

WORLD MIGRATION REPORT

Update

Migration and Migrants: Europe

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

This *World Migration Report* update provides an overview of the latest data on international migrants in Europe. 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 Europe, the update briefly discusses trends in European migration.²

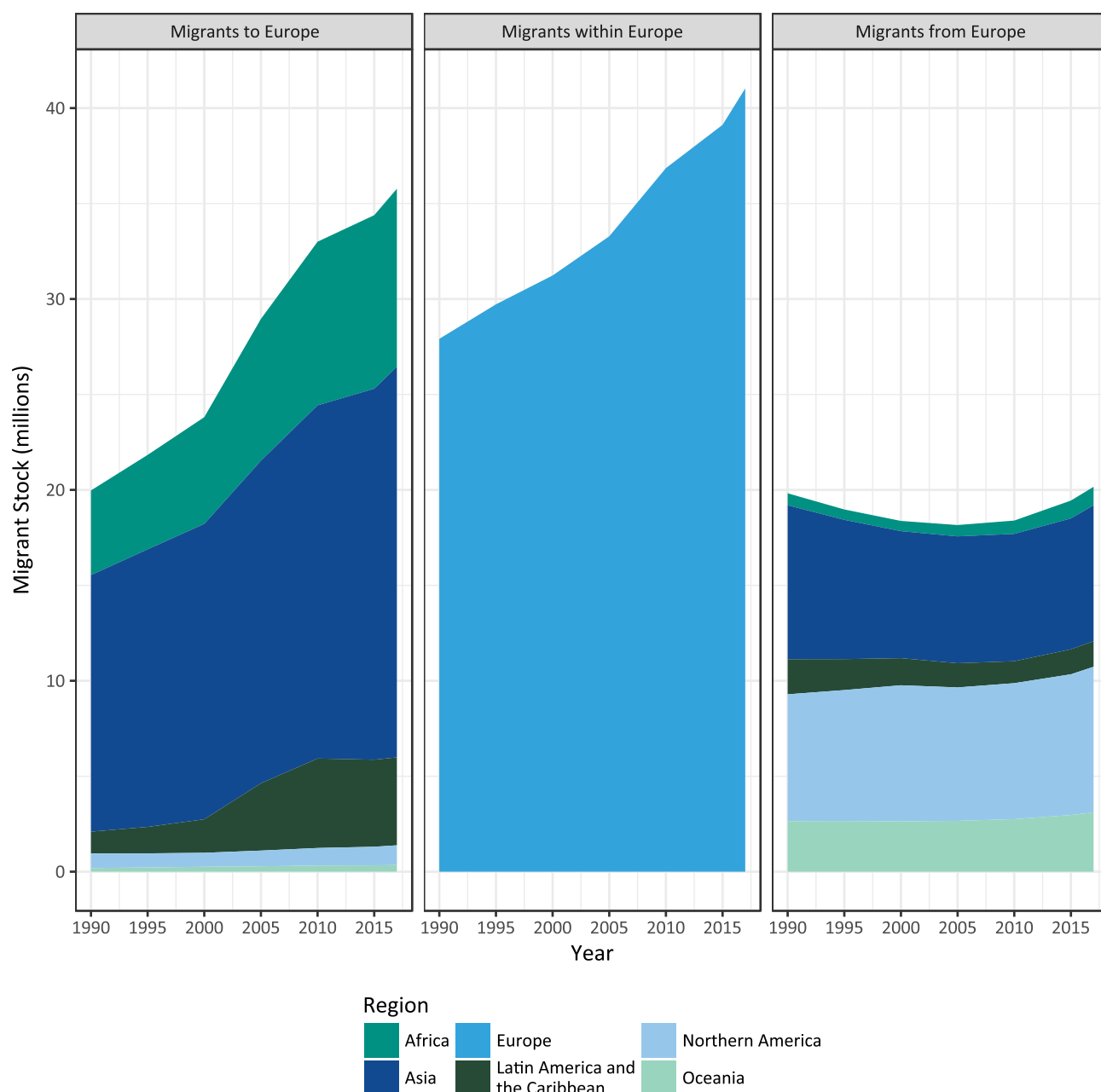
Almost one third of the world's international migrants (78 million) lived in Europe in 2017, a 3 million increase since 2015 when 75 million international migrants lived in the region. Over half of these (41 million) were born in Europe, but were living elsewhere in the region; while this number is virtually unchanged since 2015, it was much lower in 1990 at 27 million (figure 1). Between 2015 and 2017, the population of non-European migrants in Europe remained about the same, hovering around 35 million.

In 1990, there were roughly equal amounts of Europeans living outside Europe as non-Europeans living in Europe. However, unlike the growth in migration to Europe, the number of Europeans living outside Europe mostly declined during the last 25 years, except for the past five years when it returned to 1990 levels. In 2017, European-born migrants living outside the continent were based primarily in Northern America (7.6 million). There was also some gradual growth of European migrants in Asia and Oceania between 2010 and 2017.

¹ UN DESA, 2017.

² For details on the composition of Europe, see World Migration Report 2018, Appendix A (page 312). https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2018_en.pdf.

