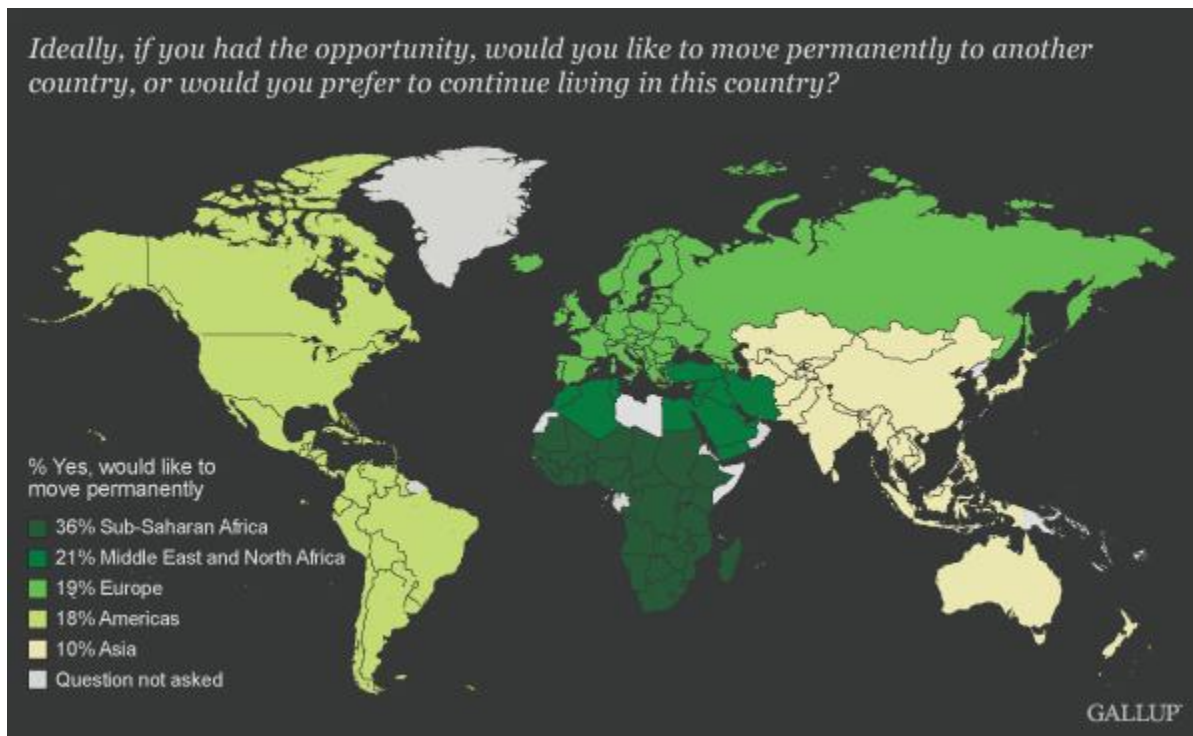


Nearly 700 Million Worldwide Desire to Migrate Permanently

U.S. tops desired destination countries

by Neli Esipova and Julie Ray

Every day, migrants leave their homelands behind for new lives in other countries. Reflecting this desire, rather than the reality of the numbers that actually migrate, Gallup finds about 15% of the world's adults would like to move to another country permanently if they had the chance. This translates to roughly 700 million worldwide -- more than the entire adult population of North and South America combined.



