

MIGRATORY OUTLOOK

International migration:
global trends
and dimensions
of the phenomenon in Mexico

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UNIDAD DE POLÍTICA
MIGRATORIA

February 2018

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Subsecretaría de Población, Migración y Asuntos Religiosos/ Secretaría
de Gobernación
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INTRODUCTION

At the dawn of the 21st century, virtually all the countries of the world are directly or indirectly immersed in migration dynamics, whether in the contexts of origin, destination, transit or return of migrants. In 2015, there were just over 243 million international migrants; that is, 3.3% of the world population lived in a country other than the one of their birth.

The present MIGRATORY OUTLOOK document, “International migration: global trends and dimensions of the phenomenon in Mexico”, aims to offer a general perspective of international migration.

Firstly, the main migration corridors are indicated by countries of origin and destination, as well as the distribution of migrants, according to developed and developing regions. Subsequently, the trends and volumes of migrants in the world are presented among member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and in Latin America. Finally, in relation to Mexico, the main countries of origin of migrants residing in our country are presented, as well as the main countries of destination of Mexican migrants.

It should be noted that information from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of United Nations, referring to the year 2015, which estimates the volumes of migrants in the world (stocks), was used to integrate all the sections.

I. MAIN MIGRATION CORRIDORS¹ IN THE WORLD (MIGRATORY STOCK)

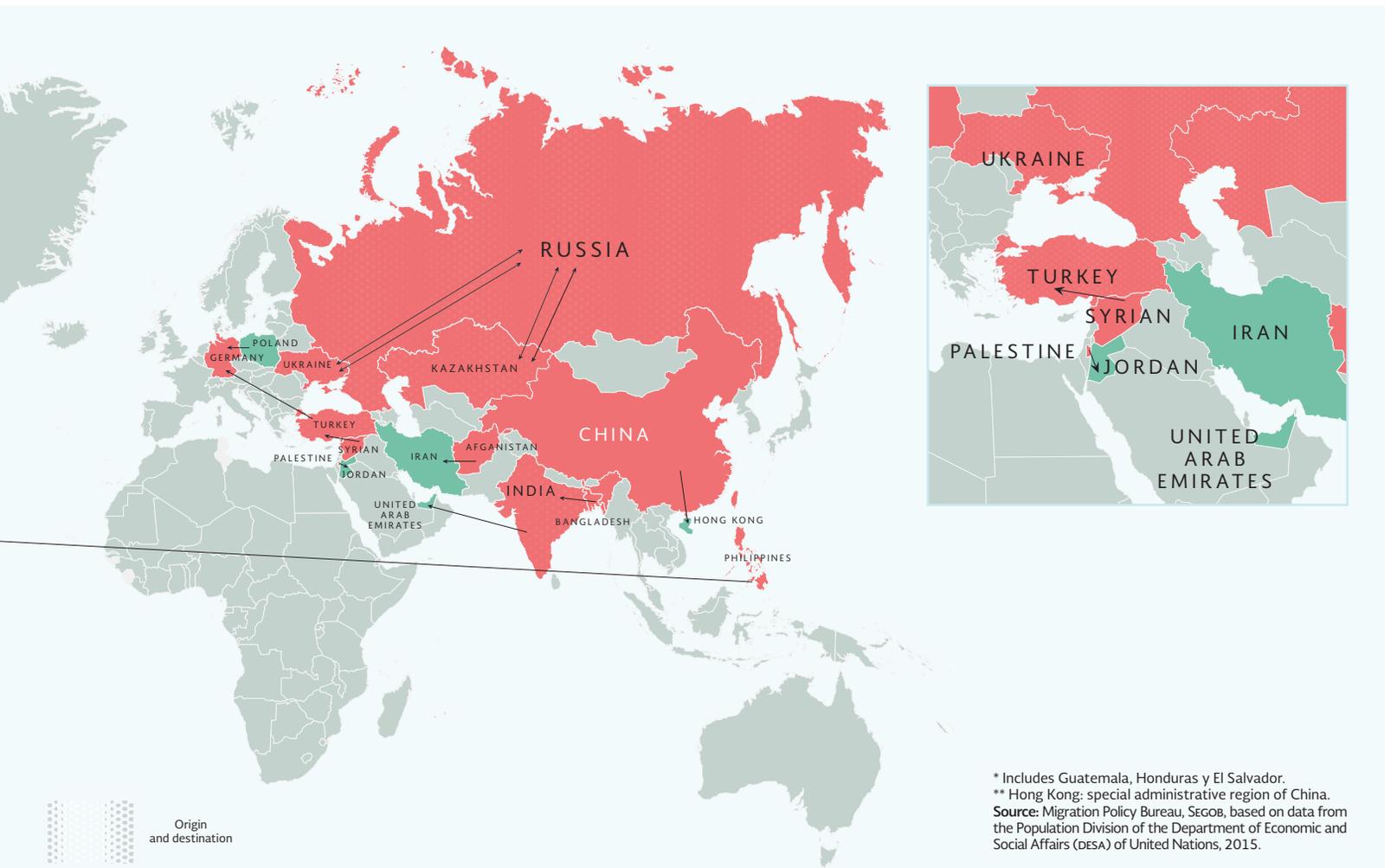
The Mexico–United States migration corridor is the largest in the world, with 12.1 million Mexican migrants, which represented 97.7% of the total of Mexicans living abroad in 2015. In second place is the migration from India to the United Arab Emirates (3.5 million).

