic factors that determine migration include: **employment, education, and income**.

Those who had attained a primary schooling were the majority of recent migrants while those who had attained a secondary schooling (332,415) were the majority of lifetime migrants.

3.1   Migration by Main Urban Centres

Table 1: Distribution of Recent Migrants by Main Urban Centres in Kiambu Couny, 2019

	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Popularity position Countrywide
Ruiru	99,330 (6.0)	45,999 (46.3)	53,318 (53.7)	4th
Kikuyu	57,294 (3.5)	25,855 (45.1)	31,435 (54.9)	7th
Thika	45,471 (2.8)	21,027 (46.2)	24,440 (53.7)	8th
Juja	31,242 (1.9)	14,865 (47.6)	16,374 (52.4)	13th

Ruiru (6.0%) was the most popular urban center of destination for migrants in the county, and the 4th most popular urban centre countrywide behind Nairobi, Mombasa and Nakuru cities. Kikuyu, Thika and Juja also made to the top 15 most popular urban centers destinations of migrants countrywide. Women accounted for more than 50 percent of migrants in all the main urban centers.

3.2 Migration by Education Attainment

In both the recent and lifetime migrants, those that had attained a secondary level qualification were the largest number of migrants followed closely by those having attained a primary level education as shown by **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** below.

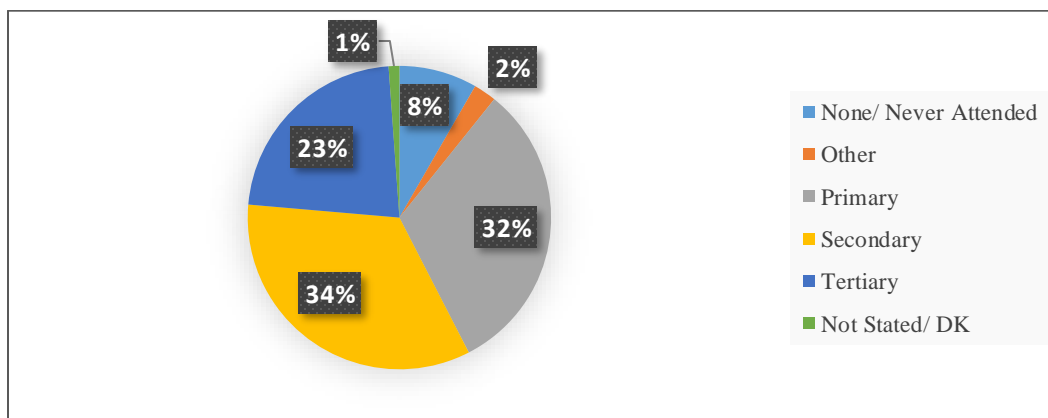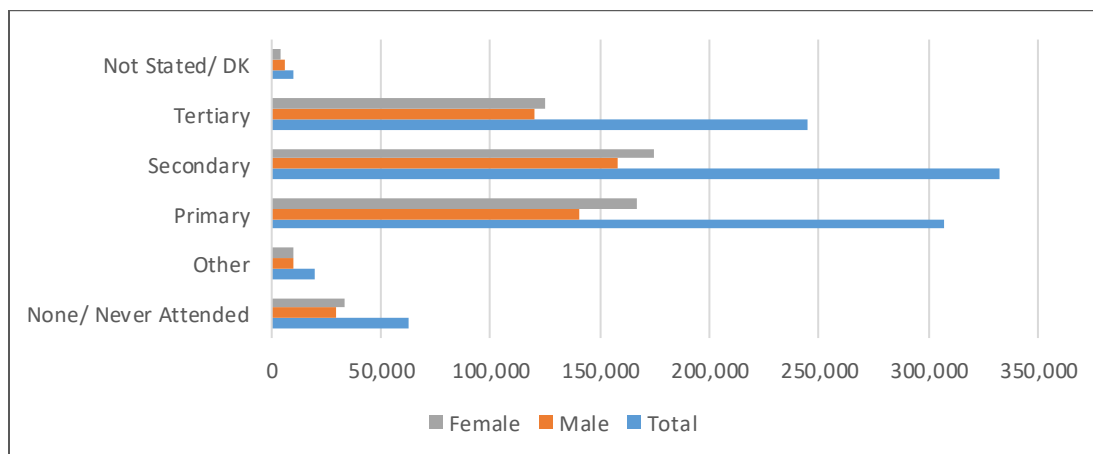*Figure 2*: *Distribution of Recent Migrants in Kiambu by Education Attainment, 2019 (Age 3+)*

Figure 3: *Distribution of lifetime migrant by Sex, Education Attainment in Kiambu, 2019 (Age 3+)*

4 Trends in International Migration

Migrants from the East African countries and other African countries had a significant contribution to international migration into Kenya in 2019 with Uganda recording the majority of international migrants in all categories.

