

# International Migration Trends in OECD Countries: A Comprehensive Analysis

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**Abstract:** The paper offers a comprehensive analysis of international migration trends in OECD countries, with a specific focus on Indian migration, including women. The study spans the years 2000 to 2022 and explores multifaceted dynamics, considering economic, social, and geopolitical factors. The study highlighting the unprecedented shifts in international migration to OECD countries, marked by a surge in permanent migration and a record number of asylum applications. The Russia-Ukraine conflict emerges as a key geopolitical influence, reshaping migration patterns with millions seeking refuge in OECD nations. A critical aspect of the paper revolves around the interconnectedness between migration trends and labour market outcomes. As labour demands increase, the study underscores the urgent need for adaptive labour migration frameworks, evident in policy contemplations across OECD nations. India, as a significant source of migrants, takes centre stage, with an exploration of historical context, socioeconomic factors, and recent changes in labour migration frameworks. The analysis extends to international student flows from India, emphasizing its role as a key player in the global higher education landscape. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration patterns is examined, revealing temporary disruptions followed by resilient recoveries. The study also delves into the push-pull dynamics of migration from South Asia to OECD countries, considering demographic, economic, and quality of life factors. Policy responses to labor shortages, ongoing conflicts, and the need for international protection are discussed, highlighting the dynamic nature of migration policies in response to global challenges.

**Keywords:** Migration Policies, South Asia, OECD countries, Push-pull dynamics

## Introduction

International migration has become a significant global phenomenon, shaping demographic landscapes and influencing economic, social, and cultural dynamics. Among the various regions experiencing substantial migration flows, the OECD

countries stands out as a key player. In recent years, the landscape of international migration to OECD countries has undergone unprecedented shifts, presenting complex challenges and opportunities for both destination nations and migrant populations. This research paper delves into the multifaceted dynamics of global migration, with a specific focus on the OECD region, providing a nuanced examination of the latest trends and their implications.

The OECD countries, comprising 38 member nations, have been central to the global migration discourse. Analysing the sheer magnitude of migration is crucial to understanding the scale of the phenomenon. The permanent migration to OECD countries surged to a historic high of 6.1 million, marking a remarkable 26% increase from the previous year. A critical driver of this trend was the escalating demand for labour, with migrant workers playing a pivotal role in addressing labour and skills shortages across OECD economies. Asylum applications, a parallel dimension of migration, soared to unprecedented levels, surpassing two million applications, and setting a new record.

The geopolitical impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has resulted in millions of Ukrainian refugees seeking shelter in OECD countries. The distribution of refugees, with Germany and Poland leading in absolute numbers, underscores the profound humanitarian challenges posed by conflicts and their far-reaching consequences on migration patterns.

In the context of these developments, OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann emphasizes the importance of understanding the labour market outcomes of migrants. The surge in both new labour migration and employment rates among residents is discussed, unveiling the interconnectedness between migration trends and the prevailing labour and skills shortages. As a response, various OECD nations are contemplating substantial changes in their labour migration frameworks, reflecting the urgency to address the evolving dynamics of global migration.

India, as one of the world's leading sources of migrants, contributes significantly to the dynamics of global migration. The paper explores the historical context, patterns, and motivations underlying Indian migration to OECD countries. It delves into the socioeconomic factors driving migration from India, examining the pull and push factors that influence individuals to seek opportunities in foreign lands. Additionally, the paper investigates the impact of recent changes in labour migration frameworks in destination countries on the migration patterns of Indians.

## **Objective of the Research Paper**

1. To analyse the Indian emigration trend and pattern with reference to OECD countries.

## Methodology

The study is based on the secondary data, the present paper focus on a specific time period, geographic regions within OECD countries, and relevant demographic factors. The study collected the data from OECD International Migration Database, national statistical agencies, World Bank databank, IMF, UN-DESA and other international organizations.