On the other hand, Russia is underlined as a country that is immersed in two of the most important migration corridors in Europe and part of Asia, which also are bidirectional: it is those formed by Russia–Ukraine; Ukraine–Russia and Russia–Kazakhstan; Kazakhstan–Russia. The Philippines–United States corridor also stands out for being one of the most distant.

Finally, the corridor of the State of Palestine–Jordan maintains a volume superior to the two million migrants; that is, 3 out of 5 Palestinians migrate to that country.



¹ Some international organizations (such as the World Bank and the International Organization for Migration [IOM], among others), when referring to migration corridors, allude to the transfer of volumes of migrants, either between countries (country of origin–country of destination) or between regions (region of origin–region of destination). For the purposes of this document, we will understand as a migration corridor the transfer of the stock of migrants from a country of origin to a country of destination, with the exception of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, which are grouped in the Northern Triangle of Central America (NTC).



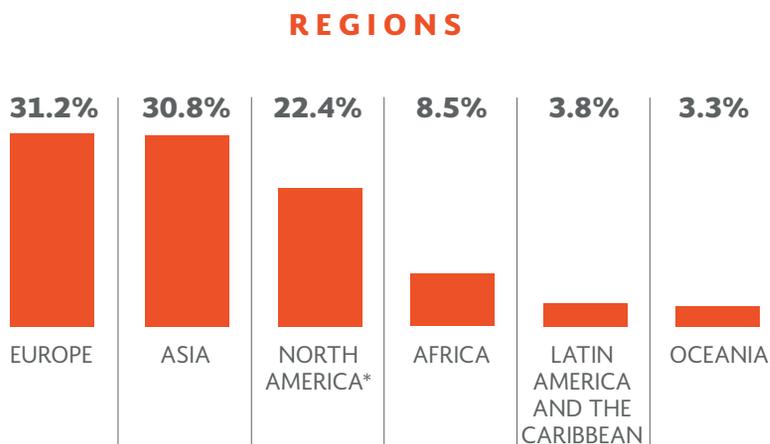
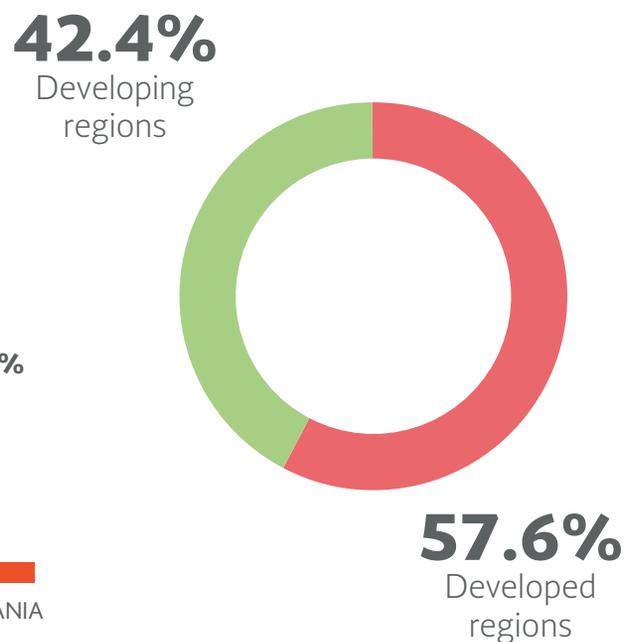
Origin	Mexico	India	Russia	Ukraine	Bangladesh	Northern Triangle of CA*	Kazakhstan	Russia	Afganistan	China	State of Palestine	Poland	Philippinas	Turkey	Syrian Arab Republic
Destination	U.S.	United Arab Emirates	Ukraine	Russia	India	U.S.	Russia	Kazakhstan	Iran	Hong Kong**	Jordan	Germany	U.S.	Germany	Turkey
Migrants (stock millions)	12.1	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.6
Proportion with respect to total migrants	97.7%	22.5%	31.0%	56.1%	44.0%	86.7%	62.8%	22.2%	48.5%	24.2%	60.3%	43.4%	35.7%	53.2%	31.3%

II. DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS IN THE WORLD

Almost 3 out of 5 international migrants (57.6%) are in a country that is part of the developed regions of the world,² Europe (31.2%) and Asia (30.8%) are the main recipients of international migration, followed by the North American region (22.4 percent).