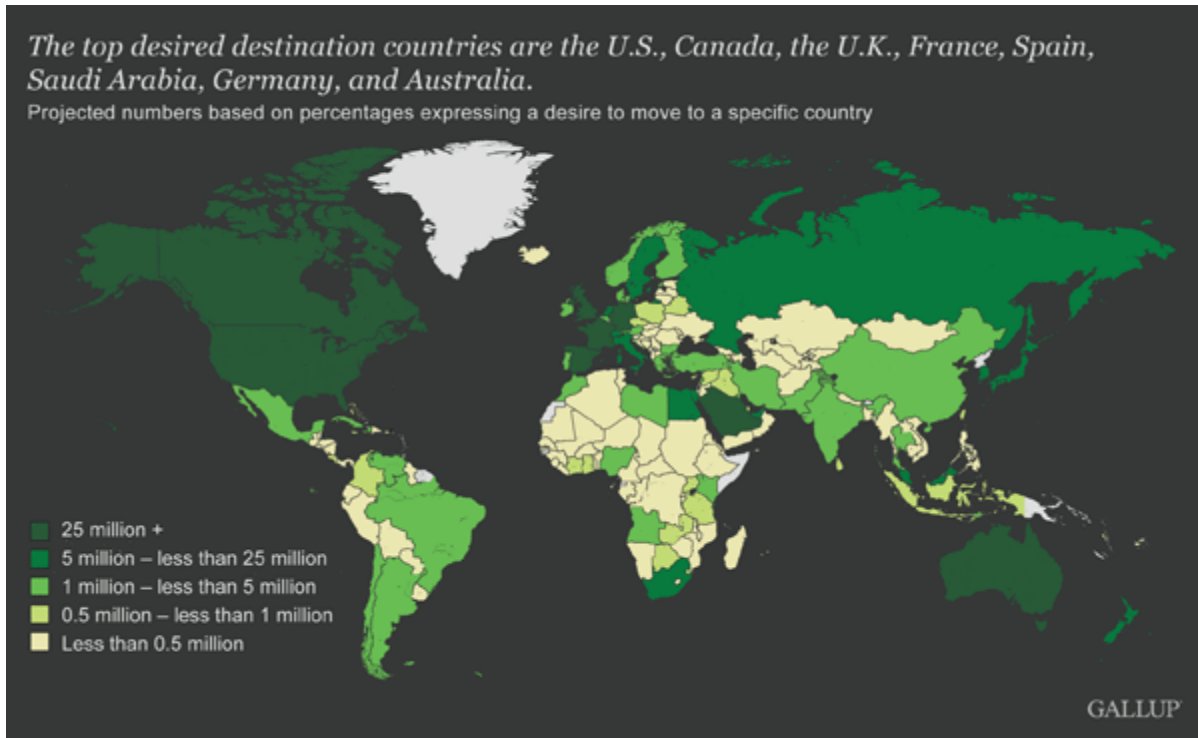
Gallup's findings on adults' desire to move to other countries are culled from its telephone and face-to-face interviews with 347,713 adults across multiple surveys in 148 countries between 2007 and 2009. The 148 countries represent more than 95% of the world's adult population. Gallup's use of standardized question wording and survey methods enable the data to be reliably compared across countries and regions.

From its surveys, Gallup finds residents of sub-Saharan African countries are the most likely to express a desire to move abroad permanently. Thirty-six percent of the adult population in the region -- or an estimated 165 million -- say they would like to do this if the opportunity arises. Residents in Asian countries are the least likely to say they would like to move -- 10% of the adult population, or roughly 250 million expresses a desire to migrate permanently.

United States Tops Desired Destination Countries

Intra-regional desired migration rate highest in EU

The United States is the top desired destination country for the nearly 700 million adults who would like to relocate permanently to another country. Nearly one-quarter (24%) of these respondents -- a proportion that translates to more than 165 million adults worldwide -- name the United States as their desired future residence. Given that additional estimated 45 million saying they would like to move to Canada, Northern America is the most desired region in the world.



The rest of the top desired destination countries (those where an estimated 25 million or more adults would like to go) are predominantly European. Forty-five million adults who would like to move name the United Kingdom as their desired destination and 40 million choose France, while 30 million would like to go to Spain and 25 million would like to relocate to Germany. Outside Europe, 30 million name Saudi Arabia and 25 million name Australia as their destination of choice.

Roughly 200 million adults around the world would like to move to a country in the European Union, which is slightly lower than the estimated number who would like to move to Northern America. However, about half of the estimated 80 million adults who live in the EU and would like to move permanently to another country would like to move to another country *within* the EU -- the highest desired intra-regional migration rate in the world.

Looking solely at those outside the EU who would like to move, 160 million would like to relocate to a country within the union – similar to the number who would like to move to the United States.

Who Are These Potential Migrants and What Countries Attract Them?

Young and educated the most likely to want to go, but desired destinations differ

Gallup's robust global database on migration attitudes enables our researchers to bring the demographics of the people these nations and regions are likely to attract into sharper focus. Worldwide, factors such as age and education correlate strongly with people's desire to migrate. Younger people are more likely to express a desire to relocate permanently, and those with at least some secondary education are more likely to want to go than those with less education. Age and education are also common threads in relation to where potential migrants would like to move, but Gallup's research reveals stark differences as well.

Intra-regional Destinations

Among older people who would like to migrate, the country of choice would most likely be one within their own region. Among potential migrants who live in rural areas, there appears to be more interest in intra-regional migration as well. This is true especially in Latin America and the Middle East and North Africa.

