

WORLD MIGRATION REPORT

Update

Migration and Migrants: Northern America

www.iom.int/wmr/world-migration-report-2018

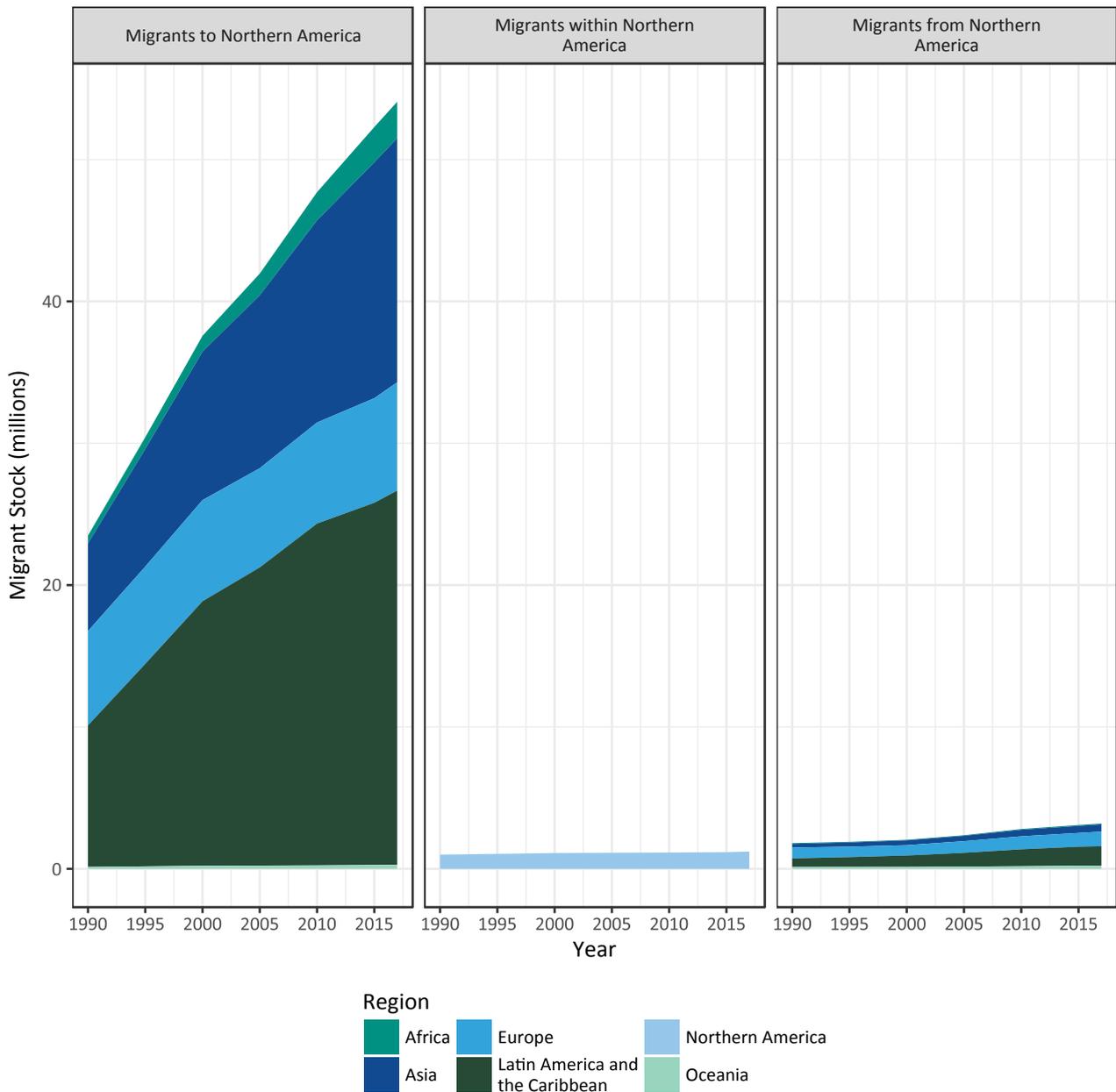
This *World Migration Report* update provides an overview of the latest data on international migrants in Northern America. It is based on the most recent estimates from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). Released in December 2017, the international migrant stock datasets estimate the number of international migrants by age, sex and origin.¹ In addition to presenting current data on international migrants in Northern America, the update briefly discusses migration trends in Northern American.²

