

# MigFacts: International Migration

**244 million** international migrants globally in 2015<sup>1</sup>

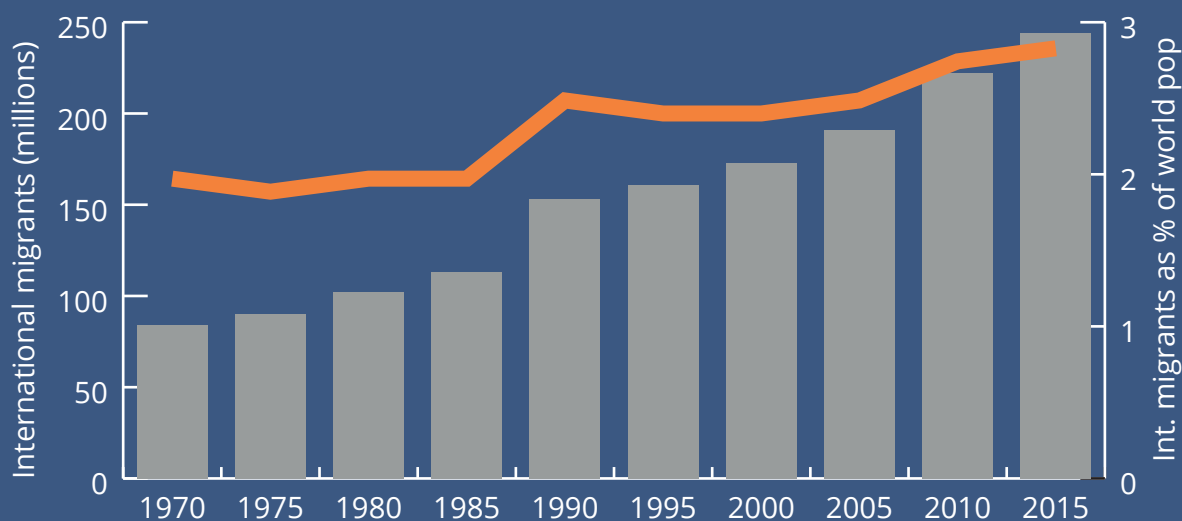


An international migrant is a person who is living in a country other than his or her country of birth<sup>2</sup>

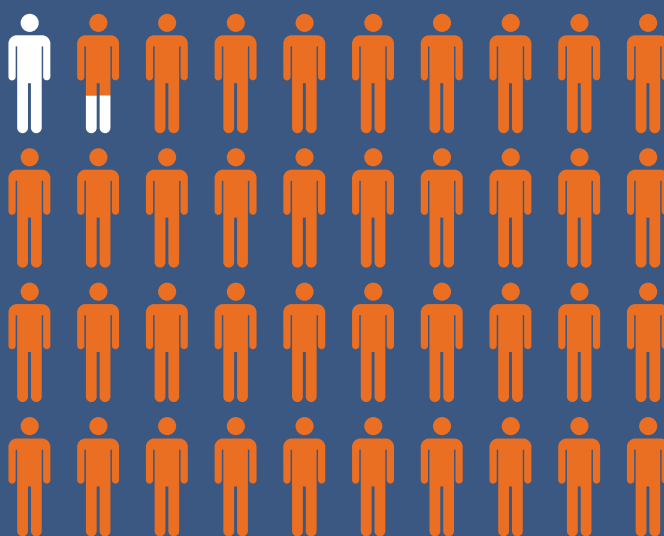
As the world population grows so does the number of international migrants: there are three times more international migrants in 2015 than in 1970

The international migrant population has remained relatively stable over the last few decades:

**2.2 to 3.3 per cent** of the world's population



**244 million**  
**international migrants**  
in 2015  
out of a  
**global population**  
of  
**7.3 billion**



**48%** of international migrants are women

**39** is the median age of an international migrant

Notes: (1) Figures calculated using UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision, May 2009, and 2015 Revision, December 2015, unless otherwise noted. (2) UNDESA, International Migration Report 2015, p. 4.



