

There is a considerable variation in the share of international migrants in the total population (Figure 4.9, Panel A). In Macau (China), Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and Hong Kong (China), Australia and New Zealand more than one-quarter of the population was foreign born (please note the differences in the axis regarding the population shares of migrants in the top and bottom parts of Figure 4.9, Panel A). In China and Indonesia – countries with considerable internal migration – the population share of international migrants was negligible at less than 0.1% of the total population in 2013.

Women account for a lower share of immigrants than men in Asia/Pacific economies (46% on average) in comparison to in OECD countries (51%). In 2013, Nepal, Hong Kong (China) and Tajikistan, 68%, 59% and 57%, respectively, of all immigrants in the population were women, while the lowest shares were recorded for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

In the majority of the countries considered, net migration is negative: there are more emigrants than immigrants (Figure 4.9, Panel B). Between 2005 and 2010, recorded emigration was largest in low-income island economies such as Samoa, Tonga, and Timor-Leste, while wealthier economies such as Australia, Macau (China) and Singapore registered large net immigration rates.

Emigration rates from Asia to OECD countries are higher for highly educated women. For many countries of the Asia/Pacific region, skilled emigration – the brain drain – is a pressing policy issue. The emigration rate to OECD countries is higher for the highly educated than for those with low levels of educational attainment (Figure 4.10). Some of the highest emigration rates for the tertiary educated are in low income economies such as Cambodia (43%), Lao PDR (26%) and Papua New Guinea (19%). Emigration rates for highly educated women are generally higher than for men, except for Bangladesh.

Remittance flows to Asia/Pacific countries decreased during 2008/9 with the economic recession but have since increased again. Remittances sent by Asian/Pacific migrants to their countries of origin amounted to USD 254 billion in 2013 (Figure 4.11), accounting for almost half of all global remittance flows. Remittances constitute a significant share of gross domestic product in some of the countries of origin, and range from 12 to about 50% GDP in Bangladesh, Samoa, Armenia, Nepal, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan.

Definition and measurement

The stock of immigrants is the number of people born in a country other than that in which they live, expressed as a share of the resident country's total population. The net migration rate is the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants over a period of time divided by the population of the receiving country over that same period, expressed as the net number per 1 000 population. The data on migrant stock and net migration (Figure 4.9) come from the *United Nations' World Population Prospects Database* (2013 Revision, <http://esa.un.org/unpp/>).

The emigration rate of country *i* for a given year is defined as the share of the native population of the country living abroad that year: $m_i = M_i / (M_i + N_i)$ where M_i is the emigrant population from country *i* living abroad, and N_i is the native non-migrant population of the country *i*. The emigration rate for the tertiary educated is the share of the tertiary-educated native population that is living abroad. Data are from the *Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries* (DIOC) www.oecd.org/els/mig/dioc.htm (Figure 4.10).

A remittance is a transfer of money by a foreign worker to an individual in his or her country of origin. Data on migrant remittance inflows in current (nominal) USD are from the World Bank Migration and Remittance Data (Figure 4.11), www.worldbank.org/migration.

Further reading

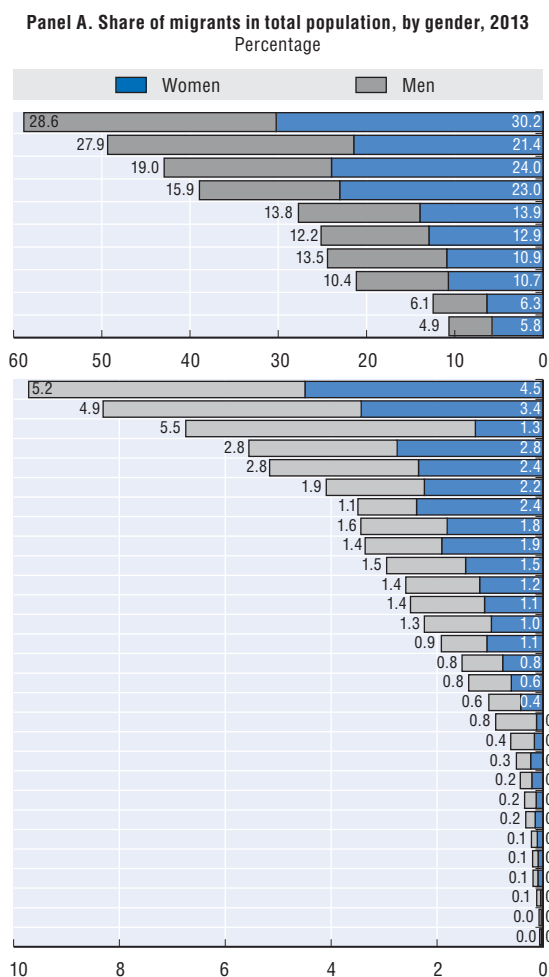
OECD (2012), "The Changing Role of Asia in International Migration", *International Migration Outlook 2012*, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/migr_outlook-2012-en.

ADBI/OECD/ILO (2014), "Labor Migration, Skills, and Student Mobility in Asia", Asian Development Bank Institute Edition, www.adbi.org/book/2014/02/25/6179.labor.migration.skills.student.mobility.asia.

