



THE RAMPHAL CENTRE

SOCIETIES | ECONOMIES | ENVIRONMENT | GOVERNANCE

Statistical Appendix by Bela Hovy

3,246 WORDS

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

A. International migrant stock

As of 2010, the 54 members of the Commonwealth of Nations have a combined population of 2.2 billion people, almost one-third of the world population. About 73 per cent of the Commonwealth population lives in Asia (1.6 billion) and 20 per cent in Africa (452 million). India has the largest population among the Commonwealth countries (1.2 billion), followed by Pakistan (184 million), Bangladesh (164 million), Nigeria (158 million), the United Kingdom (62 million) and South Africa (50 million). Nauru and Tuvalu, the smallest member states of the Commonwealth, each have 10,000 inhabitants. Almost half of the member states of the Commonwealth, 25, are classified as Small Island Developing States.¹

The main source of globally comparable international migration data are the population censuses held in most countries of the world every 10 years. Virtually all censuses include a question about the country of birth or the country of citizenship of the respondent. Mainly based on this information, the United Nations Population Division estimates the number of international migrants, also known as the international migrant stock, for 230 countries and territories in the world at regular intervals. For 45 of the Commonwealth countries, the estimates are based on the number of foreign-born persons, for eight countries the estimates are based on the number of foreign citizens, and for one country the number of international migrants was imputed due to a lack of information. In countries where it was uncertain whether refugees were included in the census figures, the number of refugees as reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was added to the number of international migrants. This was the case for 18 countries of the Commonwealth.

According to latest estimates of the United Nations, the Commonwealth is host to 45 million international migrants, approximately one-fifth of the global migrant stock (214 million) (see Table 1). Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants residing in the countries of the Commonwealth increased by 25 per cent, significantly less than the 38 per cent increase in the global migrant stock. International migrants represent some 2 per cent of the total population in the Commonwealth, about one-third less than the share

¹ Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are small islands and low-lying coastal countries that share similar sustainable development challenges, including small population, lack of resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, excessive dependence on international trade and vulnerability to global developments. In addition, they suffer from lack of economies of scale, high transportation and communication costs, and costly public administration and infrastructure. See: <http://www.sidsnet.org/>.

of international migrants in the world population. In the more developed countries of the Commonwealth², international migrants account for almost 16 per cent of the total population, up from 12 per cent in 1990. The share of international migrants in the total population of the less developed countries of the Commonwealth dropped from 1.7 per cent in 1990 to 1.2 per cent in 2010.

Table 1: Estimated number of international migrants in the Commonwealth, 1990-2010

Region	International migrant stock at mid-year (millions)			Distribution within Commonwealth (%)			Percentage of total population		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
More developed CW countries (5)	12.3	15.1	19.3	34.3	39.4	43.3	11.7	13.3	15.9
Less developed CW countries (49)	23.6	23.1	25.4	65.7	60.6	56.7	1.7	1.3	1.2
Least developed CW countries (16)	3.9	4.2	4.2	11.0	11.0	9.5	1.9	1.6	1.3
Africa CW countries (19)	6.1	7.7	9.3	16.9	20.3	20.9	2.2	2.2	2.1
Asia CW countries (9)	17.3	15.1	15.7	48.0	39.6	35.2	1.5	1.1	1.0
Europe CW countries (2)	3.7	4.8	6.5	10.4	12.6	14.5	6.5	8.1	10.4
Latin Am. and Car. CW countries (12)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6	3.3	3.5	3.9
Northern America CW countries (1)	4.5	5.6	7.2	12.5	14.5	16.1	16.2	18.1	21.3
Oceania CW countries (11)	4.2	4.8	5.7	11.6	12.5	12.8	16.0	15.8	16.5
Total Commonwealth (54)	35.9	38.2	44.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.4	2.1	2.0
World	155.5	178.5	213.9	23.1	21.4	20.9	2.9	2.9	3.1

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008).

Of the 45 million international migrants in the Commonwealth, 43 per cent reside in the developed countries of the Commonwealth, 47 per cent in the developing countries (excluding the least developed countries) of the Commonwealth, and the remaining 10 per cent in the least developed countries of the Commonwealth³. The Asian Commonwealth countries host the largest proportion of international migrants in the Commonwealth (around 35 per cent), followed by the Commonwealth countries in Africa (21 per cent), Northern America (16 per cent), Europe (15 per cent), Oceania (13 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (1 per cent).

