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# Iran Migration Outlook

1st Edition

Iran Migration Observatory  
(Sharif Policy Research Institute)





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Iran Migration Observatory  
Sharif Policy Research Institute  
Sharif University of Technology  
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## Iran Migration Outlook-2020

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## Foreword



According to many experts, human capital is the backbone of a society's scientific, technological, and economic progress. Therefore, this capital's useful and productive management has become one of the authorities' and policymakers' concerns. Having reached distinguished rankings in international indices such as the Global Innovation Index, the Islamic Republic of Iran is now known as one of the most improved regionally-compared countries in the human development context leaning to a considerable capital of young, specialized, and motivated workforce as well as almost four million active students. Considering these capabilities, it seems natural why "immigration" has been repeatedly discussed as a challenging issue by governmental, professional, and media circles.

Regarding the mission of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology (VPST) and the National Elites Foundation (NEF), concentration on immigration and circulation of elites has been one of the leading joint programs of the two institutions in recent years. Additionally, the agenda for monitoring the circumstances and defining relevant action plans – such as a successful cooperation program with Iranian specialists residing abroad – was always put on the table. This program led to returning of more than 1,500 Iranian elites from world-class universities.

On the other hand, a detailed review of available statistics and information in global resources demonstrated that most of the claims and analyses released by several scientific and socio-political activists were only based upon their perceptions and unreliable information posted on social media. The posts aim to create a wave of disappointment and negative feelings in society instead of providing authentic analysis and executive plans based on its strengths and weaknesses.

Nevertheless, we came to believe the first step in the efficient management of this privileged capital of the country is a scientific and accurate statistical analysis of the migration situation in Iranian society. Subsequently, elites and researchers' capacity in this field was directed to establishing the Iran Migration Observatory at the Sharif University of Technology. Many efforts have been made to provide a credible scientific reference for analysis and policymaking, compiling the first Iranian Migration Outlook. Hopefully, this Outlook will be the beginning of a comprehensive and ongoing activity among the scientific elites related to migration studies.

**Dr. Sorena Sattari**

**Iran Vice-President for Science and Technology and  
President of the National Elites Foundation**

## Editorial



International migration has become a common phenomenon around the world and almost all countries face different levels of emigration or immigration. Therefore, migration might create opportunities for many countries and threats to some, depending on how they could manage migration. If receiving and sending countries do not have a comprehensive, effective, national approach to control and manage the phenomenon, both emigration and immigration might turn into crises and serious challenges for the societies.

However, a key feature of international migration management is “data-driven policymaking” based on credible and reliable migration-related data. Reliable data not only improves and strengthens the foundation of migration policies, but also creates a context to evaluate their effectiveness from various socio-economic dimensions of both receiving and sending countries, based on key qualitative and quantitative indicators. The process of data-driven policymaking provides higher reliability and validity as regards implementing, disregarding, or adjusting a specific migration policy.

Iran has been a country being much affected by both immigrant and emigrant streams for the last decades. However, it has suffered from a lack of comprehensive and accurate migration statistics and robust policies. This has led to misunderstandings and misleading dialogues among various beneficiaries of this field regarding Iran’s rank in migration indicators, and its socio-economic origins and consequences. Additionally, existing rare Iranian policies on migration are mostly not supported by reliable and accurate data, which is necessary for understanding its depth and spread. Therefore, Iranian migration policies, which have not been driven by data so far, lacked the effectiveness needed or were of short-term and limited impacts.

Fortunately, the establishment of the “Iran Migration Observatory” could be an important step towards reducing the statistical shortages and lack of scientific research in Iran in the area of international migration. The Observatory has paid efforts to provide a medium for collecting and presenting statistics and professional policy analyses to benefit all beneficiaries, including policymakers, policy researchers, and scholars.

Iran Migration Observatory, as the first Iranian specialized research institute in the area of international migration, is proud of publishing the first “Iran Migration Outlook” in summer 2020. The Outlook includes the latest available data on various subfields of migration, including student mobility, labor migration, and forced and asylum-related



migration, based on both national references and international reports and databases. It can be useful for both academics and practitioners.

From an international perspective, publishing the “Iran Migration Outlook” is a significant step towards putting Iran among the countries where reliable migration statistics are published regularly. Moreover, it will highlight Iran’s position among developing countries, which are paying efforts towards targeted policymaking and management of international migration. And, in line with the global agreement of “Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)”, such measures can attract the attention of international organizations such as the International Migration Organization (IOM) to financially and intellectually support Iran further.

As a supplement to this Outlook, Iran Migration Observatory is pleased to announce that the “Iran Migration Policy Package” is going to be published this year. The policy package contains a comprehensive analysis of the existing issues and barriers, and the policy recommendations in various migration subareas, considering the global changes.

The “Iran Migration Outlook” publication was only possible with the extensive efforts of the Iran Migration Observatory’s staff and collaboration of many migration scholars, practitioners, and activists. We are incredibly thankful to all of them. The Iran Migration Observatory also appreciates the unwavering supports of Dr. Sorena Sattari, Iranian Vice-President for Science and Technology, as well as the valuable assistance of the International Affairs & Technological Exchange Center of Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology as one of the main sponsors.

Since this report is the first attempt to prepare and edit a reliable Iranian database in the area of international migration, suggestions from scholars, policymakers, and authorities are welcome to improve it in further editions to be published annually.

**Dr. Bahram Salavati**

**Director of the Iran Migration Observatory (IMO)  
Sharif Policy research Institute (SPRI),  
Sharif University of Technology**



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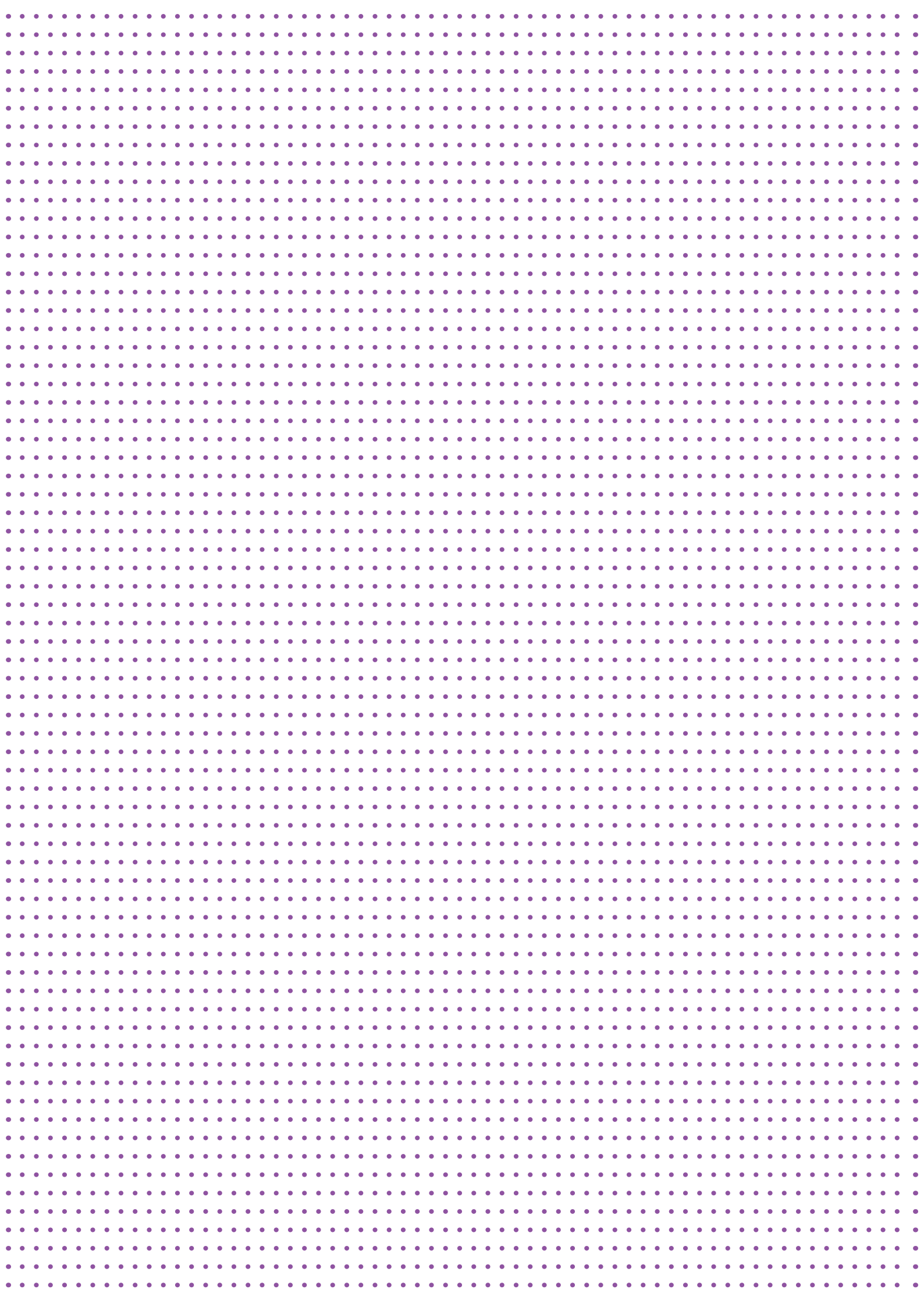
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# Statistical Considerations



I r a n M i g r a t i o n O u t l o o k 2 0 2 0



Generally, the nature of international mobility and migration makes hhhh migrants data scarce and valuable, posing a variety of structural and contextual difficulties to data accessibility for scholars of this field. cross-border mobility and changing the place of living, changing the reasons for resident –for instance, from educational to labour, changing the duration of residence from temporary to permanent, changing citizenship status, and other changes are all among the factors making it difficult and complex to collect reliable and accurate data and statistics.

Fluctuations or complexions of international migration data originates from considering various indicators in different countries for categorizing migrants. For instance, some countries consider the country of birth as an indicator for determining whether an individual is a native citizen or a migrant, while another country considers family and ethnic backgrounds as the determinant. Thus, these fundamental distinctions could bring fluctuations to migration data in different countries.

Another important point is delay in

compiling and publishing of international migration data and statistics. A remarkable point is that unlike other global demographic indicators, resources of migration data at national and international levels are quite scarce, or in some cases, nonexistent. Therefore, migration statistics are usually obtained as secondary information and through the analyzing of primary statistical sources such as national censuses. In this regard, all migrant communities are not contained in census indicators and therefore statistical samples usually do not represent the whole community of migrants. Moreover, the difficulty in accessing to migration statistics in national censuses, and spending long period of time in order to integrating and editing data from different statistical sources creates a delay of one to two years in publication of migration statistics. That is why the World Migration Report published in 2020 as the most recent migration statistics report, contains to the related data to 2018 or even before.

The abovementioned reasons have made it difficult to access the international data on migrants in Iran and other



countries. Lack of a specialized migration database in the country has made this report highly dependent on international statistics. However, Iran Migration Observatory has tried to collect and analyze the available data from national data sources. Additionally, besides the international data resources, the Observatory conducted surveys in Iran in order to provide a better image from different aspects of international migration in Iran. Technical points regarding the interpretation of data on the international migration in different migration groups are explained as follows.

through these databases; still, there are a few countries with efficient and reliable statistical samples as well as based on the migrants' country of origin or place of birth.

Other statistics are provided from register-based statistics from administrative data like statistics on naturalization, long-term and short-term resident permits for work, education or family reasons, and visas issuance. There are different approaches to define short-term and long-term resident permits in different countries. For instance, a valid long-term permit in the European Union only applies to residence permits over 5 years, while in Canada it applies to permanent residence.

Additionally, the registered data and statistics on those with long-term and short-term resident permits are different from census, since the censuses are usually based on the individuals' resident place which is different from the registered data on the number of long-term and short-term residence permits issued.

## Data for Iranian migrants stock around the world

## Data for Iranian International Students

The most significant statistical resource for obtaining the Iranian migrants stocks around the world is destination countries' population censuses which report the population of migrants according to different factors such as country of birth, citizenship, ethnicity, origins, and the last country of residence. Depending on comprehensiveness of the censuses of different countries, other demographic and occupational characteristics of migrants might also be available from census data.

Another database used to achieve an understanding of migrants' status is the labor force survey which might be reference for collecting migrants' data based on its sample size and efficiency. The occupational characteristics of immigrants in many countries could be obtained

To collect data on Iranian inbound and outbound students, this section is used reliable national and international reports and sources. All the statistics presented in this report regarding international students represent all of the students who are studying in colleges or universities (higher education or Tertiary education) around the world.

According to the UNESCO's definition, the tertiary education includes studies in order to gain specialized education. This entails a high level of complexity and skillfulness. Tertiary includes courses usually known as academic education but includes technical and vocational education too. Moreover, according to the World Bank's definition of higher education which is also known as the tertiary education in some countries, this term applies to all educational programs after high school, including public and private universities, colleges, technical and vocational schools.

In the international student mobility section of the outlook we relied on four main databases in order to gathering the data on international students:

- o UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)
- o Institute of International Education
- o Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education
- o Surveys conducted by Iran Migration Observatory (IMO)

## Data for Forced and Asylum-Related Migration

Data on the forced migration could be analyzed in two main categories of asylum-seekers and internally displaced person (IDP) which in this report we focused on the former, asylum related migration.

Data on international asylum-seekers and refugees are dependent on their destination countries. In some countries,

the status of asylum-seeker has a different definition depending on their stage of applications and results. In general, the migrants who register an application are known as "Asylum-seekers," and as soon as the application is approved, he/she could be called "Refugees."

Most of the data about asylum-seekers and refugees are published by international organizations such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the IOM. However, the process of registering such data is conducted with the cooperation of destination countries. In some countries, these statistics are published by destination countries.

Global and regional trends of asylum related migration has been extracted mostly from the World Migration Report (2020), UNHCR Global Trends (Forced Displacement in 2019), and the International Migration Outlook (2019).

The Iranian population and housing census (2016) is the main database of foreign nationals residing in Iran. The census's data has been collected through self-declaration method and encompass all immigrants in Iran, including refugees, regular migrants (passports holders with valid Iranian visas), and irregular migrants (without resident permit). Iran's census, 2016 and UNHCR do not provide data on refugees by provinces of Iran. Iran's Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare report on foreign nationals' employment in Iran has also been used to analyze the socio-economic status of foreign nationals. In the section on the trends of Afghan refugees and immigrants' return from Iran,



reported data by IOM in the 2010s has also been cited.

Another part of the data in forced migration and asylum-seeking section is collected from a survey of Afghan immigrants in 2019 in few provinces including Tehran, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi, and Kerman. This survey has been conducted in cooperation with the Department of Geography at the University of Turku, Finland, and IMO in which 1,365 Afghan immigrants aged 15 and older were included.

The final part of the forced migration section examines the status of Iranian refugees and asylum-seekers in other countries. Considering the recent increasing trend of forced migration worldwide and specifically in Europe, the number of Iranian asylum-seekers in the European countries has also increased. This section addresses the statistics on Iranian asylum-seekers in the main destination countries based on the data provided by destination countries, including the EU and the OECD countries.

# **Iran Migration Outlook at a Glance**



I r a n M i g r a t i o n O u t l o o k 2 0 2 0





## 1. The Status of Iranian Diaspora around the World

● According to the most recent available statistics, (2020) the population of migrants in the world reached over 272 million in 2019, which is equal to 3.52% of the world population<sup>1</sup>.

● Based on last available data (2019), the population of Iranian diaspora in the world is 1.9 million people which is equal to 2.29% of the country population<sup>2</sup>.

● The Iranian diaspora stock has been over 820,000 people in 1990 which reached 1.9 million in 2019. In fact, the Iranian migrant stock has increased to 2.3 times in 30 years.

● While Iran's share of the global population is about 1.07%, its share of the global migrant stock was 0.54% in 1990 which reached 0.7% in 2019 and is still lower than its share of the general global population. Therefore, considering

“Iran's share of the world population” and “Iran's share of migrant population”, it is worth noting that Iran's share has always been below 1% during the last 30 years.

● According to reliable statistics provided by the World Bank and United Nations (2020), the top 10 countries with the biggest Iranian migrant population are the United Arab Emirates, the USA, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Sweden, Australia, occupied lands of Palestine (Israel) and Kuwait. Therefore, North America, Western Europe, the United Arab Emirates, and Australia are the regions with the highest Iranian population worldwide.

● According to the latest statistics in 2018, Iranians who hold refugee residency in the EU have the largest number (over 56,000 refugees), and the second one in this regard is family residence holders (42,000). The next belongs to holders of study residence with 21,000 individuals and labor residence with about 18,000 individuals in EU.



1. The number of international migrants has increased from 153,011,473 in 1990 to 271,642,105 people in 2019.

2. Iranian migrant population has been increasing during the last 30 years with a slight growing trend from 819,936 people in 1990 to 1,937,048 people in 2019.

Table.1 briefly illustrates the status of Iranian diaspora around the world<sup>1</sup> compared to the global migrant population ac-

ording to the latest official and reliable available statistics (World Bank, 2020), (UN, 2020).

**Table 1: Iranian migrant population compared to global average**

	YEAR				
	1990	2000	2010	2017	2019
Iranian migrants' stock in the world (million)	0.82	1.15	1.49	1.8	1.9
Iran population (million)	56.4	65.6	73.8	80.7	82.9
The share of Iranian migrants in proportion to the country's population (%)	<b>1.45</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>2.23</b>	<b>2.29</b>
Global migrant population (million)	152.5	173.6	220.8	257.7	271.6
World's Population (million)	5327.2	6143.5	6956.8	7546.9	7713.5
The share of global migrants in proportion to the world's population (%)	<b>2.86</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>3.41</b>	<b>3.52</b>
The share of Iran population in proportion to the world's population (%)	1.06	1.07	1.06	1.07	1.07
Share of Iranian migrants in world migrant stock (%)	<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>

**Source: United Nations Socio-Economic Affairs Statistics and the World Bank's Bilateral Immigration Matrix (World Bank, 2020), (UN, 2020)**

1. The World Bank has estimated the population of migrants in 2017, so although the United Nations estimated the immigrant population of countries in 2019, the estimation of 2017 has been used to match the data.

- Data provided by the United Nations has been considered as a base for the Iranian migrant population around the world. In cases where a country lacked data in this field, estimations of the World Bank were used so that a more comprehensive estimation of the Iranian migrant population was reached.
- It is obvious that despite the use of both databases, migrant demographic data are still unavailable in some countries, this aggregate data does not claim to have fully and accurately estimation of the migrant population of Iranians in the world.

Using the latest available data on the Iranian migrants' population, i.e. the 2019 UN estimate, and to complete it, we use the latest data of the World Bank, which is related to 2017, the total number will reach 1,937,048 people.

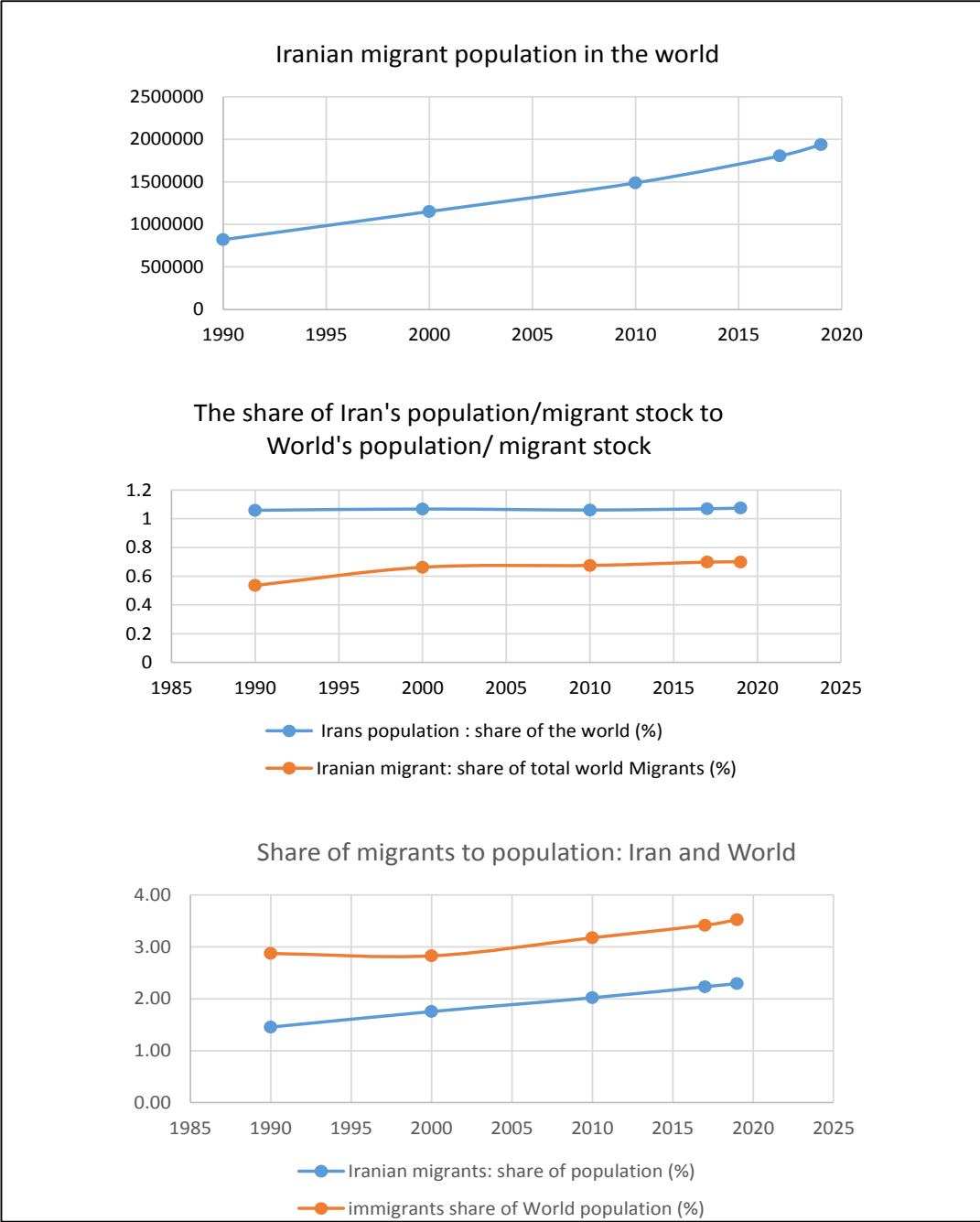


Chart 01: Iran migration population profile  
 Source: (UN, 2020), (World Bank, 2020)

## Iranian Diaspora in Europe

The table 2 indicates the distribution of the Iranian migrant population holding various residence permits (study, work, refugee, etc.) in the European Union during 2010-2018. Based on the latest

statistics published in 2018, Iranian refugees and under subsidiary protection have the largest number (over 56,000 people), and holders of family residence permit are the second-largest population (42,000 people). The holders of study permit with a population of 21,000 individuals and holders of work residence permits with

around 18,000 people are the next largest groups. Since some serious problems have arisen for Iranians to obtain visa for the US during the Trump's presidency, obtaining a residence visa for the EU (various types of visa) has become more attractive to Iranians. According to the table 2 and chart

1, the Iranian population with education residence permits in Europe has doubled from 2010 to 2018. Work and asylum status permits have tripled, while the biggest increase in asylum status permits refers to huge flow of asylum migration to Europe during 2015-2018.

Table 2: Iranians in European Union by valid permit categories (2010-2018)

Residence reasons	Year									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Education reasons	11,719	12,603	19,161	16,302	17,403	17,859	18,928	20,415	21,430	
Remuneration reasons	6,028	8,049	10,992	10,982	11,410	12,672	13,725	15,285	17,926	
Refugee Status &Subsidiary Protection	17921	19651	25472	28203	31632	33081	36541	51285	56270	
Family reasons	27,085	26,644	31,795	33,823	34,642	35,917	37,056	39,264	42,293	
Other reasons	33,045	29,233	29,457	29,554	28,233	28,804	29,034	32,192	33,257	

The 'Other reasons' category includes: diplomat, consular officer treated as exempt from control; retired persons of independent means; all other passengers given limited leave to enter who are not included in any other category; non-asylum discretionary permissions.

Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

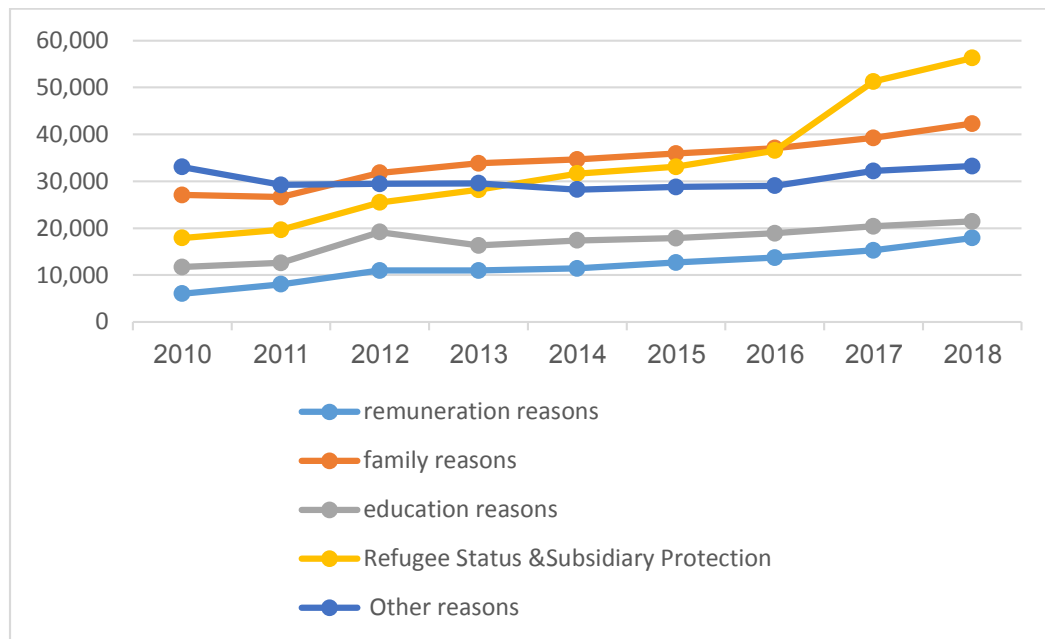


Chart 1: Iranians in European Union by valid permit categories (2010-2018)

Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

Table 3: The status of Iranians' residency in the European Union (2010-2018)

Residence Duration	Year								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
3-5 months	886	853	1,151	1,079	1,078	1,108	1,135	1,201	1,158
6-11 months	8,043	10,678	10,725	10,715	10,966	9,762	13,001	10,651	10,320
12 months and over	86,869	84,649	105,001	107,070	111,276	117,463	121,148	146,589	159,698

Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

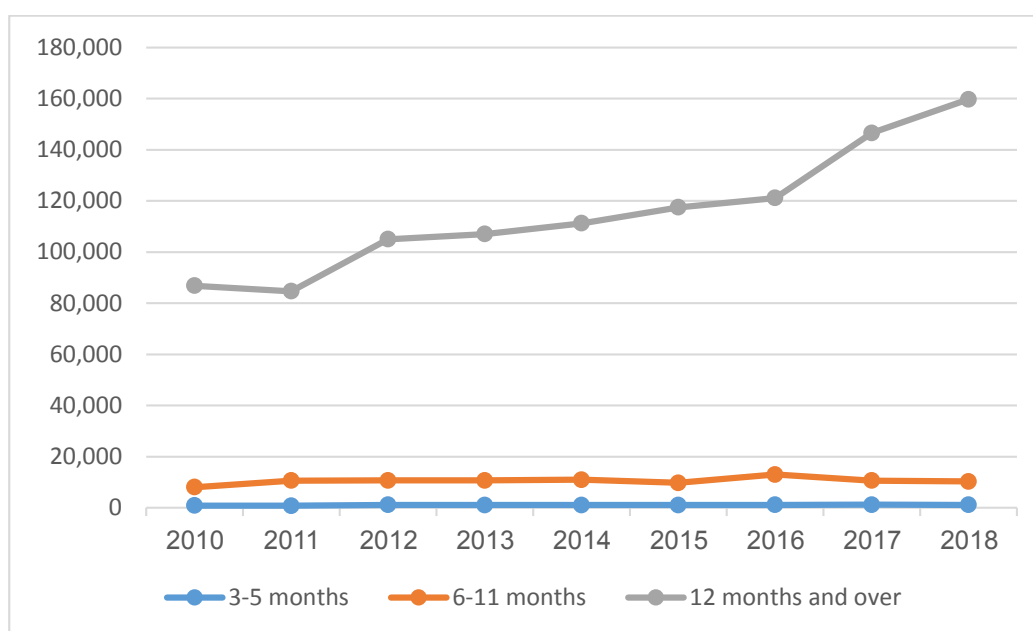


Chart 2: Iranians in European Union by residence permits duration (2010-2018)

Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

Table 4: Residence permits granted to Iranians (2010-2019)

Region	Residence category	Year										
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
European Union	Short/ Midterm (3-11) months	4,786	5,534	6,816	6,681	5,147	5,063	7,290	7,622	8,111	-	
	Long-term (12 months and over)	13,677	13,788	13,431	13,934	13,962	13,503	15,825	31,814	24,321	-	
North America	USA	Temporary except tourist and visitor	4189	4827	6841	7694	8887	9316	8857	7362	5396	-
		lawful permanent	14822	14822	14822	12863	11615	13114	13298	13791	10116	-
	Canada	Temporary except tourists and visitors	-	-	-	-	-	3620	4960	6950	11345	17390
		permanent	-	-	-	-	-	11667	6483	4737	5510	5175
Turkey	all residence granted	-	-	-	-	-	6393	10704	13162	32111	-	

Source: (TURKSTAT, 2019), (US Department of Homeland Security, 2020), (IRCC,2020), (EUROSTAT,2020)

Source: (TURKSTAT, 2019)



