

WORLD MIGRATION REPORT

Update

Migration and Migrants: Oceania

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

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

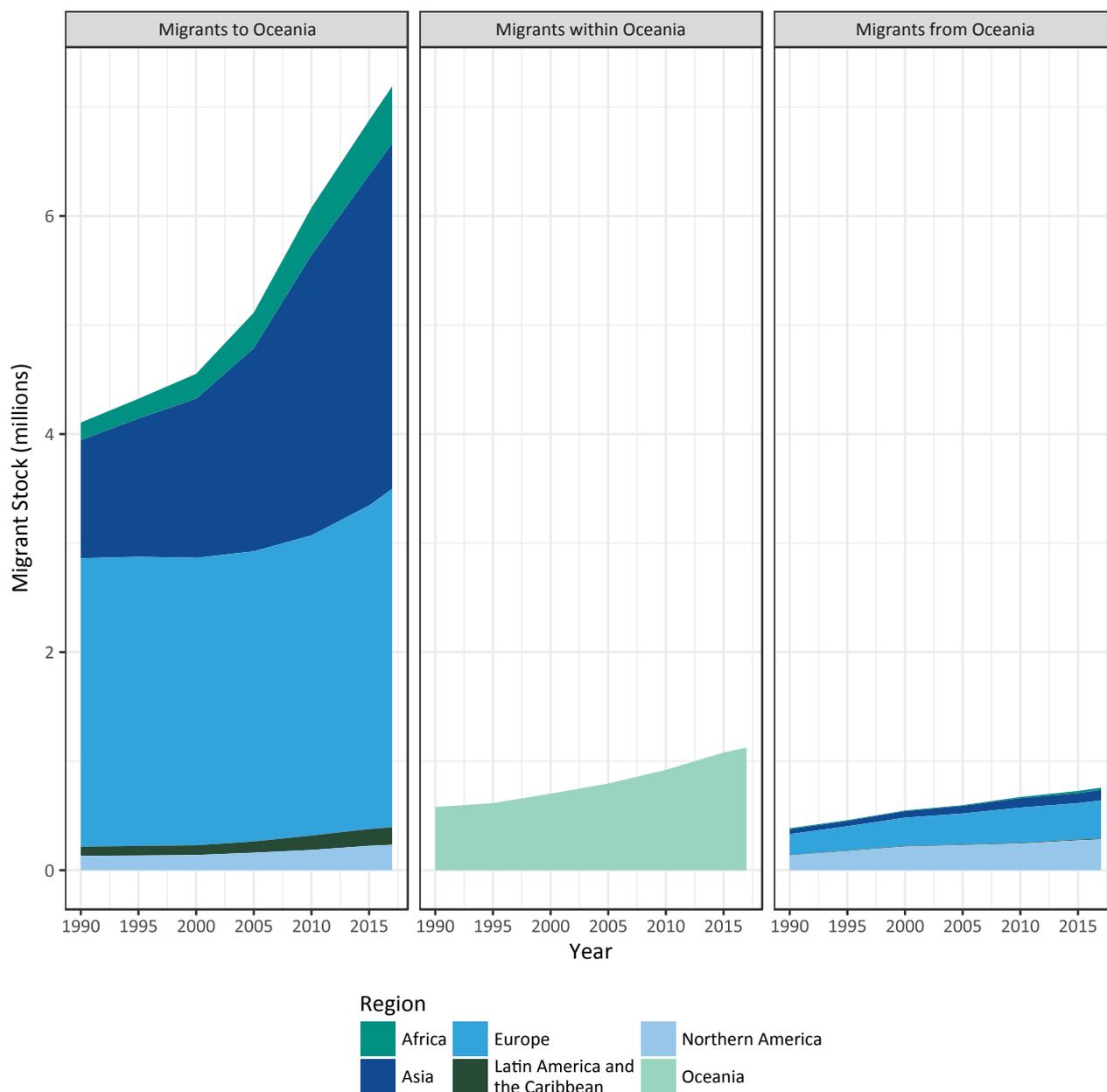
In 2017, just over 7 million international migrants from outside Oceania were living in the region. As shown in figure 1, the foreign-born migrant population was primarily composed of people from Asia (38%) and Europe (37%). Throughout the last 25 years, the Asian migrant group has grown, while the number from Europe has remained steady.

Out of all of the six world regions, Oceania had the lowest number of migrants outside its region in 2017, partly a reflection of the low total population size of the region, although there was an increase in their number during the previous 25-year period. Most of those born in Oceania living outside the region resided in Europe and Northern America.