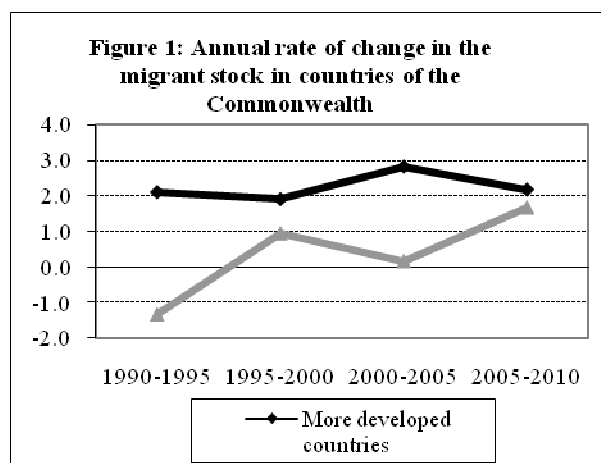
The international migrant stock in the developing countries of the Commonwealth has experienced a relatively rapid growth in the recent years. Between 2005 and 2010, it grew by 1.7 per cent annually, up from only 0.2 per cent per year during 2000-2005 and the highest growth rate in the past 20 years. In contrast, the developed countries of the Commonwealth witnessed a decline in the average annual growth rate of the migrant stock, from 2.8 per cent during 2000-2005 to 2.2 per cent in 2005-2010 (see figure 1). During 2005-2010, the average annual growth rates of the number of international migrants in the developing and the developed countries of the Commonwealth were the closest they had been since 1990-1995.

² The group of more developed countries of the Commonwealth comprises Australia, Canada, Malta, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The group of less developed countries of the Commonwealth comprise the remaining 49 member countries of the Commonwealth.

³ The group of least developed countries comprises 16 countries of the Commonwealth: Bangladesh, Gambia, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mozambique, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Zambia.

Figure 1: Annual rate of change in the migrant stock in countries of the Commonwealth

Annual rate of change of the migrant stock (both sexes)	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010
Commonwealth	-0.1	1.3	1.3	1.9
More developed countries	2.1	1.9	2.8	2.2
Less developed countries	-1.3	1.0	0.2	1.7



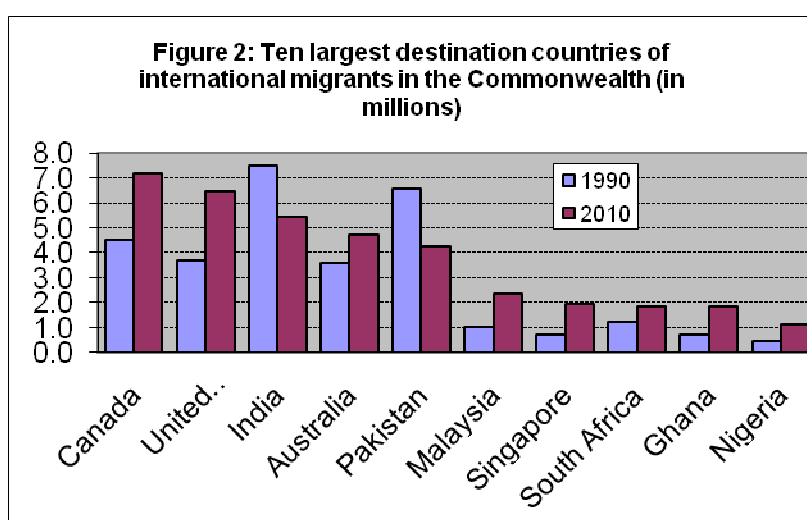
Source: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008)

Nearly half of the international migrants in the countries of the Commonwealth (49 per cent) are women of all ages. This proportion is similar to that of the global number of international migrants. Yet, there are important regional differences in the proportion of female migrants. The percentage of female migrants is the highest in the Commonwealth countries of Europe (54 per cent), followed by the Commonwealth countries located in Northern America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania, where the proportion of female migrants is about 52 per cent. Male migrants outnumber female migrants in the Commonwealth countries of Asia (54 per cent) and Africa (53 per cent).