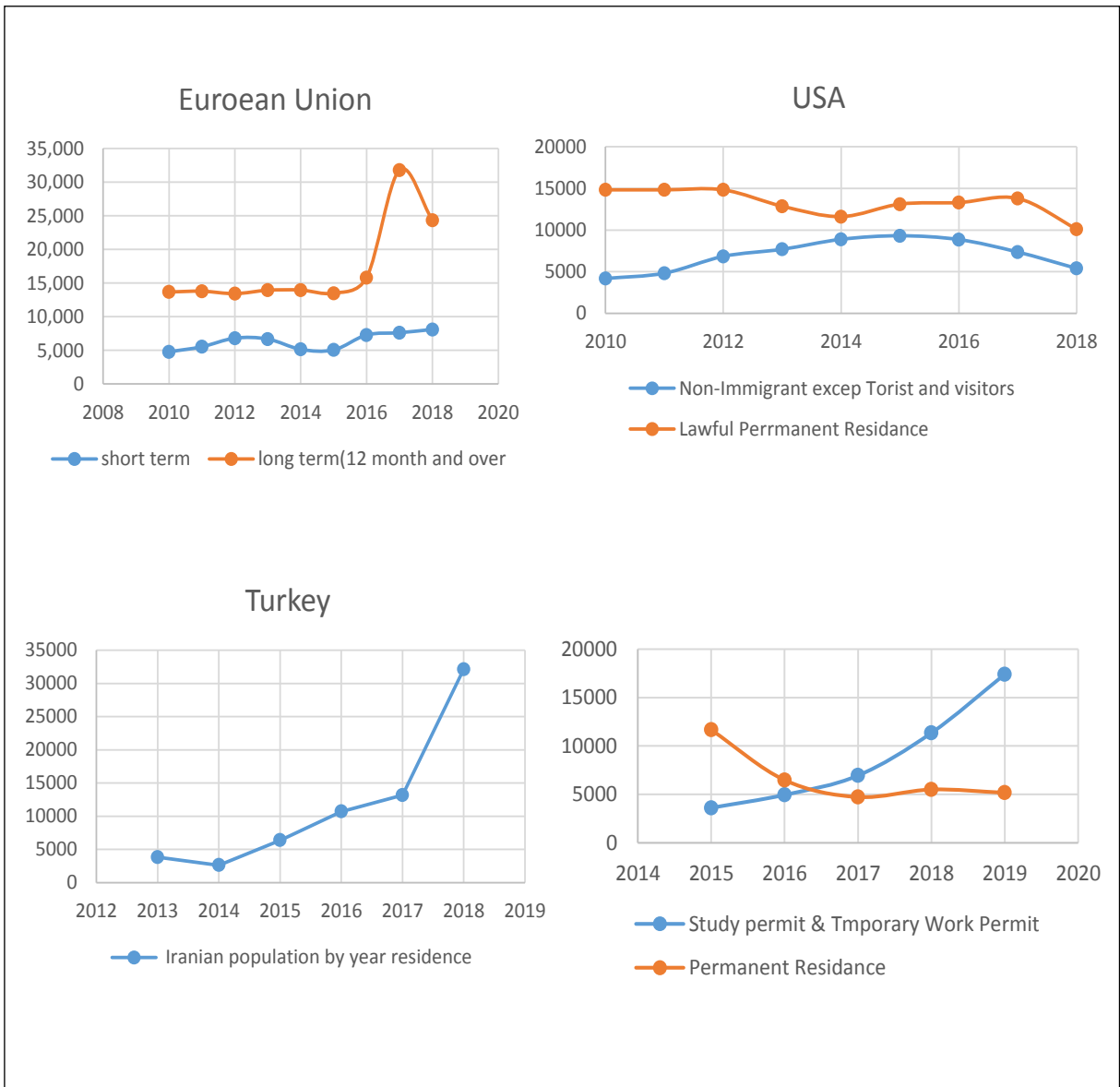


Chart 3: The trend of visas issued for Iranians in main host regions (2010-2018)  
 Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020), (Department of Homeland Security, 2020), (IRCC, 2020), (TURKSTAT, 2019)

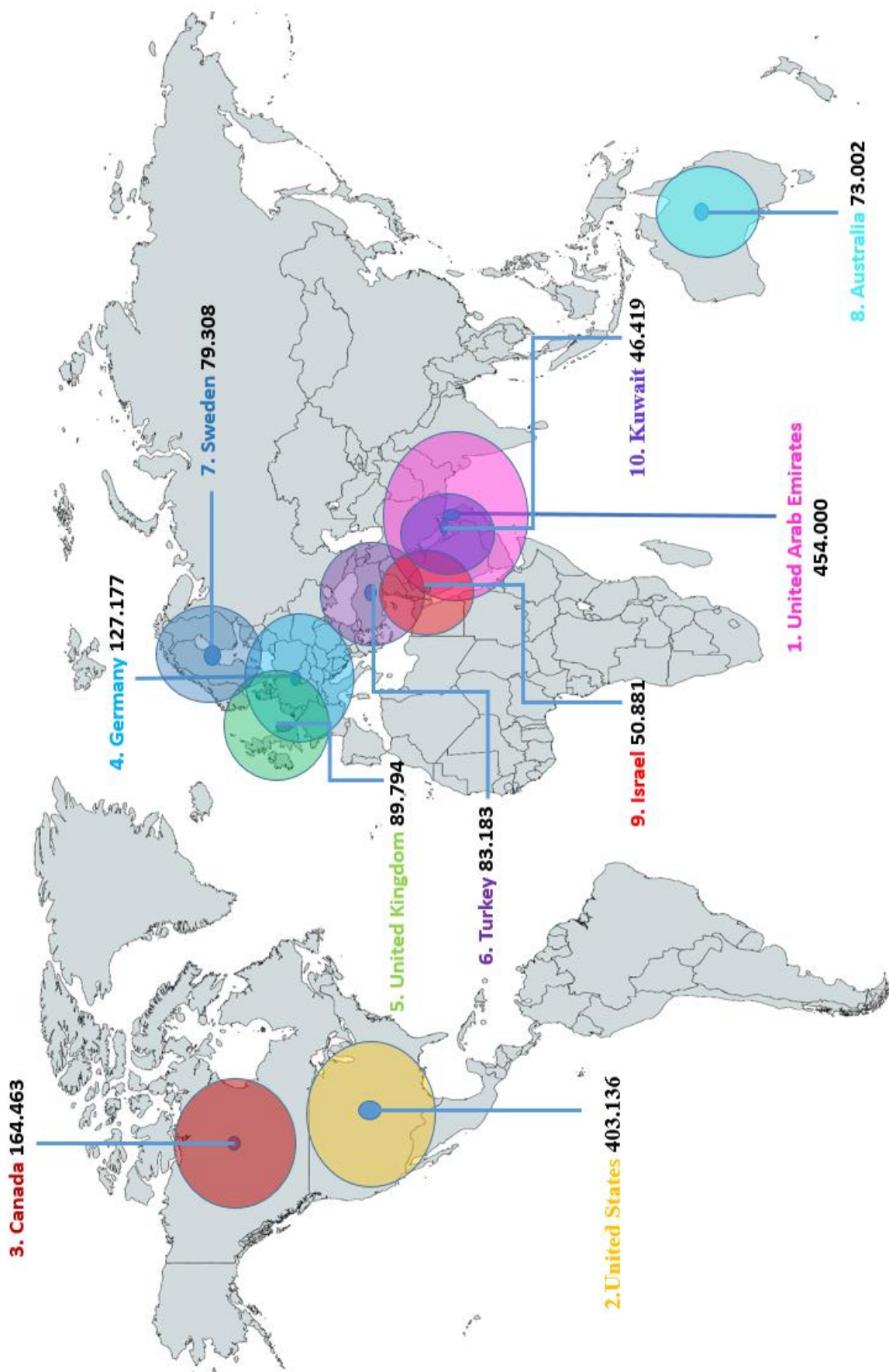


Figure 1: Distribution of Iranian migrant population in top 10 destination countries, 2019



## 2.The Status of Iran in Global Student Mobility

● According to global migration statistics, the number of international students has increased from 2 million to more than 5.3 million in the period 2000-2019.

● The number of Iranian international students has increased proportional to increase in the total students in the country from 19,000 to 53,000 students during 2003-2017.

● Although the number of Iranian international students has shown a growing trend, it has been almost constant in recent years and remained between 52,000 and 53,000.

out of the global student mobility has remained constant during the last 15 years, with a growth rate of about 1%.

● The growth rate of Iranian international students is lower compared to the total global student mobility. Iran's share of sending student in the global international education sector has had a decreasing trend since 2012 and has reached from 1.3% to 0.9% of the global student mobility.

● Iran's outbound student ranking has reached from 29th to 12th during 2003-2012. However, Iran's ranking has experienced a downward trend during 2012-2017, so that Iran has ranked 20th in outbound student in 2017.

● Iranian international students' share

● The population of international stu-





dents in Iran has increased from 4,000 to 21,000 during 2011-2018.

- The return rate of Iranian specialists and graduates from abroad has had a remarkably increasing trend during 2015-2020. The population of highly educated returnees has changed dramatically from 100 to 1,500 individual per year during 2015-2020.

- The total international student admission in the country and the returning rate of Iranian international students has improved the net of Iranian brain circulation index from -0.46 in 2011 to -0.31 in 2017.

- The population of Iranian international students in the US has experienced a slightly increasing trend during 2003-2008 but has had a rather steep increasing trend during the 2009-2016.

- The population of Iranian international students in most of the top destination countries remains between 1,000 and 4,000 during 2003-2017, and few destinations such as Germany, Canada, Turkey, and Italy show a significant increase.

- The growth rate of Iranian international students in the US has stopped by during Trump's presidency. Thus, the population of Iranian international students in this country remained at 12,000 over 2017 - 2019.

- The number of Iranian international students in the US has dropped by over 600 people in 2018 compared to 2017.

- Comparing 2018-2019 with 2017-2018 academic year, statistics of international students in the US indicate that

the population of Iranian students in this country has gone through 7% and 10% drops in under-graduate and post-graduate, respectively.

- The population of Iranian international students in the US in both under-graduate and post-graduate on average has undergone a 5% drop in 2019.

- The decrease in the number of Iranian international students in the US could also be observed in engineering fields. The population of Iranian international students who enroll in American universities in engineering majors has been increasing since 2016 and has reached 4,540 students in 2018 from 5,020 students in 2016.

- The number of F1 and J1 visas granted to Iranian scholars and students from 2016 to 2019 decreased by 57% and 68%, respectively.

- The number of F1 and J1 visas granted to Iranian scholars and students in the first quarter of 2020 had a steep decrease, dropping to 145 and 116 visas respectively.

- During 2013-2015, the number of Iranian international students in the top 10 universities in the US has stayed almost steady and slightly raised from 201 students to 232 students.

- During the 2016-2018 and along with the general decrease in the number of Iranian international students in the US, the number of Iranian international students in the top 10 American universities has also dropped slightly from 232 to about



220 students.

- Considering the number of Iranian international students in top universities of the US, Iran's rank among the top student-sending countries to the United States is 10th, and the first to third ranks in this list belongs to China, India, and South Korea respectively.

- The population of Iranian international students in the top universities of the US is less than 0.5% of total population of outbound students of Iran which makes

Iran the 10th country in sending students to the United States.

- The share of International Iranian students in top universities to total international Iranian students has had a slight increase from 0.45% in 2013 to 0.47% in 2017. However, this share has had a notable increase in China – considering the remarkable number of Chinese international students, which is over 700,000 –from 1.48% to 1.71%. This change provoked a backlash from US authorities and placed restrictions on Chinese students' admission to their universities.

Table 5: Status of Iranian international students based on various statistical indicators (2003-2020)

Year	Outbound international students (Thousands)	Outbound students to inbound students in Iran	Cumulative return of highly skilled migrants	Inbound international students (Thousands)	Net brain circulation in Iran <sup>1</sup>	International students in the world (Millions)	Iran in Global ranking of outbound international students
2003	19/3	0/010	...	...	...	2/6	29
2004	20/9	0/010	...	...	...	2/7	28
2005	23/4	0/010	...	...	...	2/8	26
2006	25/1	0/009	...	...	...	2/9	22
2007	29/5	0/009	...	...	...	3/1	20
2008	33/2	0/010	...	...	...	3/3	18
2009	39/7	0/010	...	...	...	3/5	15
2010	44/5	0/011	...	...	...	3/8	13
2011	50/4	0/011	...	4/5	- 0/46	4/0	13
2012	54/6	0/012	...	7/8	- 0/47	4/1	12
2013	49/5	0/011	...	11/2	- 0/38	4/2	14
2014	50/8	0/010	...	14/9	- 0/36	4/5	15
2015	51/1	0/012	113	18/7	- 0/32	4/8	16
2016	52/8	0/013	376	21/0	- 0/31	5/1	17
2017	52/5	0/014	806	20/6	- 0/31	5/3	20
2018	...	...	1097	21/6	...	5/3	...
2019	...	...	1402	...	...	5/3	...
2020	...	...	1560	...	...	...	...

Sources: (UNESCO, 2020); (Statistics received from the Vice President for Science and Technology, 2020); (Institute of Higher Education Research and Planning, 2019)

1. This index is obtained from the difference between the outbound of Iranian students from the inbound international students and the accumulative number of Iranian highly skilled returning in a population of 100,000.

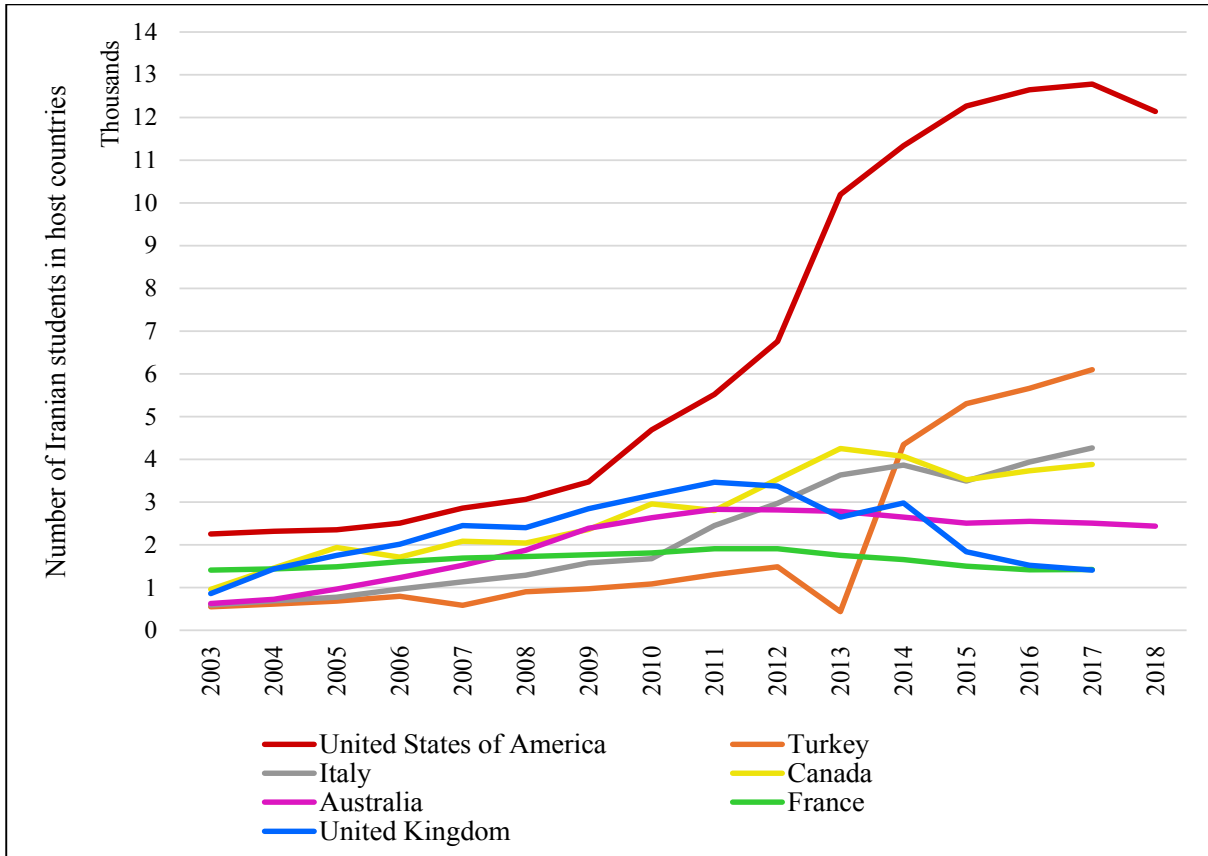


Chart 4: Number of Iranian international students in top host countries (2003-2018)  
Sources: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b) (IIE, 2020) (Austrade-MIP, 2019)

Table 6: Distribution of Iranian students in top American and world universities (2013-2018)

University	USA rank	Global rank	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MIT	1	1	37	37	38	37	33	33
Stanford	2	2	64	62	61	56	53	53
Harvard	3	3	16	15	23	24	26	26
California	4	5	7	12	15	13	11	11
Chicago	5	10	12	15	17	16	15	15
Princeton	6	13	17	18	19	23	20	20
Cornell	7	14	20	22	26	23	22	22
Pennsylvania	8	15	23	24	27	27	27	27
Yale	9	17	5	7	6	6	13	13
Columbia	10	18	23	24	25	26	26	26
Total number of Iranian students in top universities			201	212	232	225	220	220

Source: (College Factual, 2020)

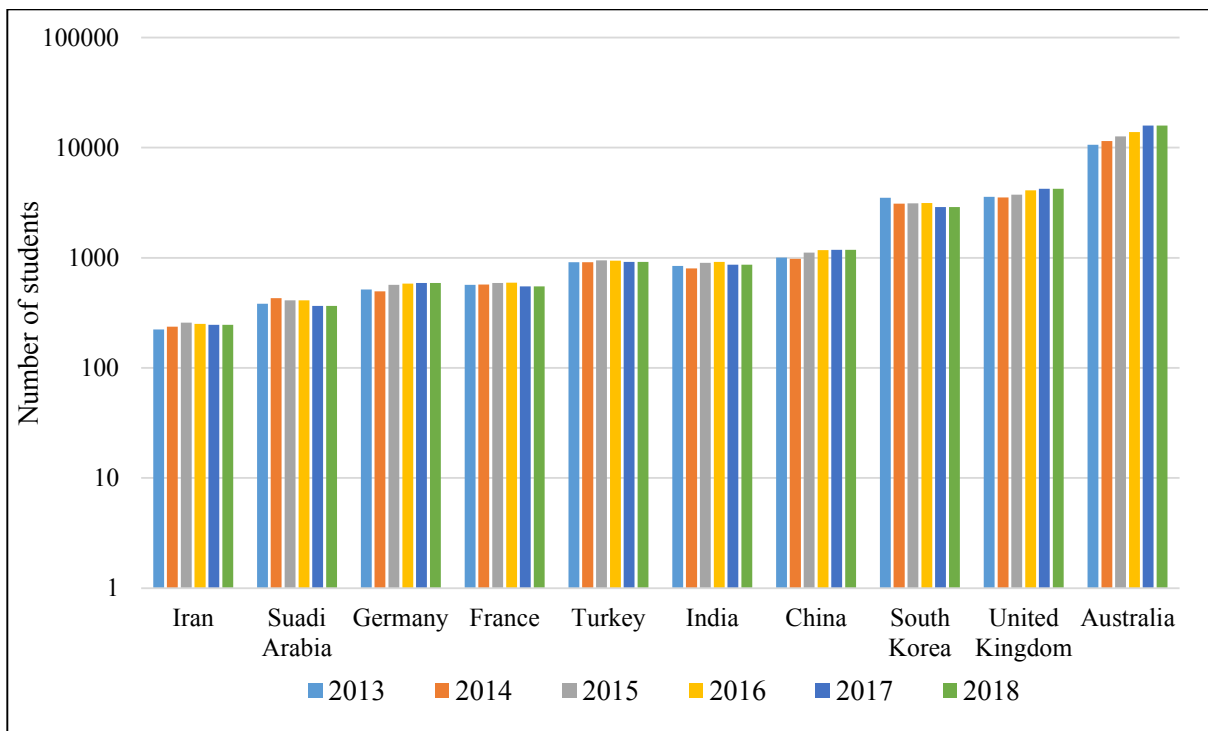


Chart 5: Student-sending countries' ranking based on the number of students in the top 10 US universities  
Source: (College Factual, 2020)

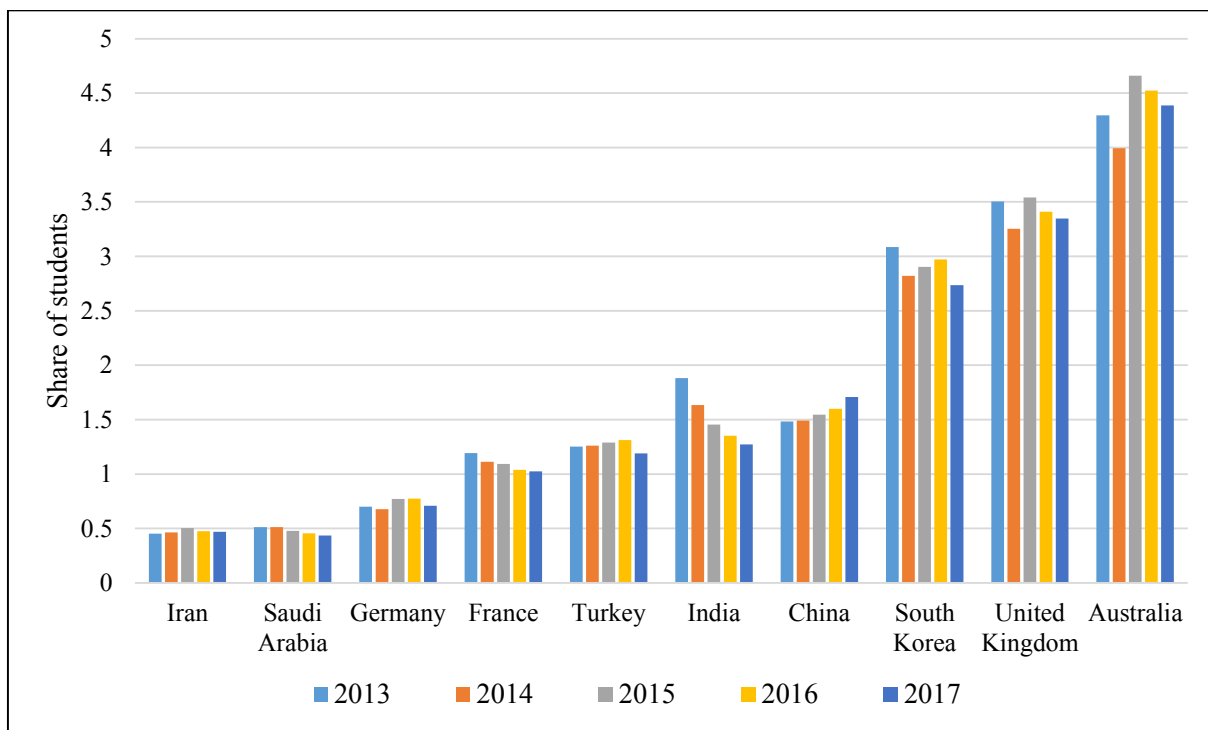


Chart 6: student-sending countries' ranking based on the share of students in the top 10 US universities to their outflow student population  
Source: (College Factual, 2020)



گذرنامه  
جمهوری اسلامی ایران  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF  
IRAN

PASSPORT

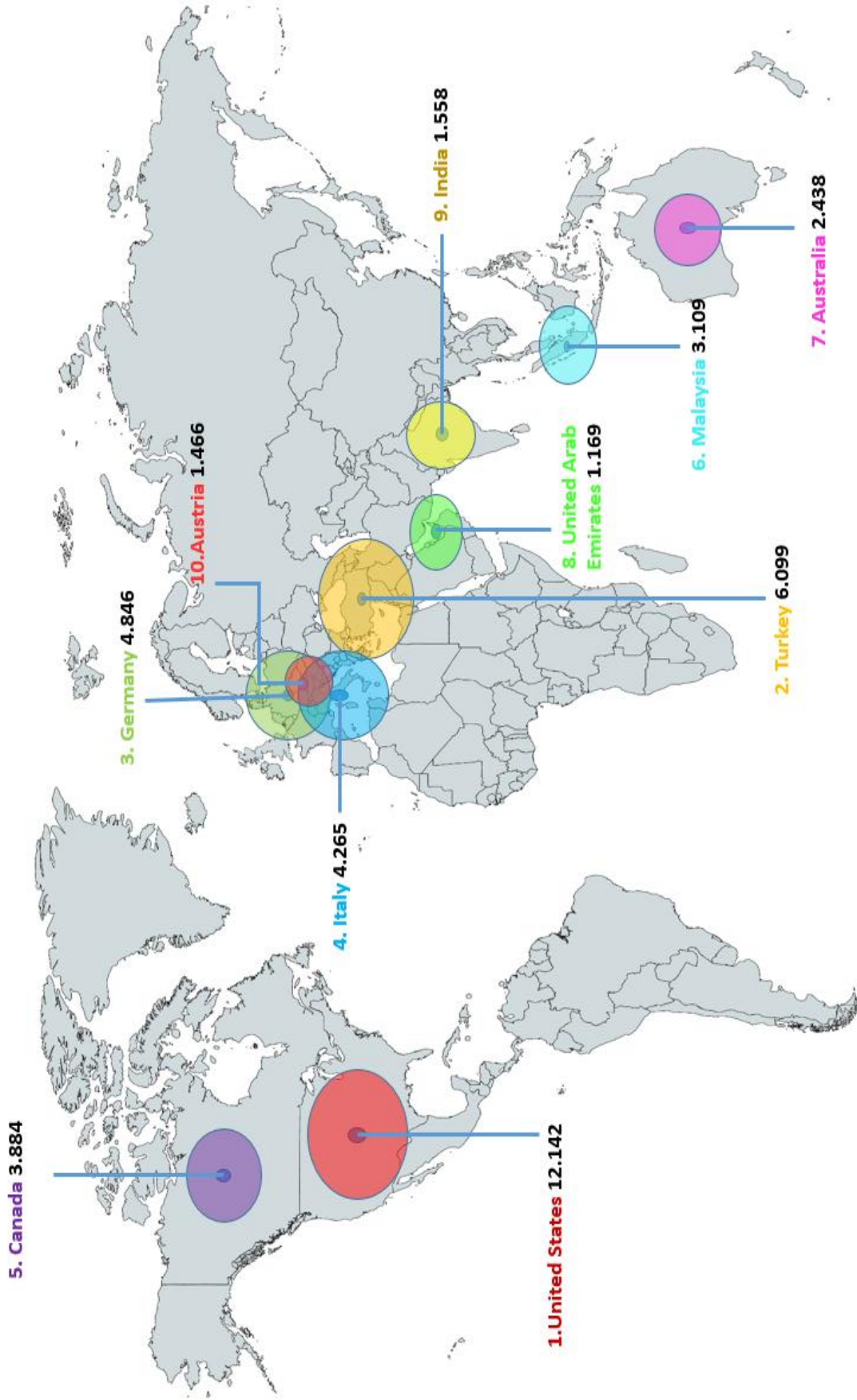


Figure 2: Distribution of Iranian international students in the world based on the top 10 destination country (2017-2018)

### 3. Forced Migrations/ Asylum-Seeking from/to Iran

- Total population of refugees in the world has had an increasing trend during 2006-2018 and almost doubled reaching about 25 million.

- The population of Iranian refugees has increased from 102,000 to 130,000 during 2006-2018.

- Refugees' share of world population was 0.26% in 2018, while Iranian refugees' share of Iran population was 0.15% in 2019.

- The EU has become a popular destination for asylum-seekers, especially after the global asylum-seeking crisis in 2015. Accordingly, the number of Iranian asylum seekers in Europe is more than other regions of the World.

- The highest number of Iranian first-time asylum applicants in the EU has been 40,000 people in 2016. This number has decreased to around 20,000 asylum-seekers over the next years.

- The highest number of Afghans in Iran recorded in 1990 so that over 3 million Afghan refugees were in Iran during 1990-1991.

- The number of Afghan refugees in Iran has decreased to around one million refugees since 2004.

- The largest number of Iraqi refugees in Iran refers to the early 1990s, however it has decreased since 2005 to less than 50,000 refugees.

- According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), about 800,000 Afghan migrants have returned (voluntary or deported) in 2018, which shows around 300,000 increase in compare to the previous year. The highest number of undocumented Afghan returnees has been recorded in 2018 since 2012.

- The most significant reason for increasing the number of undocumented Afghans return to their origin country was economic sanctions imposed by the US against Iran and the devaluation Iran's currency in 2018.

Table 7: total number of Iranian refugees in comparison with the global refugees .

Year	Global status				Iran's status			
	World population (billion)	World refugee population (million)	Refugees' share of world population (%)	World refugees (per one million global population)	Iranian population (million)	Iranian refugee population ('000 people)	Iranian refugees share of Iran's population (%)	Iranian refugees (per one million Iranian population)
2006	6.593	9.877	0.14	1,498	70.4	102	0.14	1,456
2011	7.003	10.404	0.14	1,485	75	72	0.09	965
2016	7.425	17.187	0.23	2,314	80	94	0.11	1,176
2018	7.593	20.356	0.26	2,680	83.2*	130	0.15	1,561

\* In 2019.

Source: (World Bank Database, retrieved June 7, 2020); (UNHCR Database Retrieved June 7, 2020).

- In the table above, refugees refer to whom are under protection of UNHCR and do not include Palestinian refugees protected by UNRWA.

- The number of refugees means people who have been in the refugee status during a certain period and not include new registered asylum seekers.

Table 8: Share of Iranian first time asylum applicants from total first time asylum applicants in the EU and EFTA countries (2009-2019)

Iranian refugees	Year										
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total first-time asylum applicants in EU & EFTA (1000 people)	226	229	290	313	398	595	1,325	1,236	675	604	672
Iranian first-time asylum applicants (1000 people)	6.9	9.1	11	12.5	11.1	10	27.2	40.8	17.7	23.9	23
Changes in the number of Iranian first time asylum applicants compared to the previous year (1000 people)	-	+2.2	+1.9	+1.5	-1.4	-1.1	+17.2	+13.6	-23.1	+6.2	-0.9
Share of Iranian first-time asylum applicants from total first-time asylum applicants in the EU and EFTA countries (%)	3	4	3.8	4	2.8	1.6	2	3.3	2.6	4	3.4

Source: (Eurostat Retrieved at May 19th, 2020)

Available at: <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

## Afghan Refugees and Immigrants in Iran

The entry and registration of Afghan refugees have mostly started in 1979 and has reached its peak in the 1990s. For instance, over 3 million Afghans resided in Iran during 1990-1991. The number of Afghan refugees in Iran is decreasing and has been around 1 million people since 2004. The

largest population of Iraqi refugees resided in Iran in the early 1990s, but their population has dropped since the mid-90s and remained less than 50,000 since 2005.

Share of Afghan and Iraqi refugees from total Iranian population reached its peak (7.4%) in 1990, but has decreased to around 1.2% in 2018 due to return of some migrants to their home countries.

Table 9: Total population of Afghan and Iraqi refugees over the past 40-years (1980-2018)

Year	Iranian population (million people)	Total Afghan and Iraqi refugees (million people)	Refugees' share out of the Iran's population (%)
1980	38.6	0.33	0.9
1985	47.3	2.3	4.9
1990	56.3	4.17	7.4
1995	61.4	2.02	3.3
2000	65.6	1.86	2.8
2005	69.7	0.97	1.4
2010	73.8	1.07	1.5
2018	81.8	0.98	1.2

Source: World Bank Database Retrieved on June 7th, 2020; UHCR Database Retrieved at Jan. 26th, 2020





### **Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran**

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), approximately 800,000 Afghan migrants returned to Afghanistan in 2018 (forcibly or voluntary), which has increased around 300,000 compared to 2017. This number shows the highest number of Afghan returnees since 2012. Among the most

important reasons for the return of such a huge population of undocumented Afghan migrants in 2018, could mention the US economic sanctions imposed against Iran and the devaluation of Iran's currency. Meanwhile, seasonal Afghan workers have been affected significantly by these economic issues since they remit a large portion of their income to their families and relatives in Afghanistan.

Table 10: Return of undocumented Afghans from Iran (2015-2019)

Year	Total returnees from Iran ('000 people)
2015	544
2016	443
2017	451
2018	773
2019	480

Source: (IOM,2016;2017a;2017b;2017c;2017d;2017e;2017f;2017g;2018; 2019;2020a;2020b)

IOM indicates that the number of undocumented Afghan returnees has decreased by 38% in 2019 compared to 2018, and

has once again reached the level it used to be before 2018.

