

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on  
International Migration and Development  
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# **INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: A SUMMARY VIEW OF TRENDS AND PATTERNS**

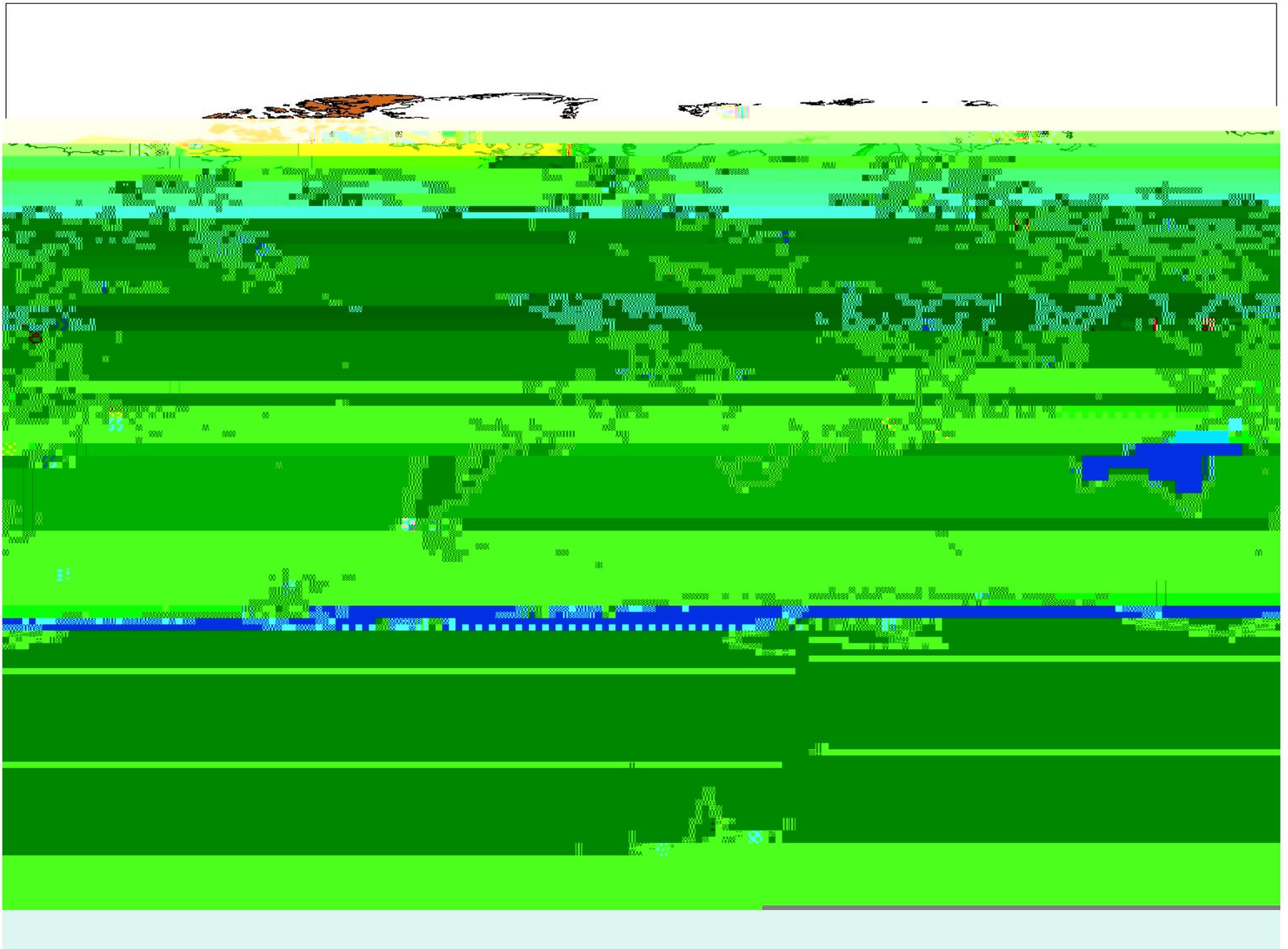
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# **LAC migration in the world and main**