In contrast, Africa (8.5%), Latin America and the Caribbean (3.8%) and Oceania (3.3%) are the regions with the lowest reception of international migration.

FIGURE 1. DISTRIBUTION, OF MIGRANTS IN THE WORLD, ACCORDING TO MAIN REGIONS OF DESTINATION, 2015



² According to the United Nations Organization (UN), the developed regions are Europe, North America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan, while the developing regions include all regions of Africa, Asia (except Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

N = 243 700 (thousands).

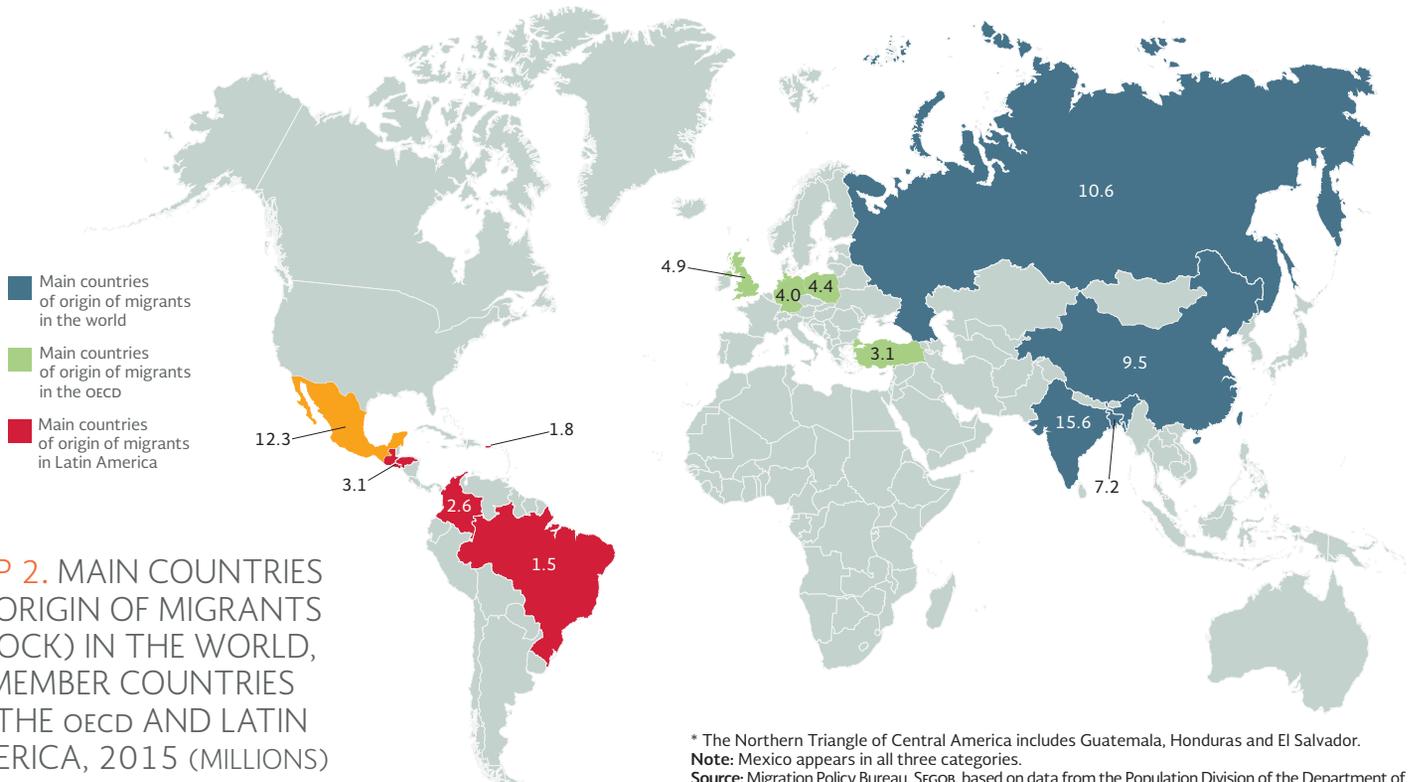
* Includes the United States, Canada, the Bermuda Islands, Greenland, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

Source: Migration Policy Bureau, SEGOB, based on data from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of United Nations, 2015.

III. MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF MIGRANTS

The three countries with the highest number of emigrants in the world are India (15.6 million), Mexico (12.3 million) and Russia (10.6 million). Our country also occupies the first position among OECD member countries and in Latin America. Among the OECD countries, the United Kingdom (4.9 million) is in a distant second place, while in the Latin American region, the Northern Triangle of Central America (3.1 million) and Colombia (2.6 million) occupy the second and the third positions, respectively.

