

3. International migration

In 2006, more people left Asia and the Pacific than entered it.

This region has a crude net migration rate similar to that of Africa, but considerably lower than that of the Latin American and Caribbean region, which has the highest net outflow rate among all the regions of the world. North America, in contrast, is the region with the highest crude net migration rate, at 4.7 per 1,000 population, followed by Europe, at 2.4 per 1,000 population. These two regions have the highest net inflow rates among all the regions of the world.

Among country groupings within Asia and the Pacific, the Central Asian countries had the highest outflow rate of people, with an average of 8 migrants per 1,000 population between 1995 and 2000, and an average of 4 migrants per 1,000 between 2000 and 2005. The relative outflows are much higher in several Pacific island States for which no aggregate figure is given in table 3.1.

The Federated States of Micronesia has the highest negative net migration rate in Asia and the Pacific, with an average outflow of 18 people per 1,000 population. Micronesians have mainly moved to Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and, to a lesser extent, Palau.

Timor-Leste now has the highest net inflow rate of migrants in Asia and the Pacific, with 21 migrants per 1,000 population, in stark contrast to the negative crude net migration rate of 41 migrants per 1,000 population registered during the years of conflict. Booming cities Singapore and Macao, China, are also among the areas with the highest crude migration rates in this region, receiving around 10 migrants per 1,000 population annually.

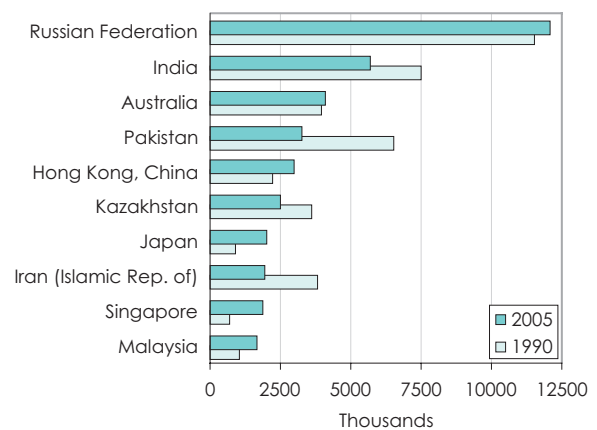
It is noteworthy that all countries with negative net migration have been experiencing this phenomenon over the last 15 years. The economic and social implications of this are significant, as a decline in population through constant outflows of migrants can only be compensated for by high fertility rates, which most of these countries do not have.

Half of the bottom 15 countries with negative net migration rates are in Central Asia. Emigration from this region is directed mainly towards the Russian Federation and, to a lesser extent, Europe. According to some estimates, there are about 700,000 Armenian migrants in the Russian Federation, the same number from Kyrgyzstan, and 600,000 from Tajikistan. Azerbaijan, with

1.5 million, has the highest number of migrants in the Russian Federation (University of California Davis, 2006).

These figures are reflected in the stock of migrants in Asia and the Pacific. The Russian Federation has the highest number of migrants in the region, with over 12 million foreign citizens; slightly above the number it had in 1990. India has the second largest stock of migrants in the region, but almost 2 million less than in 1990. The migrant stocks of Pakistan, at over 3 million, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, at close to 2 million, have fallen by half during the last 15 years.

Figure 3.1 Stock of foreign migrants in selected Asian and Pacific countries/areas, 1990 and 2005



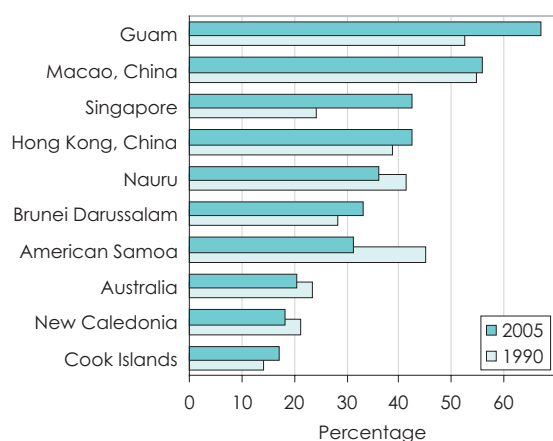
While the migrant stocks number in millions, it is interesting that they represent only 1.2 per cent of the total population of Asia and the Pacific, compared with 1.6 per cent in 1990.

In high-income countries, the share of international migrants in the total population has increased during the last decade and a half. In 2005, migrants represented 6 per cent of the population in high-income countries, far above the 1 per cent in middle-income countries, as shown in table 3.1.