#### 4.Desire to Migrate: in Iran and in the World

Table 11 indicates the average desire to

migrate in the world and among Iranians including university students and business owners.

Table 11: Migration desire in Iran and the world

Desire to Migrate/Return	Year			2015-2017
	2010-2012	2013-2016		
Worldwide migration desire	13%	14%		15%
Desire to migration in Iran <sup>2</sup> , 2018-2019, after the return of sanctions and currency fluctuations	Students and graduates (2018-2019)	Entrepreneurs		Iranians <sup>3</sup> (2016)
		Start-ups (fall 2019)	SME (fall 2019)	
Desire/intention for migration	42%	27%	46%	29.8%
To plan and practical action for migration	11%	-	-	-
Desire to return home after migration	16%	20%	24%	-

Source: (Gallup, 2017) (IMO, 2019)

1. Refugee status refers to the number of people who have been in that country in 2018 as a refugee and does not mean the newly registered refugees. Therefore, the statistics of the mentioned countries over the years cannot be accumulated.

2. Migration surveys among students and activists in the field of startups and small businesses have been conducted by the Iran Migration Observatory (IMO) on a small scale and data isn't fully representative of society as a whole.

3. According to a survey of the social, cultural, and moral status of Iranian society (426 county center cities, 82,000 samples, 2016)

According to a Gallup survey in 2017, over 750 million people in the world desired to migrate. Therefore, based on the most recent available statistics, the average international migration desire around the world is 15% although there is a huge distinction between “desire to migrate” and “serious intention to migrate”. The average rate of desire to migrate varies in different parts of the world. For instance, this rate is about 33% in Sub-Saharan Africa, 27% in Latin America and Caribbean, 24% in the Middle East and North Africa, and 21% in the EU. This rate is currently 16% in the US. There is a wide gap between “migration dreamers”, “migration planners”, and finally, “migration movers”. Therefore, the population of individuals actually plan and take measures towards migration is less than the 700 million population of individuals who dream about migration. The gap between “desire to migrate” and “migration moving” is wide in all parts of the world, making the population of these two groups completely distinct from one another all around the world.

Considering the survey on the cultural, social, and moral characteristics of Iranian society in 2016, the average desire to migrate is about 30% in the society. However, this survey did not contemplate

about participants’ plan, dream, and move for migration.

The Iran Migration Observatory has conducted some surveys (small sample sizes and through online questionnaires) to examine the impact of sanctions return and domestic currency fluctuations among the students, graduates, and business owners during 2018-2019. In the light of the results obtained, the desire to migration among university students and graduates (with a sample size of 925 people of different Iranian universities) is estimated to be about 42%. However, only 11% of the students who declared a desire to migrate stated that they have serious plans for or have taken actual steps towards.

According to an online survey conducted by the Iran Migration Observatory in fall 2019 among over 100 business owners, it was revealed that dream for migration among start-up activists is lower than the community average and is about 27%, while the migration intention of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) owners is about 46%.

The returning desire after migration among university students and graduates, start-up activists, and SME owners was estimated to be 16%, 20%, and 24%, respectively.



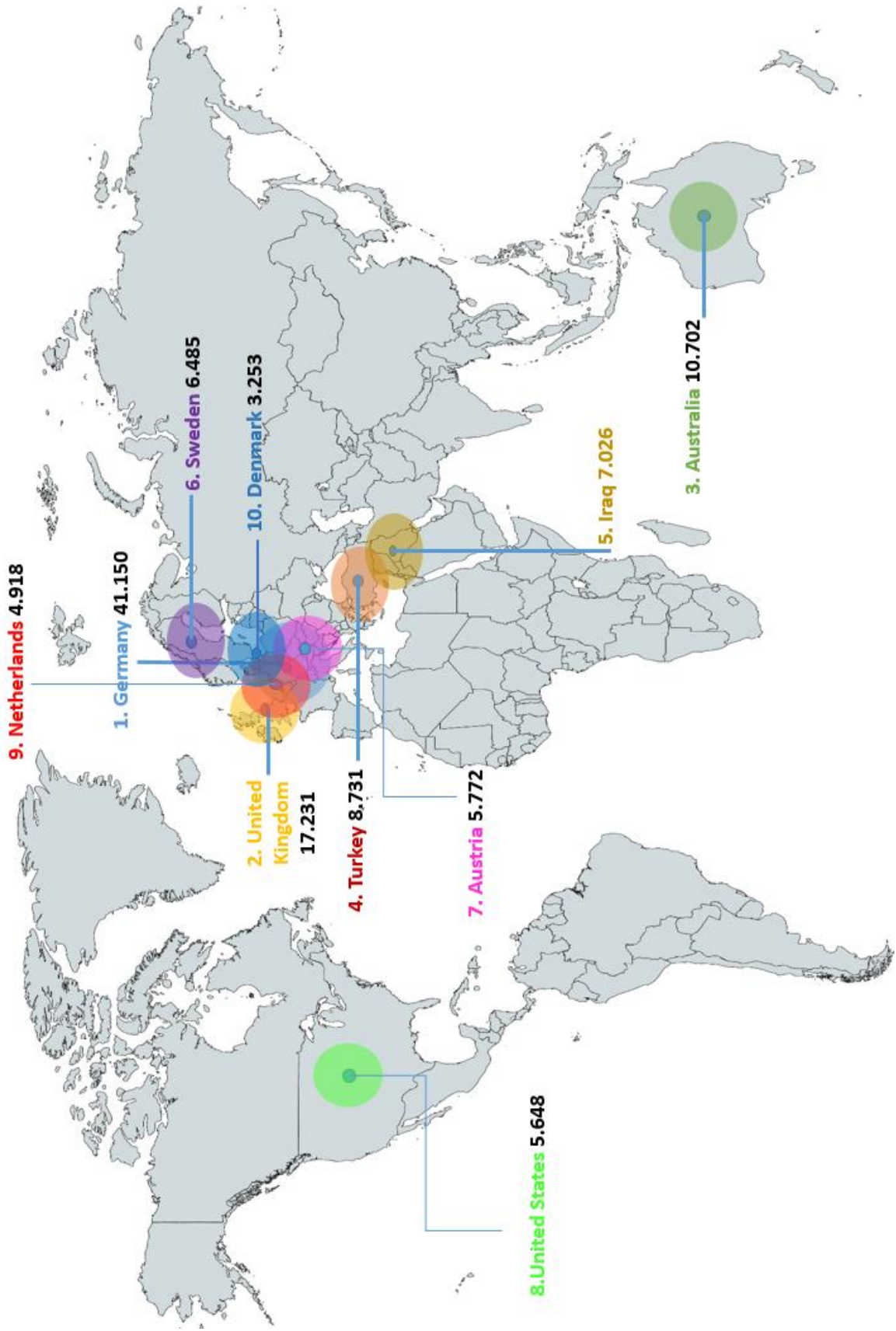
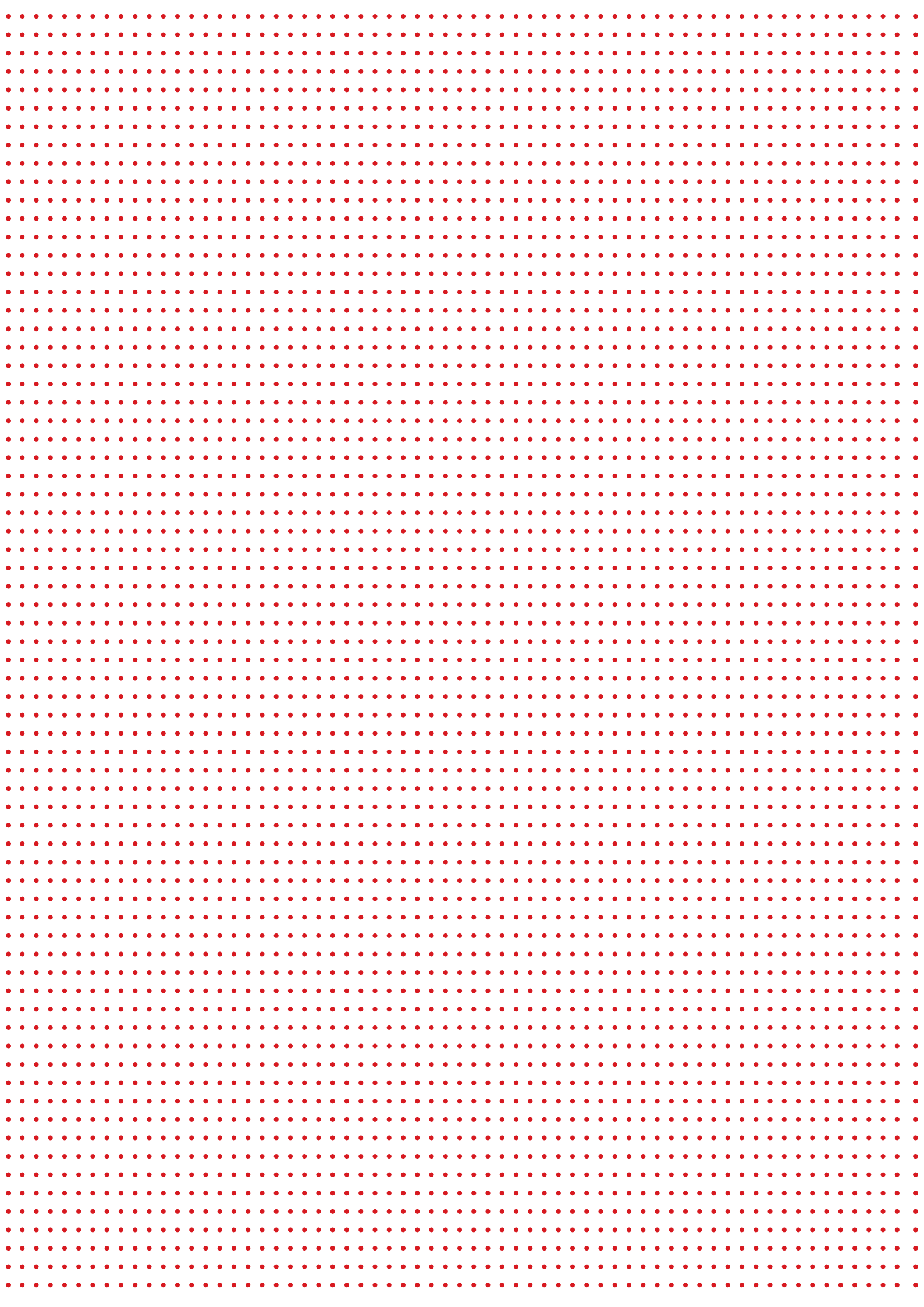


Figure 3: Distribution of Iranian refugees<sup>1</sup> in the top 10 destinations, 2018.

# 1 An Overview of International Migration Trends



I r a n M i g r a t i o n O u t l o o k 2 0 2 0



Nowadays, there is an increasing trend of the international migration all around the world, which is becoming one of the essential characteristics of the globalized and intertwined world. International migrant stocks are the number of individuals residing in a country other than their country of origin, which include refugees as well. The estimation of international migrant stocks during a certain period is generally performed from censuses published by governments. The most heterogeneous available data for estimation of this stock is the population of residents in a country but born elsewhere (people residing in one country and having been born in another). When there is no available data on the residents born abroad, data on foreign residents – people whose citizenship is different from the country in which they reside- is used as estimation (UNDESA, 2019).

In this regard, immigrants of working age (15-64 years) who migrate seeking better welfare, higher income, and better job opportunities fall into the category of work or economic migration. Statistics on this type of migration are closely entangled with the official labor force statistics and its circulation around the world, and the study of labor migration has a close relationship with the study of international workplace and labor force characteristics.

## 1.1. International Student Mobility around the world

Due to political changes and economic factors, mobility of international students is rising (QS, 2019). The population of international students has reached 5.3 million people which means it has had a 71% growth over the 10-year course of 2007-2017. This growth is expected to continue less rapidly until 2030 (campus France, 2019). According to the British Council, economic stimuli such as the distribution of wealth, national growth, and household income have a significant impact on student mobility. A number of Asian markets are therefore paying deliberate efforts towards taking advantage of this new-found gap in the market and create a brand as a popular international student destination for themselves (QS, 2019).

Besides, political issues have always had a huge impact on international students' decisions to choose the destination country. Donald Trump's new migration policies put restrictions of the entry of migrants from seven Muslim countries and Britain's Exit from the EU (Brexit) have made major impacts on the mobility of international students in two main student-attracting poles (the US and Britain). These two occurrences indicate a non-welcoming environment for migrants and have affected the entry of

international students as well. As a result of such policies, other countries such as Canada and Australia have received an opportunity to employ migration policies in order to get more benefit from international student mobility (QS, 2019).

Given the entry flow of international students, the top English-speaking destinations for international students include

the US, the UK, Australia, and Canada. China, Germany, France, and Russia are also the top choices for students whose first language is not English. The mobility flow of international students also indicates that China and India, and also Germany, South Korea, and Nigeria are at the top of the list of sending student countries (Campus France, 2019).

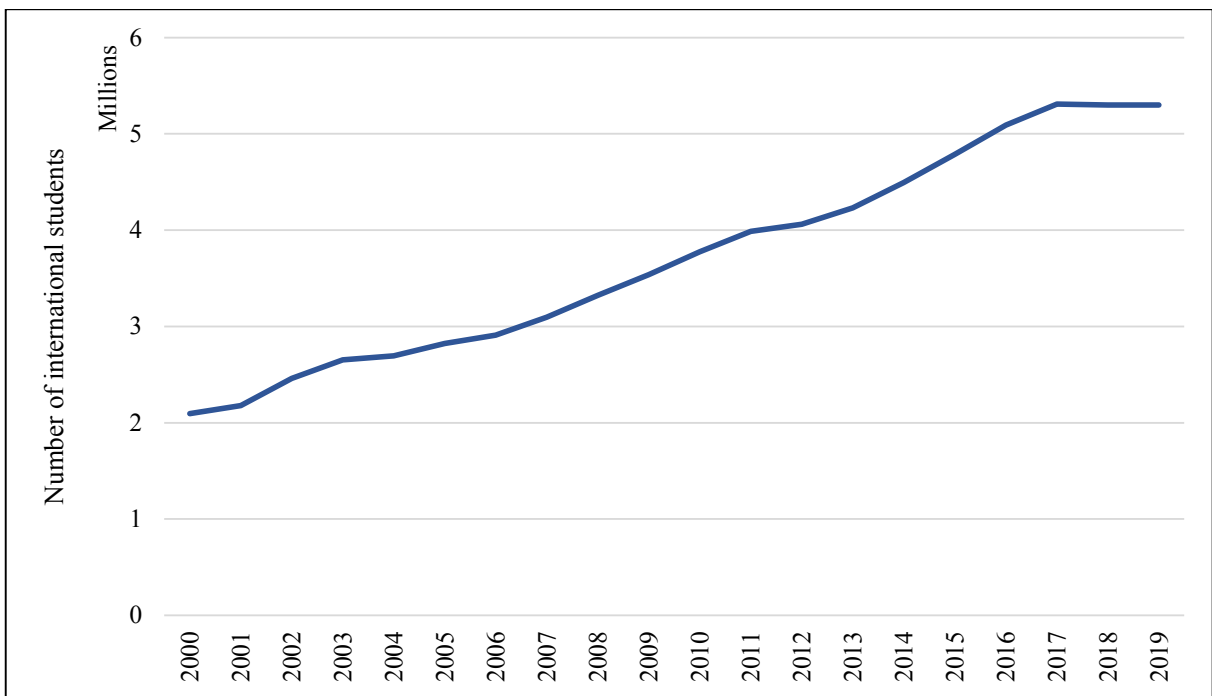


Chart 7: number of international mobile students in the world (2000-2019)  
 Source: (Project Atlas, 2020 - UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

The number of students who spend a portion of their education abroad has increased and changed from 2 million students in 2000 to more than 5.3 million students in 2019 (Project Atlas, 2020). In only ten years (2007-2017) the number of international students has undergone a 71% increase and changed from 3 million to 5.3 million students. Although the growth rate of international students is expected to

decrease, the number of international students must increase rapidly in response to the attraction strategies of destination countries and the increased desire of students to spend a portion of their education course abroad. Should the annual growth 5.1% of international students be maintained, the total stock is estimated to double by 2030 and reach 10.2 million (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b).



### 1.1.1. The Economic Interests of International Students in Selected Countries

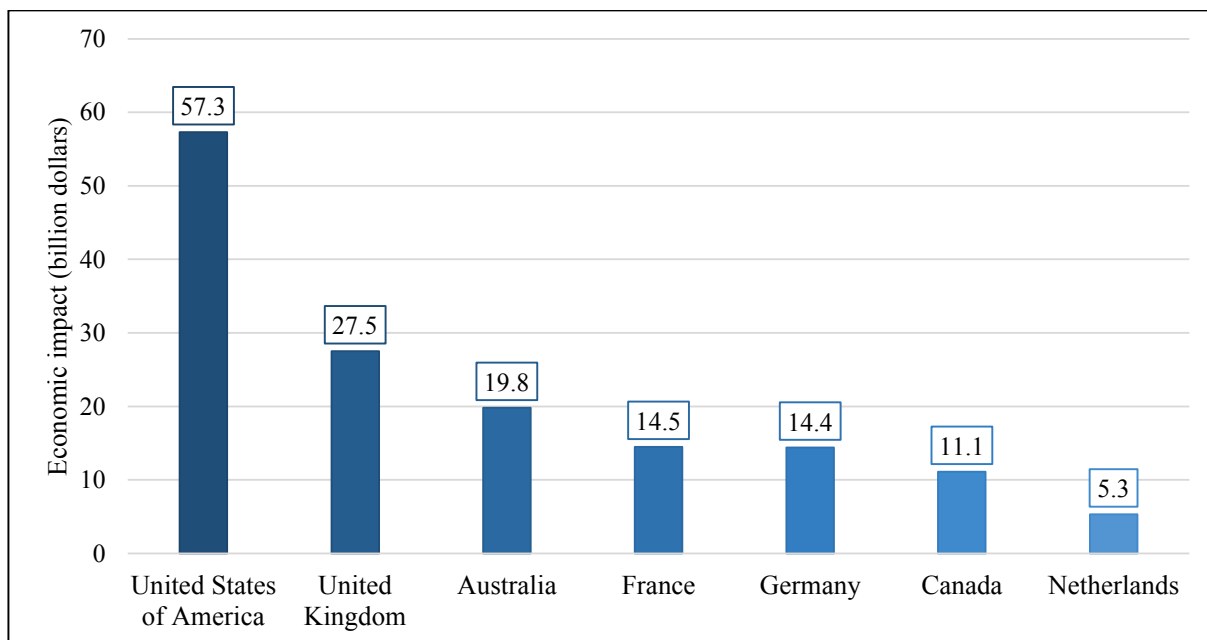


Chart 8: Direct and indirect economic benefits of international students in selected countries, 2016  
Source :( Study portals, 2019)

The constant growth international students' population in top host countries of international student had remarkable effects. International students have contributed 300 billion dollars to the global economy in 2016. This 300-billion-dollar estimation reflects the direct and indirect economic impacts of 5.1 million students who have been studying abroad in 2016. The presence of international students in destination countries has contributed to

the development of academic, research, experimental, and cultural aspects of a comprehensive, innovative and intertwined world as well as impacts on creating jobs, tax revenues, and household income (Choudaha, 2019). The chart above indicates the direct and indirect benefits of some selected countries induced by international students in 2016, among which the United States is the leading country with a total benefit of 57.3 billion dollars.

## 1.1.2. International Student Mobility in Various Regions

### ● Top Host Regions of International Students

The North America and Western Europe are the top host regions of international student including the United States, Canada, the UK, etc. Considering the attraction strategies in destination countries and the emergence of regional attraction poles for international students, the number of international students migrating to a majority of regions has increased. So,

the number of international students admitted in different regions in 2017 has therefore grown compared to that of 2011, which has been a growth of 102% in South and West Asia, 71% in Middle and East Europe, 56% in Arab countries, 40% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 28% in Middle Asia, 26% in North America and West Europe, and 17% in East Asia and Oceania. However, the number of international students admitted in the African Sub-Sahara has undergone a drop of 15% during the same period due to improper student attraction strategies.

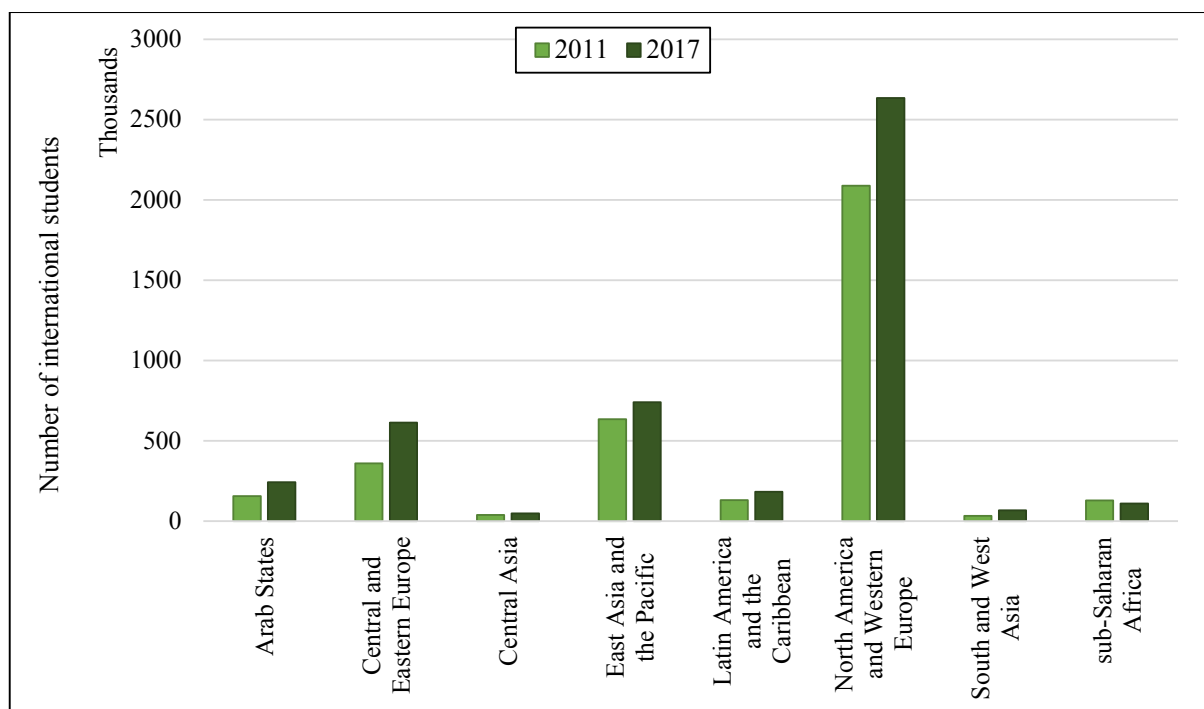


Chart 9: inbound international mobile students by geographic regions in 2011 and 2017

Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

### ● Top Origin Regions of International Students

Considering that the most important sending student countries (India and China) are located in East Asia, 30% of the international students of the world (around

1.5 million people) are coming from the countries of East Asia and Oceania. Of course, high willingness to spend education study abroad has increased the number of international students in all global regions. During 2011-2017, the increase in

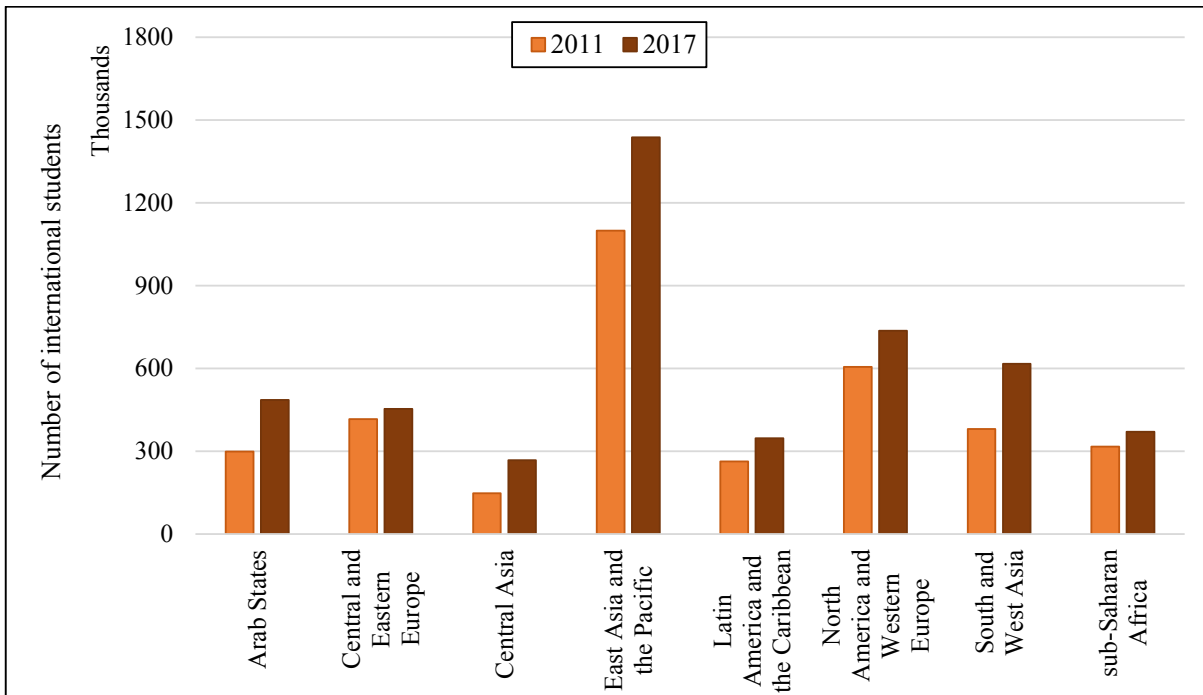


Chart 10: Outbound international mobile students by geographic regions in 2011 and 2017.  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

sending student has been as high as 82% in Middle Asia, 63% Arab countries, 62% in South and West Asia, 32% in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 17% in East Asia and Oceania. This increasing trend has grown slower in other regions of the globe. Over the same course of time, the amount of sending student has increased by 22% in North America and West Europe, 17% in the African Sub-Sa-

hara, and 9% in East and Middle Europe. It is obvious that the outbound flow of international students has increased all over the world which means an enhancement in the international student market. The countries will therefore be able to achieve a share in this growing market by adopting proper strategies and benefit from the economic and non-economic interests generated by these students.



### 1.1.3. International Students Mobility in Different Countries

#### ● Top Host Countries of International Student

According to Figure 4, the mobility of international students increased from 2001 to 2019, and the top destination countries for international students also transformed.

Numerous countries, such as the US,

the UK, France, Australia, Japan, Germany, and Spain, have long been among the popular destination countries for international students. Additionally, China, Canada, and Russia are also among the favorite emerging destinations for them and were able to attain a remarkable share of this global market, rankings the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively in 2019. However, Belgium has lost its position and is no more among the top 10 countries in this regard.