¹ UN DESA, 2017.

² For details on the composition of Oceania, 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 Oceania in 2017

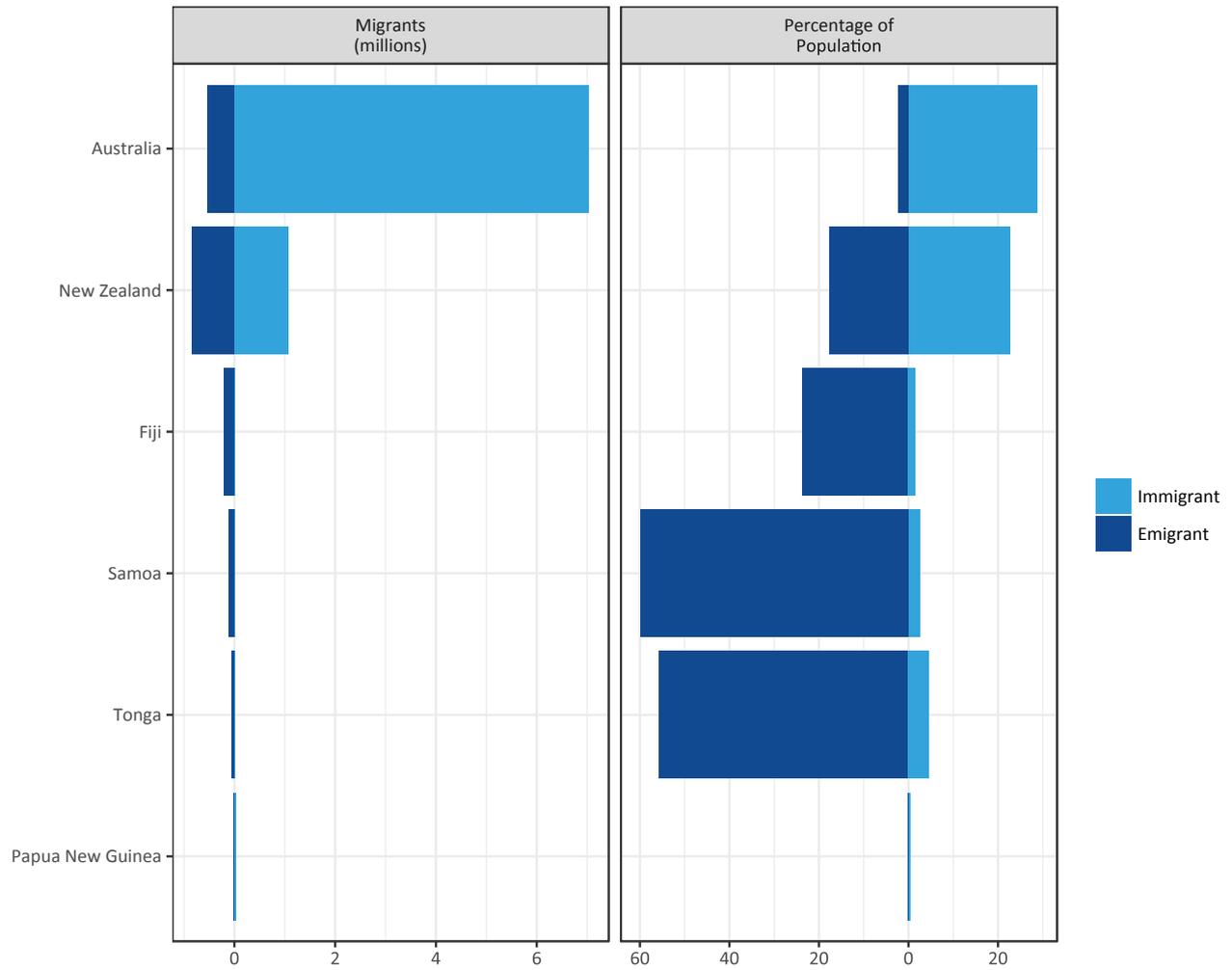


Source: UN DESA, 2017.

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

The vast majority of international migrants in Oceania were living in either Australia or New Zealand (figure 2). Most countries in the region have skewed migration profiles, being either large net origin or net destination countries. For example, Tonga, Samoa and Fiji all have high counts of emigrants in comparison with their native population and very low shares of foreign-born populations. Their emigrants were located primarily in New Zealand and to a lesser extent in Australia. Australia and New Zealand have high shares of foreign-born populations as a portion of their total population, comprising around 29 per cent and 23 per cent respectively.