WORLD			OECD			LATIN AMERICA		
Country of origin	Total emigrant population	Absolutes (millions)	Country of origin	Total emigrant population	Absolutes (millions)	Country of origin	Total emigrant population	Absolutes (millions)
India	15 575 724	15.6	Mexico	12 339 062	12.3	Mexico	12 339 062	12.3
Mexico	12 339 062	12.3	United Kingdom	4 917 460	4.9	Northern Triangle of CA*	3 102 195	3.1
Russia	10 576 766	10.6	Poland	4 449 789	4.4	Colombia	2 638 852	2.6
China	9 546 065	9.5	Germany	4 045 411	4.0	Puerto Rico	1 768 384	1.8
Bangladesh	7 205 410	7.2	Turkey	3 114 471	3.1	Brazil	1 544 024	1.5



* The Northern Triangle of Central America includes Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Note: Mexico appears in all three categories.

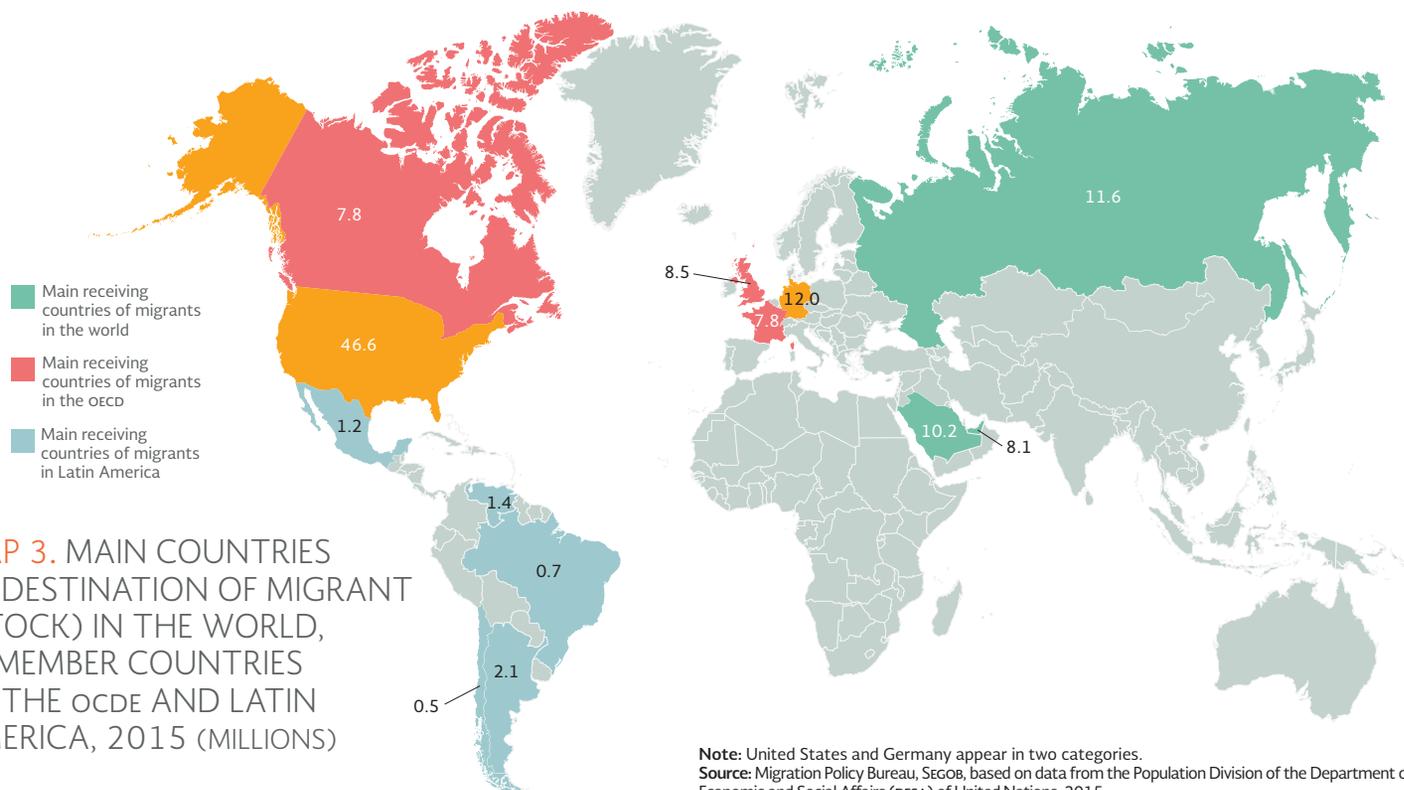
Source: Migration Policy Bureau, SEGOB, based on data from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of United Nations, 2015.