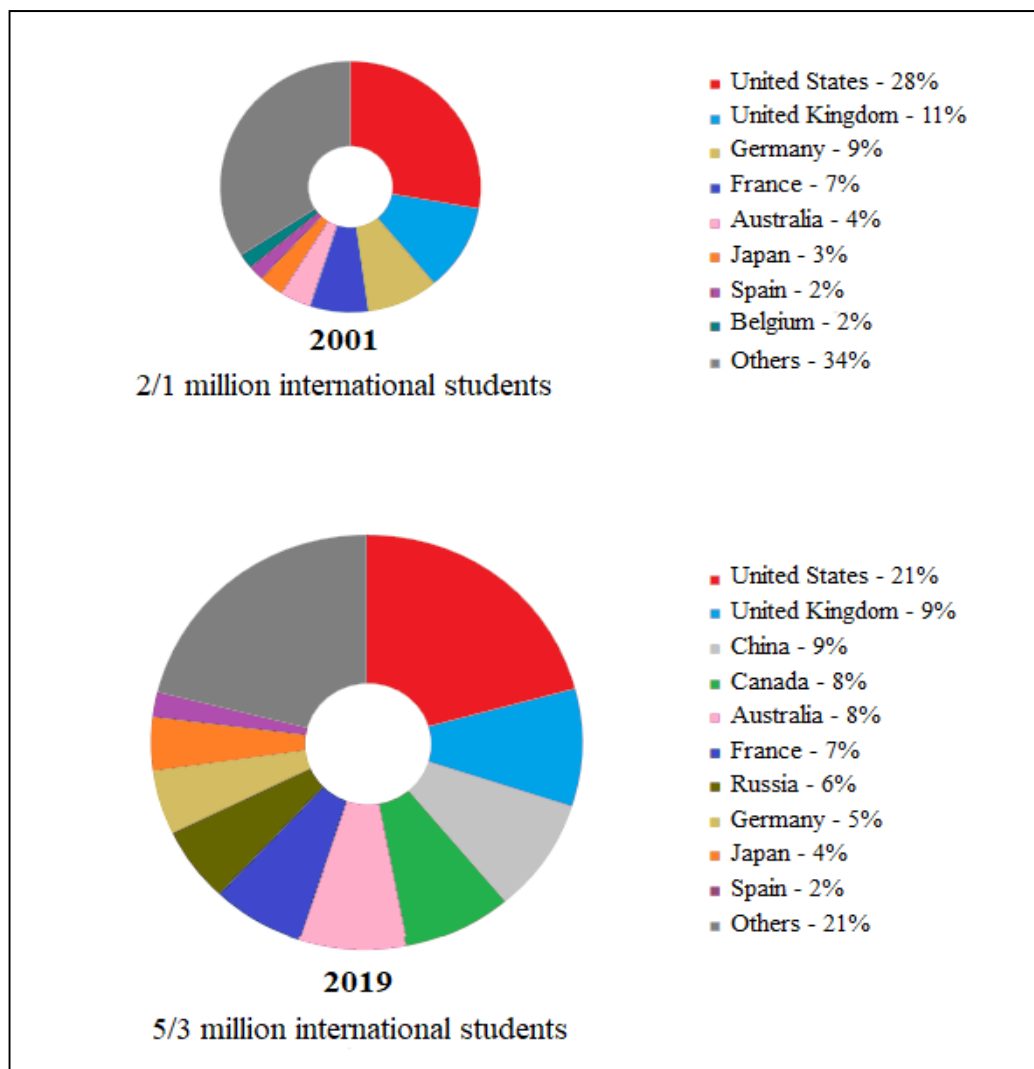


Figure 4: Top host countries for international students in 2001 and 2019  
Source: (Project Atlas, 2020)

Table 12: Top host countries for international students in 2016 and 2017

Country	Number of inbound students		Rank	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
United States of America	971,417	984,898	1	1
United Kingdom	432,001	435,734	2	2
Australia	335,512	381,202	3	3
Germany	244,575	258,873	5	4 ↓
France	245,349	258,380	4	5 ↑
Russia	243,752	250,658	6	6
Canada	189,478	209,979	7	7
China <sup>1</sup>	183,080	206,278	8	8
Japan	143,457	164,338	9	9
Turkey	87,903	108,076	13	10 ↓
Malaysia	124,133	100,765	10	11 ↑
Italy	92,655	97,563	11	12 ↑
Netherlands	89,920	96,289	12	13 ↑
Argentina	75,688	88,873	16	14 ↓
Saudi Arabia	79,854	78,344	14	15 ↑
Austria	70,483	73,964	17	16 ↓
South Korea	61,888	70,796	18	17 ↓
Spain	49,837	64,927	26	18 ↓
United Arab Emirates	77,463	64,447	15	19 ↑
Poland	54,734	63,925	20	20

Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

1. Including Hong Kong and Macao

## ● Top Origin Countries of International Students

Table 13: Top countries of origin of international students in in 2016 and 2017

Country	Number of outbound students		Rank	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
China <sup>1</sup>	907,942	968,087	1	1
India	301,406	332,033	2	2
Germany	119,088	122,195	3	3
South Korea	104,992	105,399	4	4
Vietnam	82,159	94,662	9	5 ↓
France	90,543	89,379	6	6
United States of America	72,690	86,566	11	7 ↓
Nigeria	95,731	85,251	5	8 ↑
Kazakhstan	90,187	84,681	7	9 ↑
Saudi Arabia	90,178	84,310	8	10 ↑
Ukraine	77,263	77,639	10	11 ↑
Italy	65,421	74,268	12	12
Nepal	49,417	64,054	20	13 ↓
Malaysia	86,164	63,253	13	14 ↑
Brazil	52,479	58,841	17	15 ↓
Bangladesh	61,430	57,675	14	16 ↑
Russia	57,747	56,659	15	17 ↑
Syrian Republic	46,748	53,612	24	18 ↓
Pakistan	52,956	53,023	16	19 ↑
Iran	52,307	52,521	18	20 ↑

Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)



1. Including Hong Kong and Macao

### 1.1.4. Comparison of the Main Host and Origin Countries of International Student

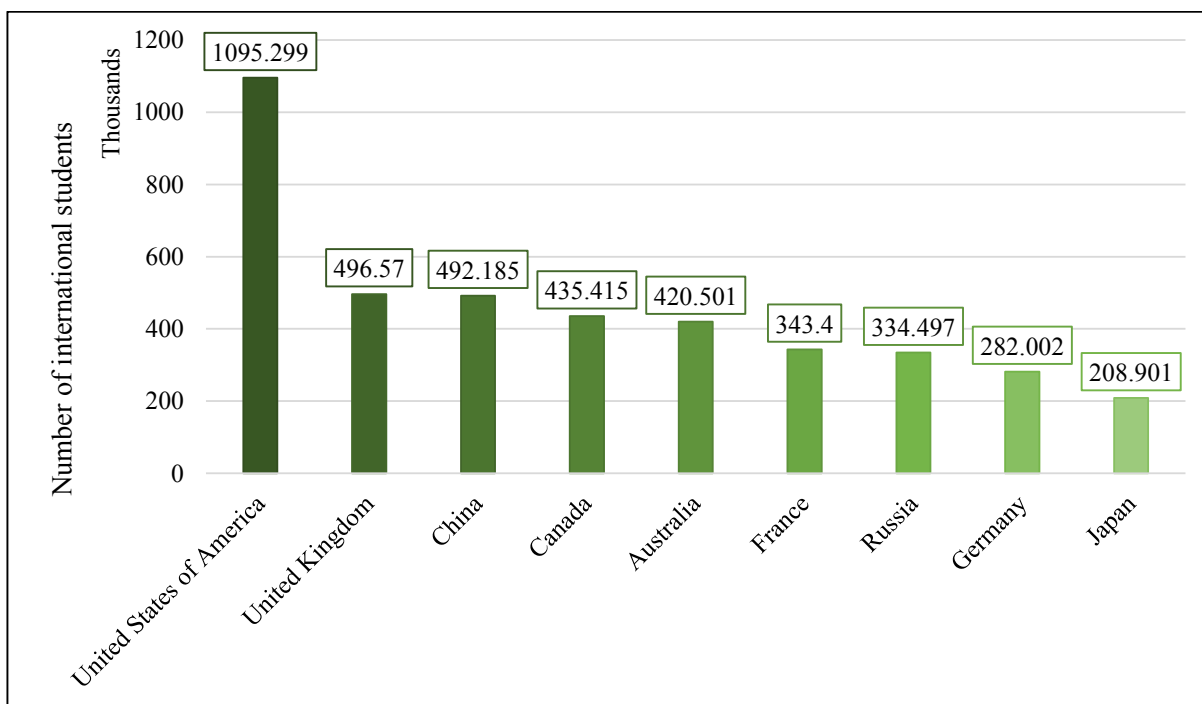


Chart 11: Top 9 host countries of international students (2017)  
Source: (Institute of International Education, 2019)

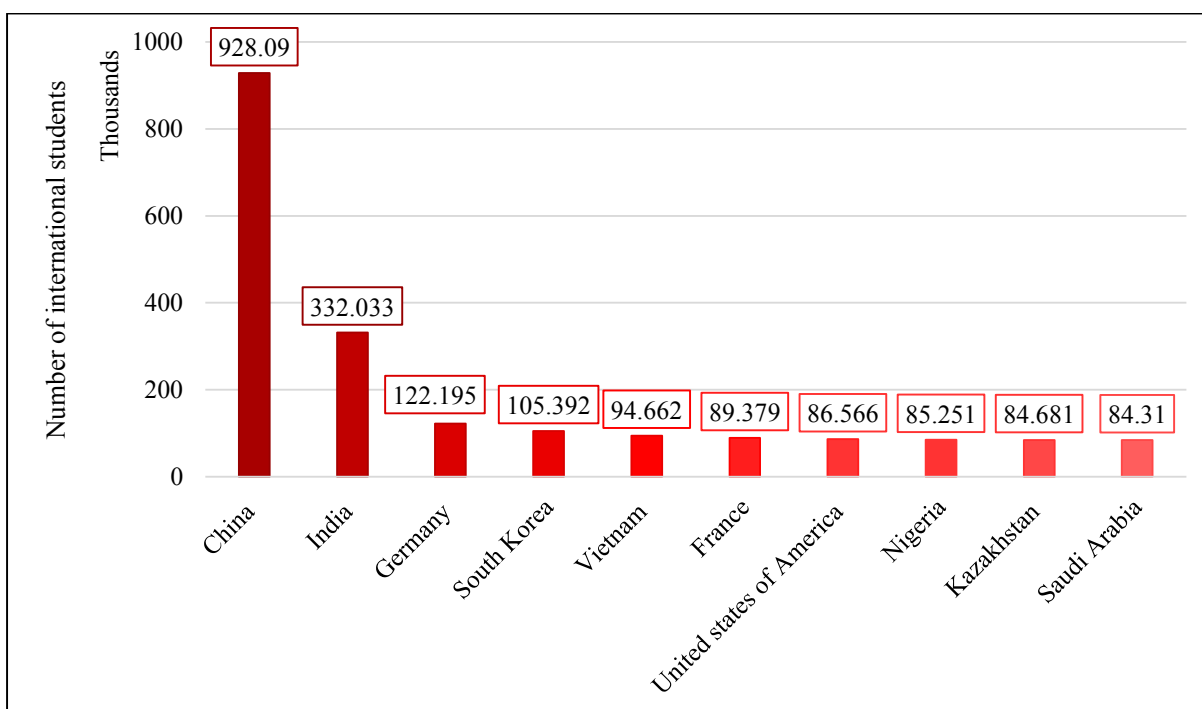


Chart 12: Top 9 origin countries of international students (2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)



### **1.1.5. Classification of the Countries in terms of sending and attracting international students**

Since human resource is a centric factor in economic growth and development, talented and skilled individuals are among essential determining factors in the Vision Plans of a country. According to the definition of the OECD on Talent Attractiveness Index (TAI), university students count as *talents*. Thus, paying efforts towards attracting international students or returning and recruiting international students could improve a country's human resource. In this regard, five types of countries could be identified as follows:

#### **1.1.5.1. Pioneer countries**

This class includes traditional student-attracting and newly-emerged countries in the international student mobility market. Traditional student-attracting countries are those that have long been among the popular destination countries for international students. Newly-emerged countries are those that have successfully attracted large numbers of international students over the past two decades through adopting effective policies.

Pioneer countries have the best conditions in international student flows. These countries have been able to attract international students and take advantage of their economic and non-economic benefits through effective programs

such as improving the educational quality of universities, facilitating the process of obtaining visas, providing opportunities for employment after graduation, and granting scholarships and educational funds. Being the most significant destinations for international students, these countries are classified into two groups of traditional student-attracting countries and newly-emerged countries in the international student market.

#### **1.1.5.2. Traditional Student-Attracting Countries**

The US, Australia, and the UK for long time have been the top destination for international students due to English language and suitable education courses. However, Trump's restrictive migration policies and also the exit of Britain from the EU (BREXIT) have reduced these countries' share out of the international student market, which is estimated to decrease even more over the next years. In return, Australia has enhanced its share of this global market by adopting effective policies to facilitate the attraction of international students and providing opportunities for employment after graduation. France and Germany have also been among the most important non-English destination countries for international students. Moreover, they have benefited from their economic and non-economic benefits and managed student circulation efficiently using strong international relationships and networks during the past two decades.



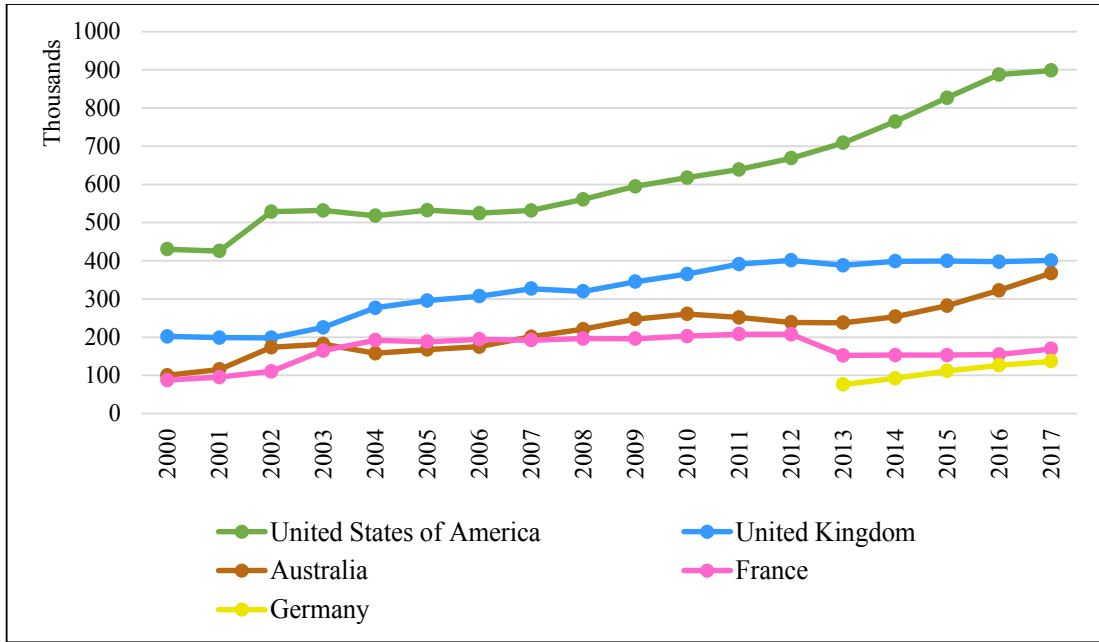


Chart 13: Net flow of international mobile students in traditional student-attracting countries (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

### 1.1.5.3. Newly-Emerged Countries in the Student-Attraction Market

Canada and Russia succeeded in attracting international students rapidly and attain a position like the traditional student-attracting countries in this regard.

These countries have swiftly enhanced their share out of the international students' market through effective policies aiming to facilitate the admission of the international students.

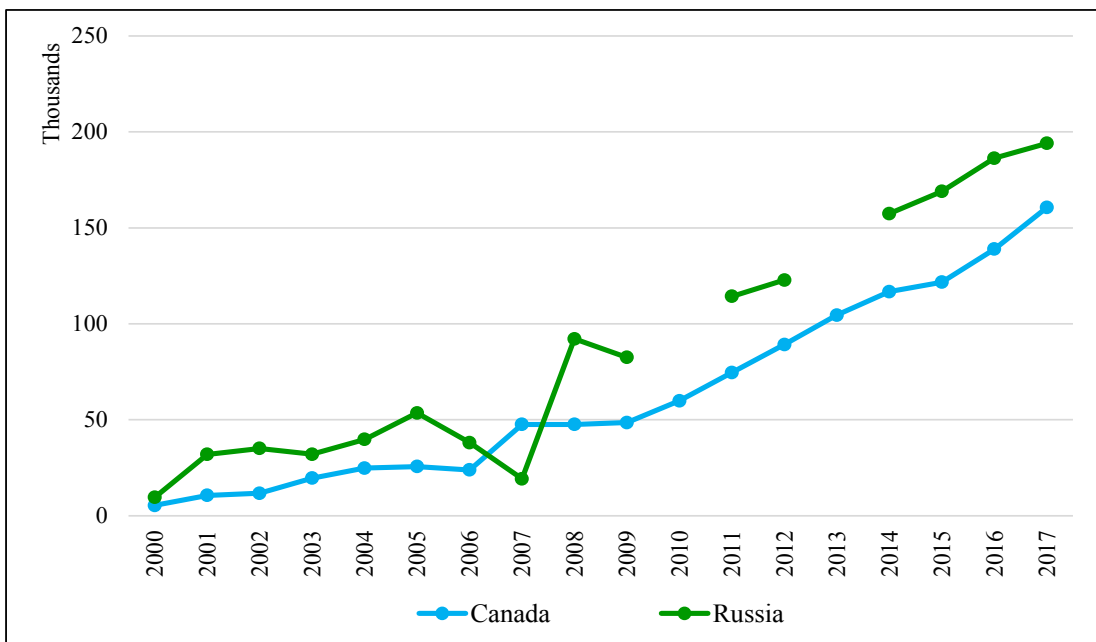


Chart 14: Net flow of international mobile students in traditional student-attracting countries (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

### 1.1.5.4. Program-oriented countries

This class includes those countries have been facing the crisis of international students leaving the home country, but have resolved this issue and succeeded in making optimal use of the movement and circulation of international students and talents through adopting effective policies regarding student mobility management. In other words, program-oriented countries like Italy, Turkey and Malaysia decided to solve the excessive number of international students outflow issue. However, they could promote their benefits from the brain circulation process through employing proper strategies for attracting, retaining, and reinforcing international students during the past two decades. Turkey, Italy, and Malaysia could increase their share out of the international student mobility market by implementing student exchange programs and scholarships for study.

Saudi Arabia, China, and India are among the most important sending countries of international students in the world. The rate of international stu-

dents outflow is high in all three countries. Still, all of these countries have succeeded in employing policies and programs that have turned them into significant regional destination countries for international students and are exercising their soft power in their countries of region. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia encourages its international students to return after graduation using the granting scholarships. China has also succeeded in developing a desirable context for returning Chinese international students using a variety of incentives. Despite the remarkable population of India and lack of adequate capacity for keeping all individuals within the territory, this country prefers keeping its international students stay where they study, but take advantage of their skills and knowledge through maintaining communication. Although these countries have a negative net flow of international mobile students, considering their returning and recruiting plans reveal that international student mobility had positive results.

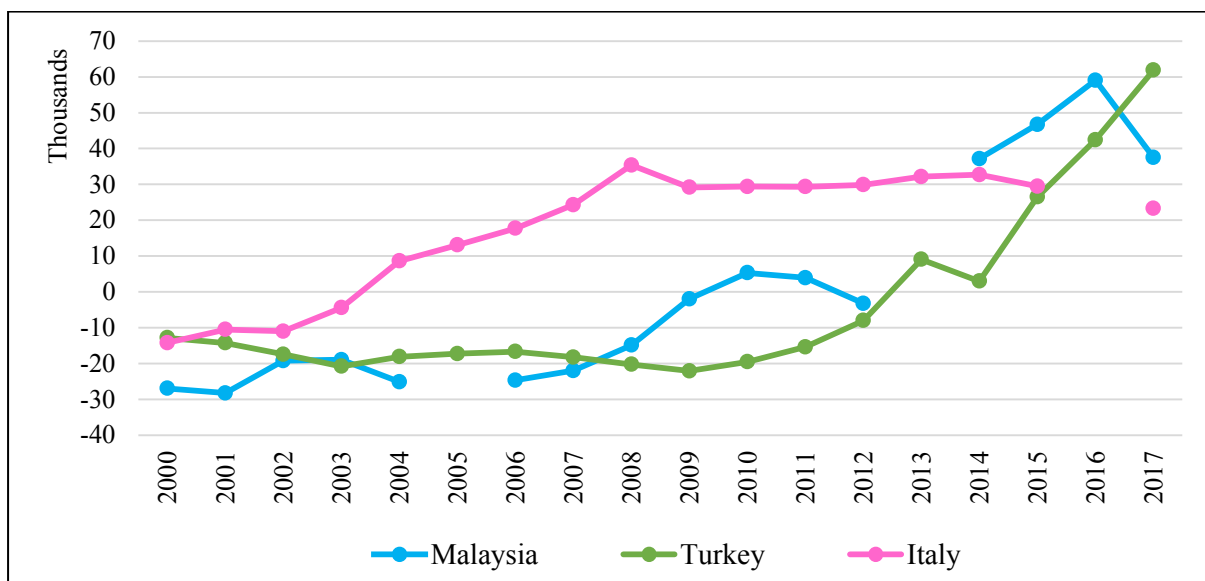


Chart 15: Net flow of international mobile students in a number of program-oriented countries (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

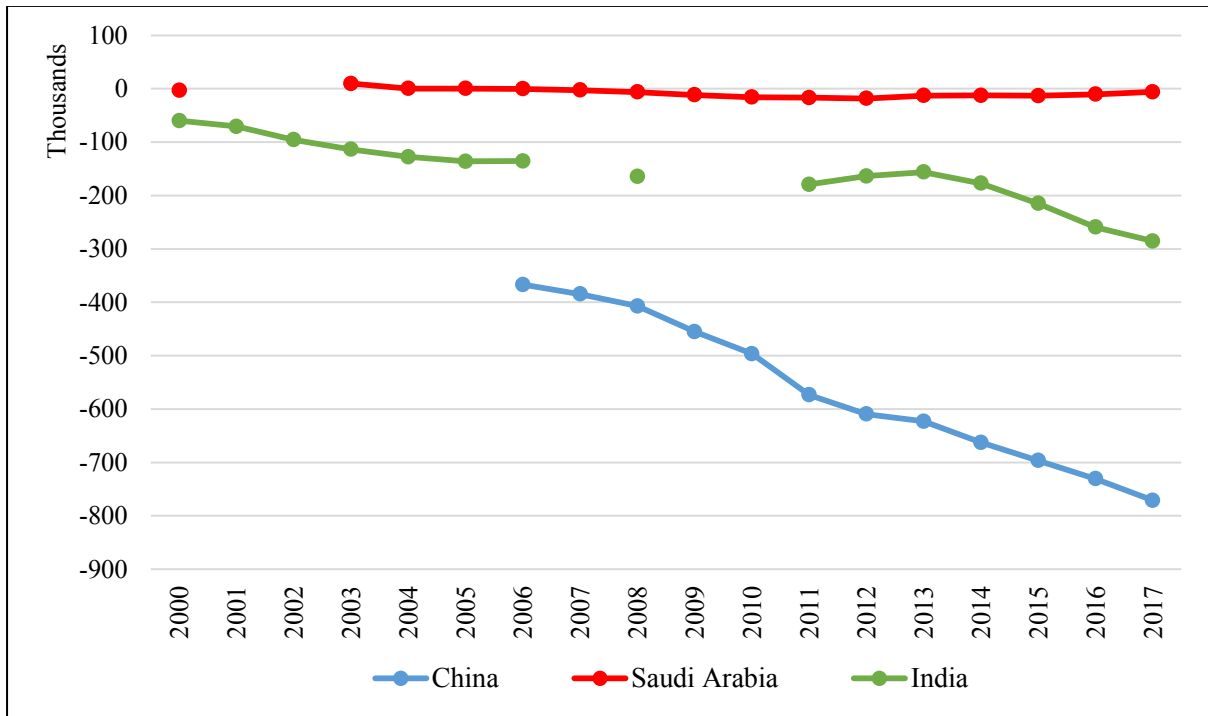


Chart 16 : net flow of international mobile students in China, India and Saudi Arabia (2000-2017)

Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

According to the declaration of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, this country is about to enter an era of negative population growth in the future, and the ratio of elderly to young will become remarkably unbalanced. This means slowing economic growth. The Chinese government has developed a “Made in China 2025” strategy to resolve this unbalance through which universities could facili-

tate the admission of Chinese students, promote opportunities to study abroad, and compensate slow economic growth by attracting international students (QS, 2019). The policies aimed at extending the stay of international students as well as Chinese international students repatriating could also help promoting China’s knowledge-based economy (Gao & De Wit, 2017). The international students who

are the main connector between China and other countries will also develop a better understanding of this country and promote its cultural and traditional values and economic developments to the world. This is not the only opportunity for promoting Chinese culture, language, and educational structure on a global platform, it will also extend this country's soft power on an international level. The increase in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in higher education and attracting talents from developing countries will also strengthen China's cooperation with the developing countries (Gao & De Wit, 2017).

In other words, China is seeking to make

most of the student circulation through maintaining high levels of sending student, receiving student and returning the Chinese graduates to their country of origin which has evidently brought about a positive overflow for this country, making the number of international students and graduates in China surpass the number of Chinese students studying abroad in 2017. The top countries with the largest numbers of students sent to china in 2018 were respectively South Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, India, the USA, and Russia according to the report of Chinese Ministry of Education (China's Ministry of Education, 2019b).

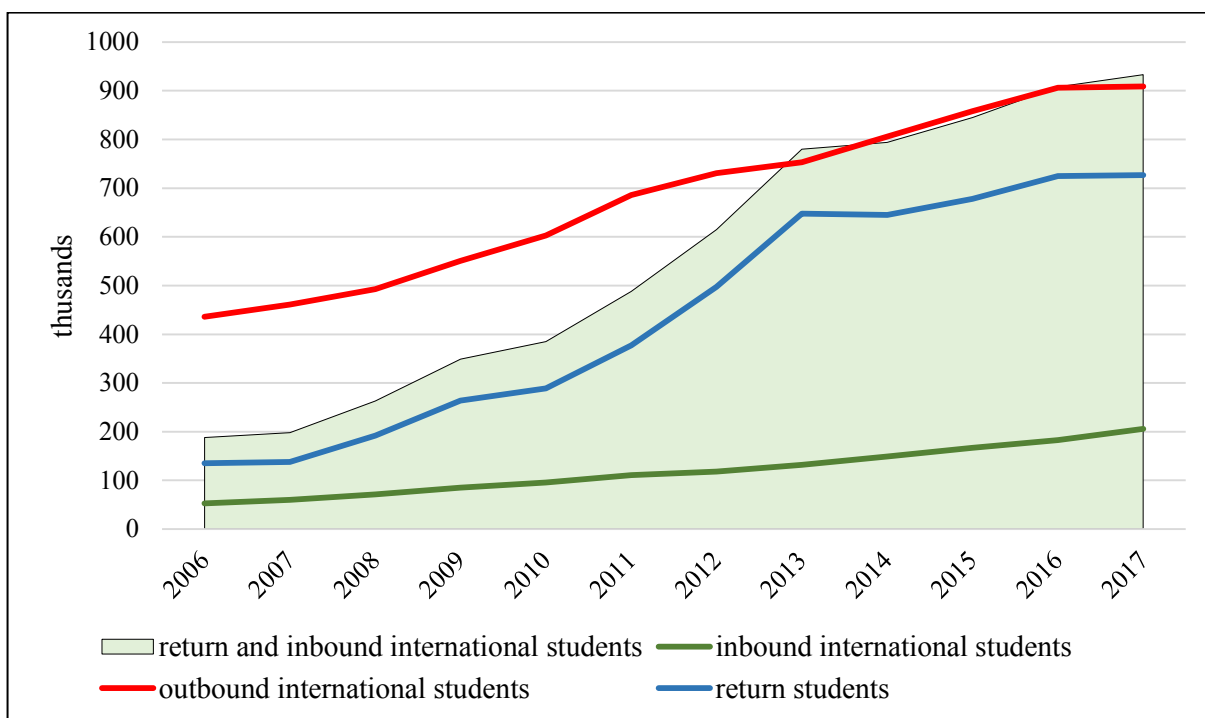


Chart 17: Inbound, outbound and return students in China (2006-2017) (UIS, 2019a); (UIS, 2019b); (China's Ministry of Education, 2019a)

### 1.1.5.5. Countries in transition

This class of countries have a high international student outflow but have been able to compensate for the respective damages partly by implementing limited programs for attracting international students and

returning their national students who have studied abroad over the past two decades. However, these countries have not been able to bring the net international student mobility balance from negative to positive. Therefore, transition countries have high

levels of student outflow on the one hand and are among the top sending student countries. On the other hand, these countries have developed programs and policies to modify this situation. They have succeeded in compensating a portion of damages by human resource outflow through implementing limited programs aimed at attracting international students or returning their international graduates. The net flow of internationally mobile students is, therefore, negative in these countries but is moving towards becoming positive.

If the members of this class have proper performance in implementing their programs and policies to attract international students or returning international graduates, they could successfully move through this transition and turn into program-ori-

ented countries. However, if they fail to implement the programs above, they will become one of the loser countries in the international students market. Iran and South Korea are both being categorized in this class. While South Korea is on the right track since 2003 and has almost successfully gone through this transition and is about to turn into programs-oriented countries, Iran has established programs for attracting international students and facilities for returning its national graduates to their country of origin only over the past few years. Therefore, Iran is at the beginning of the transition process and will only succeed in going through this transition if it implements its programs and reaches its objectives in terms of international higher education

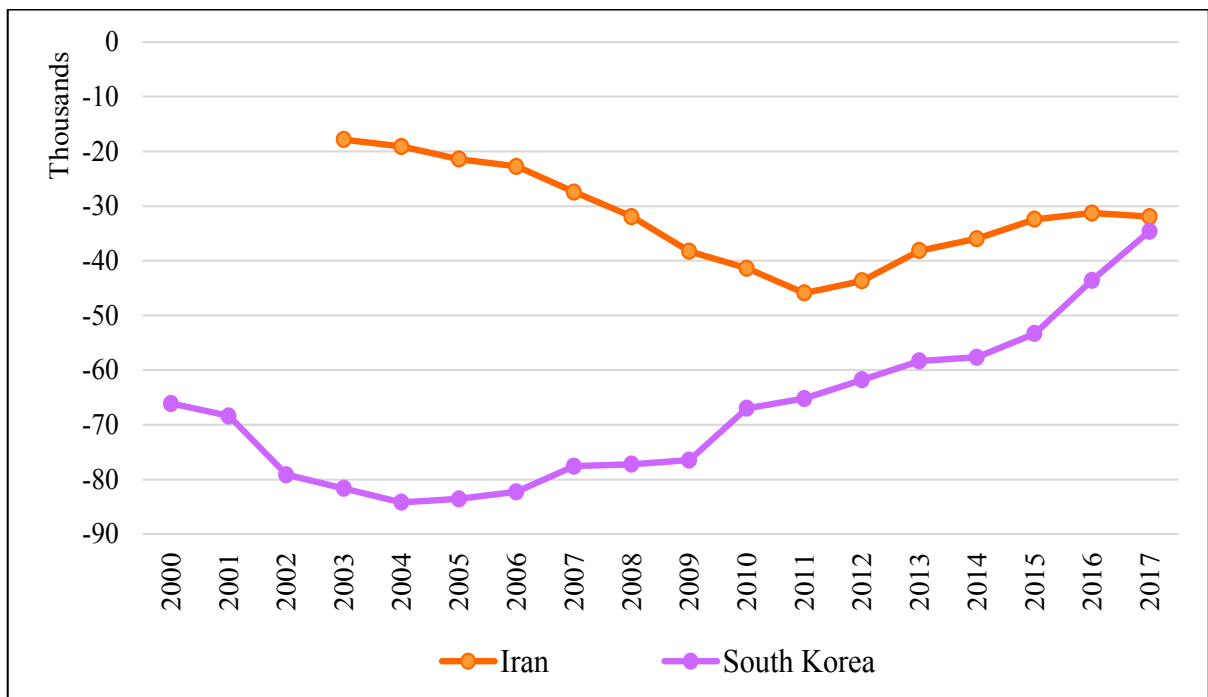


Chart 18: Net flow of international mobile students in several transitioning countries (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020a)

Iran is both a sending and a receiving student country. The number of inbound international students in Iran has increased from 1,400 in 2003 to around 21,000 students in 2018. On the other hand, the number of Iranian international students increased over the same period from 19,000 in 2003 to 53,000 students in 2017. The population of international students in Iran has thus been increasing in a regular and growing trend. Although the number of Iranian international students has increased over the period mentioned above, it has had a constant trend during the past few years and remained at a 52,000 balance. Iran is among the traditional sending countries of international student and has ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the number of internation-

al students in 2011, but has been demoted and ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in 2017. This is while this country has improved in international student admission and has improved its position from 57<sup>th</sup> in 2012 to 42<sup>nd</sup> in 2016 (UIS, 2019b); (UIS, 2019a).

The most important sending countries of international students to Iran are Asian countries. Afghanistan, as a mian origin country, send students to Iran with 14000 international students in 2018. During the same year, Iraq sent over 3,500 international students to Iran, ranking second in this regard. Lebanon was the third country in sending students to Iran in 2018 with 1000 students. After these three countries, Syria, China, and Pakistan have the highest population of international students in Iran, respectively.