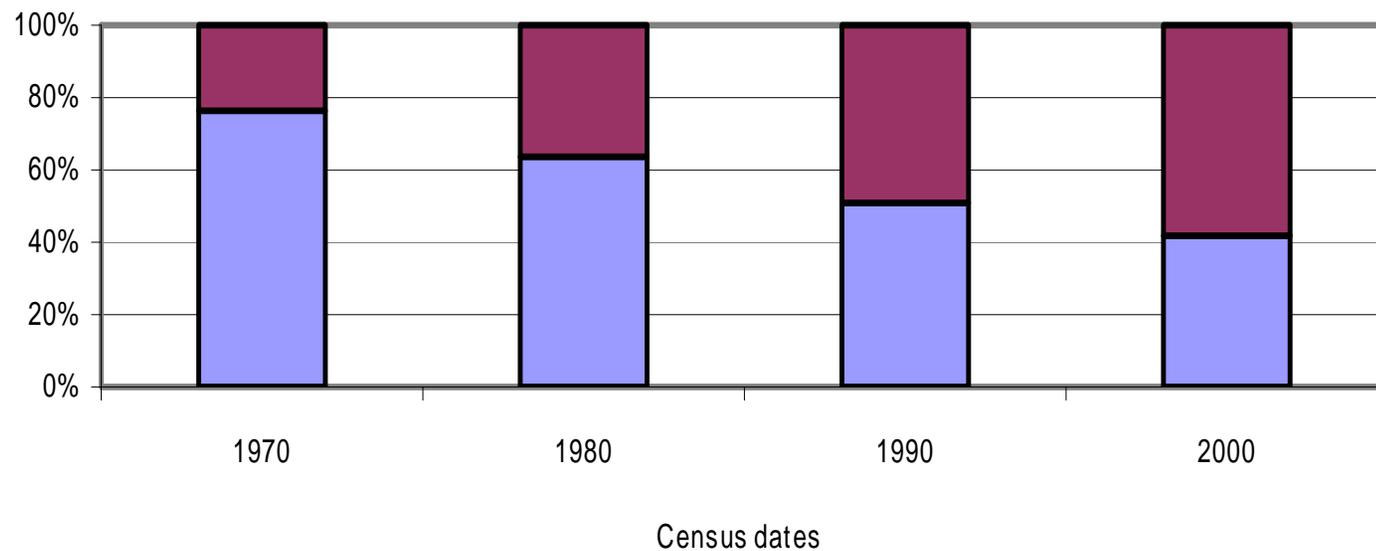
# Three patterns of international LAC migration

- Immigration from overseas (population history)
- Intraregional migration (combination of factors)
- Emigration outside the region (mainly to the United States and other OECD countries)





## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PERCENTAGE OF IMMIGRANT POPULATION PER ORIGIN. 1970-2000



- Latin America and the Caribbean (intraregional mig.)
- Rest of the world (overseas immigration)

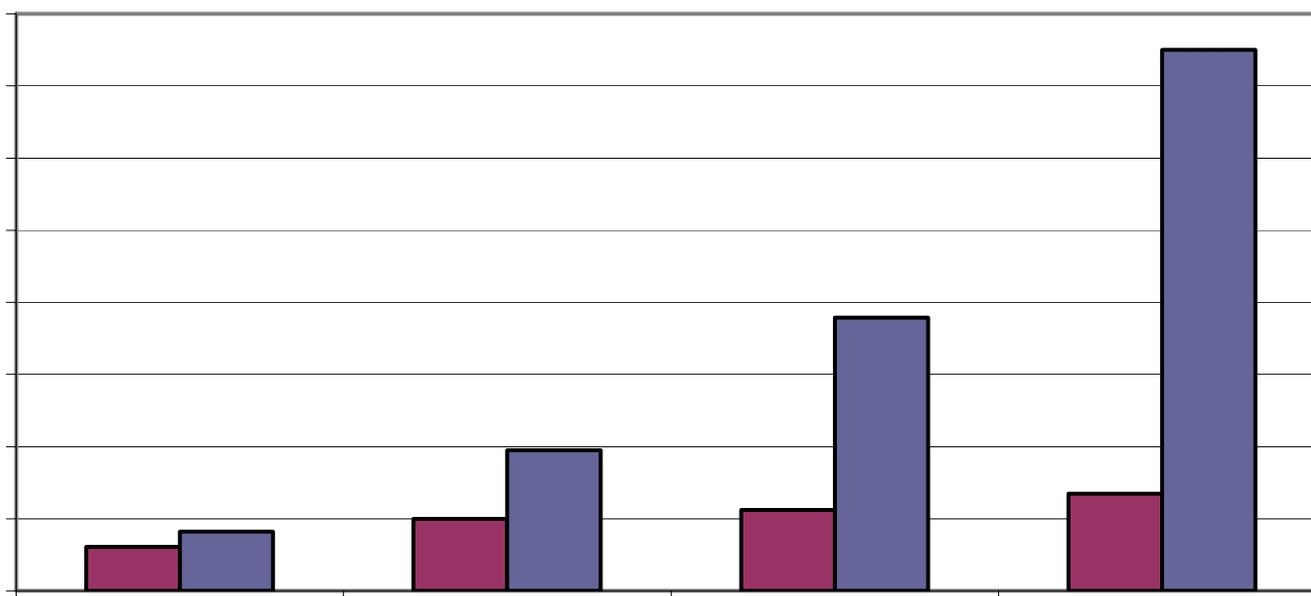
# LAC migration to the United States: what is new?