**Table 1: Permanent migration to selected OECD countries, 2014 -2022.**

|                             | 2014       | 2015       | 2016       | 2017       | 2018       | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       | 2022<br>(estimates) | 2022/21<br>change<br>(%) | 2022/19<br>change<br>(%) |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| United States               | 1<br>017.2 | 1<br>051.0 | 1<br>186.9 | 1<br>103.7 | 1<br>089.6 | 1<br>031.0 | 582        | 835        | 1 048.0             | 26                       | 2                        |
| Germany                     | 573        | 684        | 1<br>051.9 | 861        | 634        | 620        | 500        | 532        | 641                 | 21                       | 3                        |
| United Kingdom              | 358        | 390        | 375        | 354        | 357        | 378        | 234        | 386        | 521                 | 35                       | 38                       |
| Spain                       | 268        | 270        | 292        | 322        | 340        | 398        | 324        | 370        | 472                 | 27                       | 19                       |
| Canada                      | 262        | 276        | 297        | 287        | 321        | 341        | 185        | 406        | 438                 | 8                        | 28                       |
| France                      | 258        | 262        | 260        | 261        | 283        | 292        | 232        | 278        | 301                 | 8                        | 3                        |
| Italy                       | 245        | 223        | 214        | 220        | 207        | 194        | 127        | 241        | 272                 | 13                       | 40                       |
| Netherlands                 | 112        | 127        | 139        | 148        | 148        | 163        | 133        | 171        | 208                 | 21                       | 27                       |
| Australia                   | 235        | 228        | 229        | 221        | 195        | 196        | 166        | 169        | 166                 | -2                       | -15                      |
| New Zealand                 | 50         | 55         | 56         | 47         | 45         | 38         | 36         | 35         | 155                 | 337                      | 304                      |
| Switzerland                 | 128        | 124        | 118        | 119        | 120        | 122        | 119        | 123        | 144                 | 17                       | 18                       |
| Belgium                     | 101        | 104        | 106        | 108        | 110        | 114        | 92         | 112        | 122                 | 9                        | 7                        |
| Portugal                    | 31         | 34         | 39         | 51         | 79         | 107        | 85         | 94         | 121                 | 29                       | 13                       |
| Japan                       | 81         | 98         | 109        | 114        | 131        | 150        | 105        | 67         | 106                 | 58                       | -29                      |
| Sweden                      | 117        | 121        | 154        | 132        | 123        | 99         | 80         | 91         | 94                  | 3                        | -5                       |
| Austria                     | 80         | 102        | 105        | 99         | 87         | 82         | 63         | 74         | 89                  | 21                       | 10                       |
| Israel                      | 24         | 28         | 26         | 26         | 28         | 33         | 20         | 26         | 74                  | 191                      | 123                      |
| Mexico                      | 44         | 34         | 36         | 33         | 37         | 41         | 58         | 68         | 74                  | 9                        | 83                       |
| Denmark                     | 51         | 62         | 56         | 53         | 52         | 50         | 42         | 55         | 70                  | 27                       | 42                       |
| Ireland                     | 28         | 37         | 42         | 40         | 46         | 51         | 43         | 38         | 67                  | 76                       | 31                       |
| Korea                       | 67         | 70         | 78         | 75         | 81         | 78         | 57         | 54         | 62                  | 15                       | -21                      |
| Czech Republic              | 24         | 28         | 29         | 40         | 55         | 62         | 56         | 64         | 46                  | -29                      | -27                      |
| Norway                      | 68         | 62         | 65         | 55         | 46         | 47         | 33         | 39         | 44                  | 13                       | -7                       |
| Finland                     | 20         | 22         | 28         | 26         | 25         | 28         | 24         | 30         | 40                  | 36                       | 46                       |
| Estonia                     | 2          | 6          | 7          | 14         | 25         | 36         | 26         | 37         | 32                  | -13                      | -10                      |
| Luxembourg                  | 21         | 22         | 22         | 24         | 25         | 26         | 21         | 26         | 29                  | 12                       | 12                       |
| All countries               | 4<br>259.8 | 4<br>517.7 | 5<br>120.2 | 4<br>832.5 | 4<br>687.4 | 4<br>775.4 | 3<br>439.6 | 4<br>420.4 | 5 434.4             | 23                       | 14                       |
| EU countries included above | 1<br>927.5 | 2<br>102.6 | 2<br>544.7 | 2<br>398.7 | 2<br>235.7 | 2<br>321.1 | 1<br>846.2 | 2<br>212.4 | 2 603.6             | 18                       | 12                       |

Source: OECD International Migration Database

Table 1 shows the permanent migration to selected OECD countries from 2014 to 2022. United states has experiencing an increasing trend in permanent-type migration from 2014 to 2022 and there is a notable increase in 2022 compared to 2021, potentially driven by economic factors. Germany Demonstrated a rising trend in migration until 2019, followed by a decline. United Kingdom witnessed a fluctuating trend with a significant increase in 2022. Spain has consistent growth in migration from 2014 to 2019, with a slight dip in 2020. Canada displayed consistent growth in migration with a sharp increase in 2022. France experienced moderate growth between mentioned periods with a steady increase. Italy has witnessed fluctuations but a significant increase in 2022. Australia has declining trend with decrease in 2022. In 2020, international Migration flows to OECD countries witnessed a decline in migration for several countries, likely influenced by the global pandemic. Economic uncertainties and travel restrictions may have deterred migration. In the post pandemic period rebound in migration for many countries, suggesting recovery from pandemic-related disruptions. While some countries maintained consistent growth, others exhibited more volatile patterns. Consideration of global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting migration patterns. Economic recovery, vaccination rates, and geopolitical stability contribute to year wise variations.