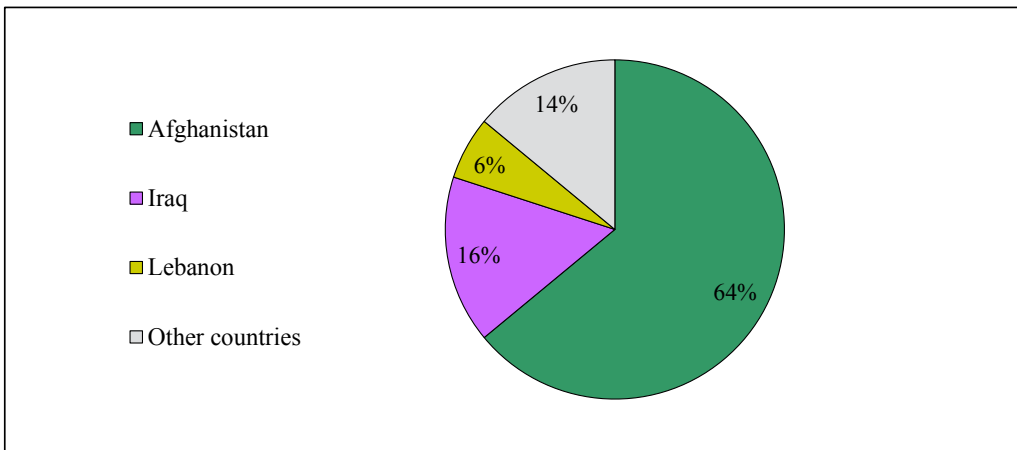


Chart 19: Top origin countries of international students in Iran (2018)  
Source: (Institute of Higher Education and Research Planning, 2019)

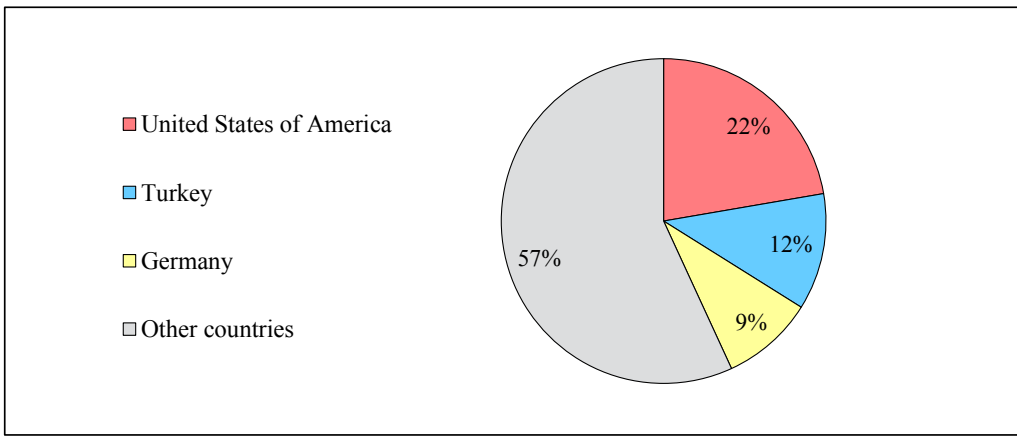


Chart 20: Top host countries of Iranian students (2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020a)

### 1.1.5.6. Losing countries

These countries have faced the problem of high international student outflow over the past two decades. On the other hand, these countries do not have enough capacities for attracting international students or bringing their nationals back. Pakistan and Nigeria fall among these countries and have an accelerating rate of international students leaving their countries - according to

the chart - that will bring about an abundance of economic and non-economic damages. If the countries refrain from taking effective measures towards improving international student mobility, they will continue to be damaged in the future. However, if they succeed in implementing effective plans and policies in this regard, they might enter a transition towards becoming among the program-oriented countries.

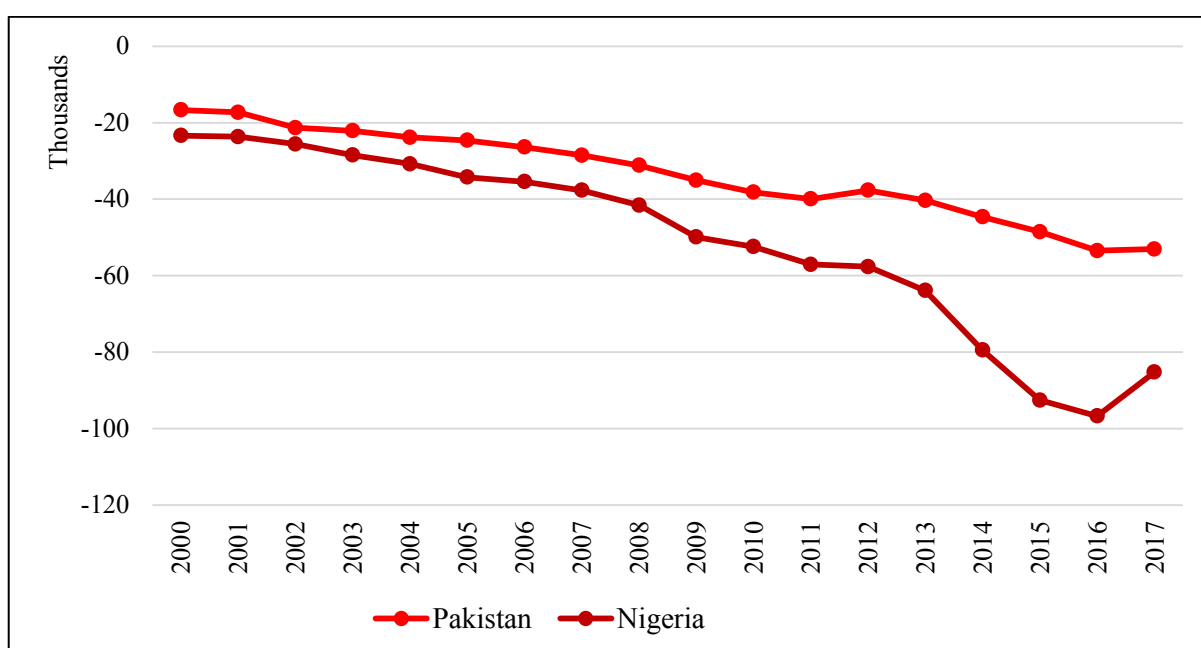


Chart 21: Net flow of international mobile students in a number of loser countries (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020a)

Note: due to data shortage and no available data on the number of international students attraction in these countries, the chart has been depicted based on the number of Pakistani and Nigerian international students.

### 1.1.5.7. Passive countries

These are countries with low international student inflow and outflow and are reluctant to use the scientific and technological capacities of other countries

through brain circulation and student mobility. Considering that the passive countries like the Armenia and Bahrain take no specific measures towards employing foreign human capital or sending their human resources through the student channel, we examine the 17 selected countries falling in the 4 categories of the “losers”, “in transition”, “plan-oriented” and “leader” countries.

According to the Figure 5, the UK, the USA, Australia, France, Russia, Ger-





many and Canada fall in the leader (pioneer) countries category. Malaysia, Turkey, and Iraq fall into the category of program-oriented countries due to their student attraction programs, and India, Saudi Arabia, and China also fall into the program-oriented countries despite they

have a higher rate of sending student than receiving student, due to their attraction, repatriation, and reemployment of the international students. Iran and South Korea fall among the countries in transition. Pakistan and Nigeria are examples of the losing countries.

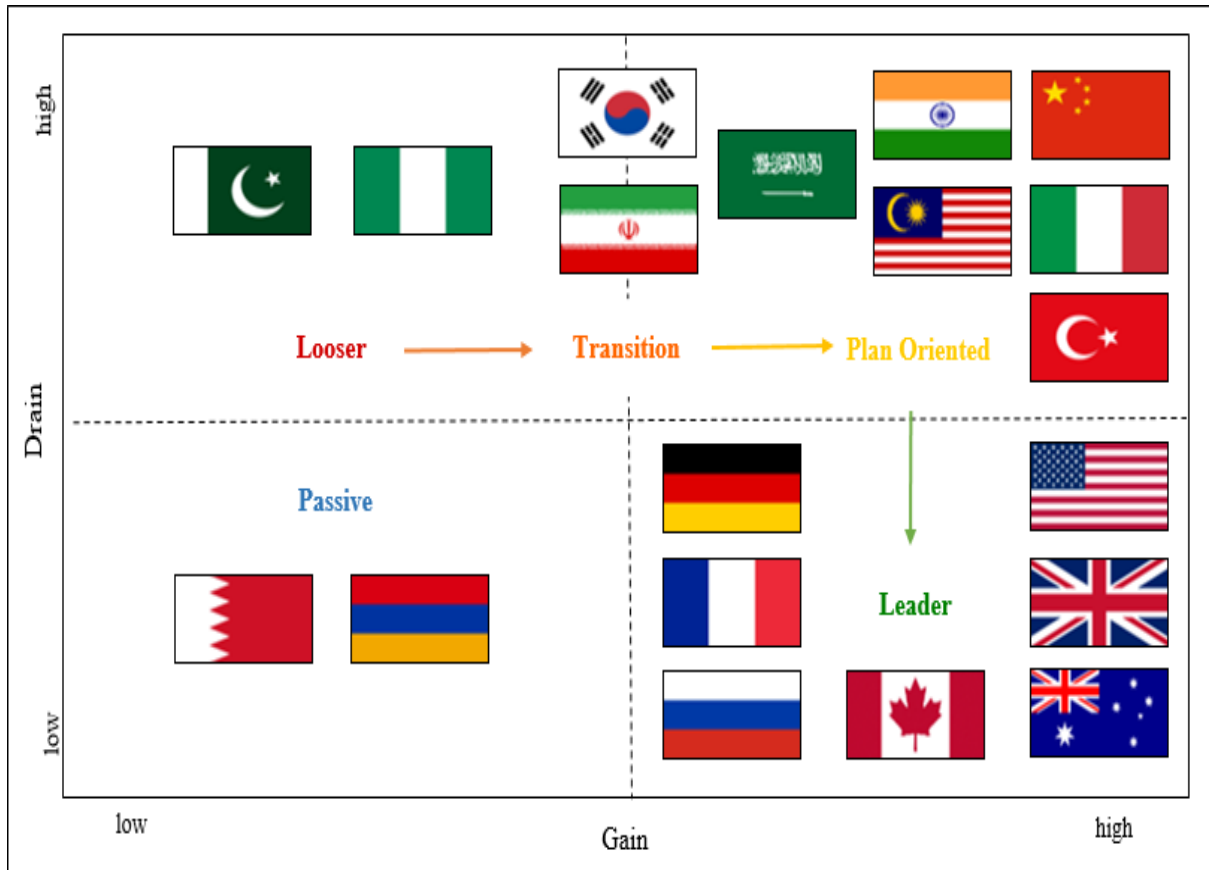


Figure 5: Classification of selected countries based on the extent of benefiting from international student mobility

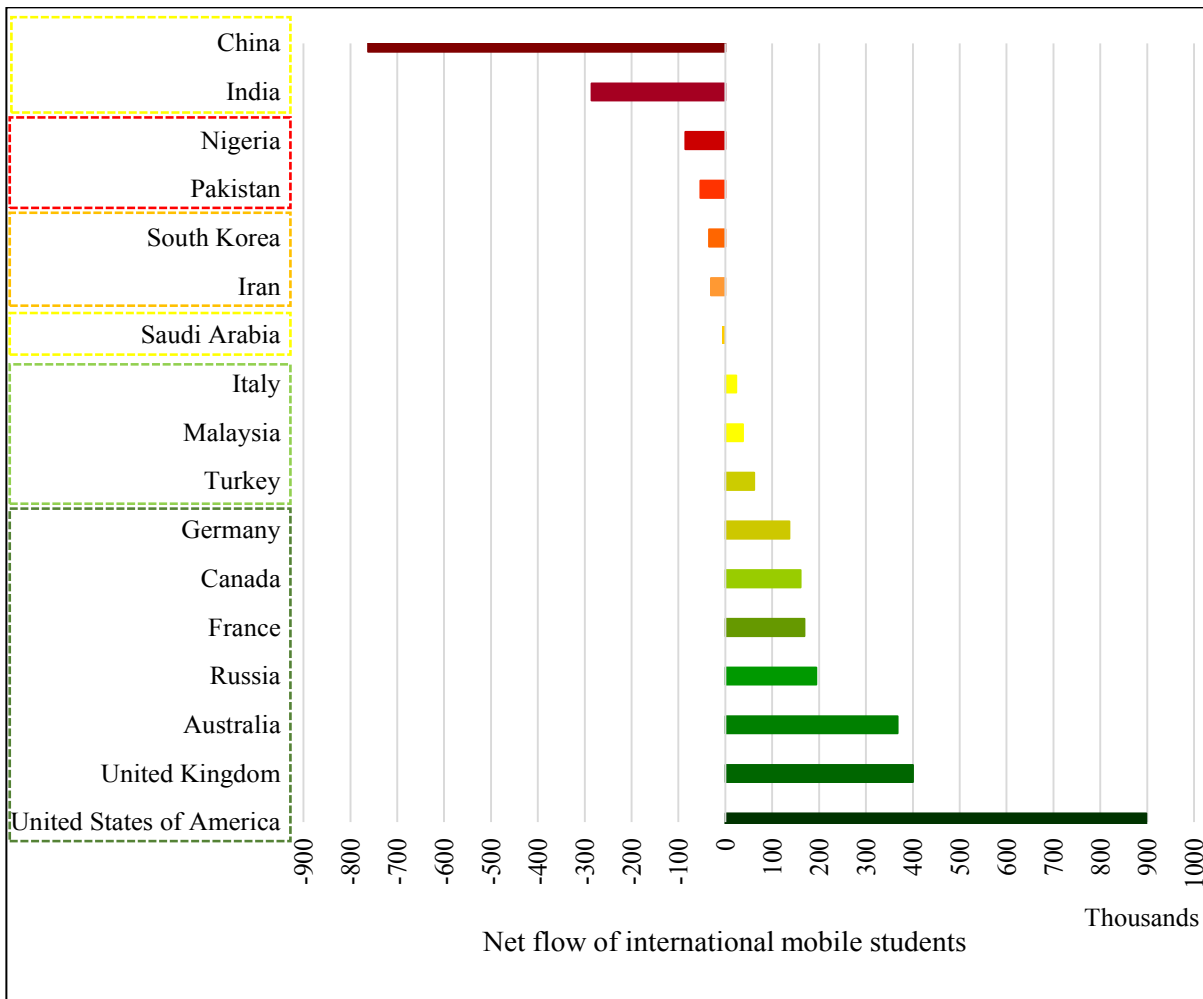


Chart 22: Net flow of international mobile students in 17 selected countries  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

## 1.2. The Migrant Workers in the World

The International Labor Organization (ILO) has declared the population of individuals in working age (above 15) to be 5.7 billion in both genders in 2019. Therefore, 3.3 billion (58.4%) of which are employed and 2.2 billion (38.6%) are unemployed (including people who are active in education and caregiving jobs with no salary or retirement plan).

Approximately 140 million people are potentially in the job market among these 2.2 billion, which means that they are looking for a job, and 172 million are unemployed. The ILO has announced that

there were 3.5 billion people with a participation rate of 61.4% in the job market in 2018 (ILO, 2019).

Out of the 272 million migrants (140 million men vs. 132 women) in 2019, 74% were in the working-age (15-65 years old). The migrants younger than 20 (15-20 years old) had a slight decrease from 16.4% in 2000 to 14% in 2019 (IMO, 2020).

According to global estimations by the ILO, from 2013 to 2017, labour migration included 96 million men and 68 million women. This indicates an increased share for men's labour migration, rising from 56% to 58%, and a drop in women's share out of total labour migration, from 44% to 42% from 2013 to 2017 (ILO, 2018).

Table 14: key facts and figures from the World Migration Reports, 2000 and 2020

	2000 report	2020 report
Estimated number of international migrants	150 million	272 million
Estimated proportion of world population who are migrants	2.8%	3.5%
Estimated proportion of female international migrants	47.5%	47.9%
Estimated proportion of international migrants who are children	16.0%	13.9%
Region with the highest proportion of international migrants	Oceania	Oceania
Country with the highest proportion of international migrants	The United	The United Arab Emirates
Number of migrant workers	-	164 million
Global international remittances (USD)	126 billion	689 billion
Number of refugees	14 million	25.9 million
Number of internally displaced persons	21 million	41.3 million
Number of stateless persons	-	3.9 million

Source: (IOM, 2000) (IOM, 2020)

### 1.2.1. Geographical Distribution of the Migrant Workers in the World

Almost 61% of migrant workers are residing in the top three sub-regions, including North America, Europe, and Arab states with respective percentages of 23%, 23.9%, and 13.9%. Other countries with a high percentage migrant worker (over 5%) include Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and Central and Western Asia. North Africa is a host to less than 1% of the migrant workers. Extra-continent labour migration is more prevalent in Northern Africa, so that 12 million North Africans are living in Europe, and 3.3 Million reside in Persian Gulf States (IOM, 2020).

On the other hand, 40% of total migrants in 2019, which equals about 112 million people, were Asian, making Asia the biggest migration origin. Over half of these migrants, which equals around 66 million people, have resided in other Asian countries.

These migrants are one of the most significant factors of population transformation in Asia, specifically in the Persian Gulf states that are attractive destinations for the inflow of migrant workers from inside and outside the continent. For instance, the migrants' stock is 88% in the UAE, 72% in Kuwait, 79% in Qatar, and 45% in Bahrain, who are from Africa, South Asia, and South-Eastern Asia (IOM, 2020).

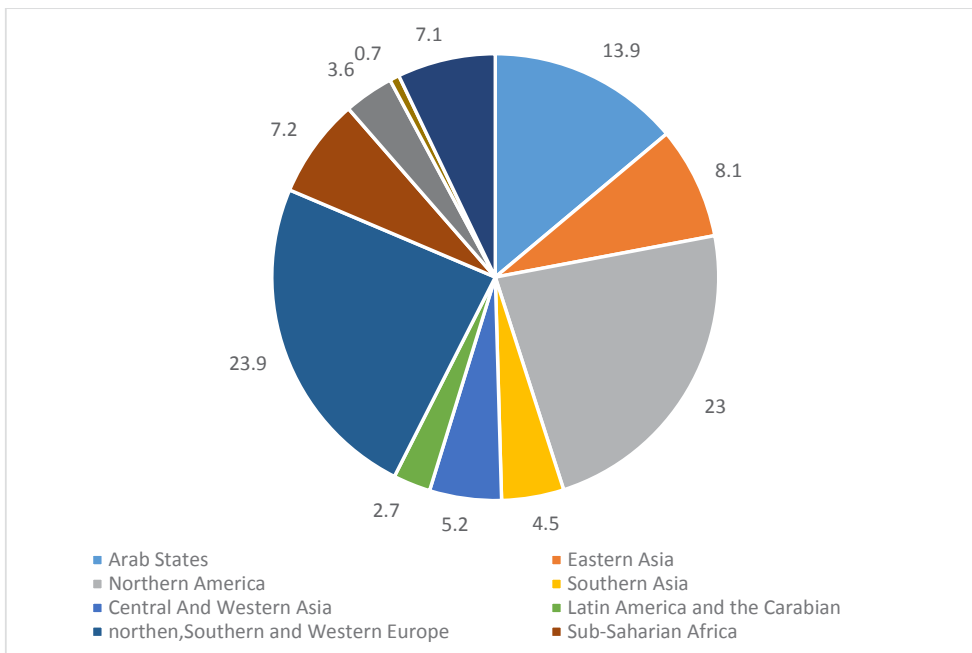


Chart 23: Geographical distribution of migrant workers in 2017  
Source: (ILO, 2018)



Chart 16 reveals that around 68% (111 million people) of the migrant workers resided in high-income countries, 47 million people (29%) in middle-income countries, and 5.6 million people, which equals 3.4%, resided in low-income coun-

tries in 2017 (IMO, 2020). This indicates the significance of economic indicators, specifically the income gap between the origin and destination countries, on motivating labour migration.

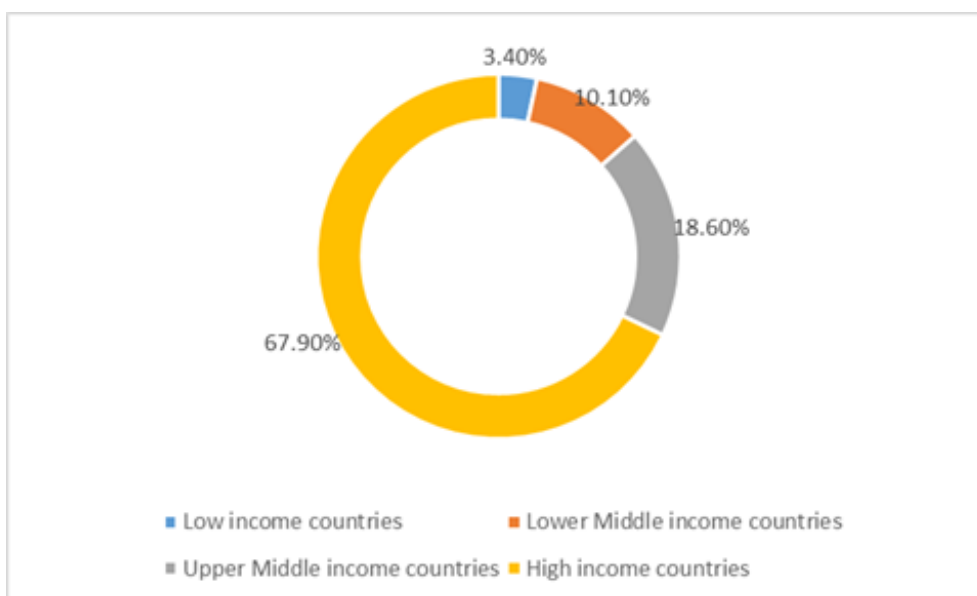


Chart 24: Labour Migrant by income level of countries in 2017  
Source: (ILO, 2018)

This trend had 7% decrease in labour migration to high-income countries from 75% to 68% and a 7% increase in labor migration to middle-income countries from 22% to 29% from 2013 to 2017. This might be due to the change in the labor market, economic growth of developing countries, or change in the policy approaches of high-income countries about

migrant workers (ILO, 2018).

Despite the recent improvements of income rates, the labour migrants' share out of the total income of all working groups is insignificant and about 1.9% in low-income countries, 1.4% in lower-income countries, and 2.2% in middle-income countries. But the same number has reached its peak in high-income countries at 18.5%.

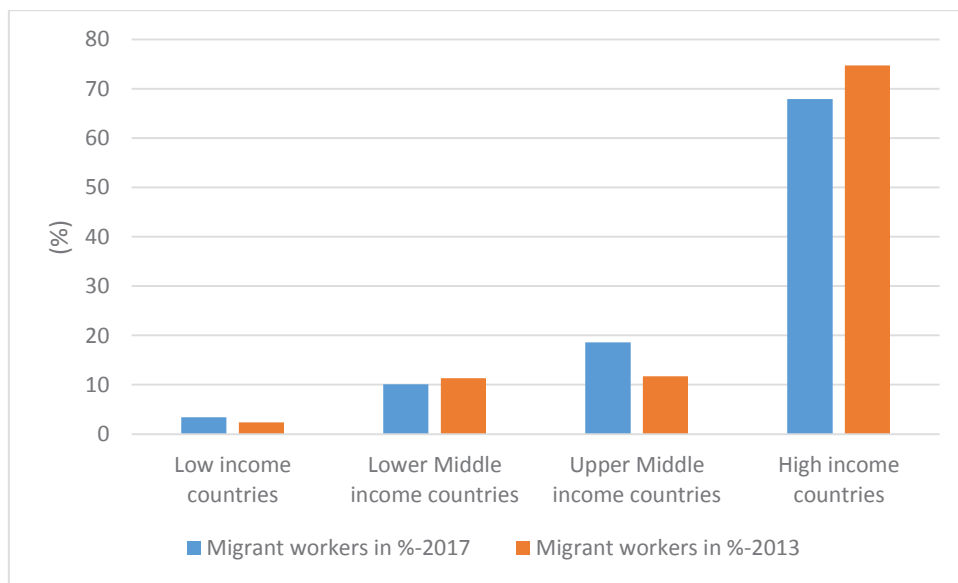


Chart 25: Migrant workers, ratios by income level of countries, (2013 and 2017)

Source: (ILO, 2018)

### 1.2.2. Gender Structure of the Migrant Workers in the World

The number of the male migrant workers were about 28 million higher than female migrant workers in 2017 (96 million male migrant workers (58%) and 68 million female migrant workers (42%)). Regarding the migrants in working age

(aged 15-65), the population of men still surpasses women, which is 127 million (54%) versus 107 million (46%). This trend indicates a slight change in the gender structure of migrants in working since 2013 when the composition of the labour migrant population was 56% male versus 44% female (IOM,2020).

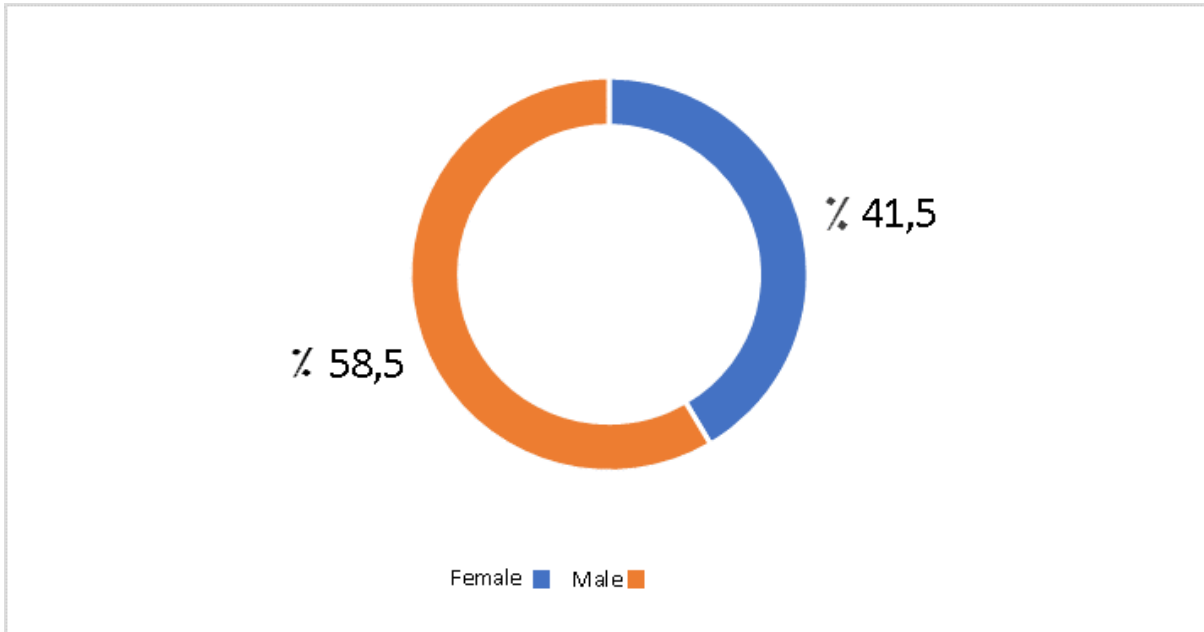


Chart 26: Gender distribution of the global labour migrant population in 2017  
Source: (IOM, 2020)

### 1.2.3. Economic Migration Trends in Asia

40% of the global migration in 2019, equal to 111 million individuals, occurred among Asians. Therefore, Asia is the largest continent of origin of international migrants. More than half of these Asian migrants (66 million) have migrated to other Asian countries. Most of the Asian migrant workers who migrated to other Asian countries are unskilled or semi-skilled workers such as laborers (for instance, construction workers), maids, and caregivers, while high-skilled Asian migrants tend to migrate to developed countries outside of Asia.

International migration has been one of the most significant factors of population changes in Asia, specifically in the Persian Gulf states that are attractive destinations to numerous migrant workers from inside and outside of Asia. The Arab states are among the most important and attractive destination countries for

migrant workers who intend to be recruited in key sectors. For instance, migrant workers make up 95% of the construction labour force and domestic workers in the Persian Gulf states. Labour migration to Arab states increased by 5% from 2013 to 2017, mainly in the construction sector and other manual jobs.

Labour migration brought significant transformation in the population of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The populations of these countries— except Saudi Arabia and Oman — are mainly made up of immigrants. A large number of Eastern African labour migrants immigrate to these regions. 3.3 million of Northern African labour migrants also reside in the Persian Gulf states. Still, Asians accounted for 3.3 million labour migrants entering the GCC countries by 2017, which has decreased by 528,000 people in 2015 (IOM Regional Office, 2016).

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia, with 1.4 mil-





lion, and the UAE with 773,000 immigrants, have been the most popular destination countries for Asian migrants. Arab migrants from Lebanon, Egypt, and Syria make up a major part of the immigrants residing in the GCC countries with wide

variety of skills from the lowest skill levels to specialists such as physicians and engineers. This is induced by the high linguistic and cultural compatibility between origin countries and destination countries in the region.

Table 15: Population and nationality of immigrants in GCC countries (Thousands)

Sending Countries								
GCC countries	Philippines	India	Pakistan	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh	Indonesia	Total
Saudi Arabia	419	79	143	73	38	551	6	1.309
The United Arab Emirate	251	150	275	58	37	4	2	777
Qatar	129	25	12	121	57	82	1	426
Oman	25	53	42	3	9	89	1	223
Kuwait	100	56	1	13	37	50	1	258
Bahrain	20	10	8	4	3	19	0	64
<b>Total 2017</b>	943	347	481	272	180	795	11	3.057
<b>Total 2016</b>	1.043	507	822	331	208	572	20	3.497

Source: (Gulf Research Center, 2018)

The immigrants' share out of the population in 2019 was 88% in the UAE, 72% in Kuwait, 79% in Qatar, and 45% in Bahrain, a majority of whom had migrated from South and Southeast Asia and Africa (IOM, 2020).

Over 3 million Asians immigrated to the Persian Gulf States to find a better job. Around 3.2 million Asians resided in these six Gulf States during 2017. This number had a decrease of 10% compared to 2016 which could be justified through the drop in the crude oil price, adopting policies to decrease the population of international labour forces, and regional geopolitical issues. The drop in oil price from 2014 to 2018 resulted in a notable decrease in the investments made in the

private sector and infrastructures, sectors that used to be the biggest attraction for immigrants.

The most intense drop in the population of international immigrants occurred in Oman, which reduced to one-third of its former size in 2017, around 225,000 immigrants. The next country is Bahrain, that underwent a 45% decrease compared to 2016 to 66,000 immigrants in 2017. Saudi Arabia experienced a drop of 7% in 2016 and 2017 and attracted about 1.32 million migrant workers (Asian Development Bank, 2019).

The ratio of nationals to immigrants highlights the importance of international labor migration flows in these countries.

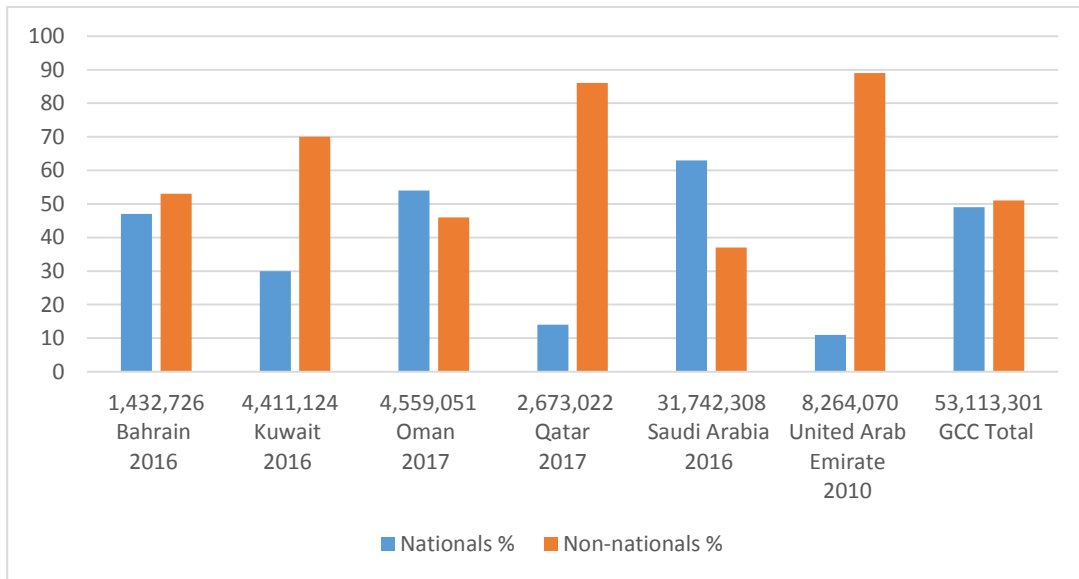


Chart 27: Percentage of nationals and non-nationals in GCC countries' populations (latest year available, (2010-2016)

Source: (Gulf Research Center, 2018)

Work migration with economic intentions make up a major part of international mobility in Asia and Southern and Western Asian regions. The Arab states are the destination for international low- and medium-skilled migrants and the origin of international students. Central Asian and Eurasian countries with zero and negative net migration rate<sup>1</sup> are mainly the origin of labor migration to Europe and Russia. Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria have also sent a large number of study, work, and asylum-seeking migrants to different parts of the world for several years. Meanwhile, Iran is both sending and receiving migrants and has a total balance of about zero in this regard. Among various migration flows in the region, Iran must take advantage of the human resource flows through proper planning for the structure

and characteristics of the migrants and its short-term and middle-term goals.

