

1. Since 2000, the total number of international migrants increased by almost 50 per cent

In 2017, the number of international migrants reached an estimated 258 million persons. During the period from 2000 to 2017, the total number of international migrants increased from 173 to 258 million persons, an increase of 85 million (49 per cent). Half of this increase took place in countries of the developed regions (the •NorthŽ), while the other half took place in the developing regions (the •SouthŽ).

The role of developing countries in global migration is increasing. Between 2000 and 2017, the number of international migrants residing in the South increased from 40 to 43 per cent of the total worldwide, while the number of international migrants born in the South increased from 67 to 72 per cent.

The number of international migrants is growing faster than the global population. The number of international migrants as a percentage of the global population has grown over time. Currently, international migrants comprise 3.4 per cent of the global population, compared to 2.8 per cent in the year 2000. In the North, almost 12 of every 100 inhabitants are international migrants, compared to only two of every 100 inhabitants in the South. Given the differential growth rates of the total population between the developed and the developing regions, international migrants as a share of the total population are likely to continue to grow faster in the North than in the South.

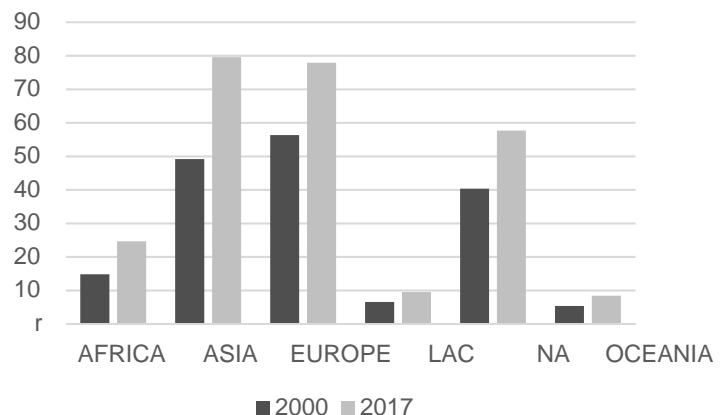
2. Asia and Europe host the largest numbers of international migrants

Six of every ten international migrants reside in Asia or Europe. In 2017, Asia hosted the largest number of international migrants (80 million), followed by Europe (78 million) and Northern America (58 million). Africa (25

million), Latin America and the Caribbean (10 million) and Oceania (8 million) combined hosted around 43 million, or 17 per cent, of the global total (figure 1). Between 2000 and 2017, the global share of international migrants residing in Asia increased from 29 to 31 per cent, while Europe’s share declined from 33 to 30 per cent.

3. Africa has experienced the fastest increase in the number of international migrants

Since 2000, the number of international migrants in Africa has increased by 67 per cent. Between 2000 and 2017, the number of international migrants in Africa increased from 15 million to 25 million (figure 1). As a result, the percentage of all international migrants residing in Africa increased from 9 per cent in 2000 to 10 per cent in 2017. Asia was the region recording the second largest relative increase in the migrant population (62 per cent), followed by Oceania (56 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (44 per cent), Northern America (43 per cent) and Europe (38 per cent).



Note: NA = Northern America; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean

4. Asia and Europe are the top regions of origin for international migrants

Two-third of all international migrants were born in Asia or Europe. In 2017, Asia was the region of origin of an estimated 106 million international migrants, representing 41 per cent of the global total. Europe was the source of the second largest number of international migrants (61 million), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (38 million), Africa (36 million), Oceania (2 million), and the Americas (1 million). In 2017, the number of international migrants from Asia was 106 million, from Europe 61 million, from Latin America and the Caribbean 38 million, from Africa 36 million, from Oceania 2 million, and from the Americas 1 million.

international migrants in 2017, or 19 per cent of the world's total. Saudi Arabia and Germany hosted the second and third largest numbers of migrants (12.2 million each), followed by the Russian Federation (11.7 million), the United Kingdom (8.8 million), the United Arab Emirates (8.3 million), France and Canada (7.9 million each), Australia (7.0 million) and Spain (5.9 million). Between 2000 and 2017, the countries reporting the largest relative increase in the number of international migrants included Spain (260 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (240 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (130 per cent).

The top 10 countries of origin account for one third of all international migrants. In 2017, with 16.6 million persons living abroad, India was the leading country of origin of international migrants. Migrants from Mexico