Table presents the permanent migration to the OECD area by category of entry from 2013 to 2022. A consistent growth in work migration, with a significant spike in 2018 and a subsequent decline in 2020, likely influenced by global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. A substantial increase in 2022, indicating a strong recovery and potential adaptation to new work-related policies. Relatively stable trends with minor fluctuations. Notable growth in 2022, suggesting a potential recovery from pandemic-related disruptions and increased family reunification. Family migration growth with fluctuation peaking in 2016 and experiencing a decline in 2020. A moderate increase in family migration in 2022, possibly influenced by changing family reunion policies and economic conditions. Humanitarian Migration fluctuated with a peak in 2016 followed by a decline in subsequent years. A noticeable increase in 2022, indicating potential changes in humanitarian policies or global events driving forced migration. Free Movement of labour generally increasing trends, reaching a peak in 2015 and stabilizing in recent years. The decline in work migration in 2020 reflects the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international labour mobility. Changes in family migration patterns might be influenced by evolving family reunification policies. Work migration closely correlates with economic conditions, as seen in the growth patterns.

Table 2: Permanent-type migration to the OECD area, by category of entry, 2013-22

|                | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      | 2020      | 2021      | 2022      |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Work           | 509 915   | 497 691   | 480 525   | 498 435   | 534 030   | 630 701   | 746 889   | 570 341   | 838 473   | 1 143 764 |
| Accomp. family | 307 636   | 314 706   | 320 370   | 314 117   | 300 457   | 318 977   | 329 795   | 261 035   | 375 826   | 593 043   |
| Family         | 1 433 903 | 1 415 951 | 1 501 517 | 1 658 008 | 1 622 166 | 1 622 565 | 1 664 722 | 1 078 246 | 1 510 082 | 1 579 893 |
| Humanitarian   | 306 271   | 366 856   | 538 890   | 952 840   | 718 069   | 481 744   | 421 243   | 366 416   | 413 533   | 580 499   |
| Free movement  | 1 256 904 | 1 402 555 | 1 418 254 | 1 426 064 | 1 374 501 | 1 347 526 | 1 322 855 | 984 630   | 1 002 995 | 1 124 513 |

Source: OECD International Migration Database.

**Graph 1: Inflows of temporary migrants to the OECD, main programmes and top five receiving countries, 2019-2022**



Source: OECD International Migration Database.

Graph 1 shows the Category-wise Analysis of inflows of Temporary Labour Migrants to the OECD (2019-2022). Seasonal migrations have consistent growth in both H-2A and H-2B programs, indicating sustained demand for seasonal labour. USA remains a dominant destination, with Canada, GBR, and others attracting significant numbers. Trainees' migration has Sharp decline in 2020 followed by a significant

recovery in 2022, particularly in Japan. Working Holiday Maker (WHM) migration to Australia, USA, New Zealand, and Others has notable decline in 2020, followed by a substantial recovery in 2022. Australia remains a primary destination, with USA and New Zealand also attracting a significant number of working holiday makers. Consistent increase in Intra-Company Transfers (ICT) inflows, with a significant rise in 2022. The growth in intra-company transfers signifies the importance of global mobility within multinational corporations. Overall increasing trend in temporary labour migration, with substantial growth in 2022. Noticeable declines in 2020 followed by a resilient recovery, emphasizing the adaptability of temporary labour migration programs. The pandemic influenced temporary labour migration across categories, with a sharp decline in 2020 and subsequent recoveries.