Both globally and within the Commonwealth, most international migrants reside in a small number of countries. In 2010, four countries (Australia, Canada, India and the United Kingdom) host more than half of the total number of international migrants in the Commonwealth, while the top ten receiving countries in the Commonwealth host 96 per cent of the migrant stock in the Commonwealth (see Figure 2). Canada has the largest population of international migrants in the Commonwealth (7.2 million), followed by the United Kingdom (6.5 million), India (5.4 million), and Australia (4.7 million). Among the Commonwealth countries with at least one million inhabitants, international migrants account for the highest proportion of the population in Singapore (41 per cent), New Zealand (22 per cent), Australia (22 per cent), and Canada (21 per cent)

Figure 2: Ten largest destination countries of international migrants in the Commonwealth (in millions)

Migrant Stock	Migrant Stock	
	1990	2010
Canada	4.497521	7.20234
United Kingdom	3.716271	6.451711
India	7.493204	5.436012
Australia	3.581363	4.71149
Pakistan	6.555782	4.233592
Malaysia	1.014156	2.357603
Singapore	0.727301	1.966865
South Africa	1.224368	1.862889
Ghana	0.716527	1.851814
Nigeria	0.447411	1.127668
Bangladesh	0.881617	1.085345
New Zealand	0.52319	0.962072
Kenya	0.162981	0.817747
United Republic of Tanzania	0.575957	0.659202
Uganda	0.550429	0.646548
Rwanda	0.072862	0.46548
Mozambique	0.121912	0.45002
Sri Lanka	0.458841	0.339915
Gambia	0.118123	0.290104
Malawi	1.156878	0.275851



Refugees constitute an important part of the international migrant stock. In 2010, the global number of refugees is estimated at 16.3 million persons, almost 8 per cent of the total number of international migrants (see table 2). Within the Commonwealth, refugees account for a slightly higher proportion of international migrants: the 4.2 million refugees that live in the Commonwealth in 2010, about one-fourth of the global refugee population, represent 9.4 per cent of all international migrants in the Commonwealth. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of refugees dropped significantly, both globally and within the Commonwealth. While the refugee population has increased again since 2000, it has not yet reached the level it had in 1990.

Table 2: Estimated refugee stock in the countries of the Commonwealth, 1990-2010

	Estimated number of refugees (mln.)			Distribution within Commonwealth (%)			Percentage of international migrant stock		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
More developed CW countries (5)	0.3	0.4	0.5	5.4	9.7	12.3	2.4	2.4	2.7
Less developed CW countries (49)	5.1	3.3	3.7	94.6	90.3	87.7	21.6	14.4	14.5
Least developed CW countries (16)	1.5	1.2	0.9	27.9	32.0	22.5	38.2	28.1	22.3
Africa CW countries (19)	1.6	1.5	1.3	30.0	40.0	31.7	26.6	19.1	14.2
Asia CW countries (9)	3.4	1.8	2.3	63.9	50.0	55.7	19.9	12.2	14.9
Europe CW countries (2)	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.8	4.5	7.2	1.2	3.5	4.7
Latin Am. and Car. CW countries (12)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	16.4	1.0	0.2
Northern America CW countries (1)	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.7	3.4	3.9	3.2	2.3	2.3
Oceania CW countries (11)	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.0	2.0	1.4	2.6	1.5	1.0
Total Commonwealth (54)	5.4	3.7	4.2	227.9	100.0	100.0	15.0	9.7	9.4
World	18.5	15.6	16.3	29.1	23.6	25.6	11.9	8.8	7.6

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008).

The size of the refugee population is inversely related to the level development. About 88 per cent of all refugees hosted by countries of the Commonwealth are hosted by the 49 developing countries of the Commonwealth. More than half of all refugees that live in the Commonwealth reside in Asia (56 per cent), while Africa hosts almost one-third (32 per cent). The developed countries of the Commonwealth host only 12 per cent of the total number of refugees that live in the Commonwealth in 2010 (see table 2). This observation is confirmed when analyzing the refugee population in relation to the total number of international migrants. In 2010, the proportion of refugees in the total number of international migrants is the highest in the least developed countries of the Commonwealth (22 per cent), followed by the developing countries of the Commonwealth (15 per cent) and the more developed countries (3 per cent) (see table 2).

B. International migration flows

In the previous section, a global overview of levels and trends in the number of international migrants was provided, based on estimates of the stock of international migrants derived from population censuses. This section presents the available information on the annual inflows (or outflows) of international migrants. Unfortunately, information on the arrivals (departures) of immigrants (emigrants) is much scarcer than on the foreign-born or foreign population. Reliable data on annual flows are available for only four Commonwealth countries, namely Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom (see figure 3, below). In Australia and New Zealand, the data are generated from border statistics, whereas in Canada they are based on the number of permanent residence permits issued. The United Kingdom collects migration data on flows using the International Passenger Survey. The comparability of these data is not only affected because of the different sources they are based on, but also because of the differences in coverage. For instance, in Canada, the data are limited to foreign immigrants, whereas nationals are included in the data for the other three countries.

