# Countries of Origin and Destination for Migrants in ASEAN

The International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database for ASEAN

# THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION STATISTICS (ILMS) DATABASE FOR ASEAN

## Key facts about where international migrants in ASEAN come from:

Around two thirds of international migrants in ASEAN come from other ASEAN Member States.

The top five countries of origin for international migrants in ASEAN are:
Myanmar (2.2 million)
Indonesia (1.2 million)
Malaysia (1.0 million)
Lao PDR (0.9 million)
Cambodia (0.8 million).

Other significant senders are:
China, Bangladesh, India and Nepal (each has between 200,000 and 700,000 migrants in ASEAN);

Pakistan, Japan, Viet Nam, Thailand and Singapore (each has between 100,000 and 200,000 migrants in ASEAN);
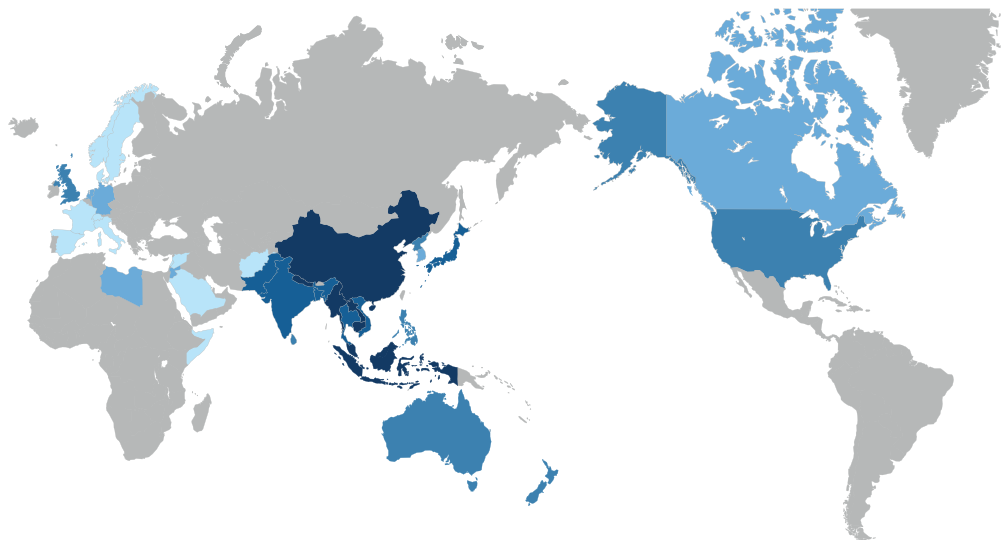
Hong Kong (China), Republic of Korea, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States (each has between 40,000 and 70,000 migrants in ASEAN).

## Key facts about international migrant women and men in ASEAN:

Two sources are represented in the figure on the right, although they portray similar facts.
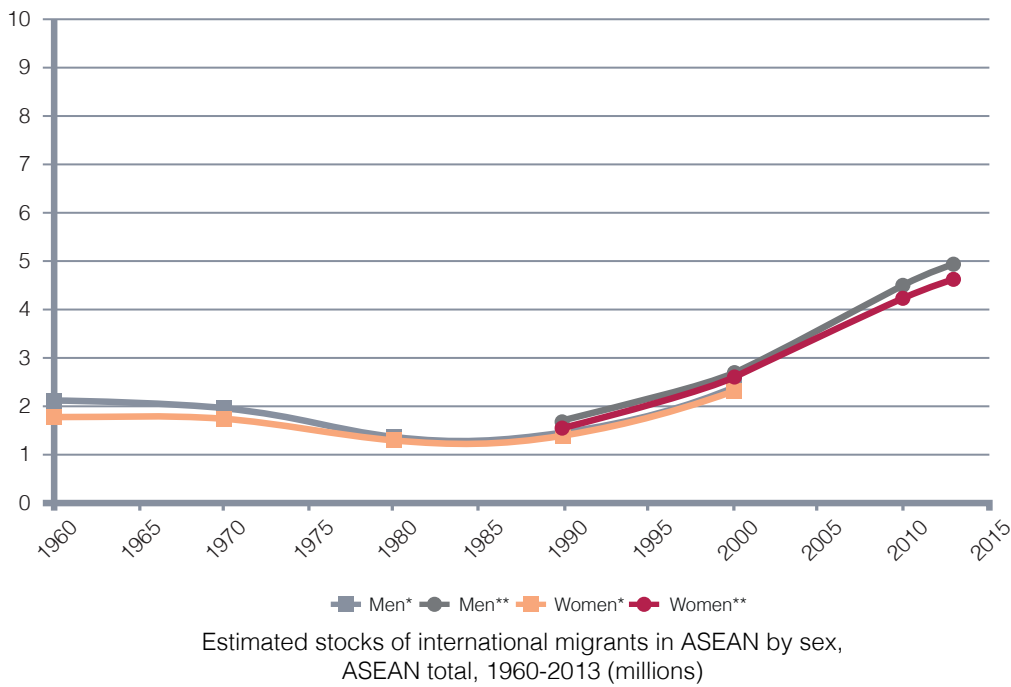
The number of women among the migrant population in ASEAN has always been slightly smaller than the number of men during 1960 – 2013. The latest estimates from UNDESA for 2013 identify 93 women migrants in ASEAN for every 100 migrant men.