Job status makes little difference among those who desire to move to a country within their region. Potential migrants who classify themselves as "professionals" are as likely as those in the "non-professional" job classification – those working in construction, manufacturing, transportation, or farming – to say they would like to move to a destination within their region.

Latin America

In Latin America, Northern America (38%), the European Union (36%), and intra-regional countries are the top desired regions. The United States and Spain are the top two individual desired destination countries.

Adults in Latin America are most likely to say they would like to move permanently to Northern America and the EU.



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The choice in ultimate destinations varies a great deal by educational attainment. Northern America tends to attract those with less than a secondary education or some secondary education, while the European Union attracts the more educated. There is no difference by education among those whose desired destinations are within the region.

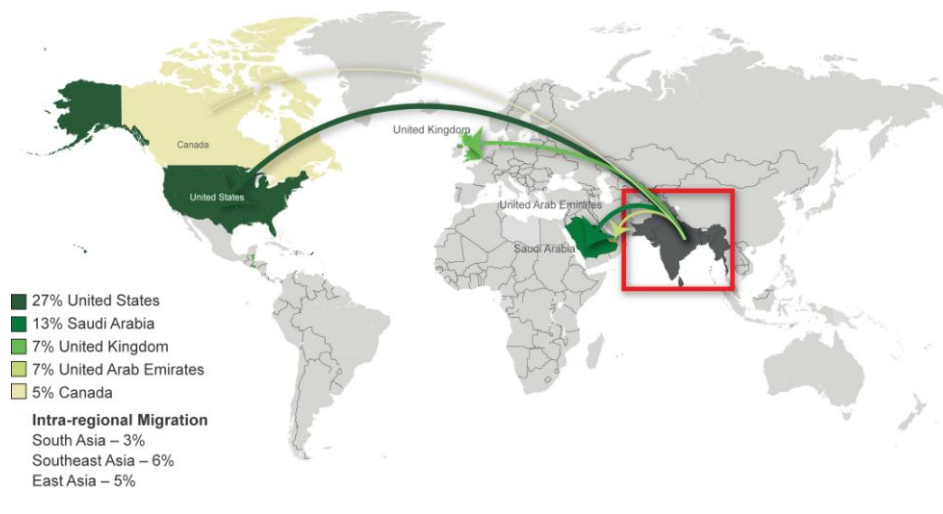
Similar patterns emerge with potential migrants' employment status, which is related to education. In Latin America, the European Union appeals to potential migrants who classify themselves as "professionals," while Northern America is more likely to attract those in the "non-professional" job classification.

There is no difference by age among those who say they would like to move to Northern America, while those in the younger group are slightly more likely to say they would like to relocate to the European Union.

South Asia

In South Asia, Northern America (33%), the Middle East and North Africa (23%), European Union (13%) are the top desired destination regions.

Adults in South Asia are most likely to say they would like to move permanently to Northern America and the Middle East.



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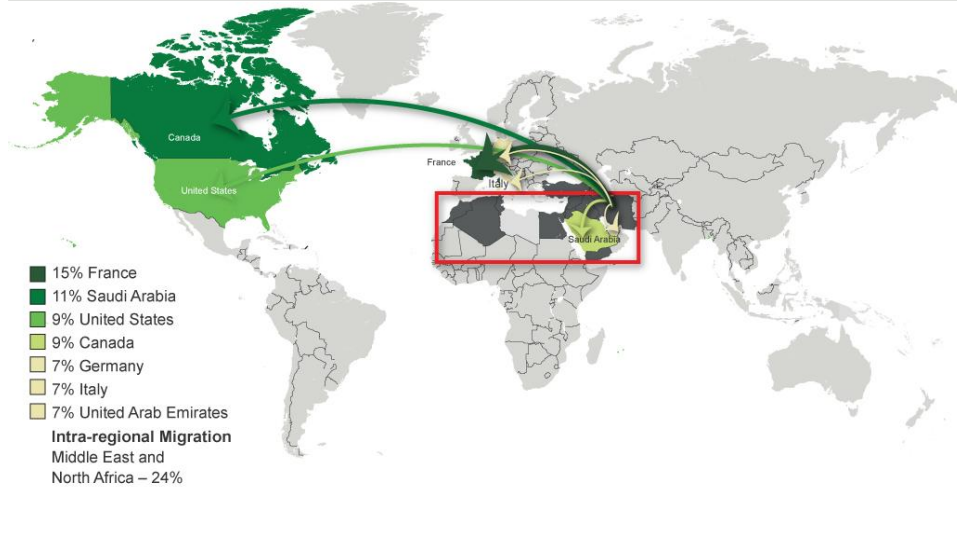
In contrast to Latin America, Northern America definitely attracts more educated people from South Asia. The Middle East and North Africa appears to interest less educated potential migrants, who may be drawn to the region by oil, construction, service jobs. Potential migrants in the “non-professional” job category are also more likely to be drawn to the Middle East and North Africa. Northern America equally draws potential migrants in both “professional” and “non-professional” categories, while the European Union tends to attract fewer in the “non-professional” category.