In Canada, immigration levels increased rapidly during the 1980s. Since 1990, permanent residence has been granted to more than 230,000 immigrants each year on average with a peak in 2005, when 260,000 immigrants were admitted. About one-third of all immigrants admitted to Canada since 1980 were citizens from other Commonwealth countries.

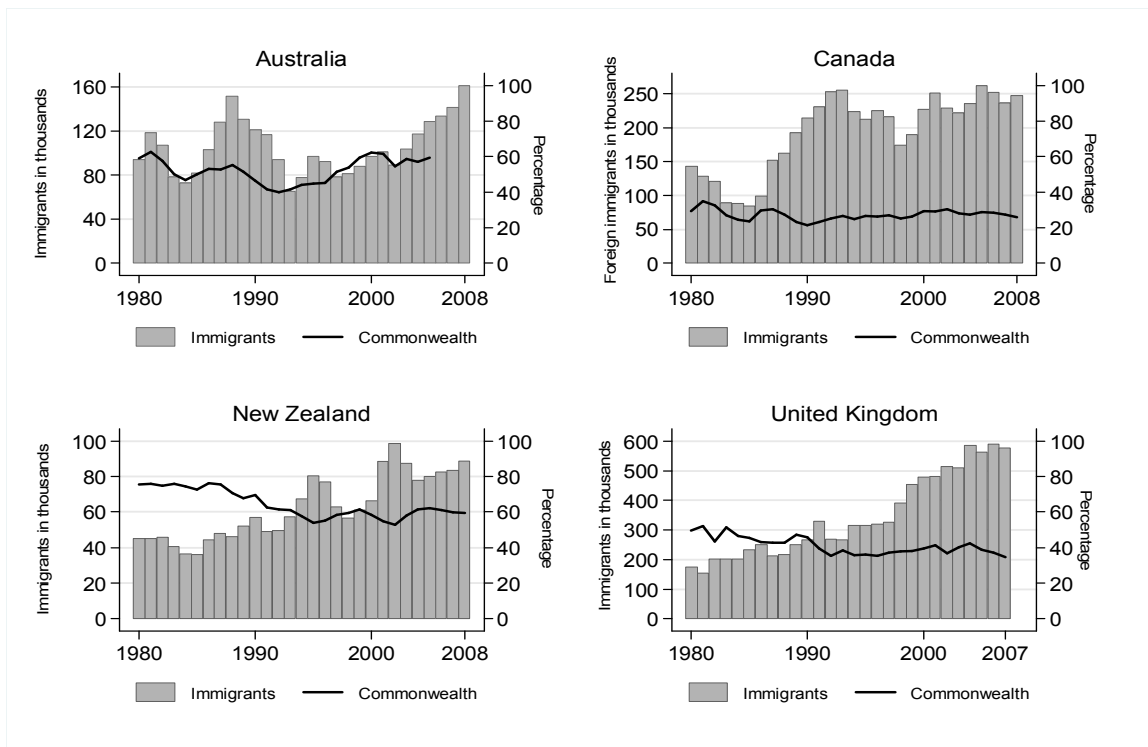
Australia's immigration levels peaked in the late 1980s and again in 2008. During the 1990s, the annual arrival of permanent settlers, including both Australian and foreign citizens, remained below 100,000. In 2008, Australia admitted 160,000 immigrants. Between 40 and 65 per cent of the immigrants in Australia are originating from Commonwealth countries.

In New Zealand, the volume of long-term and permanent movements has increased steadily. Thus, the annual number of nationals and foreign citizens admitted into New Zealand has increased from approximately 40,000 during the 1980s to more than 80,000 since 2000. The proportion of citizens from the Commonwealth among the immigrants in New Zealand has fallen slightly since the 1980s and fluctuates currently around 60 per cent.

In the United Kingdom, long-term immigration of citizens and foreigners has increased steadily from around 200,000 annually since the mid-1980s to more than 500,000 per year during the 2000s. The proportion of citizens from the Commonwealth has decreased over the years and fell below 40 per cent during the mid-2000s.

Half of the recorded outflows from Australia in 2008 and the United Kingdom in 2007 were directed to other Commonwealth countries. In 2008, more 80 per cent of the migrants departing from New Zealand intended to move to another Commonwealth country.

Figure 3: Inflow of international migrants, 1980-2008



Note: For 2006–2008 the percentage of immigrants from Commonwealth for Australia could not be calculated due to high unknown origins. Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (forthcoming). *International Migration Fluxes to and from Selected Countries: The 2008 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/FLOW/Rev.2008).

