
8 July 2002

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In the past three decades, a total of 100 countries have ever reported any information about emigrations and immigration out of over 200 that were sent the questionnaire. Within these countries only four reported information for both sexes together. Each country reported information by age group, however, 25 countries used wider age groups. The main reason of the reporting shows that only a handful of countries consistently provided information on a yearly basis. For those not reporting any information on long term migrants in the last three decades, there are countries such as Turkey that reported the arrivals and departures only and did not report any information about long term migrants. Other countries such as Israel, France or the USA reported the number of immigrants and not the number of emigrants. The USA in particular has not reported any information on long term emigrants since 1965.

As for the census information, UNSD is currently working on the information reported by countries in the 1970s round of population censuses, and will be able to provide the results by the end of the year.

Recommendations

The main problems linked with international migration data are the incompleteness of the information on time series and age reporting as well as the lack of comparability of the definitions and data sources among countries. As reported in the D footnotes, there are exceptions to the definitions given above and also the data sources for the information provided. For example, for the differences in definitions, the data on migrants for Italy include short term migrants. As an example of the differences in the sources, the UK obtains the information about migrants through an estimate of a sample survey of traffic at air and seaports taken throughout the year. This survey excludes the information of traffic with the Republic of Ireland and Scandinavian routes. For more details see D.

The United Nations Statistics Division publishes international recommendations on international migration. The *International Recommendations on Migration Statistics* which were adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1973 supersede earlier recommendations of 1958 and are a result of collaborative work between the UNSD and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (UN/ST/STAT), in cooperation with the United Nations Population Division, the regional commissions, and other interested organizations. These recommendations were developed in response to the growing importance of international migration and the concerns it raises, and the need to improve the coverage and international comparability of statistics. These statistics are needed to identify migration flows and measure the stocks, to monitor change and to provide governments with a solid basis for the formulation and implementation of policy.

The aim of the recommendations is to improve the availability, quality and comparability of statistics on international migration through a common framework as well as common concepts and definitions. The recommendations provide an improved definition of an international migrant that helps distinguish short term travellers from long term migrants. It provides a taxonomy of international inflows and outflows that includes a listing of categories and their definitions of both citizens and foreigners under each of these.

The number of countries in the world varied in the past decades. A detailed list of the countries according to the most recent year that they reported, is shown in Annex 1. Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico and Republic of Moldova, Hungary, Philippines, Italy, Spain, USA, India, Samoa, Colombia, Seychelles, Liberia, Poland, Sweden, Canada and Japan.

International Recommendations on Migration Statistics, United Nations publication, Sales No. ST/STAT/SER/MIG/Rev.1

The recommendations review the different sources of information on international migration, including the potential and shortcomings of these sources, and pay particular attention to the importance of administrative recording systems for the management of international migration. It also provides a framework for the compilation of statistics on defined categories of international migrants, both citizens and foreigners included in the taxonomy on international migrant inflows and outflows.

The recommendations also provide recommended information on international migrants, such as, on age, sex, educational attainment, marital status, country of citizenship, date of arrival, intended duration of stay, country of birth, and on economic characteristics such as occupation in previous country, etc. There is also a section on recommended tabulations on inflows and outflows of international migrants.

There is a new section not included in the previous recommendations devoted to recommendations on the collection of data on asylum seekers and also on tabulations for presenting the data necessary to compare the data on this specific type of international migrants.

In addition to information on inflows and outflows, the recommendations also contain a section on information on stock data relevant to the study of international migration. The section looks at definitions and data collection issues related to the foreign population and also the foreign born population. The publication also discusses sources of data on these population groups, which are used to estimate the stock of migrants in a country mainly through population censuses, and presents a list of recommended tabulations related to the foreign and foreign born population, such as on place of birth and on citizenship.

Important changes between the previous and the new recommendations include the following:

Definition of international migrant as shown below

The recommendations define long term migrant and long term resident on the basis of actual presence or absence from the country of origin or that of destination. According to the definition, long term migration is defined as presence in or absence from a country of more than 12 months.

The recommendations use the concept of place of usual residence in the definition of an international migrant, with no conditions on continuous residence. Long term migration is defined as change of place of usual residence of 12 months or more.

Data collection systems considered in recommendations

The recommendations list the following as sources of statistics on international migration

- a order collection
- b registration
- c field inquiry

The recommendations include the following sources of statistics on international migration, with administrative recording systems highlighted as an important source

- a administrative registers
- b other administrative sources
- c order collection
- d field inquiries

2. The concept of citizenship plays a central role in the conceptualizations, in the taxonomy of international migrants and also in the framework for the compilation of international migration statistics to distinguish between different categories of migration flows. Both inflows and outflows are categorized by citizenship, i.e., whether citizens or foreigners.

In the conceptualizations, the concept of resident is used to characterize migrants and migration flows are classified according to whether the persons involved are residents or non-residents.

3. The conceptualizations include and also define asylum seekers because of its importance for developed countries.

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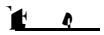
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Australia

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New Caledonia

New Zealand

Niue

Papua New Guinea