- Hispanic or Latino community constitutes the first ethnic minority
- Substantial increase in the number of immigrants from LAC (people born in countries of Mesoamerica, South America and the Caribbean)

Origin

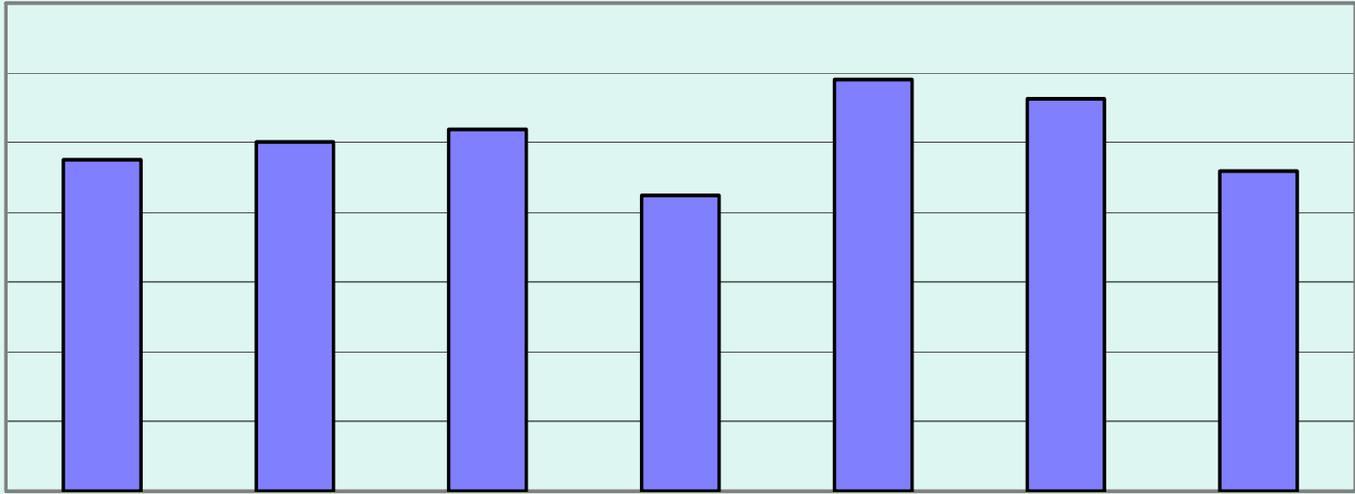
	1970	1980	1990	2000	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000
<b>South America</b>	234233	493950	871678	1876000			
Percentage	13.6	11.3	10.4	13.0	7.5	5.7	7.7