**Table 3: Inflows of international tertiary-level students in OECD countries, 2012-2022**

|                | 2012   | 2019    | 2020    | 2021     | 2022     | 2022/21    | 2022/19  |
|----------------|--------|---------|---------|----------|----------|------------|----------|
|                | 000s   |         |         |          |          | Change (%) |          |
| Australia      | 77.65  | 159.81  | 76.462  | 62.209   | 193.181  | 210.5355   | 20.88167 |
| Austria        | 4.7    | 3.584   | 2.17    | 4.017    | 4.059    | 1.045556   | 13.25335 |
| Belgium        | 5.266  | 8.001   | 5.518   | 8.976    | 8.997    | 0.233957   | 12.44844 |
| Canada         | 71.722 | 171.276 | 50.7045 | 215.1835 | 276.367  | 28.43317   | 61.35769 |
| Czech Republic | 3.109  | 4.134   | 6.073   | 5.014    | 7.447    | 48.52413   | 80.1403  |
| Denmark        | 6.173  | 7.541   | 4.461   | 4.729    | 8.905    | 88.3062    | 18.08779 |
| Estonia        | 0.516  | 1.494   | 0.661   | 1.225    | 0.632    | -48.4082   | -57.6975 |
| Finland        | ..     | 5.246   | 3.225   | 5.837    | 8.383    | 43.6183    | 59.79794 |
| France         | 57.809 | 86.459  | 70.89   | 85.33099 | 91.56878 | 7.31011    | 5.910061 |
| Germany        | 32.305 | 49.179  | 12.356  | 18.74    | 54.919   | 193.0576   | 11.67165 |
| Greece         | 0.779  | 0.3     | 0.266   | 0.307    | 0.338    | 10.09772   | 12.66667 |
| Iceland        | 0.276  | 0.374   | ..      | ..       | ..       | ..         | ..       |
| Ireland        | 7.714  | 16.918  | 8.831   | 11.144   | 17.812   | 59.83489   | 5.284313 |
| Italy          | 18.484 | 12.683  | 4.942   | 10.318   | 15.039   | 45.75499   | 18.57605 |
| Japan          | 57.579 | 121.637 | 49.748  | 11.651   | 167.128  | 1334.452   | 37.39898 |
| Korea          | 15.355 | 35.338  | 28.344  | 38.608   | 57.203   | 48.16359   | 61.8739  |
| Lithuania      | 0.362  | 1.214   | 1.265   | 1.543    | 1.619    | 4.92547    | 33.36079 |
| Luxembourg     | ..     | 0.419   | 0.224   | 0.358    | 0.396    | 10.61453   | -5.48926 |
| Mexico         | 5.078  | 5.759   | 2.913   | 4.607    | 7.043    | 52.87606   | 22.29554 |
| Netherlands    | 10.745 | 20.18   | 11.645  | 19.58    | 21.87    | 11.69561   | 8.374628 |
| New Zealand    | 19.545 | 23.712  | 5.679   | 0.816    | 10.287   | 1160.662   | -56.6169 |
| Norway         | 3.377  | 3.829   | 2.007   | 3.399    | 3.943    | 16.00471   | 2.977279 |
| Portugal       | 8.41   | 13.356  | 12.285  | 10.919   | 9.712    | -11.0541   | -27.2836 |
| Slovenia       | 0.564  | 1.779   | 1.417   | 1.239    | 1.837    | 48.26473   | 3.260259 |

|                      |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Spain                | 26.344   | 43.443   | 20.491   | 41.552   | 49.23    | 18.47805 | 13.3209  |
| Sweden               | 7.092    | 10.756   | 6.628    | 8.532    | 9.079    | 6.411158 | -15.5913 |
| Switzerland          | 11.2945  | 6.069201 | 5.540249 | 6.083422 | 6.352234 | 4.418766 | 4.663428 |
| United Kingdom       | 250.341  | 376.063  | 221.87   | 367.501  | 477.687  | 29.9825  | 27.02313 |
| United States        | 486.9    | 363.607  | 102.85   | 399.018  | 409.156  | 2.540738 | 12.52699 |
| OECD Europe<br>Total | 455.6605 | 673.0212 | 402.7652 | 616.3444 | 799.825  | 29.76917 | 18.84098 |
| OECD total           | 1189.49  | 1554.16  | 719.4657 | 1348.437 | 1920.19  | 42.40118 | 23.55161 |

Source: OECD International Migration Database.

Table 3 shows OECD international tertiary student inflows from 2012 to 2022. About half of OECD nations have record international student flows. In Estonia, Portugal, Sweden, Luxembourg, and New Zealand, international student numbers are below pre-pandemic levels. The UK is the top recipient of overseas students for the fourth year. US, Canada, Australia, and Japan are the top five recipients. In 2022, the OECD issued 61% more international student initial permits than in 2012. Since 2012, Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, and the Netherlands have doubled. OECD countries enrolled 4.3 million international students in 2021, with almost 50% in Europe. The US welcomes about 20% of international students, followed by the UK and Australia. Nearly 60% of OECD international students in 2021 were from Asia, mostly China and India. Asian students, especially in European OECD countries, have climbed from 30% to 36% since 2014. International students in OECD countries mostly come from Vietnam, China, India, France, and Germany. Spain, Portugal, and OECD Latin American countries attract international students from Latin America. International students in France mostly come from Africa. India, Vietnam, and Nepal have witnessed large growth in overseas students between 2014 and 2021. Syrian students have surged approximately ten-fold due to foreign study as a migration alternative for displaced populations. International students made up 6% of OECD tertiary students in 2021. In most nations, overseas students rise with study level. International students make up more master's than doctorate students in Lithuania, Latvia, the Slovak Republic, Türkiye, and Australia. International PhD students outnumber tertiary students in more than three-quarters of countries. Luxembourg, Switzerland, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and the UK have over 40% overseas doctoral students. OECD countries have seen significant expansion in international student flows, with regional and national trends driving higher education mobility. The COVID-19 epidemic has affected countries differently, but the aggregate trend reflects a strong and evolving international student environment.