IOM's Global Migration  
Data Analysis Centre  
GMDAC



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

Top  
**5**  
countries of  
destination

United States - 46.6 million

Germany - 12.0 million

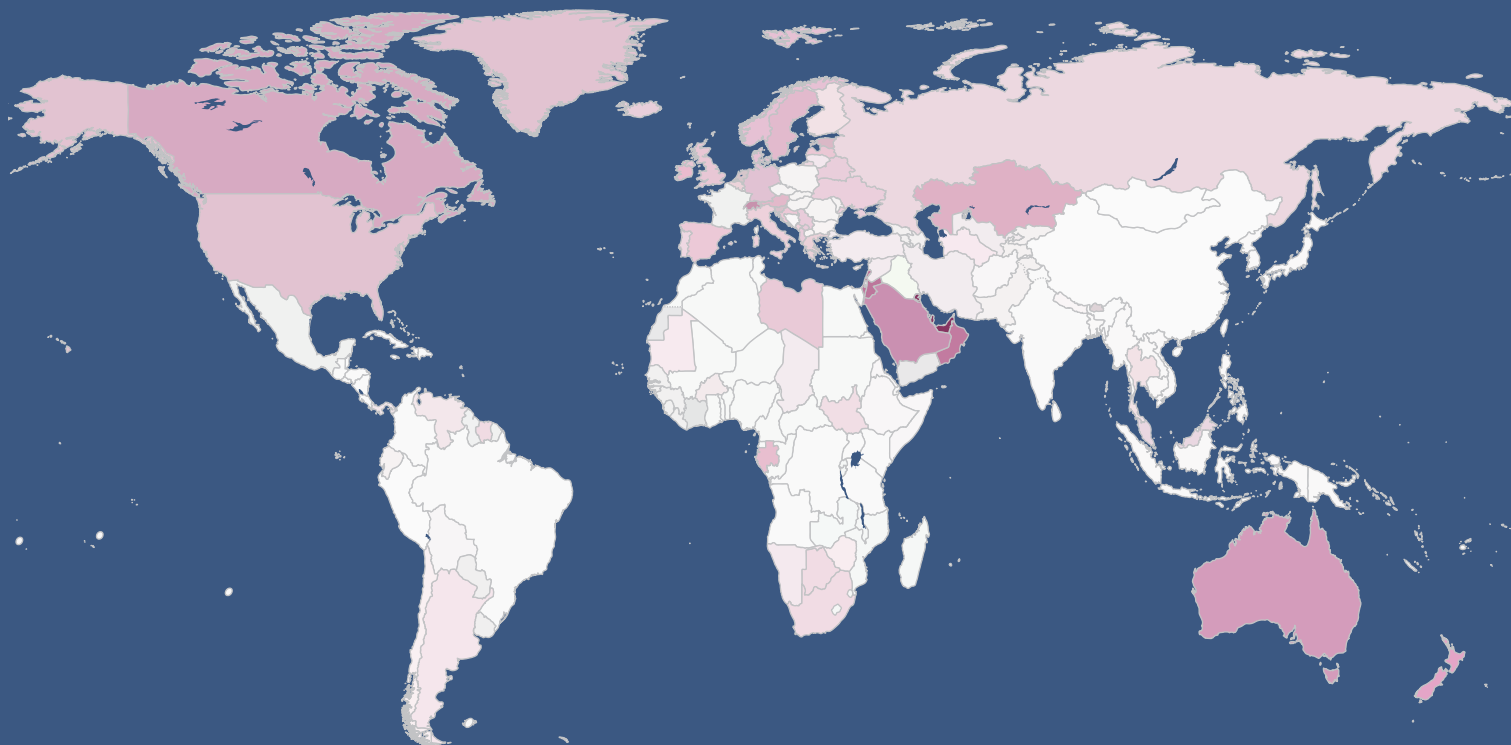
Russian Federation - 11.6 million

Saudi Arabia - 10.2 million

United Kingdom - 8.5 million

**62%** of all  
international  
migrants live  
in Europe  
and Asia

The proportion of international migrants in destination countries varies significantly across States:



States with lowest share:

China - 0.1%

Viet Nam - 0.1%

Cuba - 0.1%



States with highest share:

United Arab Emirates - 88.4%

Qatar - 75.5%

Kuwait - 73.6%

## The importance of South-South migration<sup>3</sup>

37% of all international migrants moved between countries in the

## Global South



**85.3m**  
South - North



North - North  
**55.2m**

**13.6m**  
North - South

**90.2m**  
South - South

Note: (3) South-south means people born in a country in the Global South and residing in another country in the Global South.

MigFacts prepared by IOM's Global Data Analysis Centre  
For more information about the Centre visit [gmdac.iom.int](http://gmdac.iom.int)