Figure note

Figure 4.11: 2013 data are estimates.

Figure 4.9. International migration



Panel B. Net migration rate, 2005-10
Per 1 000 in the population

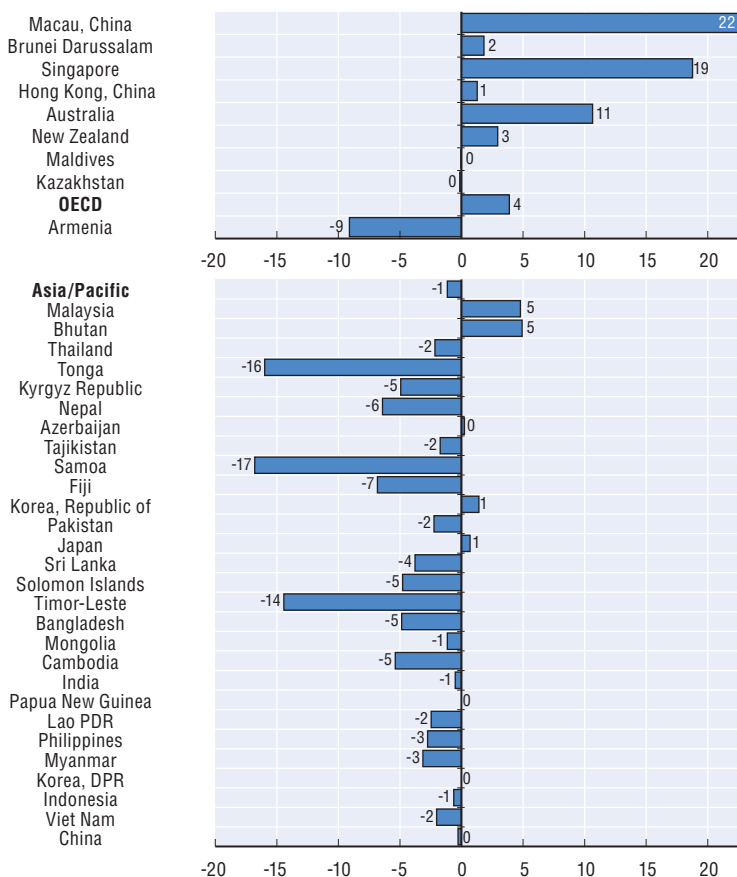


Figure 4.10. Emigration rates to OECD countries, by place of birth and gender, total and tertiary educated, 2005/06

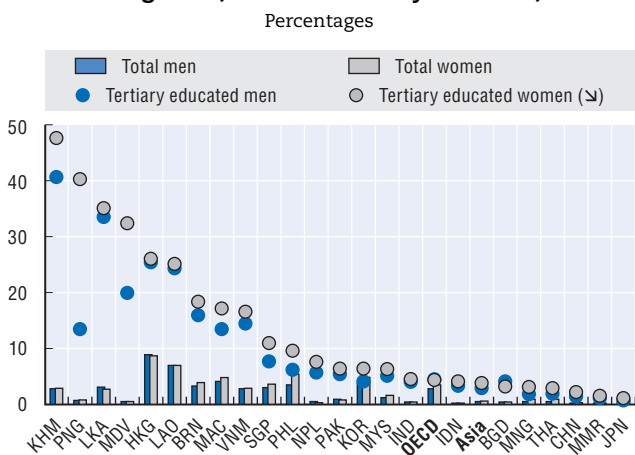
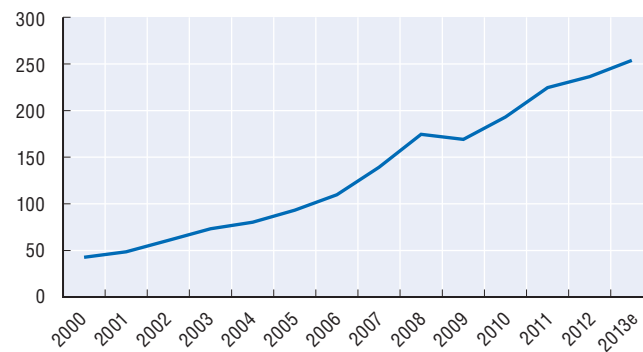


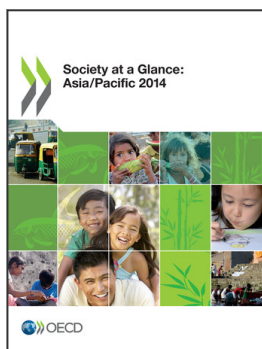
Figure 4.11. Remittances flows to Asia/Pacific economies decreased during the economic recession and renewed their upward trend, albeit at a slower pace

Migrant remittance inflows to Asia/Pacific economies (USD billion)



Source: Figure 4.9: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013), "Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision", United Nations Database. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013), "World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision", DVD Edition; Figure 4.10: OECD (2012), OECD International Migration Outlook 2012 and Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries (DIOC), www.oecd.org/els/mig/dioc.htm; Figure 4.11: World Bank Migration and Remittances Data (October 2013 Version).

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933151002>



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