Figure 2. Oceania migrant countries in 2017



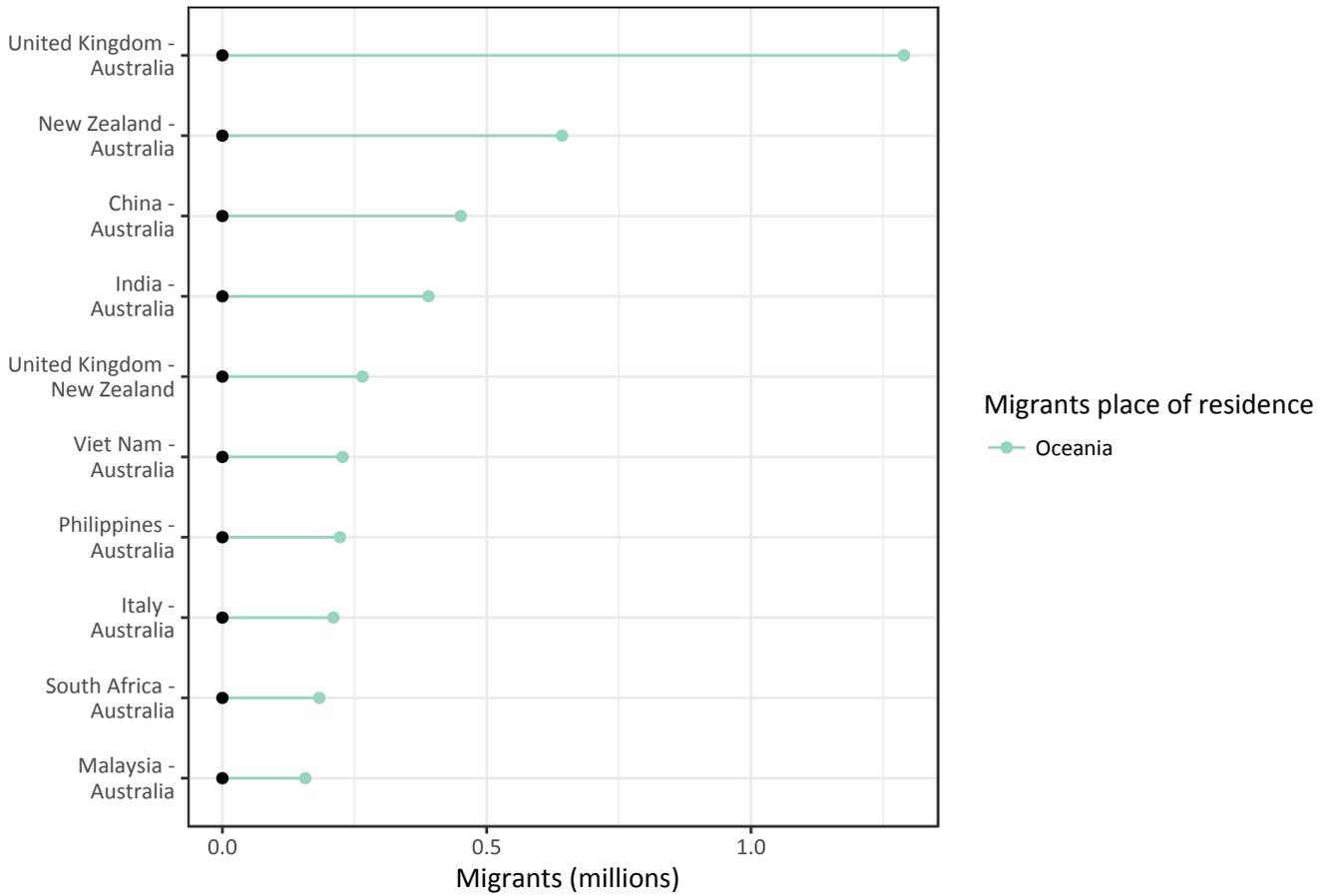
Source: UN DESA, 2017

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 on the top 10 migration corridors involving Oceania countries shows an accumulation of migratory movements over time, and provides a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries. Nine out of the 10 top migration corridors in the region involve migrants to Australia, with the largest being of migrants from the United Kingdom. These larger corridors also include migrants from a variety of countries from outside Oceania, including China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines, many of which have experienced rapid population growth over recent decades. Migrants from Oceania were more likely to end up within the region than in other regions. For example, New Zealand had high shares of migrants abroad, with the majority residing in Australia.

Figure 3. Top 10 migration corridors involving Oceania 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