C. Immigration and educational attainment

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provides estimates of the foreign-born population by educational attainment, based on population censuses and registers, supplemented by information from labour force surveys. In all four Commonwealth countries who are a member of the OECD⁴, the percentage of those with tertiary education is higher among the foreign-born than among the native-born. The difference is the largest in the United Kingdom, where the proportion of tertiary educated among the foreign-born is 35 per cent, almost double that of the native-born population (20 per cent). Canada has the highest proportion of tertiary educated immigrants (38 per cent), Australia the lowest (26 per cent). In three of the four countries, women are slightly higher educated than men (see table 3).

Table 3: Educational attainment of the native and foreign-born population over 15, around 2000 (%)

Country	Education	Native-born			Foreign-born			Total		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Australia	Primary	41.8	54.9	48.5	34.7	48.0	41.3	40.1	53.2	46.7
	Secondary	40.1	23.4	31.6	39.6	26.1	32.8	39.9	24.1	31.9
	Tertiary	18.1	21.7	20.0	25.6	26.0	25.8	20.0	22.7	21.4
Canada	Primary	32.6	30.7	31.6	27.6	32.4	30.1	31.5	31.1	31.3
	Secondary	39.1	34.8	36.9	33.4	30.6	31.9	37.9	33.8	35.8
	Tertiary	28.2	34.5	31.5	39.0	37.0	38.0	30.6	35.1	32.9
New Zealand	Primary	30.9	29.4	30.1	18.4	18.9	18.7	28.2	27.1	27.6
	Secondary	40.2	45.0	42.7	48.7	51.9	50.4	42.1	46.6	44.4
	Tertiary	28.9	25.6	27.2	32.8	29.2	31.0	29.7	26.3	27.9
United Kingdom	Primary	50.9	51.5	51.2	39.8	41.3	40.6	49.9	50.5	50.2
	Secondary	28.1	29.2	28.7	23.9	25.1	24.5	27.7	28.8	28.3
	Tertiary	20.9	19.3	20.1	36.3	33.6	34.8	22.4	20.8	21.6

Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2008). *A Profile of Immigrant Populations in the 21st Century. Data from OECD Countries*, Paris. Note: figures do not add up due to rounding.

Primary level refers to ISCED 0/1/2, secondary level refers to ISCED 3/4 and tertiary level refers to ISCED 5/6.

Excluding people with unknown education level, gender or place of birth.

Analysis of the foreign-born population by educational attainment and country of birth indicates that Commonwealth countries constitute an important source of immigrants residing in Commonwealth countries who have tertiary education. In Australia, more than half of all tertiary educated immigrants were born in other Commonwealth countries, in particular the United Kingdom (28 per cent) and New Zealand (8 per cent). In Canada, one-third of tertiary educated foreign-born over 15 was born other Commonwealth countries, in particular in the United Kingdom (12 per cent) and India (6 per cent). More than two thirds of the highly skilled foreign-born residing in New Zealand was born in the Commonwealth, most of whom were born in the United Kingdom (37 per cent) and Australia (7 per cent). In the United Kingdom, nearly every second highly skilled foreign-born was born in the Commonwealth with India being the main source country (10 per cent). In sum, tertiary educated immigrants constitute an important part of the inflow in key destination countries in the Commonwealth. It was also found that many highly educated immigrants in these destination countries originated from other developed countries.

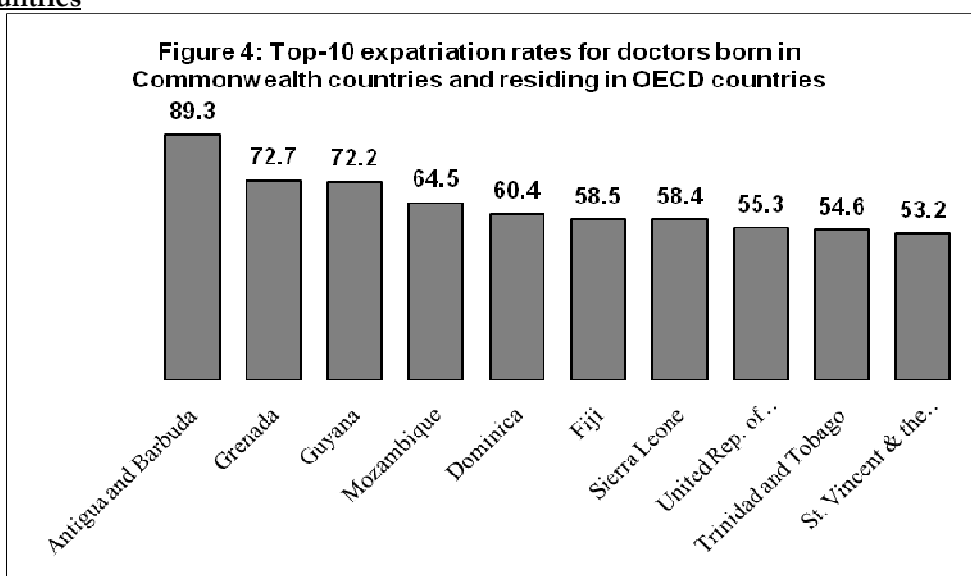
⁴ The OECD does not provide estimates for Malta.