**Table 4: Top three countries of origin students enrolled in OECD countries, 2021.**

|                      | 2021<br>(000s) | Share of all students in 2021<br>(%) |                   |                   | First<br>region of<br>origin in<br>2021 | Top three countries of origin<br>in 2021 |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|--|
|                      |                | Total<br>tertiary<br>education       | Master's<br>level | Doctoral<br>level |   |  |
| Australia            | 378            | 22                                   | 38                | 33                | Asia                                    | India, China, Nepal                      |
| Canada               | 313            | 17                                   | 18                | 35                | Asia                                    | India, France China,                     |
| Finland              | 25             | 8                                    | 11                | 26                | Asia                                    | Viet Nam, China, India                   |
| Germany              | 376            | 11                                   | 17                | 22                | Asia                                    | China, Syria, Indi                       |
| Ireland              | 23             | 9                                    | 16                | 37                | Asia                                    | China, USA, India                        |
| Italy                | 72             | 3                                    | 4                 | 10                | Asia                                    | China, Iran, India,                      |
| Latvia               | 10             | 13                                   | 27                | 13                | Asia                                    | India, Germany, Uzbekistan,              |
| Lithuania            | 8              | 7                                    | 13                | 9                 | Europe                                  | Belarus, India, Ukraine,                 |
| New Zealand          | 31             | 12                                   | 23                | 47                | Asia                                    | China, Australia, India,                 |
| Poland               | 74             | 5                                    | 5                 | 10                | Europe                                  | Ukraine, India, Belarus,                 |
| Sweden               | 33             | 7                                    | 12                | 36                | Europe                                  | China, Germany, India                    |
| UK                   | 601            | 20                                   | 39                | 41                | Asia                                    | China, Nigeria, India,                   |
| USA                  | 833            | 5                                    | 11                | 22                | Asia                                    | China, Korea, India,                     |
| OECD Europe<br>total | 2 125          | 8                                    | 12                | 24                | Europe                                  | China, India, Germany,                   |
| OECD total           | 4 324          | 6                                    | 14                | 24                | Asia                                    | India, China, Viet Nam                   |

Source: OECD Education at a Glance Database,

Table 4 shows the international student enrollment in OECD countries with reference to India in 2021. India stands out as a significant contributor to international student populations across several OECD countries. Notable destinations for Indian students include Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, and Australia. India ranks among the top countries of origin for international students in Canada, reflecting the growing appeal of Canadian institutions among Indian learners. Indian students continue to choose the UK for higher education, with a substantial presence in various academic programs. The German higher education system attracts a considerable number of Indian students, drawn by quality education and research opportunities. Indian students contribute significantly to the diverse international student community in Ireland, particularly at the master's and doctoral levels. Australia remains a popular destination for Indian students pursuing tertiary education, reflecting the strong academic ties between the two countries. Indian students are actively engaged at both master's and doctoral levels in various OECD countries, showcasing their pursuit of advanced education and research opportunities. The preference for master's and

doctoral programs indicates India's commitment to fostering a skilled workforce and contributing to global knowledge development. While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is not explicitly discussed in the provided data, it is essential to consider the potential disruptions in international student flows, including those from India. Resilience in the number of Indian students in 2021 suggests adaptability and continued interest in pursuing education abroad despite global challenges. The data highlights that Asia, including India, serves as the primary region of origin for international students in various OECD countries. The increase in the number of Indian students in OECD countries over the years reflects the positive perception of the international education landscape and the opportunities it presents. OECD countries should continue to adapt their policies to accommodate the diverse needs and expectations of Indian students, fostering a conducive environment for academic and cultural integration.