IV. MAIN COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS

WORLD			OECD			LATIN AMERICA		
Country of destination	Total immigrant population	Absolutes (millions)	Total immigrant population	Total immigrant population	Absolutes (millions)	Total immigrant population	Total immigrant population	Absolutes (millions)
U.S.	46 627 102	46.6	U.S.	46 627 102	46.6	Argentina	2 086 302	2.1
Germany	12 005 690	12.0	Germany	12 005 690	12.0	Venezuela	1 404 448	1.4
Russia	11 643 276	11.6	United Kingdom	8 543 120	8.5	Mexico	1 193 155	1.2
Saudi Arabia	10 185 945	10.2	Canada	7 835 502	7.8	Brazil	713 568	0.7
Arab Emirates	8 095 126	8.1	France	7 784 418	7.8	Chile	469 436	0.5

The United States (46.6 million), Germany (12.0 million) and Russia (11.6 million) are the main recipients of immigrants worldwide, while among member countries of the oecd, the United Kingdom is in third place (8.5 million), after of the United States and Germany.

On the other hand, the Latin American region presents a much more moderate immigration dynamic: Argentina is the main destination country for migrants (2.1 million), followed by Venezuela (1.4 million) and Mexico (1.2 million), the latter with a modest immigration dynamic within the framework of oecd countries.



Regarding countries with the largest migrant population (migrant stock), the United States stands out (see Figure 2), a country that, by far, surpasses all others. However, proportionally, immigrants represent 14.5% of its total population.

On the other hand, the cases of the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Jordan draw attention, since the population born in another country represents 88.4, 73.6 and 41.0% of their total population, respectively. That is, they are countries where at least 2 out of every 5 people were born outside their territory.

With respect to the United Arab Emirates, it is possible that this phenomenon is due to the temporary work policies implemented by this Arab country, which have attracted a significant number of foreign workers.

FIGURE 2. MAIN COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD WITH FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, 2015 (MILLIONS AND PROPORTIONS)



* Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China.

Source: Migration Policy Bureau, Secob, based on data from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of United Nations, 2015.

As for member countries of the oecd and the proportion they represent with respect to their total population, Luxembourg stands out, where for every 100 inhabitants, 44 are international migrants.

For its part, Mexico maintains a modest number of people born in another country (1.2 million), which represents just under 1% of its total population, which makes it the country with the lowest proportion of population born in another country within the oecd.

FIGURE 3. FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION RESIDENT IN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE oecd, 2015
(MILLIONS AND PROPORTIONS)

Millions
of people
(stock)