The share of migrants in the total population of landlocked developing countries declined substantially, from 9.3 per cent in 1990 to 5.6 per cent in 2005. The share of migrants in Central Asian countries decreased at a similar rate, standing currently at 7 per cent, compared with 12 per cent in 1990.

The highest shares of migrants in Asia and the Pacific are found in the Pacific islands. Two thirds of the population of Guam is of foreign origin, consisting mainly of migrants from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Philippines. For most of the countries/areas in the Pacific, however, the

Figure 3.2 Foreign population as a share of the total population in selected Asian and Pacific countries/ areas, 1990 and 2005



share of immigrants has decreased during the last decade and a half.

Singapore, Macao, China, and Hong Kong, China, also have high shares of immigrant populations. In Singapore and Hong Kong, China, over 40 per cent of the total population is of foreign origin; in Macao, China, it is more than half. Among the developed countries of Asia and the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand have the highest shares of immigrants, with over 20 and 16 per cent of the total population, respectively.

Stock of foreign population (thousands): Estimated number of international immigrants, male and female, in the middle of the indicated year. Generally represents the number of persons born in a country other than where they live. *Aggregates:* Sum of individual country values. *Source:* World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision Population Database (online database, accessed in July 2007).

Stock of foreign population as a share of total population (percentage): The number of international immigrants divided by the total population. Expressed as a percentage in the middle of the indicated year. Where data on the place of birth was unavailable, the number of non-citizens was used as a proxy for the number of international immigrants. In

either case, the migrant stock includes refugees, some of whom may not be foreign-born. *Aggregates:* Averages are calculated using the total population as weight. *Source:* World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision Population Database (online database, accessed in July 2007).

Net migration rate (per 1,000 population): The number of international immigrants minus the number of emigrants over a period, divided by the average population of the receiving country over that period. Expressed as the net number of migrants per 1,000 population. *Aggregates:* Averages are calculated using total population as weight. *Source:* World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision Population Database (online database, accessed in July 2007).