## Where do international migrants in ASEAN come from?



■ 500+  ■ 100-500  ■ 20-100  ■ 4-20  ■ 1-4  ■ <1

Countries of origin of international migrants in ASEAN, 2013 (thousands)[1]

## International migrant women and men in ASEAN



■ Men*  ● Men**  ■ Women*  ● Women**

Estimated stocks of international migrants in ASEAN by sex, ASEAN total, 1960-2013 (millions)

## Key facts about where ASEAN nationals migrate to:

Three of the top five host countries for nationals abroad from ASEAN are other ASEAN Member States.

The top five host contries for nationals abroad from ASEAN are:
United States (4.3 million)
Thailand (3.6 million)
Malaysia (1.5 million)
Saudi Arabia (1.4 million)
Singapore (1.2 million).

Other significant host countries and territories for nationals abroad from ASEAN are: Australia, United Arab Emirates, Canada and Bangladesh (each hosts between 800,000 and 500,000 ASEAN nationals);

Japan, United Kingdom, Hong Kong (China), France, Republic of Korea, China, Germany and Kuwait (each hosts between 300,000 and 200,000 ASEAN nationals);
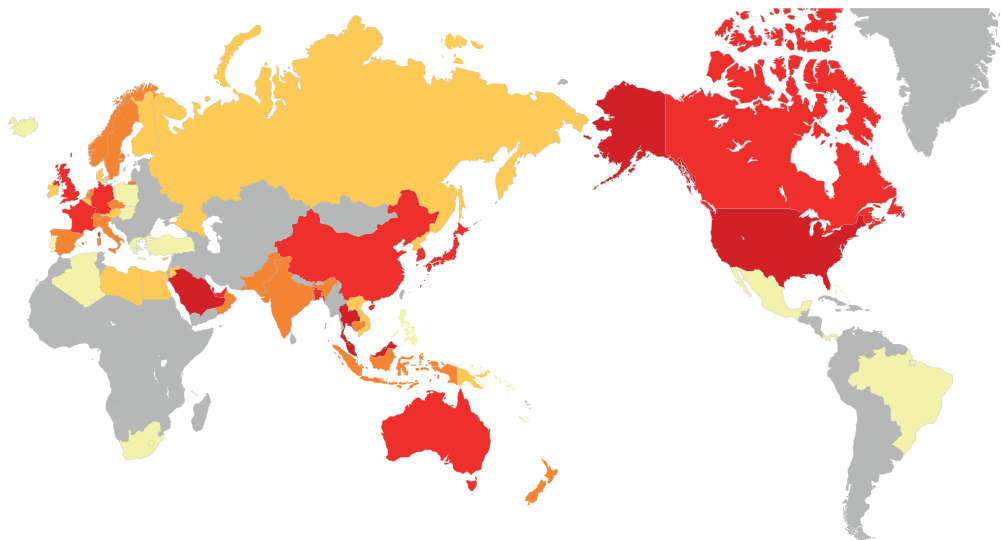
Netherlands, Qatar and Italy (each hosts approximately 100,000 ASEAN nationals).

Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, or Latin America did not account for a significant number of ASEAN'S migrants or its nationals abroad in 2013.