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



Source: Based on UN DESA statistics, 2017.

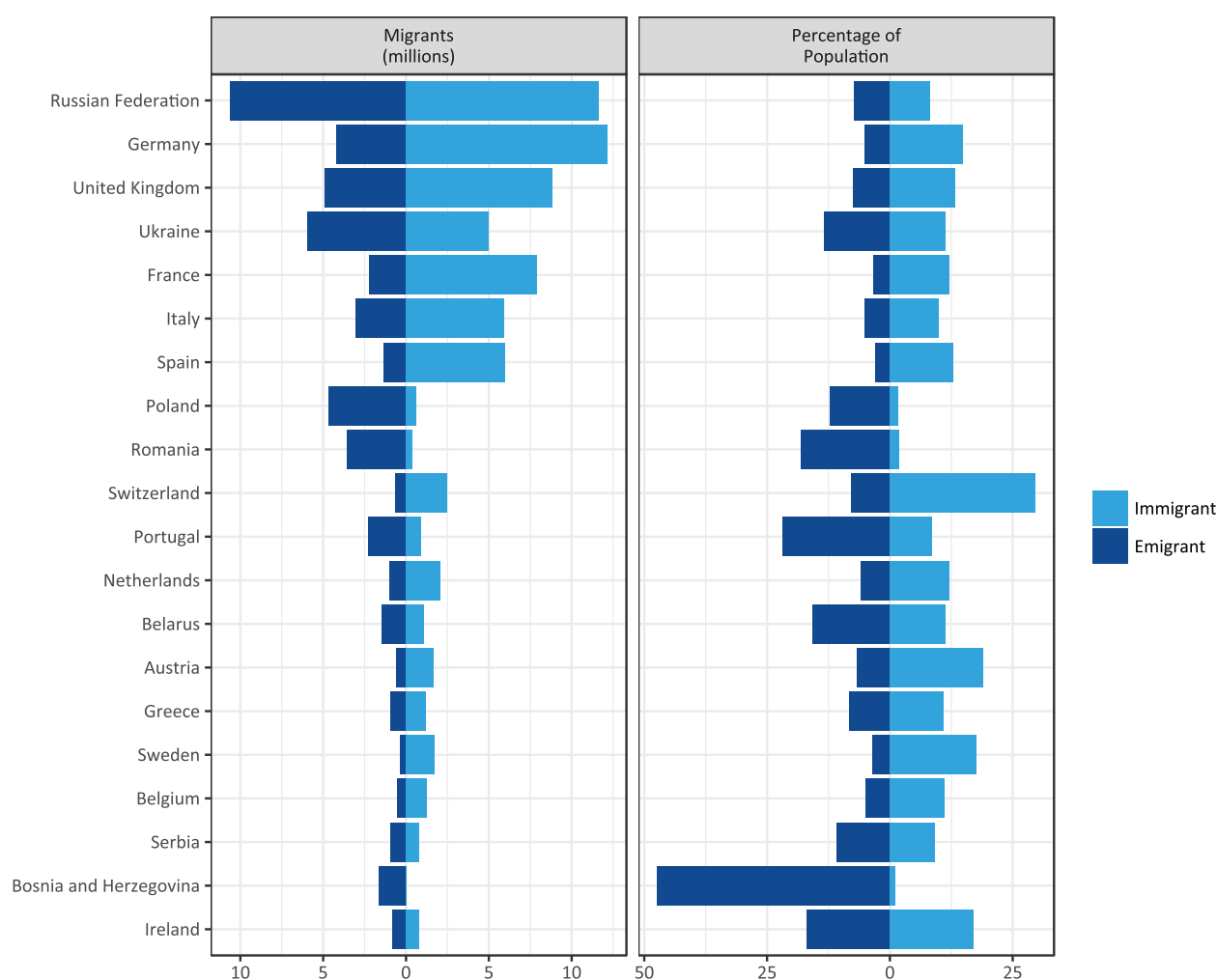
Note: "Migrants to Europe" refers to migrants residing in the region (i.e. Europe) who were born in one of the other regions (e.g. Africa or Asia). "Migrants within Europe" refers to migrants born in the region (i.e. Europe) and residing outside their country of birth, but still within the European region.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

Many countries in the east of Europe, such as the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Poland and Romania have some of the largest emigrant populations within the region (figure 2). At over 10 million emigrants in 2017, the Russian Federation had the third largest population of its citizens living abroad in the world. After the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the United Kingdom had the third largest European emigrant population (5 million). Many of these lived outside the continent, in Australia and the United States of America. Bosnia and Herzegovina had the highest share of emigrants in comparison with the resident population in 2017, many of whom left during the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. Portugal and Ireland, two countries that have long histories of emigration, also had high shares of populations abroad.

With over 12 million migrants in 2017, Germany had the largest foreign-born population of any country in Europe. The largest groups came from Poland, Turkey, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. The populations of France and the United Kingdom each included nearly 8 million and 9 million foreign-born people respectively in 2017.