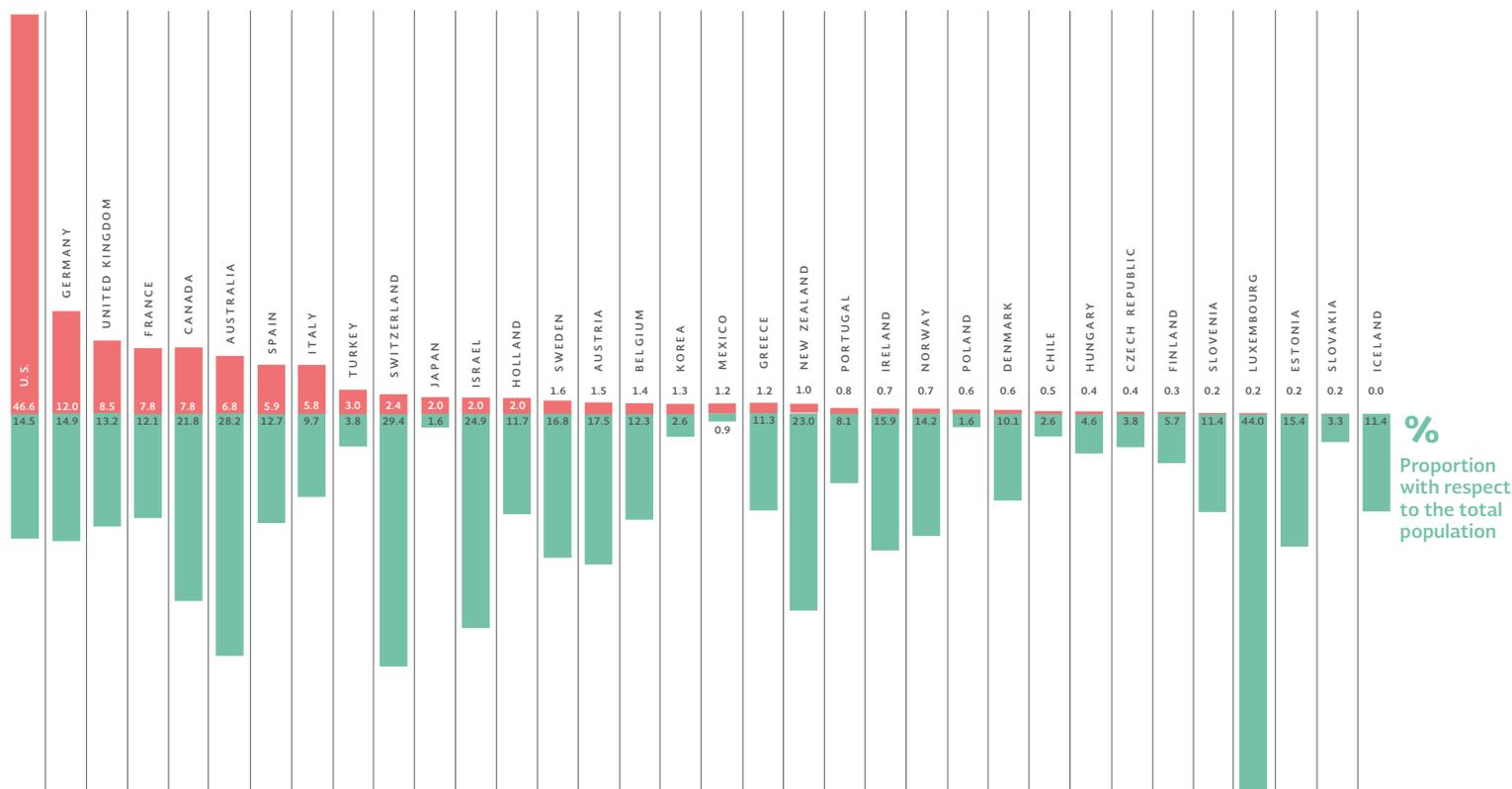
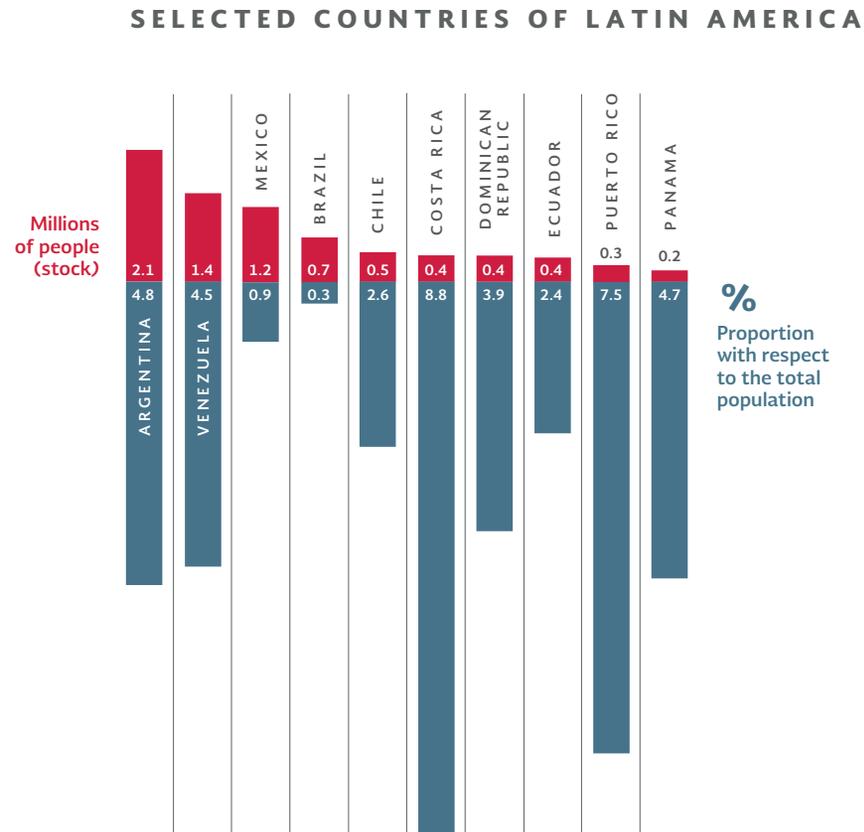


FIGURE 4. MAIN COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA WITH FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, 2015 (MILLIONS AND PROPORTIONS)