In order to analyze the impact of immigration policies of developed countries on developing countries, the OECD has compared the educational level of immigrants in OECD countries with that of the native-born population in the countries where the immigrants were born. The analysis shows that “emigration rates” of the highly skilled in the countries of the Commonwealth differ widely. Countries with small populations, especially island states, experience high “emigration rates” of their highly skilled population (see Annex I). Thus, in the case of Barbados, Gambia, Guyana, Jamaica, Mauritius, Mozambique, Trinidad and Tobago, the percentage of the highly educated population living abroad varies from 40 to over 70 per cent. Significantly lower proportions of expatriates (less than 5 per cent) holding tertiary degrees are found mainly for Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, India, Lesotho and Swaziland. The above data suggest that the small island developing states are the ones that are most directly affected by the emigration of highly skilled workers, the so-called “brain-drain”.

D. Emigration of health workers

The emigration of health workers from developing countries may affect local health systems and, as result, jeopardize the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Using data provided by WHO’s Global Health Atlas, the OECD has calculated emigration rates for doctors and for nurses covering almost all countries of the Commonwealth. The highest emigration rates among doctors, with more than 40 per cent of doctors who were born in these countries and are now working in OECD countries, were found for Small Island Developing States and for countries in Africa. The largest number of foreign-born doctors working in the OECD was born in India (56,000). However, they represent only 8 per cent of all doctors born in India.

Figure 4: Top-10 expatriation rates for doctors born in Commonwealth countries and residing in OECD countries



Source: OECD (2007). International Migration Outlook, 2007 Annual Report, OECD, Paris.
Note: No data were available for Nauru, Kiribati and Tuvalu

Data table:
Doctors

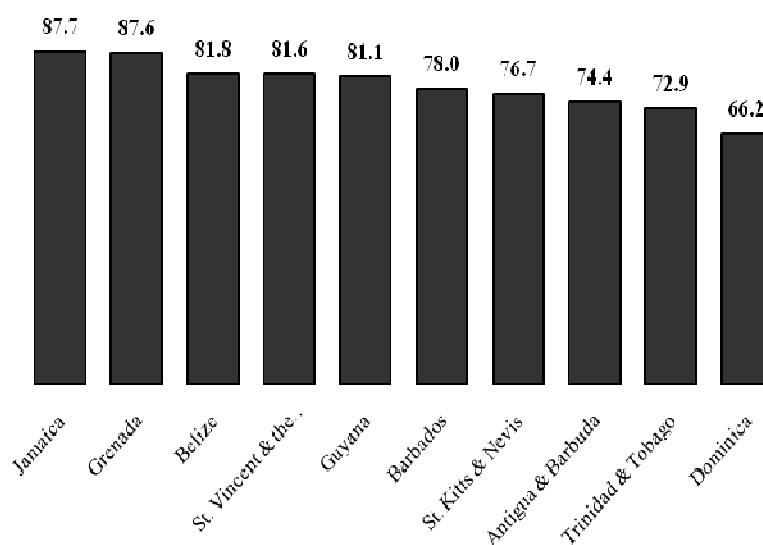
Country of birth	<i>Number of persons working in OECD countries</i>	<i>Expatriation rate</i>
Antigua and Barbuda	100	89.2857142857143
Grenada	109	72.6666666666667
Guyana	949	72.1673003802281
Mozambique	935	64.5272601794341
Dominica	58	60.4166666666667
Fiji	382	58.4992343032159
Sierra Leone	236	58.4158415841584
United Rep. of Tanzania	1018	55.3260869565217
Trinidad and Tobago	1206	54.5701357466063
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	115	53.2407407407407
Jamaica	2114	48.4085184337073
Barbados	275	46.0636515912898
Tonga	23	39.6551724137931
Malawi	162	37.8504672897196
Bahamas	178	36.3265306122449
Mauritius	725	35.7495069033531
Kenya	2385	34.6103613408794
Papua New Guinea	136	33.0900243309002
Uganda	1084	32.918311569997
Ghana	1469	31.1955829263113
Zambia	567	30.9666848716548
Sri Lanka	4668	30.8179837591602
Samoa	46	27.710843373494
Malta	458	26.7523364485981
Cyprus	627	25.1706142111602
Belize	76	23.2415902140673
Seychelles	36	22.9299363057325
Gambia	46	22.7722772277228
Saint Kitts and Nevis	15	22.7272727272727
Malaysia	4679	22.46818727491
Brunei Darussalam	94	21.8604651162791
Vanuatu	5	20
Singapore	1356	19.0905251302267
South Africa	7355	17.4355205765219
New Zealand	1904	17.4183514774495
Solomon Islands	11	16.9230769230769