Generally, over 99.6 million people (61 %) out of the total migrant workers reside in Northern America, South, Western and Northern Europe, and the GCC countries. Meanwhile, the most significant destinations for Asian labour migrants are Southern Asia (with 1.3 million female and 6 million male immigrants) and the Arab countries (with 3.6 million female and 19.1 million male immigrants) (IMO, 2020). Besides, the GCC and ASEAN countries, as well as the OECD region, are the most significant destinations for Asian migrant workers. Flow of Asian immigrant citizens to OECD countries are about 2 million in 2016; this flow has constantly been increasing since 2010, so that it has double compared to 2000.

1. Net migration rate: (migrant(s)/ 1,000 population)

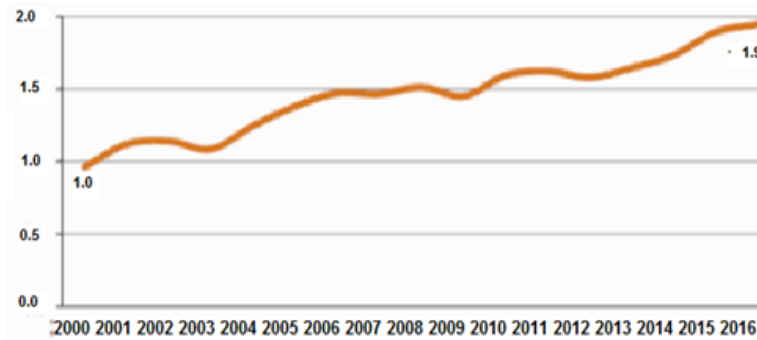


Chart 28: Migrant flow from Asia to OECD (2000-2016)  
Source: (DIOC, 2017)

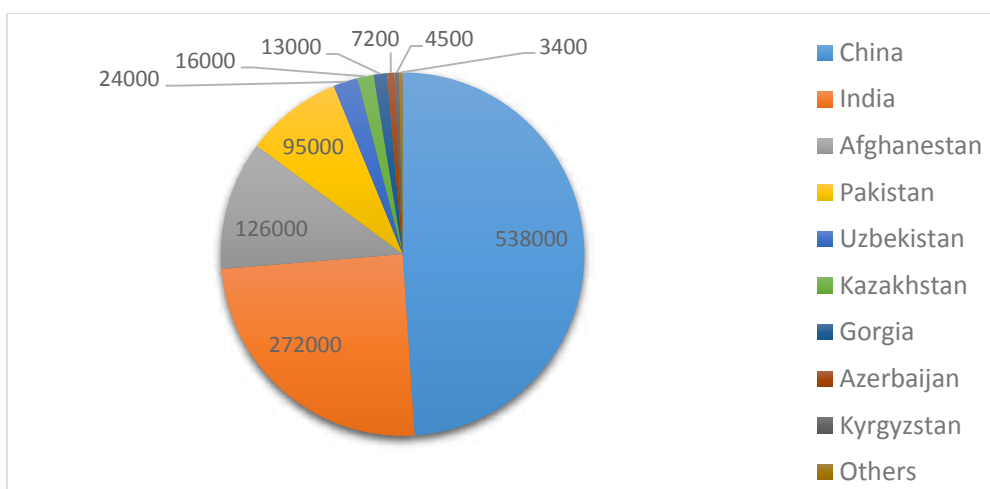


Chart 29: Migrant workers from Asia in OECD countries (2016)  
Source: (DIOC, 2017)

### 1.2.4. Remittance Flows

Economic migration could have significant benefits for migrants, their families, and their countries of origin. For instance, in low and lower-income countries, migration results in one's income to become 15 times larger, doubled school attraction rate, and a 16 times reduction in child mortality rates after migration to a developed country.

Remittance sent by migrants to their countries of origin is the most remarkable economic income in many countries. Additionally, it surpassed the amount of direct foreign investment and international development aids in many developing

countries. Therefore, there is increased attention paid to labour migration for economic growth in the developing countries (UN Women, 2017).

Official statistics on remittances report lower amounts of remittances are being transferred internationally compared to the reality. Still, available statistics indicates an increase in the amount of these remittances over the past decade from 126 billion dollars in 2000 to 689 billion dollars in 2018. In only one year, these remittances have grown by 9% from 633 billion dollars in 2016 to 689 billion dollars in 2018 (IOM, 2020).

The three major recipients of remittanc-

es in 2018 were India, with 78.6 billion dollars, China, with 67.4 billion dollars, and Mexico with 35.7 billion dollars. The next is the Philippines and Egypt (IOM, 2020). The countries with the highest remittances stock out of their GDP in 2018 include Tonga with 35.2%, Kyrgyzstan with 33.6%, Tajikistan with 31%, Haiti with 30.7%, and Nepal with 28% (World Bank, 2019). It is worth noting that China, have been among the first two receivers of remittances and has joined the top ten countries of sending remittances since 2015. However, this country had a decrease in the amount of remittance from 20.49 billion dollars in 2015 to 16.18 billion dollars in 2018 (IOM, 020).

High-income countries are generally the main source of these remittances. The US

has been the major remittance sender for decades. The largest amounts of remittances sent from destination countries in 2018 were from the US, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland with respective amounts of 68 billion, 44.4 billion, 36,1 billion, and 26.6 billion dollars. The fifth highest country of sending remittances in 2017 and 2018 was Germany with a 20.29 billion-dollar official remittances outflow and 22.09 billion dollars estimated remittances outflow. Germany is both one of the most significant countries in remittance outflow and one of the top 10 remittance inflow countries (IOM, 2020). Tables 16 and 17 indicate the inflow and outflow of remittances among the top ten sending and receiving countries of remittance.

Table 16: Top 10 countries with most remittance inflows (USD Billion)

2005		2010		2015		2017	
China	23.63	India	53.48	India	68.91	India	78.61
Mexico	22.74	China	52.46	China	63.94	China	67.41
India	22.13	Mexico	22.07	Philippines	29.8	Mexico	35.66
Nigeria	14.64	Philippines	21.56	Mexico	26.23	Philippines	33.83
France	14.21	France	19.9	France	24.06	Egypt	28.92
Philippines	13.73	Nigeria	19.75	Nigeria	21.16	France	26.43
Belgium	6.89	Germany	12.79	Pakistan	19.31	Nigeria	24.31
Germany	6.87	Egypt	12.45	Egypt	18.33	Pakistan	21.01
Spain	6.66	Bangladesh	10.85	Germany	15.81	Germany	17.36
Poland	6.47	Belgium	10.35	Bangladesh	15.3	Vietnam	15.93

Source: (IOM, 2020)

Table 17: Top 10 countries with most remittance outflows (2005-2017) (USD Billion)

2005		2010		2015		2017	
USA	47.25	USA	50.78	USA	61.86	USA	67.96
Saudi Arabia	14.30	Saudi Arabia	27.07	United Arab Emirates	40.33	United Arab Emirates	44.37
Germany	12.71	Russia	21.45	Saudi Arabia	38.79	Saudi Arabia	36.12
Switzerland	10.52	Switzerland	17.76	Switzerland	25.40	Switzerland	26.6
England	9.64	Germany	14.68	China	20.42	Germany	22.09
France	9.48	Italy	12.89	Russia	29.69	Russia	20.61
South Korea	6.9	France	12.03	Germany	18.3	China	16.18
Russia	6.83	Kuwait	11.86	Kuwait	15.2	Kuwait	13.76
Luxemburg	6.7	Luxemburg	10.65	France	12.79	China	13.5
Malaysia	5.68	United Arab Emirates	10.57	Qatar	12.19	South Korea	12.89

Source: (IOM, 2020)

Chart 30 shows the inflow of remittances in the world compared to low-income and middle-income countries. Generally, 67%

to 77% of remittance inflow belonged to low-income and middle-income countries (World Bank, 2020).

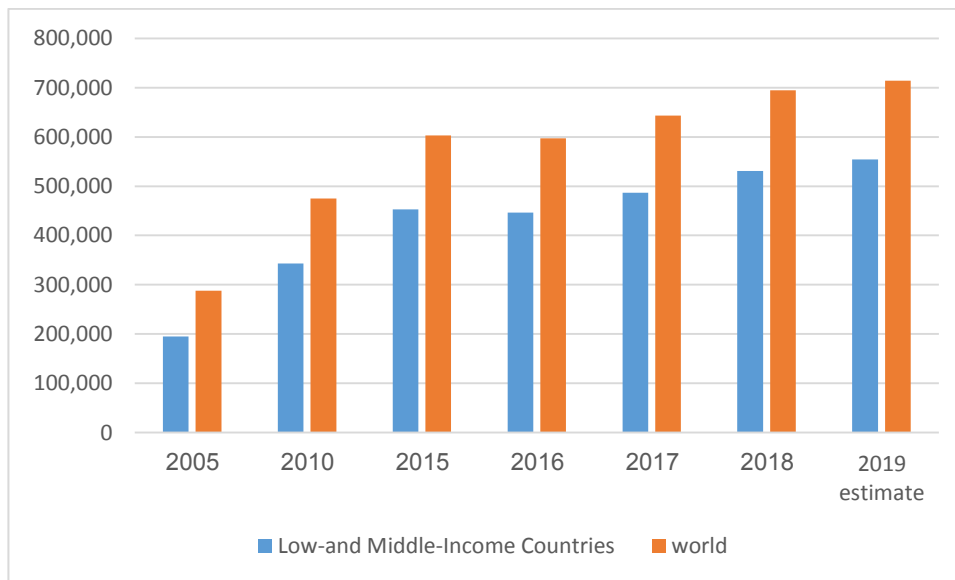


Chart 30: Migrant remittance inflows from the world and low and middle income countries (USD million) (2005-2019)  
Source: (World Bank, 2020)

It is worth mentioning that the remittances inflow to Asian countries accelerated significantly from 2000 to 2014 and

reached 268 billion dollars in 2017. The highest population of labour migrants from South Asia have had a destination

in the GCC countries to achieve a higher income and better job opportunities. South Asia is among the most significant destinations in the world. In 2018, India had a revenue of 79 billion dollars from the remittance inflows. These remittances make up about 5% of the annual GDP in countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka (World Bank, 2020).

The growth of remittance inflows in 2019 has ranged from around 7% in East Asia and Oceania to 12% in South Asia. This range is due to the better economic and business environments for migrants in the US, and the resurgence of migration flows aimed at GCC countries and the Russian federation. Other low- and mid-

dle-income countries had higher remittance inflows (462 billion dollars) compared to the direct foreign investments in their countries (344 billion dollars) in 2018, except China. Countries depending on remittances inflow, such as Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, have also benefited from the recent growth in the economic activities of Russia (World Bank, 2019).

Chart 31 indicates the top 10 countries with the most remittance outflows in Asia in 2018. The UAE ranks first with around 44 billion dollars, which is more than 1% of its annual GDP. The highest share of GDP in this regard belongs to Oman, with 1.3%.

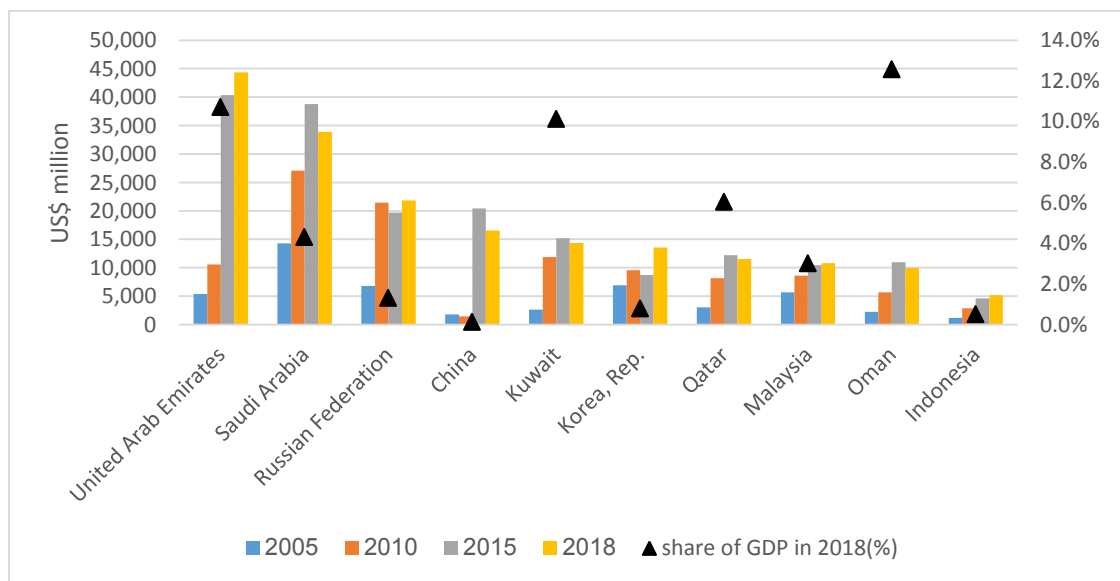


Chart 31: Top ten Asian countries with most migrant remittance outflows (USD million) and as a percentage of their GDPs (2005-2019)

Source: (WorldBank, 2020)

Chart 32 presents the top 10 Asian countries with the most remittance inflows. These remittance inflows have almost quadrupled in India from 2005 to 2019 and have constantly been increasing in other countries as well.

The highest share of remittance inflow out of a GDP of a country belongs to Nepal, which makes up 2.7% of its GDP. The next countries are the Philippines with 1% and Egypt with 0.9%.

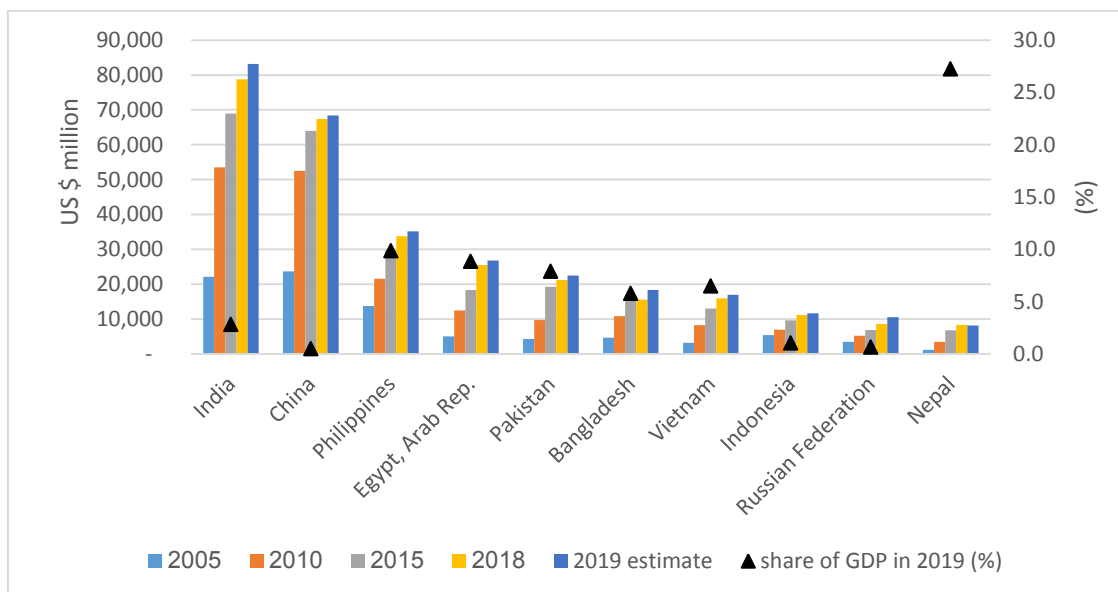


Chart 32: Top ten Asian countries with most migrant remittance inflows (USD million) and as a percentage of their GDPs (2005-2019)

Source: (World Bank, 2020)

Despite estimations in 2019 for an increase in the amount of remittance in 2020, the economic impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak on the global economy - specifically immigrants - prevented the estimation of international organizations such as the World Bank. While the World Bank had estimated a 4.4% increase in the remittances for 2020, it has reevaluated its estimations in April 2020 and has predicted the remittances drop by 20% due to the economic transformations as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak from 714 billion dollars to 572 billion dollars. This means a 19.7 % decrease in the amount of remittances inflows to low-income and middle-income countries (World Bank, 2020).

## 1.3 Asylum-Seeking Migration Trends in the World

### 1.3.1 Forced Migration and Asylum-Seeking Trends in the World

By the end of 2019, a total of 79.5 million people from all around the world have been forced to leave their countries of origin. 26 million of refugees existed around the world by the end of 2019, 20.4 million of whom have been registered under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and 5.6 million Palestinian refugees have been registered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The total number of refugees residing all around the world is currently at its peak. Additionally, about 4.2 million people are also seeking international support and waiting for confirmation of the refugee status who are

referred to as asylum-seekers. Also, 3.6 million Venezuelan people have been straggled in other countries by the end of 2019. Besides, 45.7 million people have become straggled inside the borders of their own countries of origin by the end of 2019, who are referred to as national displaced persons (UNHCR, 2020b).

Two million asylum-seeking applications have been registered in governments or through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2019. Out of the total of 2 million new asylum-seeking applications issued in 2019, the United States has been the first asylum-seeking destination with 301,000 applications which shows an increasing trend compared to 2018 (254,300 new applications). Unlike the previous increasing trend of asylum-seeking in the United States, this trend has become a decreasing one during 2013-2016. Peru is the second country with the largest number of new asylum-seeking application in 2019 which has received 259,800 new asylum-seekers. The next countries of this list include Germany (with 142,500 new asylum-seeking applications), France (with 123,900 new asylum-seeking applications), and Spain (with 118,300 new asylum-seeking applications), respectively. A total of 5.6 million of the international displaced people (including 5.3 million internally displaced people and 317,200 refugees) have returned to their homes in 2019. According to a report published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, people under the age of 18 amounted to about 40% of the 79.5 million population of internally displaced people by the end of 2019. Also, developed countries have been hosts to about

85% of the refugees in the world plus Venezuelan displaced people, and less developed countries have been hosting to around 27% of this population by the end of 2019. In total, 73% of the global refugees and displaced Venezuelan people reside in their neighboring countries (UNHCR, 2020b).

Among the refugees under the care of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by the end of 2019, around two thirds (68%) are from the Arabian Republic of Syria, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Myanmar, and South Sudan with a population of around 16.3 million people. Constant civil conflict in Syria has led this country to maintain its position as the number one origin of international refugees with 6.6 million asylum-seeking populations. The instability and violence that has been going on in Afghanistan for over 30 years has also turned this country to one of the major refugee origin countries with 2.7 million refugees, which falls third after Syrian refugees and Venezuelan displaced population (3.7 million people) in terms of the number of refugees. The following chart indicates the number of immigrants from the top 10 emigration origin countries in the years 2010 and 2019. Around 30,000 Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in 2010. On the other hand, this country was also the third biggest refugee-accepting country in the world which was host to mainly Iraqi refugees (IOM, 2020). Moreover, there were more than 6.6 million Syrian refugees in other countries in 2019 that makes it the first rank. Also, although its number of refugees has not changed significantly, Afghanistan which used to be the top origin country of refugees in 2010, was demoted to the third position in 2019.





Table 18: Top 10 origin countries of internationally displaced people (2010 & 2019)

2010		2019	
Afghanistan	3,054,700	Syria	6,617,000
Iraq	1,683,600	Venezuela	3,675,500
Somalia	770,200	Afghanistan	2,728,900
Congo	476,700	South Sudan	2,234,800
Myanmar	415,700	Myanmar	1,078,300
Colombia	395,600	Somalia	905,100
Sudan	387,300	Congo	807,400
Vietnam	338,700	Sudan	734,900
Eritrea	222,500	central Africa	610,200
China	184,600	Eritrea	505,100

Source: (UNHCR, 2020b)

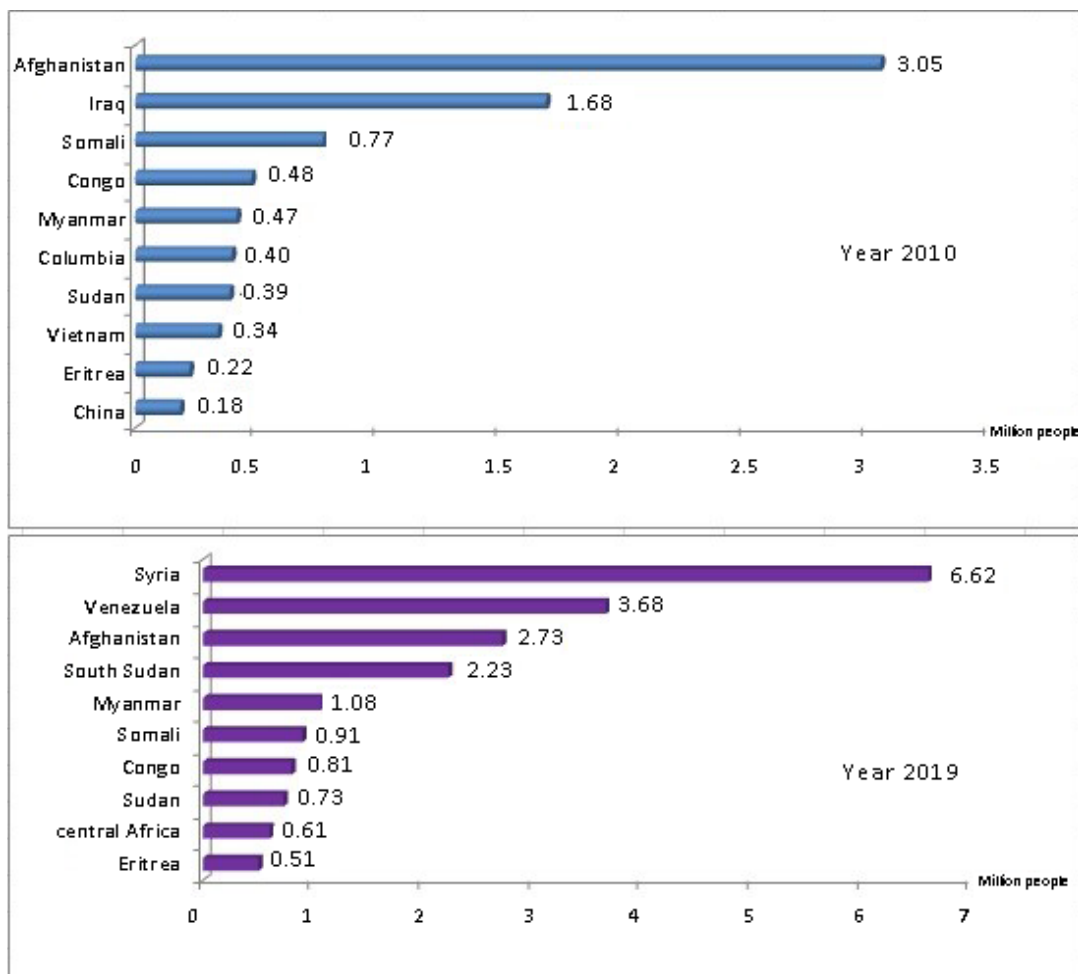


Chart 33: 10 main origin countries of internationally displaced people (2010 & 2019)

Source: (UNHCR, 2020b)

For the sixth consequent year in 2019, Turkey was the biggest refugee host in the world with 3.6 million refugees who were mainly Syrian. Along with the significant increase of Syrians' share out of the total international refugees, two of Syria's neighboring countries – Jordan and Lebanon - also made it to the list of top 10 refugee receiving countries.

Among this list, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan are the two major destination countries for Afghan refugees (the second biggest refugee-sending country in the world). Uganda, Germany, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh are also among the countries having received the biggest numbers of refugees. Colombia also joined the list of top refugee-hosting countries in 2019 due to hosting 1.8 million Venezuelan displaced people. According to report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (in 2020), Colombia has ranked second hosting ref-

ugees in the world since 2019. Although, the status of Venezuelan refugees is not registered as refugees under the Convention 1951, and so Colombia hosting to around 1.8 million Venezuelan refugees. In hosting refugees in this country Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda, Sudan, Germany, Iran and Lebanon have hosted the most refugees in the world, respectively in 2019.

According to the report, Iran has been the 7<sup>th</sup> refugee-hosting of the world in 2019 (taking Colombia's adoption of Venezuelan displaced people into account). Top 10 destination countries for refugees in the years 2010 and 2019 are displayed in the following table. Iran was host to around 974,000 refugees in 2005 which has almost stayed the same in 2019. Germany was the 5<sup>th</sup> biggest refugee-receiving country in 2019, with around 1.1 million refugees residing in it.

Table 19: Top 10 destination-countries of refugees in 2010 and 2019

2010		2019	
Pakistan	1,900,600	Turkey	3,579,500
Iran	1,073,400	Colombia	1,771,900
Syria	1,005,500	Pakistan	1,419,600
Germany	594,300	Uganda	1,359,500
Jordan	450,900	Germany	1,146,700
Kenya	402,900	Sudan	1,055,500
Chad	347,900	Iran	979,400
China	301,000	Lebanon	916,200
USA	264,600	Bangladesh	854,800
Britain	238,200	Ethiopia	733,100

Source: (UNHCR, 2020b)

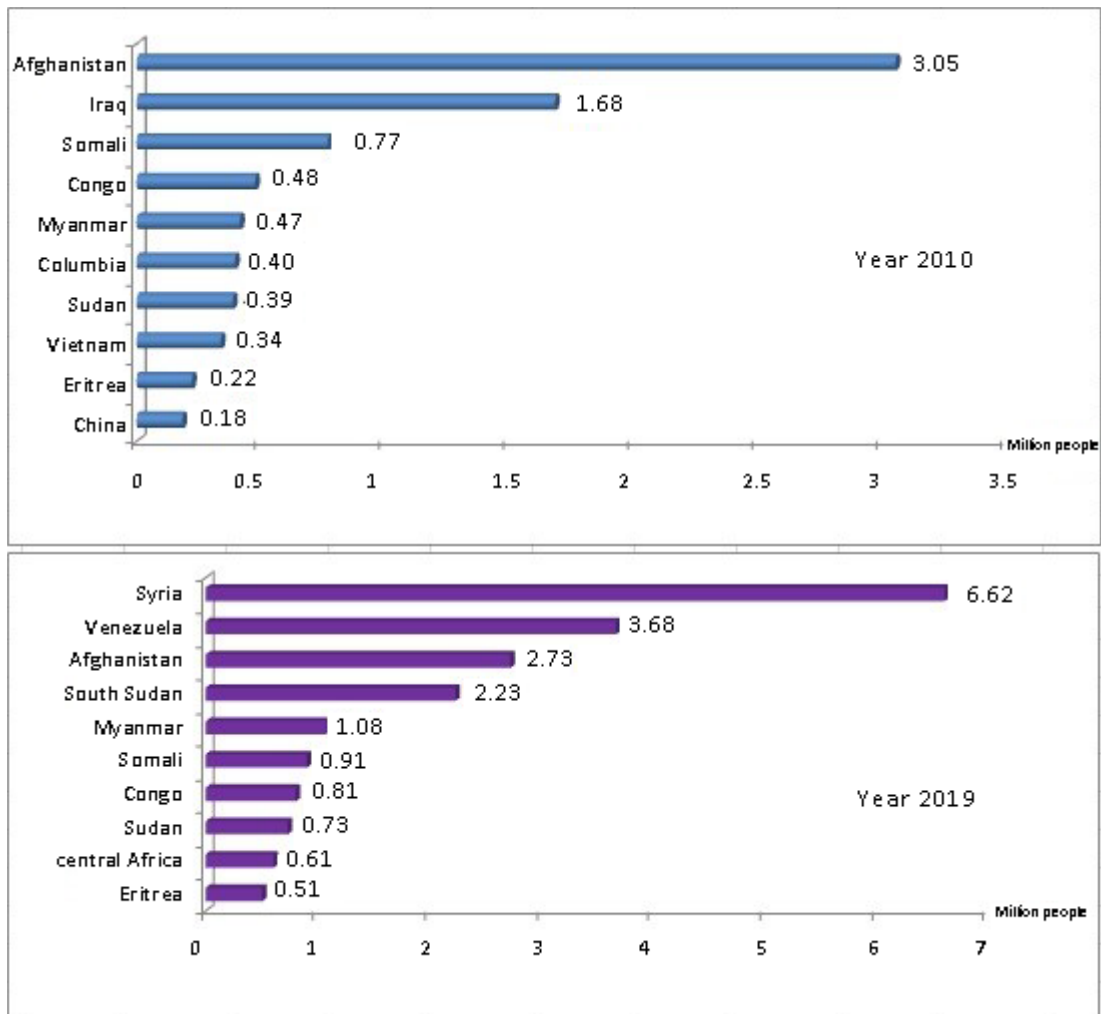


Chart 34: Top 10 destination-countries of refugees in 2010 and 2019

Source: (UNHCR, 2020b)

For the sixth consequent year in 2019, Turkey was the biggest refugee host in the world with 3.6 million refugees who were mainly Syrian. Along with the significant increase of Syrians' share out of the total international refugees, two of Syria's neighboring countries –Jordan and Lebanon - also made it to the list of top 10 refugee receiving countries. Among this list, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan are the two major destination countries for Afghan refugees (the second biggest refugee-sending country in the world). Uganda, Germany, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh are also among the countries

having received the biggest numbers of refugees. Colombia also joined the list of top refugee-hosting countries in 2019 due to hosting 1.8 million Venezuelan displaced people. According to report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (in 2020), Colombia has ranked second hosting refugees in the world since 2019. Although, the status of Venezuelan refugees is not registered as refugees under the Convention 1951, and so Colombia hosting to around 1.8 million Venezuelan refugees. In hosting refugees in this country Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda, Sudan, Germany, Iran and Lebanon have hosted the

most refugees in the world, respectively in 2019.

According to the report, Iran has been the 7<sup>th</sup> refugee-hosting of the world in 2019 (taking Colombia's adoption of Venezuelan displaced people into account). Top 10 destination countries for refugees

in the years 2010 and 2019 are displayed in the following table. Iran was host to around 974,000 refugees in 2005 which has almost stayed the same in 2019. Germany was the 5<sup>th</sup> biggest refugee-receiving country in 2019 with around 1.1 million refugees residing in it.

Table 20: Asylum-seekers and refugees sent and hosted by top 10 Asian countries in 2018

Country	Sent			Hosted		
	Refugee	Asylum-seeker	Total	Refugee	Asylum-seeker	Total
Syria	6,654,339	139,534	6,793,873	18,802	18,625	37,427
Turkey	68,797	42,869	111,666	3,681,658	311,682	3,993,340
Afghanistan	2,681,232	310,094	2,991,326	72,228	282	72,510
Pakistan	132,219	75,315	207,534	1,404,008	5,172	1,409,180
Iran	129,901	87,342	217,243	979,435	33	979,468
Myanmar	1,145,144	30,434	1,175,578	0	0	0
Bangladesh	20,988	58,816	79,804	906,635	39	906,674
Lebanon	5,591	8,023	13,614	949,653	16,386	966,039
Iraq	372,312	256,687	628,999	283,013	13,993	297,006
Jordan	2,401	4,097	6,498	715,293	52,514	767,807

Source: (UNHCR, 2020) Retrieved January 5, 2020; Available at: [http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/persons\\_of\\_concern](http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/persons_of_concern)

\*: by refugee and asylum-seeker population, we mean the total people in the status of refuge or asylum-seeking in the country, not the new asylum-seekers and refugees.