**Table 5: Twenty main nationalities of international students enrolled in OECD countries, 2014 and 2021**

|               | 2014   | 2021   | Share among international students enrolled in OECD countries in 2021 | Change 2021/2014 |
|---------------|--------|--------|---|------------------|
| China         | 704.13 | 885.29 | 20.51   | 1.26             |
| India         | 172.53 | 424.03 | 9.83  | 2.46             |
| Viet Nam      | 57.11  | 133.10 | 3.08  | 2.33             |
| Germany       | 111.17 | 123.36 | 2.86  | 1.11             |
| France        | 76.50  | 100.68 | 2.33  | 1.32             |
| Korea         | 108.16 | 83.82  | 1.94  | 0.77             |
| United States | 51.25  | 81.24  | 1.88  | 1.59             |
| Italy         | 50.56  | 78.58  | 1.82  | 1.55             |
| Nepal         | 26.08  | 72.36  | 1.68  | 2.77             |
| Syria         | 7.31   | 71.77  | 1.66  | 9.81             |
| Brazil        | 32.36  | 62.54  | 1.45  | 1.93             |
| Iran          | 39.80  | 60.48  | 1.40  | 1.52             |
| Ukraine       | 35.66  | 60.31  | 1.40  | 1.69             |
| Nigeria       | 36.99  | 58.00  | 1.34  | 1.57             |
| Morocco       | 37.72  | 55.11  | 1.28  | 1.46             |
| Pakistan      | 28.72  | 51.30  | 1.19  | 1.79             |
| Canada        | 46.43  | 46.08  | 1.07  | 0.99             |
| Spain         | 30.85  | 43.91  | 1.02  | 1.42             |
| Türkiye       | 31.16  | 40.88  | 0.95  | 1.31             |
| Saudi Arabia  | 70.50  | 40.59  | 0.94  | 0.58             |

*Note:* Statistics refer to stocks of international students and exclude Erasmus students in European countries. Source: OECD Education at a Glance Database,

Table 5 shows the 20 most common nationalities of OECD international students in 2014 and 2021. China had the most overseas students in 2014 and 2021. International students dominated from 2014 to 2021, rising from 20.51% to 1.26%. International students in India doubled. India's share rose from 9.83% in 2014 to 2.46% in 2021, highlighting its growing prominence in global higher education. Nepal has seen a surge in international student enrollment in OECD nations in recent years, indicating a growing trend among neighboring students to study abroad. Migration dynamics and global student mobility may have contributed to Syria's huge percentage increase, reflecting geopolitical developments.

Germany and France have stable international student enrollment, but moderate proportional changes indicate changing preferences. International student enrollment in Spain is rising, indicating its growing appeal as an education destination. Korea fell in Asia, possibly due to student preferences or geopolitics, whereas Iran gained in international student representation. Saudi Arabia declined, possibly due to scholarship program revisions or economic worries, while Nigeria remained stable with a slight reduction. The US recruited many international students, but Canada's percentage stayed stable. India's rapid international student enrollment increase makes it a worldwide higher education powerhouse. This expansion is driven by Indian government programs, better education, and global recognition. STEM, business, and humanities students make up India's diverse student diaspora. Addressing visa and immigration policy changes, protecting international students, and responding to global uncertainties may be challenges. Collaboration between India and OECD countries, cultural interaction, and using overseas students' skills for global innovation are opportunities.

According to the OECD, India now outnumbers China as the top source of new migrants. Since 2019, India has maintained its position in 2020, 2021, and preliminary 2022 figures. The number of Indians granted OECD citizenship dropped to 1,32,795 in 2021. Additionally, 4 lakh new migrants (excluding students) left India for OECD countries that year.

China (885,000) and India (424,000) were the top origins for OECD international students, according to the survey. The US (56,000), Australia (24,000), and Canada (21,000) were the top destinations for Indian immigrants in 2021. India also birthed 60,000 Canadians.

Beyond high-net-worth individuals, India became the tenth-largest OECD asylum origin nation in 2022, a five-fold rise. A record 2,25,620 Indians left their citizenship to settle overseas in 2022, the first time the tally exceeded two lakh. This material illuminates the different causes and trends of Indian migration to OECD countries.

**Table 6: Number of Indian migrants in OECD countries (2011-2021)**

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Number migrants in OECD</i> | <i>Year</i> | <i>Number migrants in OECD</i> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 2011        | 1,22,819                       | 2017        | 1,33,049                       |
| 2012        | 1,20,923                       | 2018        | 1,34,561                       |
| 2013        | 1,31,405                       | 2019        | 1,44,017                       |
| 2014        | 1,29,328                       | 2020        | 85,256                         |
| 2015        | 1,31,489                       | 2021        | 1,63,370                       |
| 2016        | 1,41,603                       | Total       | 16,63,440                      |