Cameroon	572	15.4761904761905
Canada	9946	12.9963804570816
Nigeria	4611	11.6633783578692
United Kingdom	17006	11.2886416589776
Namibia	75	11.1441307578009
Rwanda	45	10.0896860986547
Pakistan	10505	8.28450430983494
India	55794	7.95217917416718
Lesotho	7	7.29166666666667
Bangladesh	2127	5.23736826553728
Swaziland	9	5
Saint Lucia	39	4.9492385786802
Botswana	33	4.41176470588235
Australia	2067	4.13880100917064
Maldives	6	1.94805194805195

Overall, expatriation rates for nurses are even higher than those for doctors. Among the 10 countries with the highest expatriation rates, the percentage of nurses residing in OECD countries ranged between 66 and 88 per cent (see Figure 5). Out of the twenty countries with emigration rates of nurses that exceed 50 per cent, 19 are Small Island Developing States. Eight of the ten countries with the highest expatriation rates for nurses are located in the Caribbean. The United Kingdom constitutes the largest country of birth for foreign-born nurses residing in OECD countries (46,000), although they account for only 6 per cent of the total number of nurses that were born in the United Kingdom.

Figure 5: Top 10 expatriation rates for nurses born in Commonwealth countries and residing in OECD

Figure 5: Top-10 expatriation rates for nurses born in Commonwealth countries and residing in OECD countries



Data table:
Nurses

Country of birth	<i>Number of persons working in OECD countries</i>	<i>Expatriation rate</i>
Jamaica	31186	88
Grenada	2131	88
Belize	1365	82
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	1228	82
Guyana	7450	81
Barbados	3496	78
St. Kitts & Nevis	711	77
Antigua & Barbuda	678	74
Trinidad & Tobago	9808	73
Dominica	620	66
Samoa	566	62
Tonga	449	58
Sierra Leone	2057	56
Fiji	2025	56
Saint Lucia	369	53
Mauritius	4502	50
Bahamas	560	30
Ghana	5230	25
Malta	649	22
Malaysia	7569	20
New Zealand	7564	20
Seychelles	151	19
Cyprus	706	19
Mozambique	779	16
Papua New Guinea	455	14
Brunei Darussalam	129	13
Solomon Islands	38	10
Singapore	1913	10
Nigeria	13398	10
Kiribati	19	9
Sri Lanka	2032	8
Uganda	1210	7
Canada	24620	7
United Republic of Tanzania	970	7
Kenya	2523	6
United	45638	6

Kingdom		
Cameroon	1338	5
Zambia	820	5
Vanuatu	20	4
Gambia	62	4
Pakistan	1803	4
South Africa	6016	3
Bangladesh	651	3
Malawi	200	3
India	22786	3
Australia	4620	3
Rwanda	54	1
Botswana	47	1
Swaziland	37	1
Namibia	30	0

E. International students

According to UNESCO, over 2.8 million students, 2 out of every 100 student, were enrolled in tertiary educational institutions outside their country of birth in 2007. Between 1999 and 2007, the total number of international students had grown by 53 per cent. One fifth of all international students in 2007 originated from a country of the Commonwealth. Worldwide, the largest group of students originate from China (421,000), followed by India (153,300). Other major countries of origin of tertiary students in the Commonwealth were Malaysia (45,200), Canada (43,900), Pakistan (24,600) and the United Kingdom (24,100).

The largest host countries of international students were the United States (596,000) and the United Kingdom (352,000). Other important destination countries in the Commonwealth were Australia (212,000), Canada (69,000), New Zealand (33,000) and Malaysia (24,000).

Australia hosted the largest proportion of international students in the Commonwealth (20 per cent), followed by United Kingdom (15 per cent), New Zealand (14 per cent), Canada (5 per cent) and Malaysia (3 per cent). Asia was the region of origin of 86 per cent in Malaysia, 79 per cent of international students in Australia, 69 per cent in New Zealand, 46 per cent in the United Kingdom and 42 per cent in Canada.