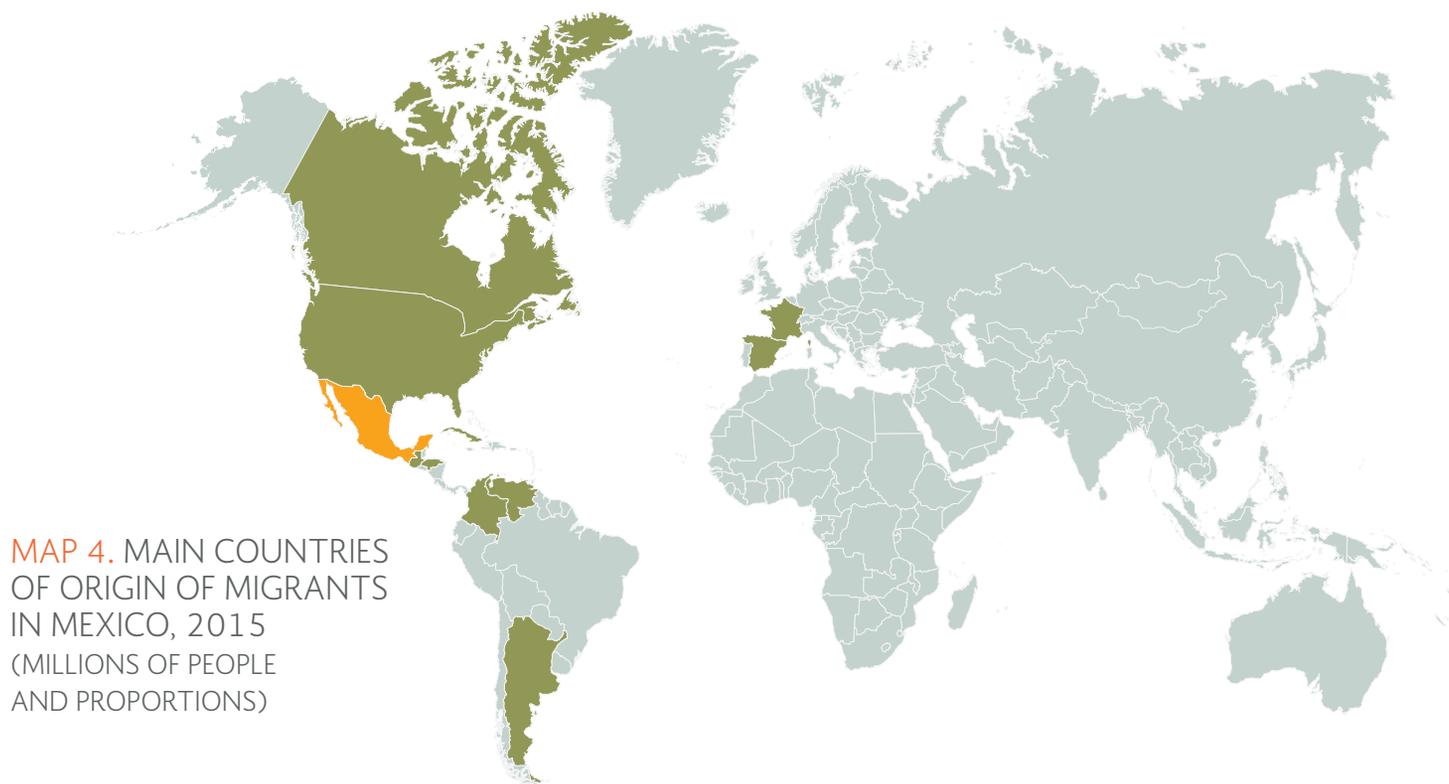
With regard to the Latin American region, Costa Rica (8.8%) and Puerto Rico³ (7.5%) are the countries with the highest proportion of population born in another country; that is, there is a ratio of almost 9 born abroad for every 100 inhabitants in the first and of 8 out of 100 inhabitants in the second.



IV. MEXICO AS A COUNTRY OF DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS

There are just over one million of population born in another country residing in Mexico, of which approximately three out of four (73.5%) come from the United States of America. This could be explained by vicinity and by migratory tradition to that country.⁴ In a lesser extent, Guatemala (4.5%) and Spain (2.3%) are other countries of origin of population born in another country resident in Mexico.

IMMIGRATION TOWARDS MEXICO, MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, 2015		
TOTAL	1 193 155	100.0%
U.S.	876 528	73.5%
Guatemala	53 128	4.5%
Spain	26 909	2.3%
Colombia	20 135	1.7%
Argentina	18 728	1.6%
Cuba	17 653	1.5%
Venezuela	15 959	1.3%
Honduras	15 027	1.3%
Canada	14 121	1.2%
France	11 903	1.0%
Other	123 064	10.3%