Source: International Migration Outlook: 2023

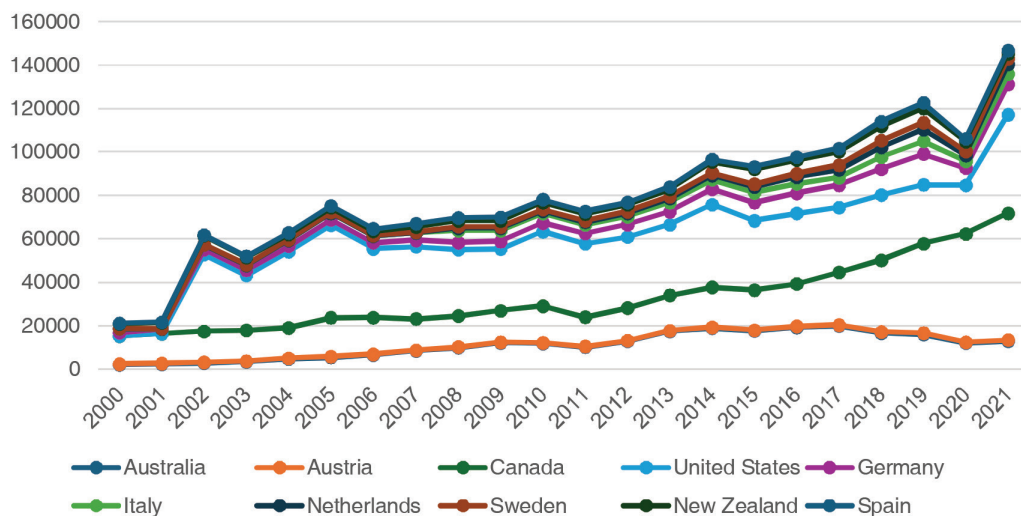
Table 6 shows the number of Indian migrants in OECD countries from 2011 to 2021. The total number of Indian migrants in OECD countries has increased from 1,22,819 in 2011 to 1,63,370 in 2021. This represents an overall upward trend in Indian migration to OECD nations during the specified period, there was a notable increase from 2011 to 2013, a slight dip in 2014, followed by a continuous rise until 2016. A significant drop is observed in 2020, likely influenced by global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. 2021 stands out with a substantial increase in the number of Indian migrants, reaching 1,63,370. This could be indicative of various factors, such as economic opportunities, policy changes, or geopolitical influences that attracted more Indian migrants during that period.

In 2021, a notable number of individuals, amounting to 1,63,370, renounced Indian citizenship, with a significant portion choosing the USA as their new home. Specifically, 78,284 Indians acquired US citizenship, followed by 23,533 in Australia, 21,597 in Canada, and 14,637 in the UK.

Climate change displacement is an increasing worry for policymakers and the international community, according to the paper. In April 2023, Colombia began discussions on a measure to recognize and support climate-displaced people, a first in the OECD. Housing, healthcare, education, and a national climate-displaced register are included in the measure.

In 2021, 0.13 million Indians became citizens in OECD nations, mostly in the US (56,000), Australia (24,000), and Canada (21,000). Second was Mexico, with 0.19 million Mexicans becoming citizens, largely in the US. The Russia-Ukraine war has caused nearly 10 million Ukrainian refugees to enter the OECD zone, according to the research.

India (+172%), Uzbekistan (+122%), and Turkey (+240%) increased labor migration, making them the top countries after Ukraine. These figures show how geopolitical events like the Ukraine war and voluntary migration choices are changing global migration flows.

**Graph 2: Indian women migrants in the Major OECD countries**

Source: International Migration Outlook: 2023

Graph 2 shows the Indian women migrants in the Major OECD countries from 2000-2021. Australia has a fluctuating trend with a significant increase until 2014, followed by a decline. Austria has relatively smaller numbers but a consistent increase over the years. Canada has a consistent upward trend, indicating a growing presence of Indian women migrants. Factors such as immigration policies and economic stability play a role. The United States has a fluctuating trend with a notable increase around 2003-2006. The impact of U.S. immigration policies and economic conditions is crucial. Indian women migration to Germany has a steady increase, especially in later years. Analysis should focus on Germany's labour market demands and Italy- fluctuations with a peak around 2010. Women migration to Sweden has a consistent rise, particularly after 2015. Sweden's approach to immigration, labour market dynamics, and social policies is essential. Each country exhibits unique trends in the migration of Indian women, influenced by factors specific to their socio-economic and policy contexts.

### The Push-Pull Dynamics of Migration between South Asia and the OECD

**Push Factors. Demography:** South Asia has a youthful population, with a large majority in India and significant numbers in Bangladesh and Pakistan. This demographic profile, with a large working-age population, is expected to continue growing. For instance, India is projected to have a massive increase in its absolute size of the working-age population by 2050.