About one third of the international students in Australia (36 per cent) New Zealand (30 per cent) and the United Kingdom (29 per cent) originate from countries of the Commonwealth. In Malaysia and Canada, the corresponding figures are 24 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively.

While India constitutes a major sending country of international students, accounting for 5.5 per cent of all international students in 2007, its "outbound mobility ratio" was low as international students from India represented 0.1 per cent of the population of tertiary student age in the country. In some countries in the African Commonwealth, the "outbound mobility ratios" were significantly higher. Countries in the African Commonwealth with one-third or more of their students enrolled in tertiary education programmes abroad were Botswana (89 per cent), Namibia (61 per cent), Swaziland (58 per cent), Lesotho (48 per cent), Mauritius (41 per cent), and Malawi (31 per cent). South Africa was the most important receiving country of these students.

International students from Cyprus represented 37 per cent of the population of tertiary student age in their home country. Similar trends apply to small islands states such as Nauru (14 per cent), Tonga (13 per cent), Dominica (12 per cent), and Saint Kitts and Nevis (10 per cent). For several small countries, such as Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, and Cyprus, the number of students abroad exceeded domestic enrolment.

F. Remittances

Recorded remittances in the 54 countries of the Commonwealth reached 86 billion in 2007, more than one-fifth of the amount of remittances received worldwide (US\$ 380 billion), according to World Bank estimates. The 49 less developed Commonwealth countries received 85 per cent of the total remittances received by Commonwealth countries (US\$ 73 billion). The Commonwealth countries receiving the largest amounts of remittance in 2007 were India (US\$ 39 billion), Nigeria (US\$ 9 billion), United Kingdom (US\$ 8 billion), Bangladesh (US\$ 7 billion), and Pakistan (US\$ 6 billion).

Remittances may constitute an important part of the gross domestic product (GDP). For the less developed countries of the Commonwealth, remittances account for 3.2 per cent of the GDP. In the 16 least developed countries of the Commonwealth, the share of remittances in total GDP is almost double (6.2 per cent). In Guyana, Lesotho, Samoa and Tonga, remittances represent more than 20 per cent of total GDP. Jamaica received US \$ 2.1 billion in remittances in 2007, accounting for 19 per cent of total GDP. Remittances represent an important part of the GDP in Small Island Developing Countries: among the ten Commonwealth countries with the highest percentage of remittances of total GDP, seven are Small Islands Developing States.

Table 4. Remittances received by countries of the Commonwealth, 2007

Region	Total (in mn. USD)	Percentage of GDP	Distribution within Commonwealth (%)
More developed CW countries (5)	12,755	0.3	14.9
Less developed CW countries (49)	72,840	3.2	85.1
Least developed CW countries (16)	8,034	6.2	9.4
Africa CW countries (19)	13,727	2.3	16.0
Asia CW countries (9)	55,731	3.4	65.1
Europe CW countries (2)	8,277	0.3	9.7
Latin Am. and Car. CW countries (12)	2,950	7.0	3.4
Northern America CW countries (1)
Oceania CW countries (11)	4,909	0.5	5.7
Total Commonwealth (54)	85,595	1.4	100.0
World	380,050	0.7	22.5

No data are available for Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Nauru, Singapore and Tuvalu.

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). International Migration 2009, Wallchart (United Nations publication ST/ESA/Ser.A/288)

G. Irregular migration

It is generally recognized that orderly and legal migration is in the interest of sending and receiving countries. Regular migration also benefits migrants themselves as it allows migrants to access their rights. Irregular migration is fuelled by persons entering the country illegally as well as those overstaying their residence permit or visa. By its very nature, the scope of irregular migration is difficult to ascertain. Some countries produce estimates of irregular migration on a regular basis. For other countries, statistics become available as a result of regularization programmes. Estimates on the irregular migrant stock from different sources were available for Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom and published by the OECD. In countries that follow the United Nations recommendations, population censuses include all persons who are residing in the country, regardless of legal status. Therefore, the undercount in population census due to irregular migration is generally limited.

In Australia and New Zealand, estimates for irregular migration are derived by comparing information collected upon arrival with that collected during the departure. In 2006, it was estimated that 46,500 international migrants with an irregular status were living in Australia. For New Zealand, the corresponding figure was 17,300. For the United Kingdom, the number of irregular migrants at the end of 2007 was estimated to be between 417,000 and 863,000 with a central estimate of 618,000.

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