Migration in Northern America is dominated by migration into the region. As shown in figure 1, over 57 million migrants were residing in Northern America from a variety of regions in 2017. This number has increased by around 2 million since 2015 when around 55 million migrants were living in the region. The largest group was from Latin America and the Caribbean (26.4 million), followed by Asia (17.2 million) and Europe (7.6 million). During the last 25 years, the number of migrants in Northern America has almost doubled in size, driven by population growth in Latin American and the Caribbean, and Asia, as well as by economic growth and political stability in Northern America.

¹ UN DESA, 2017.

² For details on the composition of Northern America, see *World Migration Report 2018*, Appendix A (page 314). https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2018_en.pdf.

Figure 1. Migrants to, within and from Northern America between 1990 and 2017



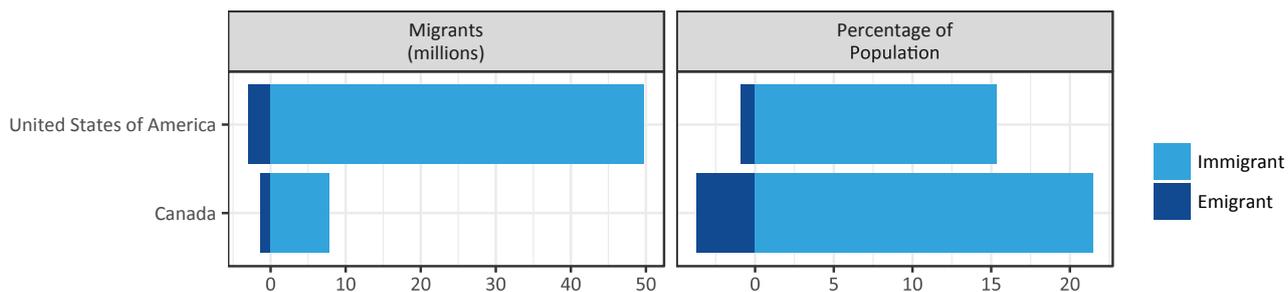
Source: UN DESA, 2017.

Note: "Migrants to Northern America" refers to migrants residing in the region (i.e. Northern America) who were born in one of the other regions (e.g. Europe or Asia). "Migrants within Northern America" refers to migrants born in the region (i.e. Northern America) and residing outside their country of birth, but still within the Northern American region. "Migrants from Northern America" refers to people born in Northern America who were residing outside the region (e.g. in Europe or Africa).

The number of Northern American migrants living within the region or elsewhere was very small compared with the foreign-born population in the region. In 2017, more Northern American-born migrants lived outside the region – principally in Latin America and the Caribbean (1.4 million) – than had moved elsewhere within the region (1.2 million).

In 2017, the United States had the largest foreign-born population in the world, while Canada had the eighth largest. Over 86 per cent of the foreign-born population in the region lived in the United States. As shown in figure 2, the share of Canada’s total population that was foreign-born (at over 21%) was considerably higher than in the United States in 2017 (15%). Canada also had a larger share of its citizens who had emigrated (as a per cent of its total home population) compared with the United States.