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: INTERNATIONAL



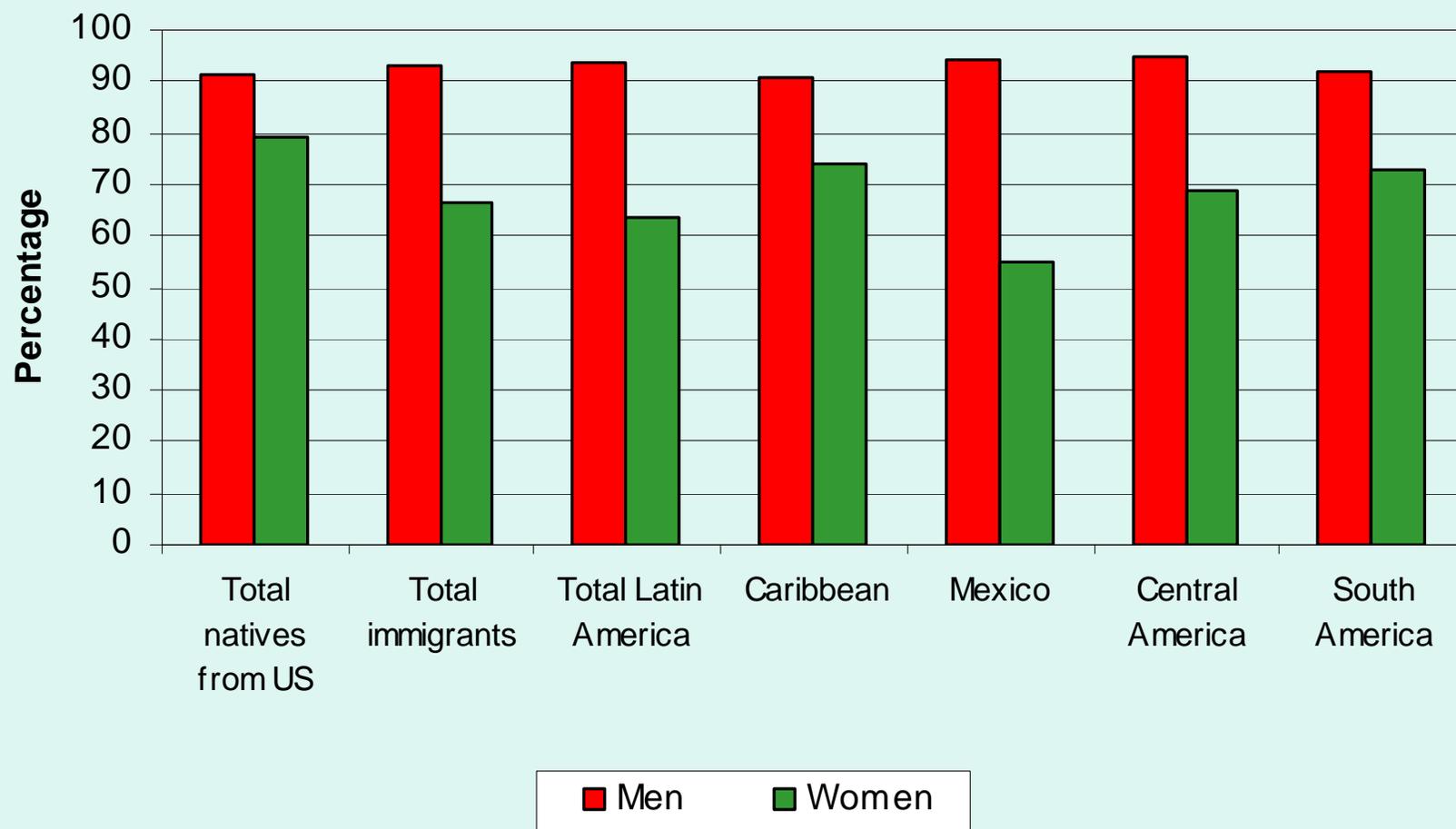
Source: IMILA Project, CELADE.





**Source:** Schmidley (2001), based on the Current Population Survey, 2000.

## UNITED STATES: PERCENTAGE OF ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION OF NATIVE AND IMMIGRANT POPULATION, BY SEX, 2000



Source: IMILA Project, CELADE.

# Some structural factors behind migration

- Asymmetries of development processes (*the great divide*): substantial differences in GDP per capita, labor market (wage levels and labor opportunities, scarce possibilities for the creation of jobs), poverty
- Historical ties, system of interactions (Mexico)
- Socio-political exclusion, persistence of social inequity
- Opening of internal markets to world trade, new technologies

## **...and some additional factors behind migration**

- Changes in labor demand in the United States
- Images of globalization: communication

# Migration to other OECD countries

- Nearly 3 million people in 2000
- Spain, Canada, Japan and Australia are the most important countries of destination
- Citizenship recognition
- Different admission programs

**LATIN AMERICANS AND CARIBBEANS REGISTERED IN SELECTED COUNTRIES. ESTIMATES CIRCA 2000**

<b>Country where present</b>	<b>Total</b>
Australia	74 649
Austria <sup>a</sup>	2 308
Belgium	4 962

# Governance of international migration

Various measures need to be taken, including:

- promoting the deliberate incorporation of migration into the agenda of the international community;
- signing and ratifying the international instruments on the protection of migrants and also taking steps to ensure that the provisions of those instruments are effectively fulfilled;
- consolidating and extending the areas of authority on migration in the various regional and subregional multilateral agreements;
- establishing explicit bilateral agreements both between Latin American and Caribbean countries and between those countries and others outside the region which are recipients of migration flows from the region