The relocation of hundreds of refugees from countries extremely damaged by violence and conflict is among the interesting features of the recent migration flows in Countries of East Asia. Over 500 refugees from Yemen entered the Jeju Island in South Korea in 2018, which was originally supposed to attract tourists. The arrival of Yemeni refugees started a widespread international dialogue and some

anti-migration sentiments in a country that has not historically been much of a host to asylum-seekers. South Korea has not historically been among the destination countries for people in international support demand (except in some cases during the era of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea). China and South Korea became host to around 600,000 and 20,000 asylum-seekers, respectively, by the end of 2017.

Based on the statistics on the total number of hosting and sending refugees in Asian countries, the largest refugee-sending countries are Syria, Afghanistan, and

Myanmar which shown the blue in the following chart. Also, top refugee-host-

ing countries are Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, and Lebanon shown red in the chart.

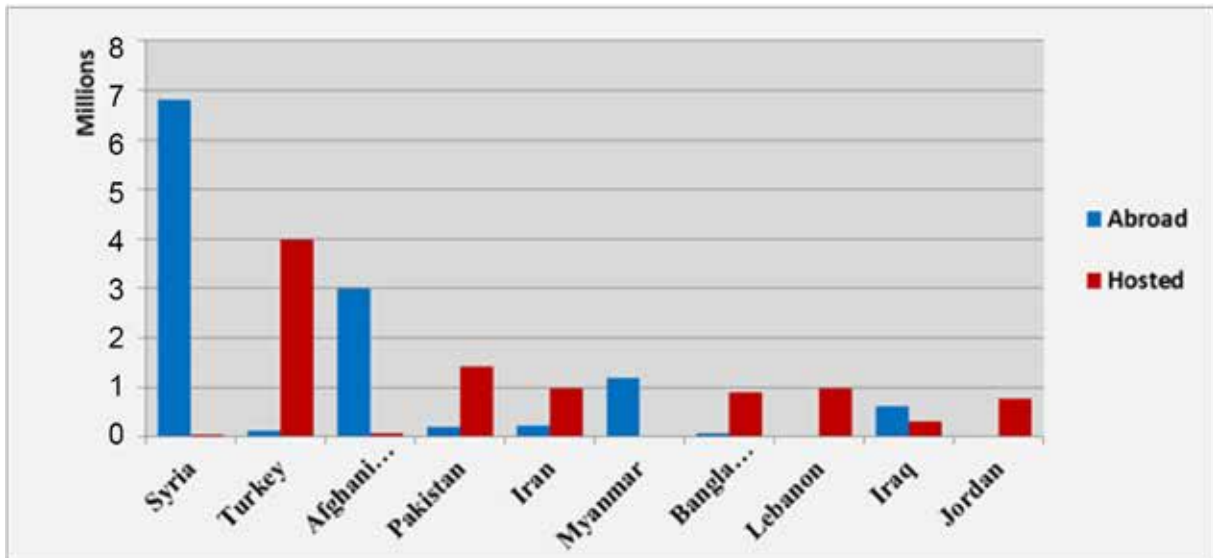
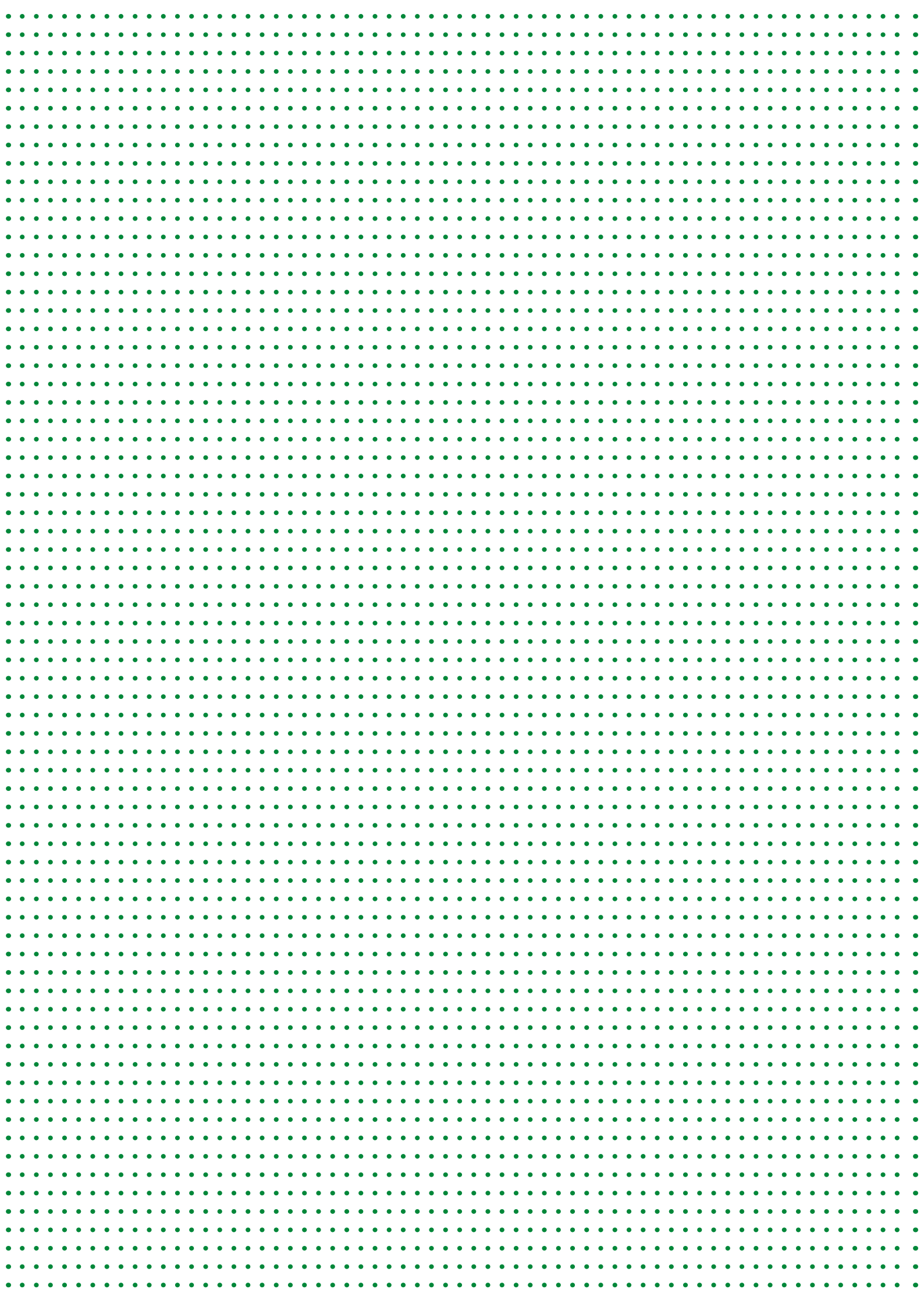


Chart 35: Total number of refugees hosted and sent in top 10 Asian countries, 2018  
Source: (UNHCR, 2020) Retrieved January 5, 2020

# 2 An Overview of Iranian Diaspora in the World



I r a n M i g r a t i o n O u t l o o k 2 0 2 0







There are different statistics about the population of migrants according to various criteria in the world. Various international organizations tend to provide and publish statistics on the population of migrants in different countries, including the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the World Bank.

The UN has paid significant efforts to provide a unified definition for migrants and creates a common and generalizable framework for addressing migration-related issues among the countries. According to the UN, an international migrant is “*any person who changes his or her country of usual residence*” (UN, 1998). The country of usual residence is also used in various frameworks, including the balance of payments, national accounts, international investments, and international advice on tourism statistics.

For the purpose of defining the usual residence of an enumerated person at the time of the census, a similar approach was adopted using the actual or intended duration of stay of the person, although two thresholds for the duration of stay were provided. More specifically, countries are recommended to use one of the

following two criteria when considering a person’s place of usual residence (United Nations, 2015b, paras. 2.48-2.50):

**a.** “The place at which the person has lived continuously for most of the last 12 months (that is, for at least six months and one day), not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months;”

**b.** “The place at which the person has lived continuously for at least the last 12 months, not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments), or intends to live for at least 12 months.” (UN, 2017)

The first definition is more useful for determining a person’s place of stay inside the national borders of a country and the second –which has been used in the aforementioned frameworks- is better for determining a person’s status of international migration (UN, 2017)

The definition of an international migrant proposed by the United Nations is therefore as follows:

“Long-term migrant is a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the

country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence (UN, 1998)”.

Population censuses ask mainly about a person’s country of birth or citizenship, while the number of foreign-born or the number of foreign citizens is, therefore, one of the sources for determining the migrant population. The migrant population usually yields different statistics, whether the place of birth or citizenship is considered. However, in a number of countries such as the United States, demographic statistics are also gathered based on the ancestry of the population. The United Nations has provided international migrant stock by the country of origin and destination country of 132 countries of the 232 countries and territories. Data on the rest of the countries is presented based on citizenship, or a combination of citizenship and country of birth based on the aggregate data on refugees and asylum seekers obtained from the UNHCR and UNRWA databases.

Top 20 countries with the largest number of Iranian populations are indicated in table 21 based on the data from the United Nations’ International migrant

stock database. As stated earlier, data on the immigrants in these countries have been provided based on their country of birth, except in the case of Iranians residing in Turkey. In the case of Turkey, the number of refugees as reported by UNHCR, was added to the estimate of international migrants. It is worth noting that the data of some countries including Iran’s neighbor countries is not available in the database of the United Nations. The following table (Table 21) indicating the number of Iranian migrants in top destination countries has been obtained from the Bilateral Migration Matrix published by the World Bank and illustrates that some of the countries whose data is unavailable in UN database are host to the large numbers of Iranian migrants.

According to the data on Bilateral Migration Matrix<sup>1</sup> of the World Bank, which utilizes various sources to aggregate its data, the population of Iranian migrants in different countries and top destination countries are not similar to the UN international migration stock. However, the data on the Iranian migrants in some periods are unavailable in this database; for instance, the population of Iranian mi-

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1. Bilateral Migration Matrix (BMM)

Table 21: Iranian migrants around the world (top 20 host countries with the most Iranian migrant stock, UN)

rank	Countries	Iranian population in the World (1990-2019)						
		1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019
	World	631,339	746,894	831,372	889,941	989,560	1,171,364	1,301,975
1	United States of America	210,941	250,390	290,417	314,199	348,249	394,223	403,136
2	Canada	29,467	51,266	74,284	95,395	120,685	153,473	164,463
3	Germany	95,723	100,027	104,331	108,310	111,268	115,936	127,177
4	United Kingdom	31,563	36,022	41,087	58,694	61,831	79,072	89,794
5	Turkey	23,816	13,188	13,427	14,397	14,728	39,332	83,183
6	Sweden	40,154	47,650	51,101	54,470	62,120	69,067	79,308
7	Australia	17,599	19,260	21,360	26,720	36,480	61,690	73,002
8	Israel	47,785	51,220	51,786	50,950	50,732	52,322	50,881
9	Netherlands	5,187	12,357	19,921	24,051	25,486	29,405	33,819
10	France	23,359	24,114	24,869	20,643	21,399	23,705	25,091
11	Norway	5,198	7,055	8,857	11,637	13,086	16,222	18,707
12	Austria	8,535	9,629	10,723	11,986	13,249	15,495	18,291
13	Denmark	8,022	9,753	11,483	12,029	12,352	14,689	17,716
14	Italy	19,096	14,034	8,971	11,701	14,360	14,925	17,059
15	Iraq	14,976	44,953	42,602	17,396	17,568	14,406	14,753
16	Switzerland	4,686	5,372	6,078	6,953	8,030	11,562	12,998
17	Belgium	3,157	2,480	1,731	4,445	8,569	10,554	11,399
18	Finland	558	1,160	1,762	3,040	5,101	7,225	9,137
19	Armenia	9,654	10,242	11,205	7,411	6,172	8,135	8,090
20	Spain	1,771	2,159	3,477	4,212	4,920	5,888	6,100

Source: (UNDESA,2020)

Table 22: Iranian migrants around the world (top 20 host countries with the most Iranian migrant stock, the World Bank)

		1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2013	2017
1	United States of America	7294	5761	134447	229109	294355	82	393,414	386,073
2	Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	108,632	140,318
3	Germany	7246	13586	35952	66008	108486	-	158,901	119,000
4	United Kingdom	4640	577	28735	33236	72672	351,685	75,773	77,000
5	Sweden	113	403	3337	37842	50537	5,930	67,211	69,067
6	Australia	108	180	3538	12461	18514	29,116	36,090	55,650
7	Kuwait	19453	46502	75133	12408	11717	98,302	46,419	46,419
8	Israel	44782	53211	59753	53077	58326	76,259	53,236	45,170
9	Turkey	5077	6286	6315	10341	13096	-	19,187	36,226
10	Qatar	646	3271	6628	2984	3401	255	30,000	30,000
11	Netherlands	4	788	2180	6280	22013	-	28,079	29,670
12	France	14380	1438	12867	18844	24260	-	23,065	23,134
13	Austria	307	7275	7955	8817	8369	14,976	15,110	19,796
14	Norway	13	63	193	5269	9045	-	15,876	16,535
15	Italy	1176	4504	21054	18084	9000	8,989	13,115	15,730
16	Iraq	31419	21455	15104	13305	1923	8,639	15,611	15,611
17	Denmark	109	101	448	8713	11172	-	13,727	15,550
18	Belgium	106	920	1167	1840	945	5,291	7,128	10,833
19	Switzerland	1049	1256	3202	1131	4226	-	9,218	10,142
20	Malaysia	-	36	107	342	542	-	9,817	9,817

Source: (World Bank, 2020)

grants in the UAE in 2017 is not included. Still, the registered data in the World Bank database indicates that the population of Iranian migrants in the UAE was 412,400 in 2013 and 454,000 people in 2018, according to data registered in UAE national databases (Global Media insight, 2020). Therefore, it appears that UAE might be a host of more Iranian migrants than the US.

Table 21 indicates the top 20 host countries with the most Iranian migrant stock according to the UN, and Table 22 indicates the same countries based on BMM of the World Bank<sup>1</sup>.

Given that Iranian immigrants' statistics in the UAE were published in 2013 - but

no statistics were provided in 2017 – according to the World Bank statistics, this country is among the top 20 countries with the largest population of Iranian migrants. It should be mentioned that the World Bank ranking differs from the UN in three cases.

## 2.1. Education level and Occupational Status of Iranian Migrants

The database on immigrants in OECD Countries (DIOC) is based on diverse international and national statistics. The following charts are presented based on DIOC data. (available at <http://www.oecd.org/els/mig/dioc.html>)

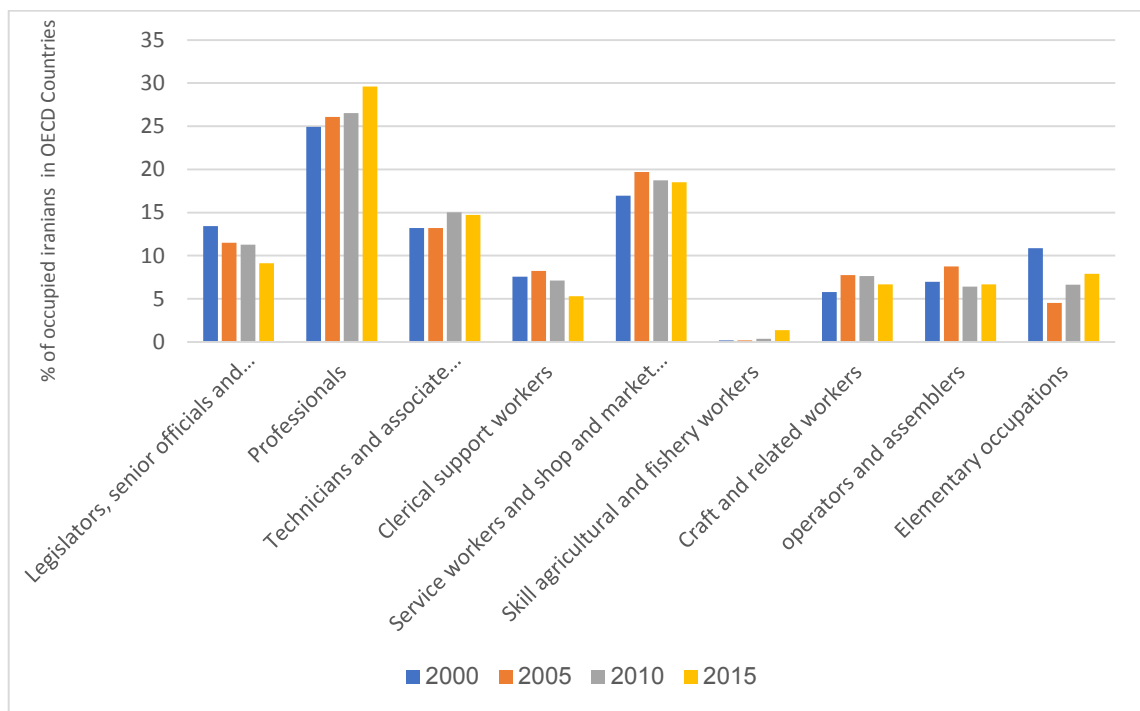


Chart 36: Iranians' occupations in OECD labor market 2000-2015  
Source: (DIOC, 2020)

1. The World Bank database for the Iranians migrants in the UAE in 2017 lacks data and Table 21 is arranged based on data from 2017, the UAE is therefore not included in the top countries with highest population of Iranian migrants

Chart 36 illustrates that professionals are the top occupational group among Iranian immigrants in the OECD countries. Moreover, the share of Iranian professionals in these countries increased from 25% in 2000 to 29.6% in 2015. The second major Iranian occupational group is service delivery, sales, and marketing, and the least occupational group among

Iranians is agricultural and fishery workers.

Chart 37 shows, the share of educated Iranian immigrants out of Iranian diaspora population over 25 years old in the OECD countries. As indicated, 50% of the Iranians had 25 years old with higher education which changed to 56% in 2015 and dropped to 45% in 2010.

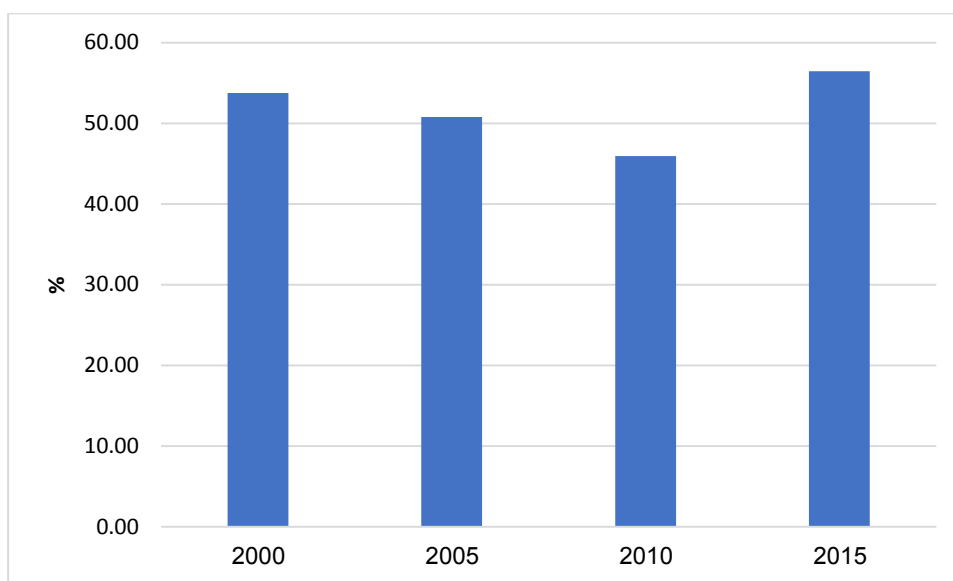


Chart 37: Tertiary education attainment among Iranians (25 years and over) in the OECD countries (2000-2015)

Source: (DIOC, 2020)

Over 45% of Iranian immigrants (25+ years) from 2000 to 2015 and over 56% in 2015 had higher education in the OECD countries. The occupations at levels 3 and 4 (including professionals, technicians, and associate professionals), which necessarily require a university degree, made up 44% of Iranians' occupations in OECD countries in 2015. Besides, occupations at level 1, which are not classified in the required skills, made up 8% of labour market in these

countries.

## 2.2. Iranian Diapora in North America

### 2.2.1 Iranians in the United States

According to UN statistics, the US is the top destination country for Iranian immigrants.

Chart 38 indicates the number of Iranians in the US during 2010-2017.

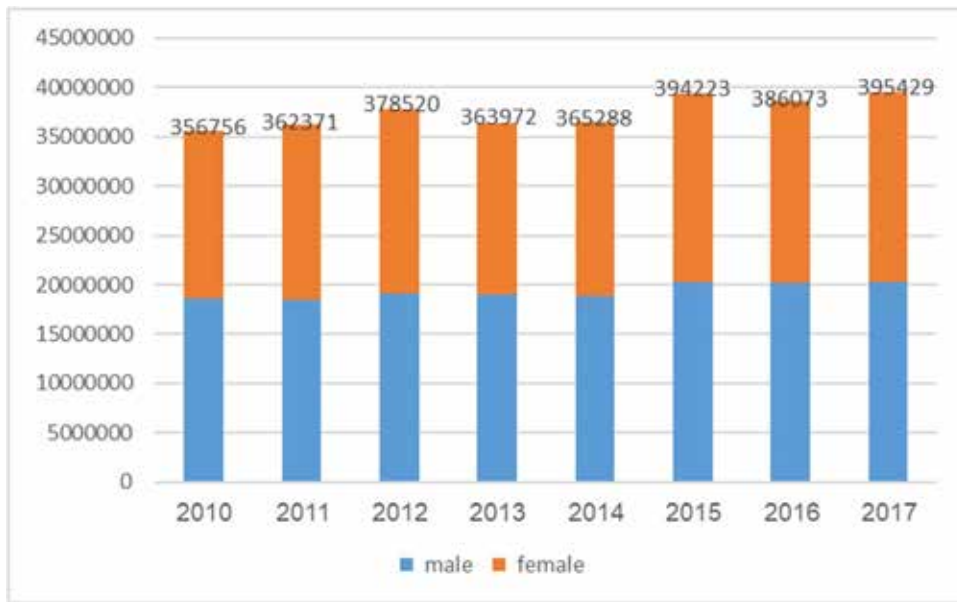


Chart 38: Iranian population in the USA by gender (2010-2017)  
Source: (Census Bureau, 2019)

Chart 39 shows Iranian population in the US based on country of birth and ancestry with any type of resident status including naturalized, non-immigrant visa holders, and lawful permanent residents.

The census estimates that the population of Iranian immigrants in the US with Persian ancestry was 25% higher than the population of those who were born in Iran.

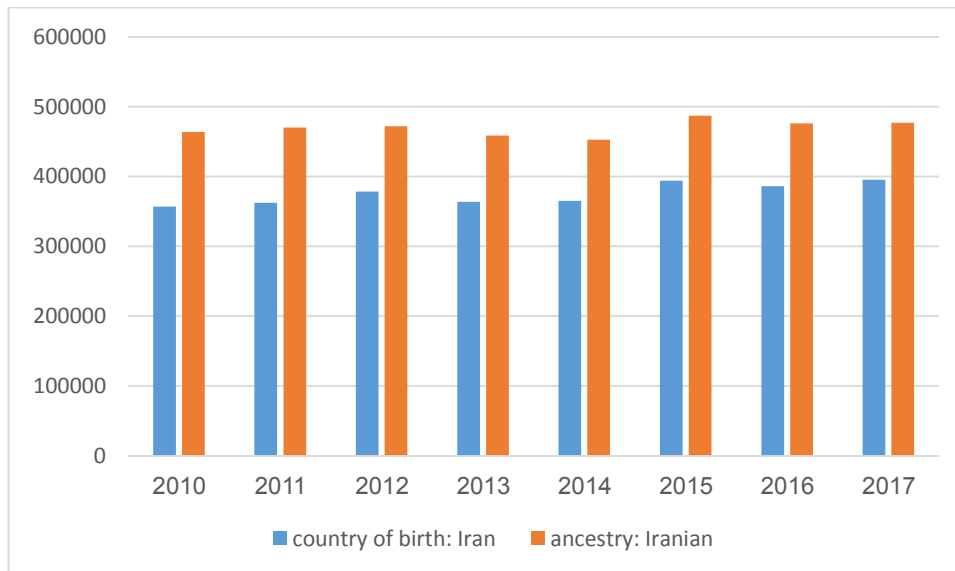


Chart 39: Iranian population in the USA based on country of birth and ancestry (2010-2017)  
Source: (Census Bureau, 2017)

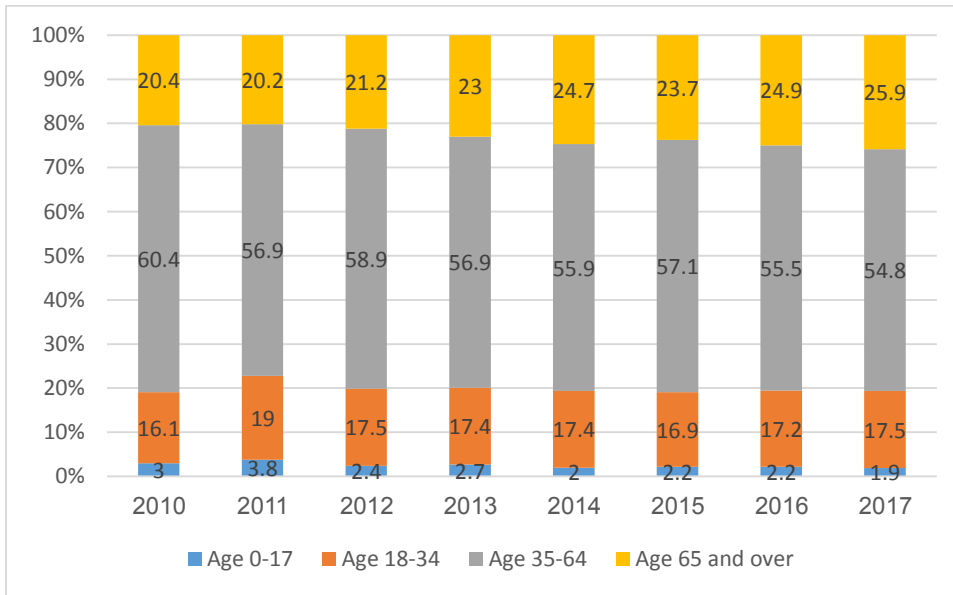


Chart 40: Iranian population in the USA by age groups (2010-2017)  
Source: (Census Bureau, 2017)

Chart 40 shows the population of Iranians in the US by age groups. According to this chart, the Iranians

aged over 18 to 64 makes up 72.3% to 76.5% of total Iranian diaspora population in the US.

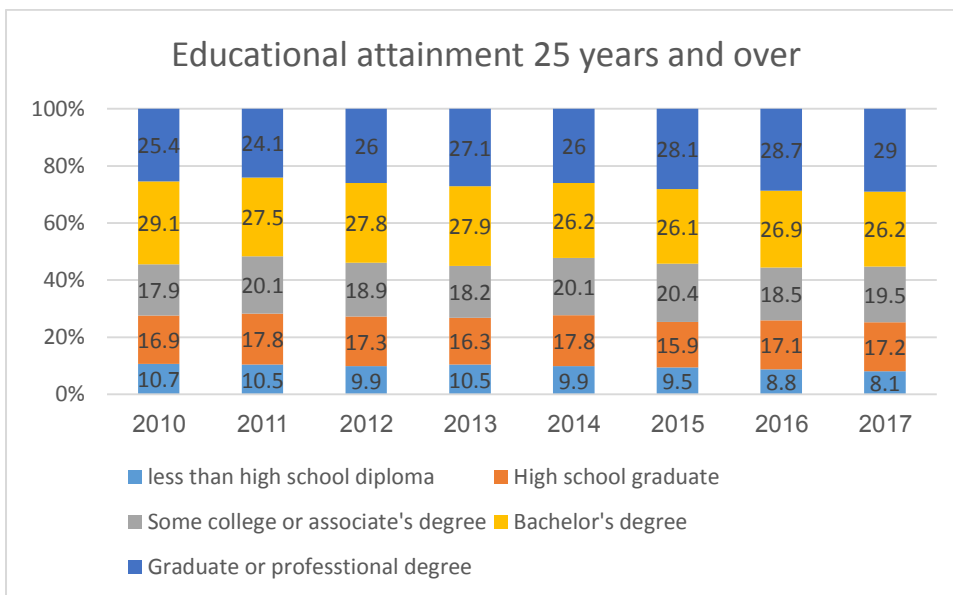


Chart 41: Iranian population in the USA by age groups (2010-2017)  
Source: (Census Bureau, 2017)

Chart 41 shows, the number of highly educated immigrants in the US, which has been increasing. Therefore, in 2017, about 75% of Iranians immigrants (25+ years old) had higher education in the US.

It should be noticed that the number of postgraduate immigrants or those who have taken professional courses has also been increased. In this regard, 29% of Iranian immigrants (25+ years old) have got postgraduate education in the US.

### ● Obtaining Residence Permit and Naturalization

Chart 42 shows the naturalization trends of Iranians and also who obtained lawful permanent resident in the United States. Around 8,000-10,000 of Iranians (who born in Iran) naturalized in the US during 2010-2018 which makes up about 1-1.6% of total number of naturalization cases in this period. As indicated in the chart, the number of Iranians obtaining permanent resident and being naturalized in this country has dropped during 2010-2018.

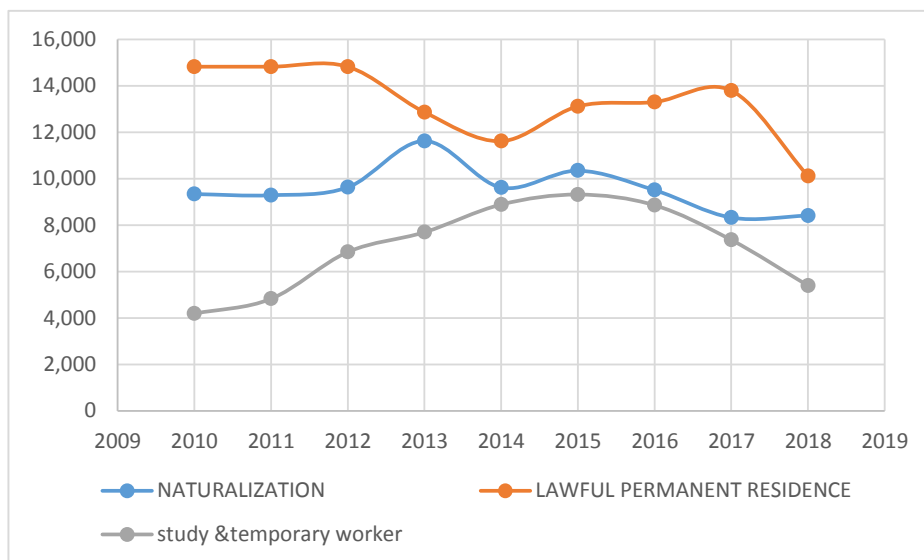


Chart 42: Trends of US citizenship acquisition and permanent and temporary residency permits granted to Iranians(2010-2018)

Source:(Department of Homeland Security, 2020)

The population of Iranians (were born in Iran) obtaining the US lawful permanent resident status (the Green Card) dropped from 14,822 in 2010 to 10,116 individuals in 2018. The number of temporary work and education visas granted to Iranians show a decreasing trend from 9,000 in 2010 to around 5,000 visas in 2018.

