

DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

UNDP (HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009)

Migration data. Migration data in this report have been sourced from different agencies. The main source for trends in international migrant stocks is the Population Division of the United Nations Department for Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA). The data are from Trends in Total Migrant Stocks: The 2008 Revision (UN 2009d) and are based on data from population censuses conducted between 1955 and 2008. This source provides broad data (sex and type) over time on migrants according to their countries of destination. As far as possible, international migrants are defined as foreign-born. In countries where data on place of birth were not available, country of citizenship provided the basis for the identification of international migrants.

For data on countries of origin (as well as destination) of the international migrant stock, we have used the Global Migrant Origin Database (version 4) compiled by the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty based at the University of Sussex, England (Migration DRC 2007). The estimates are based national censuses conducted during the 2000 round of censuses and provide an estimate for the period 2000–2002.

It is important to note that the database presents data on migrant stocks i.e. the total number of migrants both by country of origin and country of destination and not the annual (or periodic) flows of migrants between countries. The stocks are the cumulative effect of flows over a much longer period of time than a year and hence are generally much greater than the annual flows would be.

For details see:

http://www.migrationdrc.org/research/typesofmigration/global_migrant_origin_database.html

For more detailed data on the characteristics of international migrants we used the OECD Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries (OECD 2009b). This database has been compiled from data collected during the 2000 round of censuses, supplemented in some cases by data from labour force surveys. As far as possible international migrants are defined as the foreign-born, although for some countries of destination the definitions may differ slightly from those that were used by the UN Population Division.

We have chosen to present results according to the countries of origin of these migrants; here fore it is not possible to make a direct comparison with the estimates from the other two sources. We have presented data on education levels and economic activity, as well as highly-skilled (tertiary) emigration rates according to the countries of origin of migrants aged 15 years and above in OECD countries.

Cross-nationally comparable data on internal migrants (i.e. people who move within the borders of a country) are not readily available. For this reason, during the preparation of this report we commissioned analyses from (Bell and Muhudin 2009) based on national censuses that produced comparable estimates for 24 countries of the percentage of the total population that has moved. These data have been supplemented by estimates compiled by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC 2007), which are based also on censuses and total population, as well as by World Bank data based on household surveys and the population of working age (World Bank 2009e). Because of the differences in definitions across these three sources, comparisons should be treated with caution. Where estimates were available from more than one source for a country, we have given precedence to the estimates of Bell and Muhudin over the other two sources.

Data on conflict-induced migration are from several sources, depending on the type of migrant: those who have moved across international borders (refugees and asylum-seekers) and those who have moved within a country (internally displaced people). Data on refugees are from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR 2009b), with the exception of refugees from Palestine, who fall mainly under the mandate of United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA 2008). Data are compiled from various sources,

including national censuses and surveys. However, routine registration, which is created to establish a legal or administrative record or to administer entitlements and deliver services, constitutes the main source of refugee data. UNHCR also provides estimates for 27 developed countries that have no dedicated registers. These estimates are based on the recognition of asylum-seekers and estimated naturalization rates over a 10-year period. The most notable challenges of this estimation method pertain to its underlying assumption that all recognised asylum seekers are indeed refugees and the harmonization of its cut-off period to 10 years. This is particularly true for the 'traditional' immigration countries where it takes less than 10 years for migrants— including refugees—to obtain citizenship.

Data on internally displaced persons are sourced from the Internally Displaced Monitoring Centre (IDMC 2009a). They are compiled from different sources, including the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), estimates from UNHCR and from national governments. Because of the difficulty in tracking IDPs, estimates are associated with high levels of uncertainty and should therefore be interpreted with caution.