Figure 2. Main migration countries in Northern America in 2017



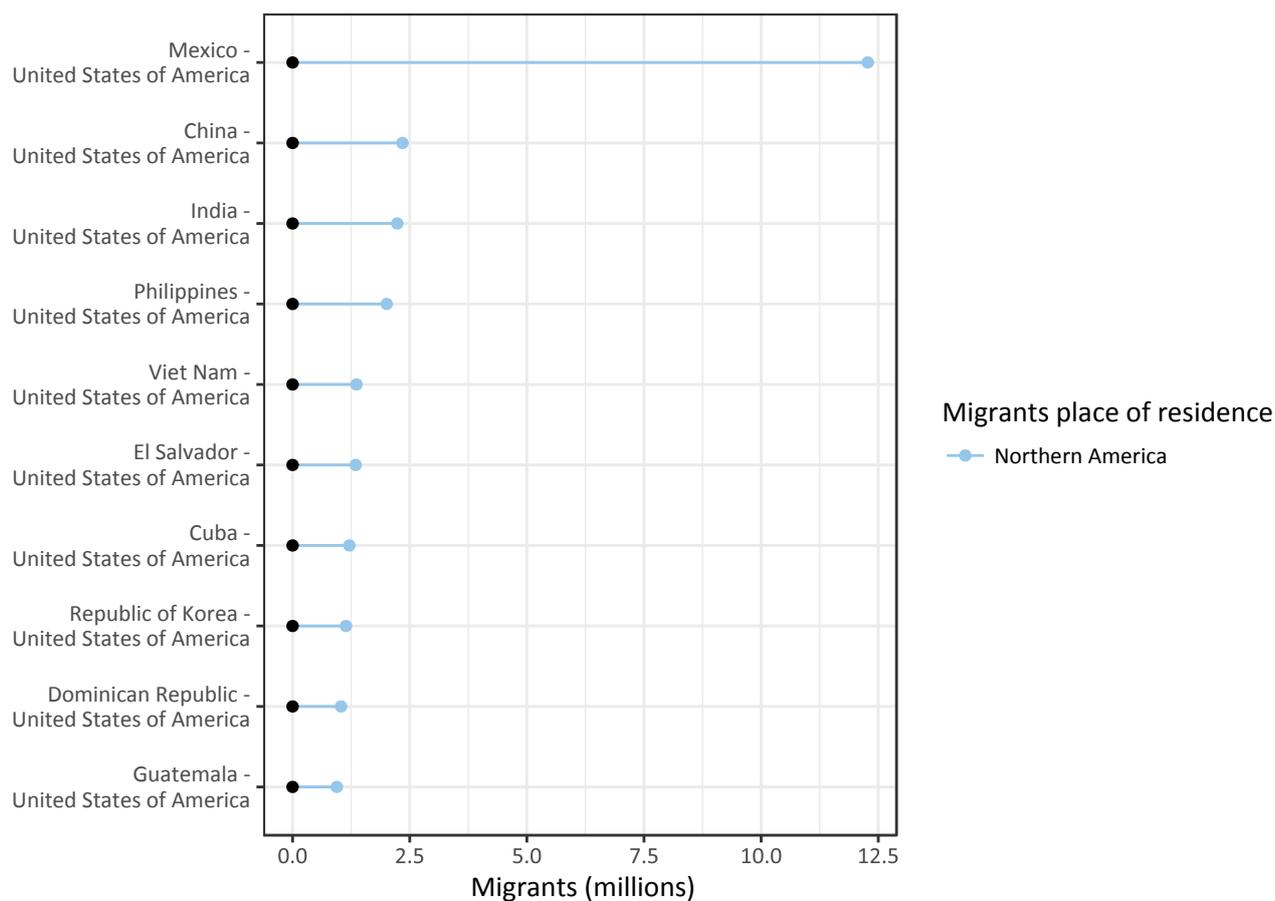
Source: UN DESA, 2017.

Note 1: The population size used to calculate the percentage of immigrants and emigrants is based on the UN DESA total resident population of the country, which includes foreign-born populations.

Note 2: “Immigrant” refers to foreign-born migrants residing in the country. “Emigrant” refers to people born in the country who were residing outside their country of birth in 2017.

Figure 3 shows the top 10 migration corridors involving Northern American countries, representing an accumulation of migratory movements over time and providing a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries. The largest migrant corridors in Northern America all involve migrants either from Asia, or Latin America and the Caribbean, to the United States of America. Mexican-born migrants form the biggest migrant group, with over 12.6 million living in the United States in 2017. The next largest migrant groups come from populous Asian countries, including China, India and the Philippines. Some of the other large migrant groups from Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea and Cuba in the United States grew rapidly after conflicts or political changes in their countries many years ago.

Figure 3. Top 10 migration corridors involving Northern America countries in 2017



Source: UN DESA, 2017.

Note: Corridors represent an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries.

For more information, please refer to *World Migration Report 2018* or UN DESA websites below:

- *World Migration Report 2018*
www.iom.int/wmr/world-migration-report-2018
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/index.shtml