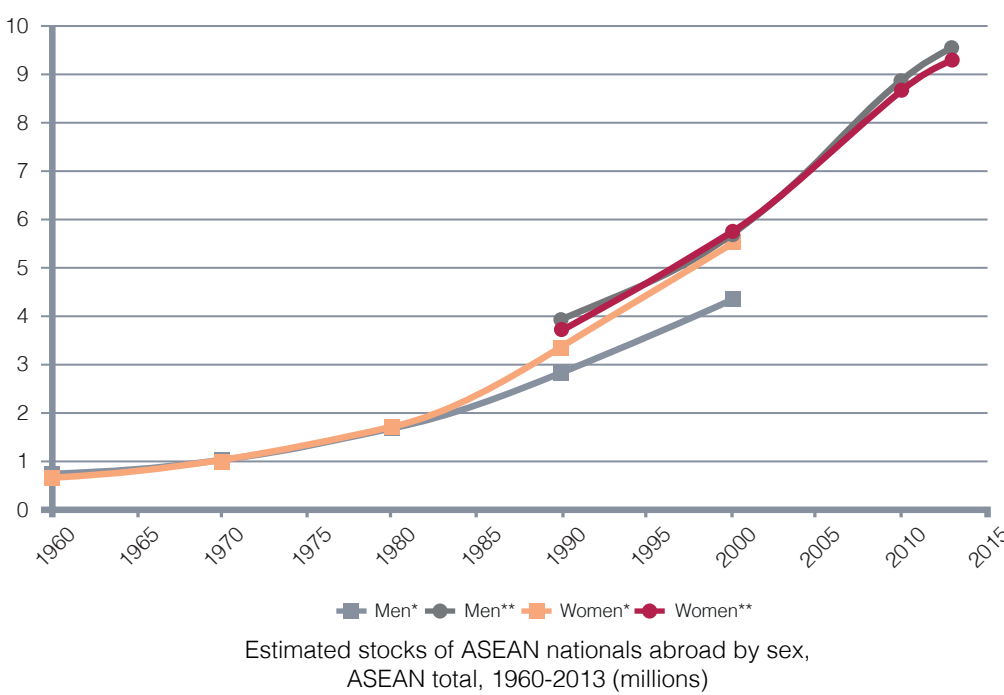## Key facts about ASEAN women and men abroad:

Since 1960 to 2013, fewer women than men from ASEAN have migrated abroad. The latest estimates from UNDESA for 2013 identify 97 women nationals abroad for every 100 of their male counterparts.

## Where do ASEAN nationals migrate to?



■ 1,000+  ■ 200-1,000  ■ 40-200  ■ 8-40  ■ 1-8  ■ <1

Countries of destination of ASEAN nationals abroad, 2013 (thousands)[1]

## ASEAN women and men abroad



■ Men*  ● Men**  ■ Women*  ● Women**

Estimated stocks of ASEAN nationals abroad by sex, ASEAN total, 1960-2013 (millions)

DEFINITION OF 'MIGRANT':
The original data for both sets of estimates come exclusively from the host countries and the underlying definitions of 'migrant' thus differ from country to country, depending on their census questions and methodology. Almost all of them divide into one of two groups: those who define migrants according to their birthplace and those do so based on their citizenship. While this divide can still produce relatively consistent data within a given host country, it makes the estimates between them somewhat difficult to compare. To calculate the numbers of nationals abroad from each country of origin, this divide also unfortunately produces a 'mixed bag' of definitions that can result in further inaccuracy. Although both sets of estimates give overall priority to data defined according to birthplace, the remaining inconsistencies represent an unavoidable yet regrettable drawback.
For more information: UNDESA, Trends in international migrant stock: The 2013 revision
http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/index.shtml
World Bank, Global Bilateral Migration Database http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/global-bilateral-migration-database

## Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN TRIANGLE Project)

The ILMS Database gathers together official government data from a number of statistical sources on international migrant workers' stocks and flows within the region as well as on countries' nationals living or working abroad. It is the first of its kind in the region. The ILMS fills an important knowledge gap, creating a powerful research tool through which policymakers and others can profile and monitor the international migrant labour force within the region.

The ILMS Database is published at a critical time for the ASEAN region, as economic development, regional integration, and demographic factors continue to drive intra-regional labour mobility.
The ILMS Database was created by the ILO's project on Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN TRIANGLE Project), which is funded by the Canadian Government. It was developed through extensive collaboration with both the ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILMS Database can be accessed from three portals online:

ILOSTAT:            www.ilo.org/ilostat
APMigration:        http://apmigration.ilo.org/asean-labour-migration-statistics
ASEAN Statistics:   http://www.asean.org/resources/category/asean-statistics

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