Migrants born in French-speaking North African countries made up some of the largest foreign-born populations in France. In the United Kingdom, some of the largest migrant populations were from India and Poland. With foreign-born populations at nearly 6 million, Spain and Italy were the fifth and sixth most popular migrant destinations in Europe in 2017; both countries experienced slight increases in the number of foreign-born migrants since 2015. Many of the foreign-born populations in these countries came from elsewhere in Europe, such as Romania, Germany and the United Kingdom, or from North African countries such as Morocco. The migration of people from countries of the former USSR such as Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan accounted for some of the largest European migrant corridors (see figure 3). As illustrated in figure 2, of the top 20 migration countries in the region, Switzerland had the highest share of migrants in its population (29.6%) followed by Austria (19%), Sweden (17.6%) and Ireland (16.9%).

Figure 2. Top 20 European migrant countries in 2017



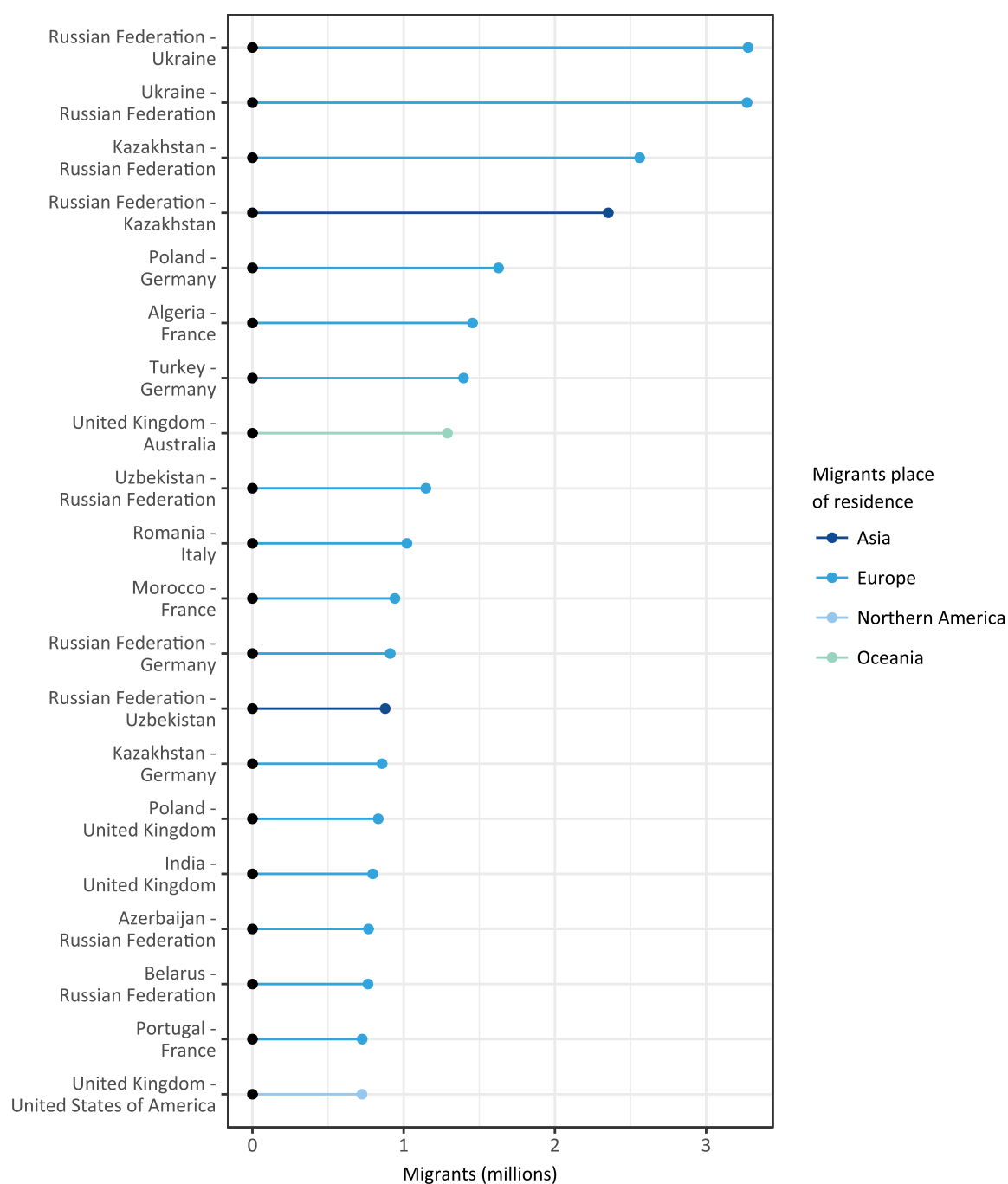
Source: Based on UN DESA statistics, 2017.

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 20 migration corridors involving European 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. One of the more striking features of the main migration corridors involving European countries is that most are intraregional corridors. The Russian Federation features heavily in the main corridors. Russian-born populations in former Member States of the USSR such as Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan form some of the largest European migrant corridors in 2017. The Russian Federation was also the second largest destination of migrants in Europe after Germany.

Figure 3. Top 20 migration corridors from Asian countries



Source: Based on UN DESA statistics, 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