

International Migration

Facing the Challenge

Population Reference Bureau 2008

Definition

- the movement of people across national borders
- more the exception than the rule, for **two** major reasons:
 1. **Inertia**: lack of desire and drive to leave home
 2. **Regulation**: by governments through passports, visas, and border controls

The Numbers

- Approximately 3% of world's population
- Only five countries officially welcome international migrants as permanent residents:

The United States (~800, 000)

Canada (~200,000)

Australia (~75,000)

Israel (~65,000)

New Zealand (~35,000)

- However, most are not accepted as official immigrants, but as refugees, guest workers, or illegal foreigners

Refugee Origins and Destinations

[http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?
selected=14](http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?selected=14)

[http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?
selected=13](http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?selected=13)

Why People Migrate?

Primarily for **two** underlying reasons:

1. poverty

2. war and violence, also...3. globalization

Type of Migrant	Demand-Pull	Supply-Push	Network/Other
Economic	Labour recruitment, better wages	Un- or Under-employment; low wages	Job and wage information flows
Noneconomic	Family unification	War and persecution	Communications; transportation; assistance organizations; desire for new experience

Policy Responses (MDCs)

Immigration Policy: aims to facilitate wanted migration (e.g. ?) and to deter unwanted migration (e.g.?)

- the overwhelming response has been increased spending on border controls
- critics argue this makes MDCs 'islands of wealth' and that young migrants are needed for economic and demographic reasons (e.g. ?)

Reducing Unwanted Migration

1. Increase Trade and Direct Investment

- leads to factories and other job-creating workplaces, spurring economic growth and development

2. Increase Aid and Intervention

- aid to meet basic human needs, establish security and good governance, assist repatriation, encourage economic policy reforms, and to address environmental degradation

Managing Migration

Need to keep in mind **three** basic facts:

1. Most people never migrate
2. Half of the world's migrants move from one less developed country to another
3. Many countries have successfully made the transition from net emigration to net immigration areas (e.g. Italy, Spain)

Most importantly, **Effective Management** = *Economic Development + International Trade*

Immigration Policy in Canada

- system is designed to ensure that immigrants will be an asset to Canada
- Illegal immigration is minimal since it does not border an emigration country
- is designed for flexibility in order to account for exceptional circumstances

Immigration Policy in Canada

Three avenues of entry for LEGAL immigration:

- 1. Economic** skilled workers and business investors (55%)
- 2. Family Unification** (29%)
- 3. Refugees** (13%)

Canadian Immigration Policy

- governed by the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*
- purpose of the Act is to:
 1. maximize the benefits from the global movement of people
 2. protect refugees at home and abroad
 3. define membership in Canadian society
 4. manage access to Canada

Managing Access to Canada

- increase screening at the border (for criminals, false claims)
- introduce a high tech *Permanent Resident Card* (for re-entering Canada)
- severe penalties for human trafficking by smugglers (life in prison and/or fines of up to one million dollars) and fraud or forged documents
- ‘best interests of the child’ in cases involving minors
- Maintaining Canada’s humanitarian tradition of providing safe haven to people in need of protection

The Point System

- people wanting to settle in Canada must pass a kind of examination
- must get a mark of at least 67/100 to be granted the right to permanent resident status
- <http://www.skillclear.co.uk/canada/canada-skilled-worker-points-calculator-1.asp>