

Migrant youth: Facts and figures

- In 2017, there were about 27.9 million migrants aged 15 to 24 years in the world, constituting 11% of all international migrants in the world.
- In 2017, the number of male youth migrants (14.5 million) slightly outnumbered the number of female youth migrants (13.4 million). In total, 52% of all youth migrants globally were male.
- In Asia, the gender imbalance was the greatest with 54% of all youth migrants being male. In Northern America, 52% of all youth migrants were male, followed by Europe and Oceania (51% each). In Africa, the number of male youth migrants equaled that of female migrants. Latin America and the Caribbean was the only region where female youth migrants outnumbered male youth migrants (51%).
- Between 2000 and 2017, the number of youth migrants increased by 21%, more than twice as fast as the youth population in general (9%).
- Between 2000 and 2017, 4.9 million youth migrants were added globally.
- Between 2000 and 2017, Asia recorded the highest increase in the number of youth migrants (3.2 million), followed by Africa (0.9 million), Europe (0.6 million) and Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania (0.4 million each).
- In 2017, Asia hosted the largest number of youth migrants in the world (9.5 million), followed by Europe (7.4 million), Northern America (5.0 million), Africa (3.8 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (1.2 million) and Oceania (0.9 million).
- The geographic distribution of youth migrants changed significantly between 2000 and 2017. In 2000, Europe hosted the biggest share of all youth migrants in the world (30 %), followed by Asia (28 %) and Northern America (24 %). By 2017, Asia had become the region hosting the largest share of youth migrants (34 %), followed by Europe (27 %) and Northern America (18 %).
- In Africa, youth migrants constitute 16 % of all international migrants, making Africa the youngest region for international migrants. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 13 % of all international migrants are aged 15 to 24, making it the second youngest region for international migrants, closely followed by Asia (12 %), Oceania (11 %), Europe (10 %) and Northern America (9 %).
- In 2017, the share of youth migrants in the total youth population in Oceania was 15 %, the highest level in the world. In Northern America, one out of every ten youth was a migrant (10 %), followed by Europe (9 %). The share of migrant youth in the total youth population was significantly lower in Africa (2 %) as well as in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (1 % each).