# Migration

## Definition

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. It can occur at a significant variety of scales, within one country or internationally.

## Key words

**Immigration:**
When a person enters a country

**Emigration:**
When a person leaves a country

**Refugee:**
Someone who has left their national country because of well-founded fear of being persecuted

**Asylum Seeker:**
Someone who has not been granted refugee status but have left their home country for the same reasons and are seeking international protection.

**Diaspora:**
Dispersed communities that share multiple belongings to different places or 'homes' in different national spaces

**Remittances:**
Is the term used for money sent back by a migrant to family
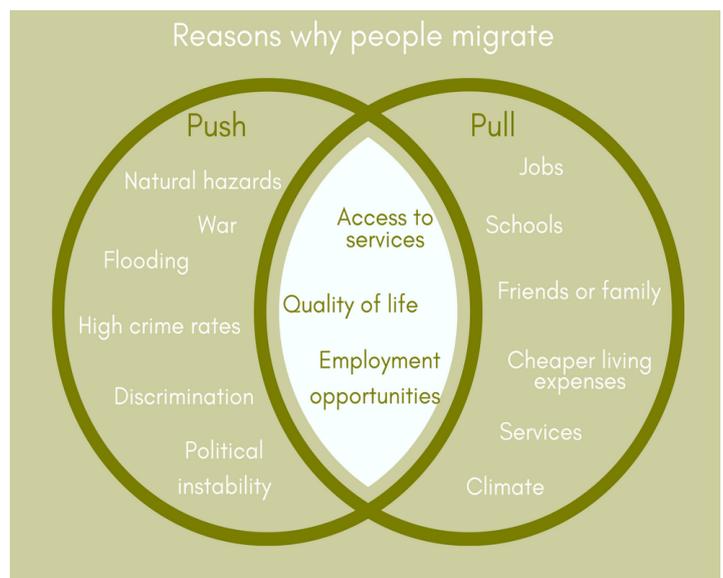
## Key facts:

• In **2015**, there were **244milllion** migrants living in countries other than where they were born (UN, 2016)

• At the start of **2016**, there were over **65 million** refugees world wide (UNHCR, 2016)

• Half of all refugees are children under 18 (UNHCR, 2016)

• The conflict in Syria has produced **4.5 million international refugees** since 2011

• Net migration is the difference between immigration and emigration. At the end of 2016, net migration in the UK was **273,000** (Office of National Statistics, 2017)

## Reasons for migration

There are numerous economic, social, political and even environmental reasons for people to migrate. These can be categorised into either '**push**' or '**pull**' factors.

Often people migrate for a combination of both, and the same reason can be considered both a push *and* pull factor.

For example, if you are unemployed or in a low-level job, you might be 'pushed' to move away because of the lack of employment opportunities, as well as 'pulled' by another place where there are better job prospects.



Reasons why people migrate

Push: Natural hazards, War, Flooding, High crime rates, Discrimination, Political instability

Access to services, Quality of life, Employment opportunities

Pull: Jobs, Schools, Friends or family, Cheaper living expenses, Services, Climate

**Discuss:** What makes one person an expatriate, and another a migrant? Partly, expatriates are defined by the temporary status of their stay, but it has been argued that 'migrant' is often used negatively, or as a political tool.

# Types of Migration

Below are examples of various types of migration both **internationally** and **internally** within one country.

## International migration

### Retirement migration

International Retirement Migrant is a growing phenomenon, particularly within the E.U.

**Example**

- The Maltese island of Gozo is renowned for retirement migration with British and German retirees because it provides a hotter climate, lower population density, and green countryside.

### Return migration

The voluntary or involuntary return of migrants to their place of origin. The are many reasons for return migration including: refugee repatriation, deportation, retirement return, temporary return and more.

The question of return is closely linked to feelings of belonging and identity, and reintegration is not always smooth because the place and/or the person can change significantly in the time they are away.

**Example**

- Between 2005 –2010, there was zero (if not negative) net migration from Mexico  (Hazán, 2014)
- **1.39 million** people moved from the U.S. to Mexico, which included returning migrants (born in Mexico) but also their U.S.-born family members in addition (Hazán, 2014)

**Bibliography**

Hazán, M. (2014) Understanding return migration to Mexico: towards a comprehensive policy for the reintegration of returning migrants.
The Guardian (2013) Escape to the Country: is rural life healthier for workers?
The Economist (2013) Everyone out.
BBC (2016) Syria: The story of the conflict
Gautreaux, S.B. (2013)  Understanding China's Internal Migration
UNHCR (2016) Global forced displacement hits record high.
UN (2016) 244 million international migrants living abroad worldwide, new UN statistics reveal.

## Internal Migration

### Rural-urban migration

This is the movement of people from rural, countryside areas to cities and towns. This occurs widely across both developed and developing countries.

**Example**

- China's economic development has been largely based on rural-urban migration
- The government's creation of **Special Economic Zones** (SEZs) during the economic reforms in **1978** encouraged development and investment in coastal cities  which caused a significant rise in rural-urban migration (Gautreaux, 2013)

### Counter-urbanisation

This is the opposite to rural-urban migration whereby people move out of inner city areas to the surrounding countryside. This happens for a multitude of reasons, mainly in developed countries. Counter-urbanisation has occurred with retired people for many years, however recently it as become a trend with professional too.

**Example**

- Overall net migration into London in 2012 was almost zero ( **360,000** out: **370,000** in) (The Guardian, 2013)
- Advanced communication technologies means many people can now work from home: the number of home or remote workers increased by **13%**  between **2007-2012**  (The Guardian, 2013)
- Without this necessity for professionals to commute for work in the city anymore, they are selling their London properties for larger ones in more rural areas such as Southend-on-Sea (Economist, 2013)

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Often as a result of war, or discrimination, people have to leave their home country as a political refugee and seek asylum in another.

**Example**

- The conflict in Syria has produced **4.5 million international refugees** since 2011 (BBC , 2016)
- About **70%** of the population is without access to adequate drinking water  (BBC, 2016)
- It has created a diaspora of Syrian refugees amongst neighbouring countries Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey as well as many European countries
- The conflict has also caused widespread internal migration: **6.5million people** have been displaced within the country (BBC, 2016)