The age structure of the population in South Asia is expected to remain young, with a high proportion of individuals in their prime working years. This could continue to exert pressure for emigration as the population seeks employment opportunities abroad. The younger cohort of returnees may re-migrate, while older cohorts tend to stay in the country of origin, contributing to the local population and potentially affecting the age distribution and the need for emigration.

## **Economy**

The economy of South Asia is characterized by a large informal sector and a significant proportion of low-skilled labour. While India has experienced a demographic dividend due to its age structure, the study indicates that Pakistan and Bangladesh are also experiencing growth in their working-age populations.

The economies of South Asian countries, particularly India, are expected to continue growing, which could lead to a gradual shift in the type of jobs sought by migrants. Instead of primarily seeking low-skilled jobs, there may be an increasing demand for skilled and high-skilled jobs in OECD countries. The economic development of South Asia could also lead to a situation where the region becomes a net receiver of high-skilled immigrants, as India is projected to become a global power.

**Quality of Life:** The quality of life in South Asia varies significantly, with issues such as high population density, environmental challenges, and governance concerns. These factors can push individuals to seek better living conditions in OECD countries, which often offer higher standards of living, better healthcare, and a cleaner environment.

The OECD countries are facing challenges such as ageing populations and the need for labour in sectors like healthcare and agriculture, which may continue to act as “pull” factors for migration from South Asian countries. It suggests that demographic pressures, economic dynamics, and quality of life concerns will continue to influence migration from South Asia over the next 30 years. The evolution of these factors will likely result in a shift towards more skilled migration and a redefinition of the employment sectors that attract migrants from the region.

## **Pull Factors**

Many countries in the OECD are currently facing labor shortages and a dearth of competent people. As a result, labor migration has become a more prominent issue on the policy agenda.

The prevalence of ongoing wars and geopolitical conflicts globally has resulted in an unprecedented surge in displacement and necessitates the enhancement and

broadening of existing policy strategies to offer international protection. Additionally, it calls for the implementation of innovative initiatives to cater to individuals requiring international protection.

Several OECD nations have recently implemented significant adjustments and revisions to their legal migration policy framework, primarily with the objective of addressing labor and skill shortages by increasing migration. Several countries are actively exploring methods to decrease the influx of people.

In addition to efforts to increase overall labor migration, OECD nations are increasingly considering ways to make labor migration more selective based on skills and/or focused on certain occupations and industries.

Due to the rising number of individuals requiring international protection, the increasing emigration from their home countries, and the movement through transit countries, some OECD nations have implemented more stringent asylum and border laws and decreased their resettlement quotas.

Temporary measures for protection, which do not provide a direct route for permanent or long-term residency, are being used more frequently to fulfill the protection needs of people in ongoing displacement circumstances.

Simultaneously, there is a movement towards increased variety in the global efforts to provide protection and humanitarian entry. This entails enhancing and broadening national asylum and resettlement frameworks by augmenting current development efforts and establishing new supplementary avenues, such as private sponsorship programs and labor and education channels for refugees.

## **Conclusion**

The surge in permanent migration to OECD countries, driven by labour demands and asylum applications, reflects the intricate relationship between economic opportunities and humanitarian challenges. The impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on migration patterns, with millions seeking refuge in OECD countries, highlights the geopolitical dimensions influencing global displacement. The research emphasizes the interconnectedness between migration trends and labour market outcomes. As OECD nations grapple with labour shortages, the study underscores the need for adaptive labour migration frameworks. Changes in policies, such as those contemplated by various OECD countries, indicate a recognition of the evolving dynamics of global migration and the importance of addressing skills shortages. India's role as a significant source of migrants is explored in detail, considering historical context, socioeconomic factors, and recent changes in labour migration frameworks. The analysis of international



student flows from India to OECD countries underscores the importance of education as a driver of migration, with India emerging as a key player in the global higher education landscape. The paper also highlights the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration patterns, with temporary disruptions followed by resilient recoveries. The diversification of migration categories, including temporary labour migrants, underscores the adaptability of migration programs to changing global circumstances. The study explores the push-pull dynamics of migration from South Asia to OECD countries, considering demographic, economic, and quality of life factors. As the region experiences demographic changes and economic growth, the nature of migration is expected to shift towards more skilled migration, contributing to global workforce dynamics. The policy responses of OECD countries to labour shortages, ongoing conflicts, and the increasing need for international protection. The exploration of legal and temporary protection measures reflects the dynamic nature of migration policies in response to global challenges.

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