More than half of foreign-born persons enumerated in the county were Ugandans (54.9%), followed by Congolese (DRC) (7.5%) and Tanzanians (6.5%) respectively. The other nationalities had a percentage distribution below 5%.

Ruiru town came up top as the most popular urban centre in the county hosting foreign-born with a total population of 6,935 foreign-born, followed by Kikuyu town at 3,561.

Figure 4: *Percentage distribution of foreign born by Country of Birth in Kiambu County, 2019*
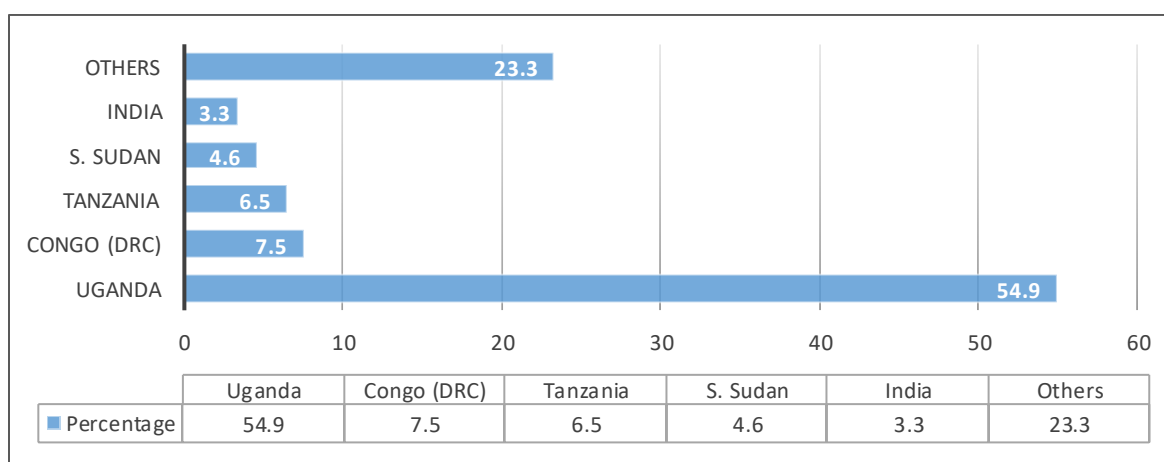

	Uganda	Congo (DRC)	Tanzania	S. Sudan	India	Others
■ Percentage	54.9	7.5	6.5	4.6	3.3	23.3

Table 2: *Number of Foreign-Born Population by Major Urban Centres in Kiambu, 2019*

	Total
Kenya	227,911
Ruiru	6,935
Kikuyu	3,561
Thika	1,830
Juja	1,101

5   Summary

This section contains a summary of the main findings based on recent migration, lifetime migration, lifetime net migration and immigration in the county.

5.1   Recent Migration

In-migration has been to both rural and urban areas. However, it was markedly higher to urban areas than to the rural areas implying both rural-urban migration and inter-urban migration, explaining the notable in-migration in Ruiru, Juja, and Thika. Kiambu had more in-migrants than other neighboring rural counties that they share similar ecology and geographical location. In-migration to the rural areas was also marked implying that the devolved system of government has had an impact on the distribution of devolved funds thereby attracting mobility to local rural markets.

5.2   Lifetime Migration

Kiambu was one of the major destinations for lifetime migrants. There have been more female lifetime in-migrants and out-migrants which can be associated with equity in education attainment by both sexes, and a lure for similar socio-economic opportunities, across the county.

5.3   Lifetime Net Migration

The county became an area of net gain migration which can be attributed to its proximity to Nairobi, the country's capital with the trend also seen in Nairobi's other neighbours. This implies that Kiambu experienced and provided more opportunities for socio-economic wellbeing, thereby attracting more in-migration than out-migration.

5.4   Immigration

The impact of regional economic blocks, such as East African Community (EAC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in increasing interaction among peoples from the region, as well as political instability among Kenya's neighbours leading to refugees, may be an important contributory factor to immigration in the country which is also reflected at the county level.

References

Shelmith Kariuki (2020). rKenyaCensus: 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Results. R package version 0.0.2.

Republic of Kenya (2020): 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Analytical Report Volume VIII