3.1 International migration

	Stock of foreign population				Stock of foreign population as share in total population				Net migration rate		
	Thousands				Percentage				Per 1,000 population		
	1990	1995	2000	2005	1990	1995	2000	2005	90-95	95-00	00-05
East and North-East Asia											
China	380	441	513	596	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3
DPR Korea	34	35	36	37	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16			
Hong Kong, China	2 218	2 432	2 701	2 999	38.89	39.31	40.69	42.59	10.1	9.3	8.7
Macao, China	204	224	240	257	54.86	54.37	54.18	55.91	7.8	7.1	10.9
Mongolia	7	7	8	9	0.30	0.31	0.33	0.34	-5.2	-7.4	-4.0
Republic of Korea	572	584	568	551	1.33	1.30	1.21	1.15	-0.5	-0.3	-0.3
South-East Asia											
Brunei Darussalam	73	87	104	124	28.48	29.60	31.23	33.22	2.6	2.2	2.0
Cambodia	38	116	237	304	0.39	1.02	1.86	2.16	2.8	1.3	0.2
Indonesia	466	219	330	160	0.26	0.11	0.16	0.07	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9
Lao PDR	23	23	24	25	0.55	0.50	0.46	0.42	-1.4	-3.5	-4.2
Malaysia	1 014	1 135	1 392	1 639	5.68	5.58	6.05	6.47	3.0	4.5	1.2
Myanmar	101	112	115	117	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.23	-0.6	0.0	-0.4
Philippines	164	214	322	374	0.27	0.31	0.43	0.45	-2.8	-2.5	-2.2
Singapore	727	992	1 352	1 843	24.11	28.51	33.65	42.61	15.4	19.6	9.6
Thailand	391	568	844	1 050	0.72	0.97	1.37	1.64	0.6	1.7	0.7
Timor-Leste	5	6	5	6	0.72	0.68	0.73	0.65		-40.8	21.2
Viet Nam	28	27	28	21	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5
South and South-West Asia											
Afghanistan									42.9	-4.1	9.7
Bangladesh	882	1 006	988	1 032	0.85	0.86	0.77	0.73	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7
Bhutan	8	9	9	10	0.51	0.50	0.47	0.45	-38.3	0.1	11.7
India	7 493	6 951	6 271	5 700	0.88	0.74	0.61	0.52	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	3 809	2 478	2 321	1 959	6.72	3.98	3.50	2.82	-5.3	-1.7	-3.7
Maldives	3	3	3	3	1.23	1.15	1.08	1.02			
Nepal	413	625	718	819	2.16	2.88	2.94	3.02	-1.0	-0.9	-0.8
Pakistan	6 556	4 077	4 243	3 254	5.87	3.23	2.97	2.06	-4.3	-0.1	-1.6
Sri Lanka	461	428	397	368	2.59	2.27	2.00	1.78	-2.9	-4.3	-4.7
Turkey	1 150	1 210	1 259	1 328	2.01	1.93	1.85	1.81	0.4	0.3	-0.1
North and Central Asia											
Armenia	659	455	314	235	18.58	14.09	10.19	7.80	-29.5	-14.3	-6.6
Azerbaijan	361	292	160	182	5.00	3.75	1.97	2.16	-3.1	-3.2	-2.4
Georgia	338	250	219	191	6.20	4.97	4.63	4.27	-21.3	-14.4	-10.8
Kazakhstan	3 619	3 295	2 871	2 502	21.93	20.77	19.10	16.88	-18.6	-17.1	-2.7
Kyrgyzstan	623	482	372	288	14.18	10.50	7.52	5.47	-12.2	-1.1	-3.0
Russian Federation	11 525	11 707	11 892	12 080	7.77	7.90	8.11	8.44	3.0	3.0	1.3
Tajikistan	426	305	330	306	8.03	5.28	5.36	4.71	-11.3	-11.6	-10.8
Turkmenistan	307	260	241	224	8.36	6.19	5.35	4.63	2.5	-2.3	-0.4
Uzbekistan	1 653	1 474	1 367	1 268	8.06	6.43	5.53	4.77	-3.1	-3.4	-2.3
Pacific											
American Samoa	21	21	21	20	44.97	39.45	35.73	31.42			
Cook Islands	3	3	3	3	14.09	13.71	15.34	17.00			
Fiji	14	15	16	17	1.89	1.92	1.96	2.03	-9.3	-10.7	-10.3
French Polynesia	26	28	31	34	13.22	13.06	13.03	13.08	-0.5	1.4	1.5
Guam	70	82	97	113	52.43	56.59	62.20	66.85	-4.6	-6.4	1.0
Kiribati	2	2	2	3	3.03	2.86	2.71	2.59			
Marshall Islands											
Micronesia (F.S.)	3	3	3	4	3.18	3.16	3.24	3.22	-4.4	-25.4	-17.9
Nauru	4	4	5	5	41.49	39.33	37.41	36.09			
New Caledonia	37	39	41	43	21.40	20.03	18.97	18.22	5.8	5.5	4.3
Niue	0	0	0	0	11.44	10.01	8.70	7.61			
Northern Mariana Is.	5	5	5	5	10.95	8.72	7.33	6.48			
Palau	2	2	3	3	12.66	12.91	13.53	15.22			
Papua New Guinea	33	32	26	25	0.80	0.68	0.50	0.43			
Samoa	6	7	8	9	3.64	4.05	4.46	4.97	-15.8	-16.2	-16.6
Solomon Islands	4	4	4	3	1.28	1.04	0.84	0.69			
Tonga	3	2	2	1	3.19	2.26	1.59	1.14	-18.0	-19.5	-16.1
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0	3.23	3.17	3.12	3.12			
Vanuatu	2	2	1	1	1.44	0.98	0.69	0.49	-1.1	-7.9	
ESCAP Developed Economies											
Australia	3 984	4 068	4 072	4 097	23.61	22.67	21.35	20.33	5.9	5.0	6.0
Japan	877	1 261	1 620	2 048	0.71	1.00	1.28	1.60	0.4	0.4	0.4
New Zealand	529	732	708	642	15.52	20.00	18.54	15.94	5.3	2.1	5.1
ESCAP	52 357	48 841	49 461	48 940	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
LLDC	8 098	7 226	6 415	5 867	9.3	7.7	6.5	5.5	-0.2	-5.5	-0.4
LDC	1 488	1 915	2 114	2 332	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.6	-0.8	0.3
SIDS	970	1 252	1 627	2 143	9.4	10.6	12.4	14.7			
ASEAN	3 026	3 494	4 747	5 658	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	-0.5	-0.2	-0.6
SAARC	15 816	13 098	12 628	11 186	1.4	1.0	0.9	0.7	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3
Central Asia	7 985	6 812	5 875	5 196	12.0	9.8	8.2	7.0	-10.5	-8.1	-3.8
Low-income	18 319	15 282	14 771	13 214	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.8	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4
Middle-income	24 713	23 023	23 149	22 965	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	-0.5	-0.3	-0.5
High-income	9 318	10 529	11 533	12 752	4.7	5.2	5.5	6.0	1.3	1.4	1.3
Africa									-0.5	-0.4	-0.5
Latin America & Carib.									-1.7	-1.5	-2.5
North America									4.0	4.5	4.7
Europe									1.3	0.8	2.4
Other Asia-Pacific									2.9	2.1	2.0
World	154 945	165 080	176 736	190 634							