Among potential migrants in South Asia, older residents are slightly more likely to want to move to the Middle East and North Africa. As was the case in Latin America, there is no age difference among those who would like to move to Northern America, while those who are of working age are slightly more likely to want to move to the European Union.

Middle East and North Africa

In the Middle East and North Africa, the top desired destination regions are the European Union (42%), North America (16%), and countries within the region, especially Arab Gulf countries.

Those in the Middle East and North Africa most often want to move to France, Saudi Arabia, the U.S., and Canada.



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Lower educated potential migrants tend to be attracted to inter-regional locations, while Northern America appears to draw people from the more educated groups – as in South Asia. There is no difference by educational attainment among potential migrants who would like to move to the European Union. The European Union is, however, less likely to attract younger potential migrants and those in the “professional” job category, while Northern America is more likely to attract professionals from this region.

In most regions of the world, there is little difference between men’s and women’s desires to move to another country permanently. The Middle East and North Africa is the exception to this trend: 25% of males versus 16% of females say they would like to leave their home countries. Desired destinations among men and women who desire to migrate, however, do not differ meaningfully.

Developing vs. Developed Countries

Eighty percent of potential migrants in developing countries would like to move to a developed country

Most of the world's international immigrants, according to the 2009 United Nations' Human Development Report, move from one developing country to another developing country or between developed countries. Gallup's data would suggest then that the countries people desire to migrate to permanently do not necessarily reflect actual migration rates -- especially in regard to developing countries. Eighty percent of those in developing countries who would like to move

permanently to another country would like to move to a developed country, while 13% of potential migrants in developed countries would like to move to a developing country.

For example, Cameroonians who would like to migrate permanently to another country are most likely to say they would like to move to the United States (12%), France (5%), the United Kingdom (3%), or Canada (3%). Less than 1% of Cameroonians who would like to move say they would like to go to another African country.

Climate for Immigrant Integration

Canadians most likely to say their communities are good places for immigrants

Immigrant integration requires mutual work on the part of immigrants themselves and the communities they join. But the underlying climate of acceptance within destination countries is a key consideration when developing policies that challenge stigmatization and foster migrants' inclusion, protection, and eventual empowerment. Are adults in destination countries open to accepting migrants into their communities?

Gallup asked respondents whether they think the city or area where they live is a good place or not a good place for immigrants from other countries. Of the top desired countries for permanent migration, according to Gallup's research, residents of Canada are most likely to say their communities are good places for immigrants, at 90%. Eighty-one percent of those in the United States -- the top desired destination -- say their communities are good places for immigrants.

Majorities in other top desired destination countries including Australia (86%), Spain (78%), the United Kingdom (72%), France (67%), and Saudi Arabia (54%) also say their communities are good places for immigrants.

Implications

While Gallup's findings reflect aspirations rather than intent, they suggest hundreds of millions are feeling pulled or pushed, for various reasons, toward countries other than their own. Who these potential migrants are, where they'd like to go, and why, will continue to be crucial for leaders in countries of origin and destination to understand as they develop migration and development strategies in the global "new normal."

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with 347,713 adults across multiple administrations of surveys in 148 countries between 2007 and 2009. Results among adults who would like to move to another country are based on a total sample of 75,125. The 148 countries represent more than 95% of the world's adult

population. Gallup's use of standardized question wording and survey methods enable the data to be reliably compared across countries and regions.

For most countries, aggregated sample sizes (across three years of surveys) range between 1,000 and 3,000 interviews. One can say with 95% confidence that the margin of sampling error, accounting for weighting and sample design, is 0.5% for the sample of adults who would like to migrate and ranges from ± 2 percentage points to ± 2.5 percentage points within regions. Results are projected to the total population of each country, aged 15 and older, using 2008 World Bank population estimates.