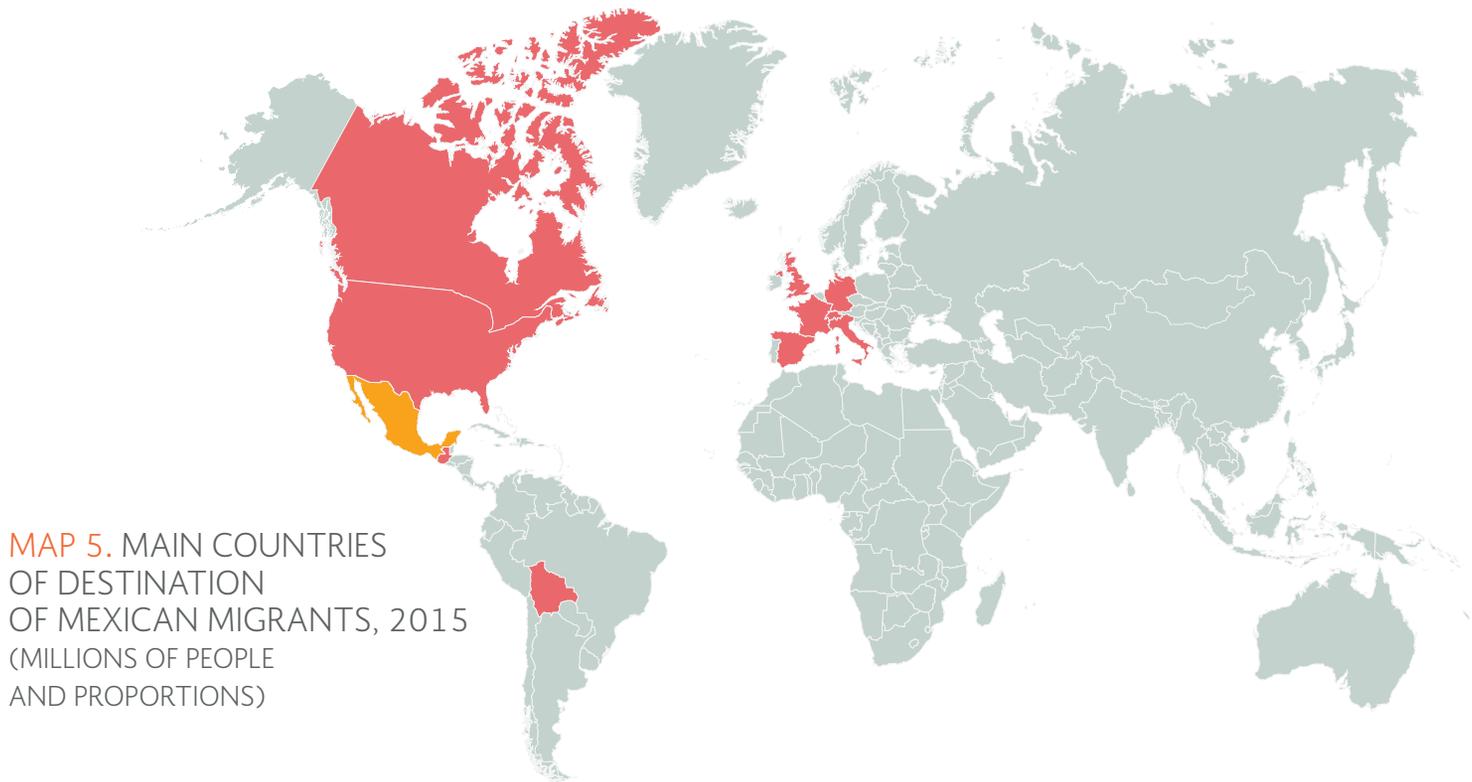
⁴ A significant number of these Americans are, in reality, Mexicans born abroad; that is, they are people born outside of Mexico but of Mexican parents. Just over 82% of the population born in the United States residing in Mexico has Mexican ancestry (CONAPO-UPM, 2015, page 119).

Source: Migration Policy Bureau, SEGOB, based on data from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of United Nations, 2015.

V. MAIN COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION OF MEXICANS MIGRANTS

In the context of Mexican emigration, the United States is the main destination for Mexicans abroad: just over 9 out of 10 Mexican migrants reside in that country. Followed, in a remote position, by Canada (0.8%), Spain (0.4%), Germany (0.1%) and Guatemala (0.1%).

MAIN COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION OF MEXICANS, 2015		
TOTAL	12 339 062	100.0%
U.S	12 050 031	97.7%
Canada	93 557	0.8%
Spain	46 867	0.4%
Germany	18 268	0.1%
Guatemala	17 540	0.1%
France	12 580	0.1%
United Kingdom	10 502	0.1%
Bolivia	9 522	0.1%
Italy	8 827	0.1%
Switzerland	6 605	0.1%
Otro	64 763	0.5%



Source: Migration Policy Bureau, Secob, based on data from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of United Nations, 2015.

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This document was produced with statistics generated by the Population Division of the United Nations, in the Center for Migration Studies of the Migration Policy Bureau (UPM) of the Secretariat of Government. The information was analyzed by the Research for Public Policies Department and it was formed in the Publications and Dissemination Department of the UPM.

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February 2018