Chart 43 indicates the admission type of Iranians granted lawful permanent resident status. As shown, the number of the

Green Card recipients through refugee and asylees<sup>1</sup> make up the largest share of the total granted green cards in many years. The second position belongs to people who have succeeded in obtaining the Green Card and permanent resident status through employment-based preferences. It is worth noting that the number of recipients of the US Diversity Visa (known as the lottery) has surpassed the number of employment-based Green Cards in some years.



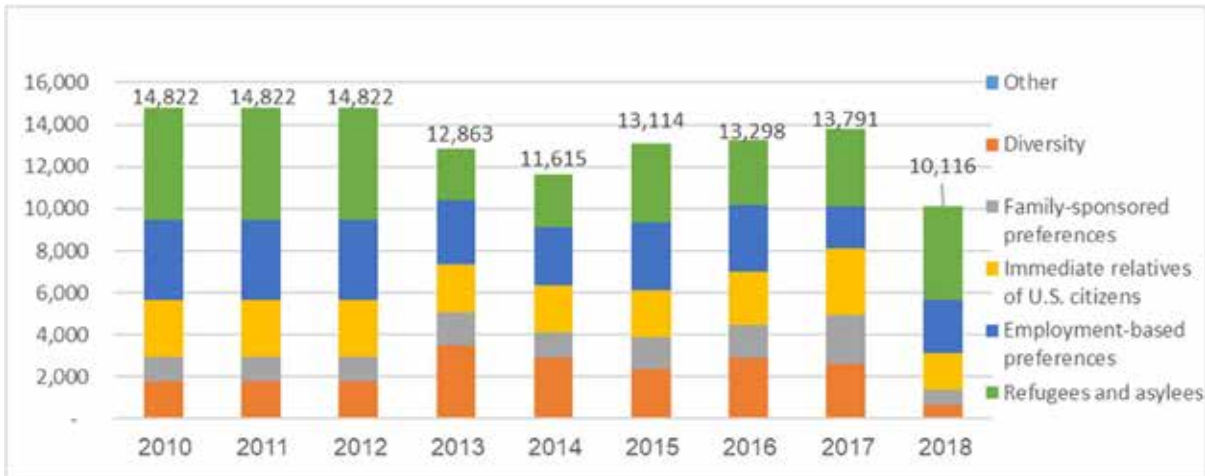


Chart 43: Number of Iranians (born in Iran) obtaining lawful permanent resident status by broad class of admission (2010-2018)

Source: (Department of Homeland Security, 2020)

The number of US lawful permanent resident status recipients decreased in 2018, while refugee and asylum-seeking granted residency increased. Moreover, 44% of Green Card recipients (4,441 people) were refugees and asylums in 2018.

Chart 44 shows the number of Iranians (whose nationality is Iranian) obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident status (LPR) in the USA from 2016-2019. Compari-

son of the two latter charts reveals that the number of Iranian nationals obtained LPR status is lower than the number of people born in Iran who obtained it<sup>1</sup>. The respective numbers of these two groups of LPR recipients are 9,131 and 10,116 people in 2018. The number of Iranians (whose nationality is Iranian) obtaining LPR has decreased to 5,789 in 2019 which indicates a remarkable drop compared to 2018.

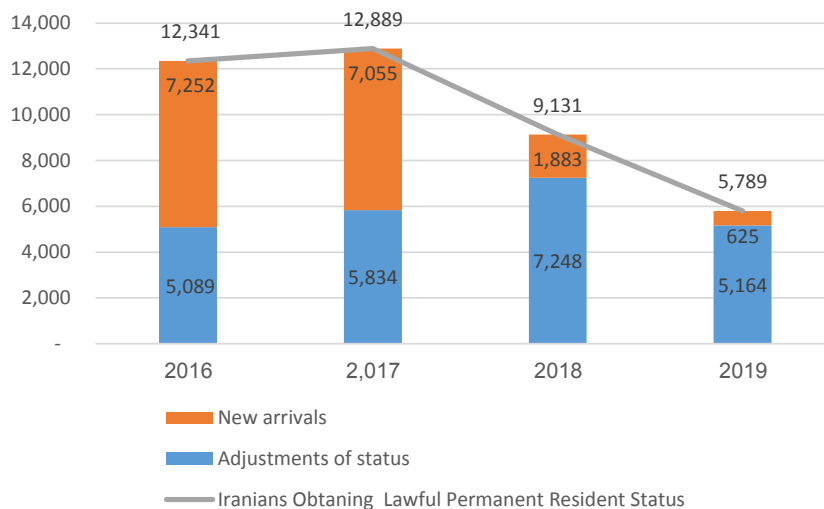


Chart 44: Iranians obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident status by type of admission (2016-2019)

Source: (Department of Homeland Security, 2020)

1. People born in Iran might first reside in another country (other the US) and obtain that country's citizenship, then move to the USA and apply for an American residence, statistics based on nationality are therefore less than statistics based on place of birth.

Chart 45 presents the number of non-immigrant admissions. As indicated, the highest number of granted visas

are attributed to F & J Visas, which has dropped over recent years.

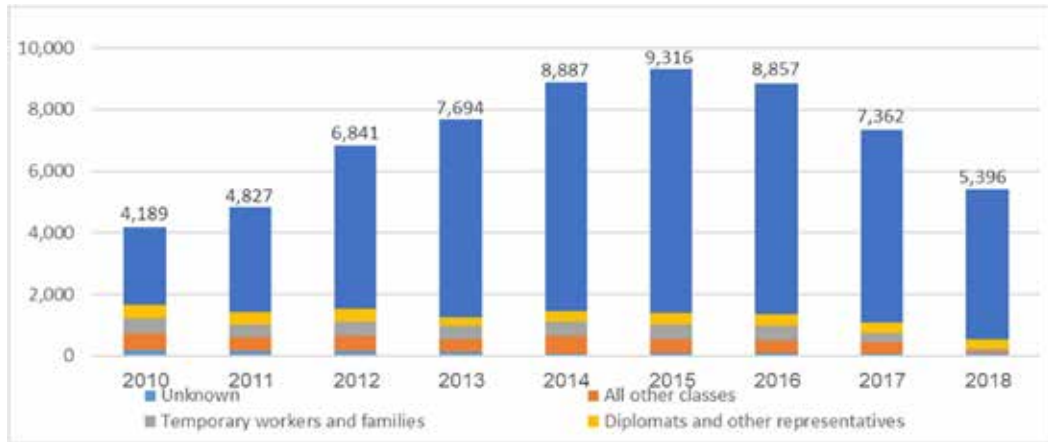


Chart 45: Population of Iranians (by nationality) with non-immigrant admissions in US (1-94 visas only) by selected category of admission (2010-2018)  
Source: (Department of Homeland Security, 2020)

### ●Iranians’ status in the US Labour Market

The labour market participation rate of Iranians (16+ years old) in the US ranged from 61% to 64% during 2010 to 2017. The employment rate of Iranians in the US (16+ years old who are active in the labour market) was 95.3% and the unemployment rate was 4.7%. The unemploy-

ment rate of Iranians in the US ranged from 3% to 7% during 2010 to 2017.

Chart 46 illustrates the share of Iranians employed in the US in five major employment groups in 2017. Over 56% of the Iranians are in management, business, science, and arts occupations, and 22% are employed in sales and office occupations.

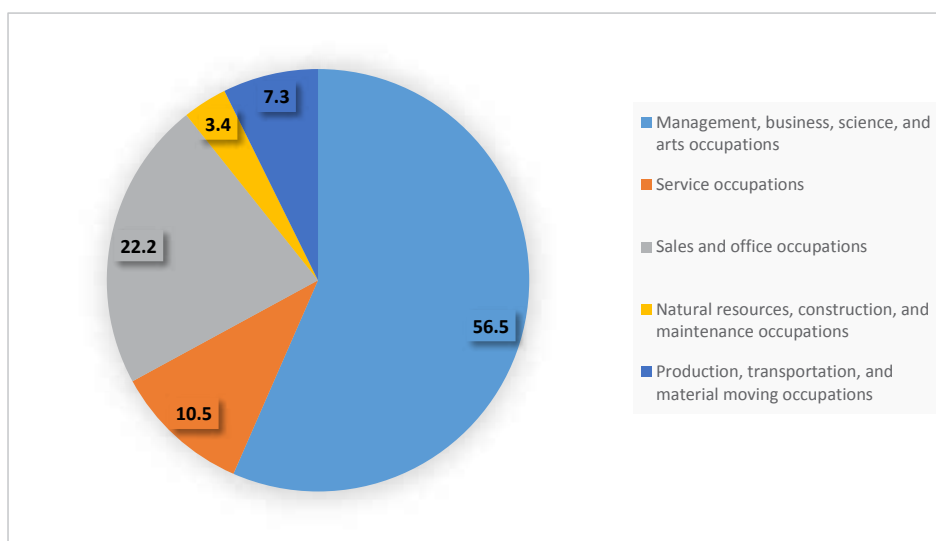


Chart 46: Iranians occupation profile in the US (16+ years old) - 2017  
Source: (Census Bureau, 2017)

Chart 47 displays the US industries in which Iranians have been employed.

The major share of Iranian population are in educational services, healthcare,

and social assistance sector, followed by professionals, scientists, executive managers, and waste management services.

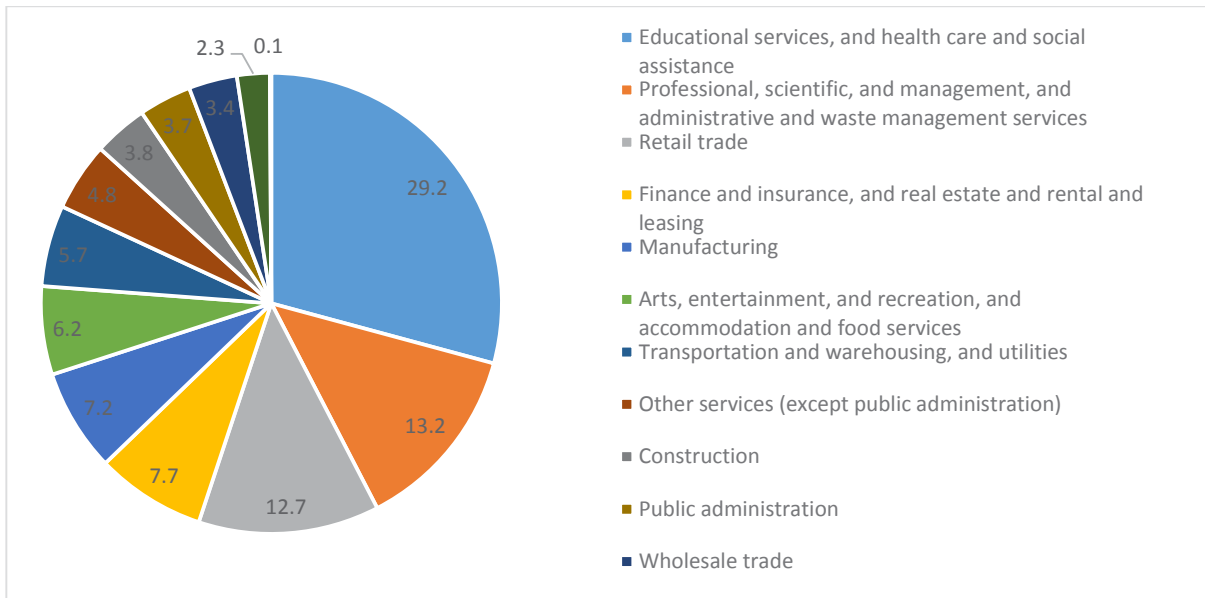


Chart 47: Iranians population (+16 years old) distribution in the US industries - 2017

Source: (Census Bureau, 2017)

On the other hand, 75.5% of Iranians are private wage and salary workers, 14.4% are government workers, and 9.8% are

self-employed workers in not incorporated businesses.

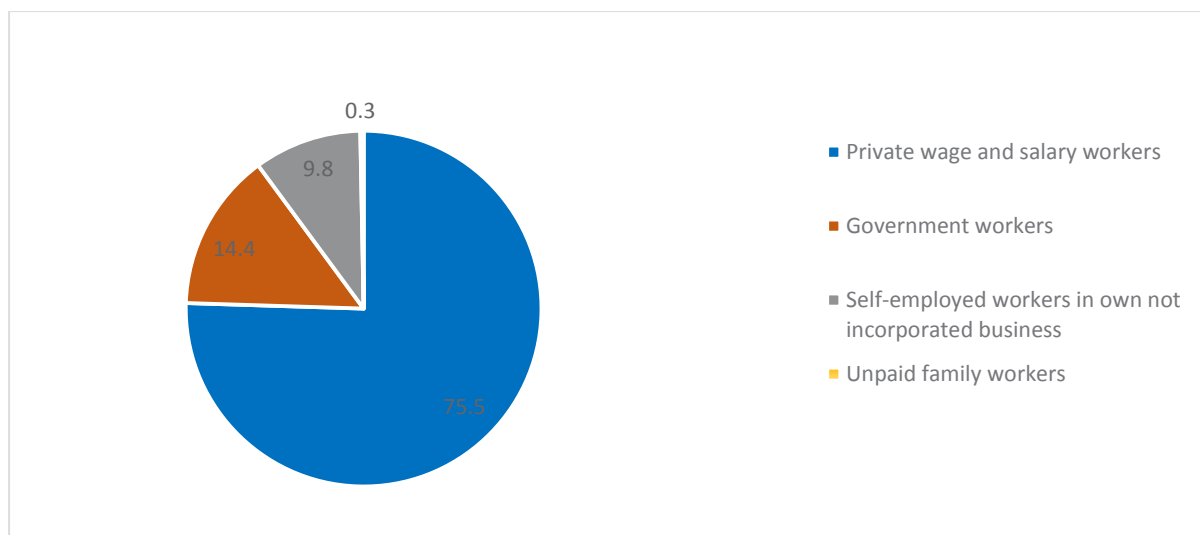


Chart 48: Iranian workers profile in US-2017

Source: (Census Bureau, 2017)

## 2.2.2. Iranians in Canada

Total population of Iranians in Canada

reached 164,000 in 2019 according to UN international migrant stock estimations.

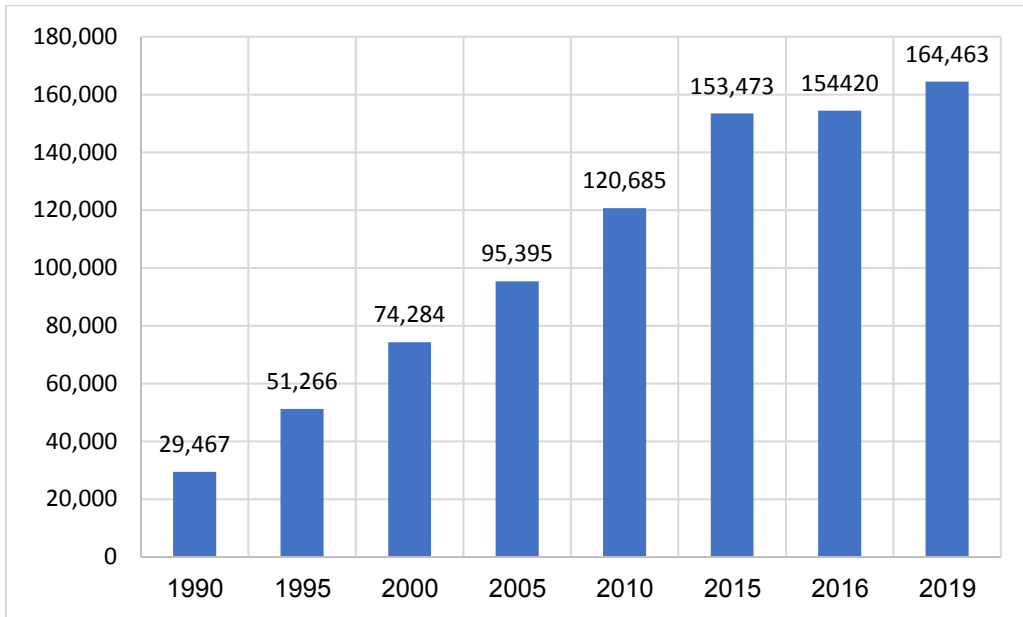


Chart 49: Iranian population in Canada (born in Iran) (1990- 2019)

Source: (UN, 2020)

The population of Iranians in Canada increased constantly during 1990 to 2019. This number reached 164,000 in 2019, which means an increase of about 10,000 since 2015. The population of Iranian residents in Canada increased from 120,000 to 150,000 during 2010 to 2015, which indicates an increase of around 30,000 people over a 5-year

period. However, the next 4-year period (2015 to 2019) indicates a growth of about 10,000 people. Therefore, the growth rate of Iranians in Canada has a decreasing trend that might be due to this country's migration policy aimed towards decreasing the number of permanent residents and increasing the number of temporary visas.

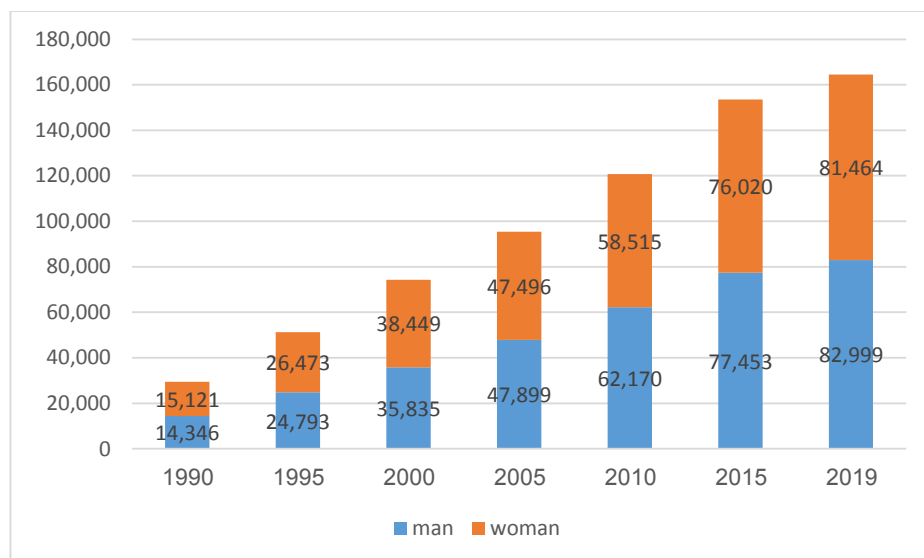


Chart 50: Iranian population in Canada by gender (1990-2019)

Source: (UN, 2020)

Iranians reside in Canada through permanent and temporary resident permits. Temporary resident includes study and work permits. Work permits includes three

categories of Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP), International Mobility Program (IMP), and Humanitarian and compassionate work permit (H&CWP).

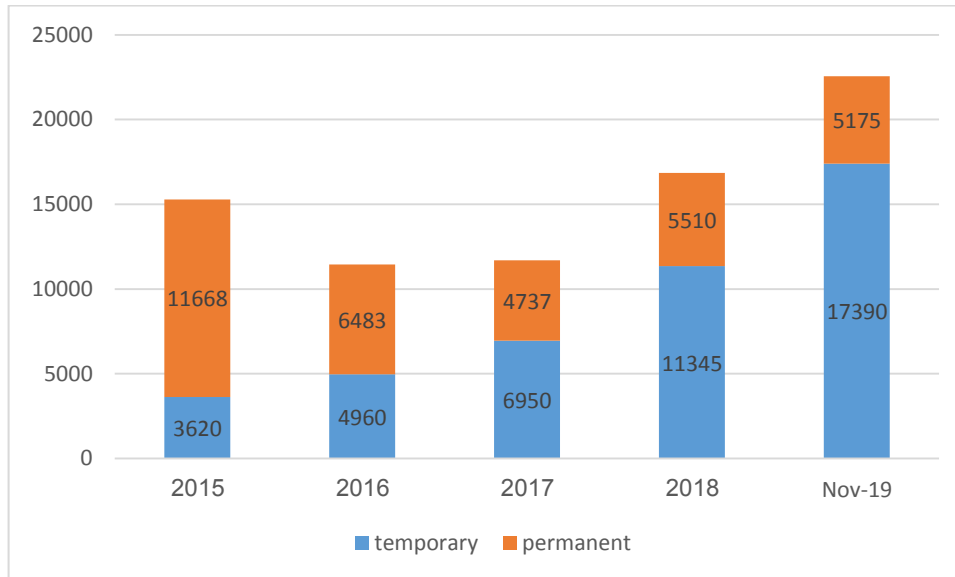


Chart 51: Temporary and permanent resident permits granted to Iranians in Canada (2015-2019)  
Source: (IRCC, 2020)

Temporary residence in Canada obtained by Iranians through both study and work permits during 2015 to November 2019 is presented in Chart 52. Majority of the granted visas to Iranians were study permits. There are three types of temporary work permit in Can-

ada: TFWP, IMP, and H&CWP. The number of H&CWP granted to Iranians have surpassed the number of IMP over the recent years. This is while the largest number of visas granted to Iranians used to be through the IMP over the recent years.

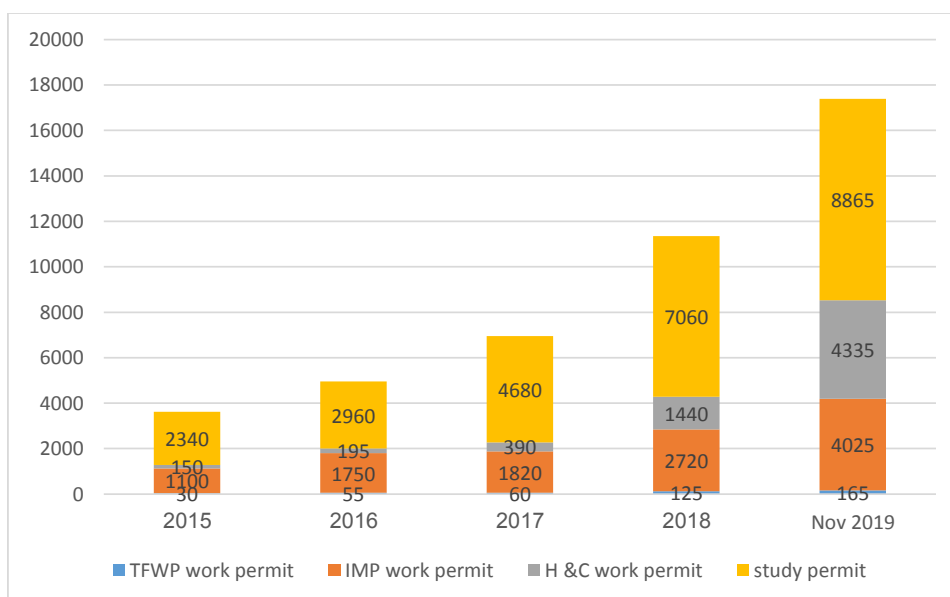


Chart 52: Temporary and permanent resident permits granted to Iranians in Canada (2015-2019)  
Source: (IRCC, 2020)





## 2.3. Iranians in Europe

### 2.3.1 Iranians in the EU Zone

Migrant population statistics are published based on two main criteria in the world: the country of birth and citizenship. According to the UN, the top five European Union countries with the highest numbers of immigrants born in Iran are Germany, the United Kingdom, Swe-

den, the Netherlands, and France. Germany had the highest number of immigrants born in Iran in 2019, with 127,177 Iranian migrants. The UK ranked second with 89,794 people; Sweden ranked third with 79,308 people; the Netherlands ranked fourth with 33,819 people, and finally, France ranked fifth with 25,091 people. Chart 53 presents the changes in the population of Iranian-born immigrants in these countries during 1990 to 2019.

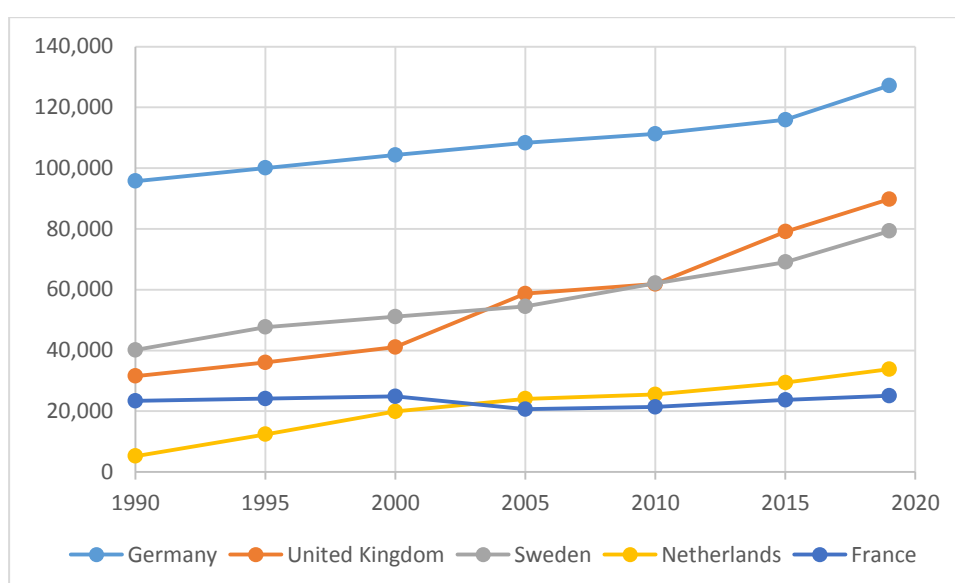


Chart 53: Iranian population (born in Iran) in top 5 Iranian destination in Europe (1990-2019)  
Source: (UNDESA, 2019)

Considering the citizenship criteria as the determinant of the immigrant population, Iranian immigrants in these countries became lower. According to EU (2018), the population of Iranian nationals was 87,588 in Germany, 14,589 in Sweden,

and 6,695 in the Netherlands.

The respective data of the UK and France is not available. Chart 54 shows the population of Iranian nationals in the aforementioned countries during 2009 to 2018.

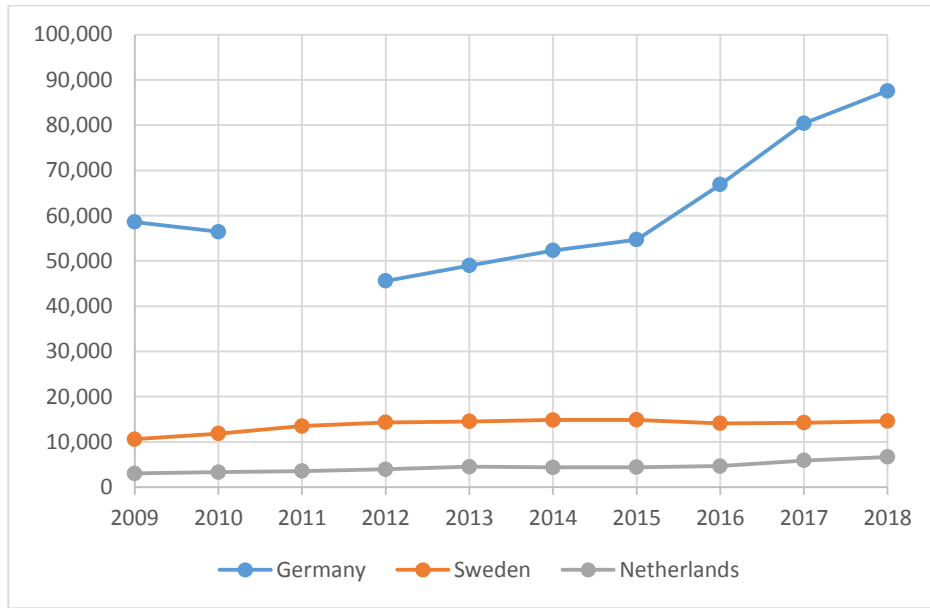


Chart 54: Iranian population (by citizenship) in top 3 destination in Europe (2009-2018)  
Source: (Eurostat, 2020)

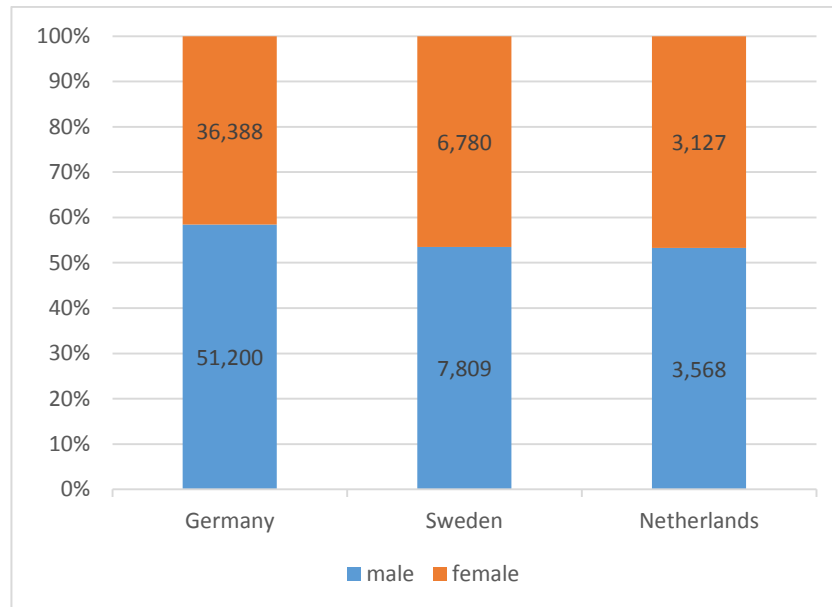


Chart 55: Iranian population (by citizenship) by gender in top 3 Iranian destination in Europe (2009-2018)  
Source: (Eurostat, 2020)

Furthermore, the “*Population*” included in the aforementioned statistics has been obtained through censuses and based on individuals’ declaration about their usual residence (EUROSTAT, 2019a, UN-STAT, 2017). According to the definition, the usual residence is referred to the place

where an individual spends most of his/her time except for vacations, work-related travels, etc. In related statistics, a person is considered to be among the population of a region if he/she has either lived there for the past 12 months or has resided there at some point during the previous



12 months with the intention of staying for one year.

However, taking all valid permit<sup>1</sup> into account would yield different number of Iranian nationals in Europe. According to statistics published by the European Union, the top 5 countries with the largest number of Iranian immigrants include Germany, the UK, Sweden, Italy,

France, and the Netherlands, respectively. In 2018, Iranian citizens in Germany with valid permit was 73,717, followed by the UK with 19,282, Sweden with 14,689, Italy with 12,417, and France with 10,530 citizens. Chart 56 indicates the trend of Iranian nationals with residence permits in these five countries during 2010-2018.

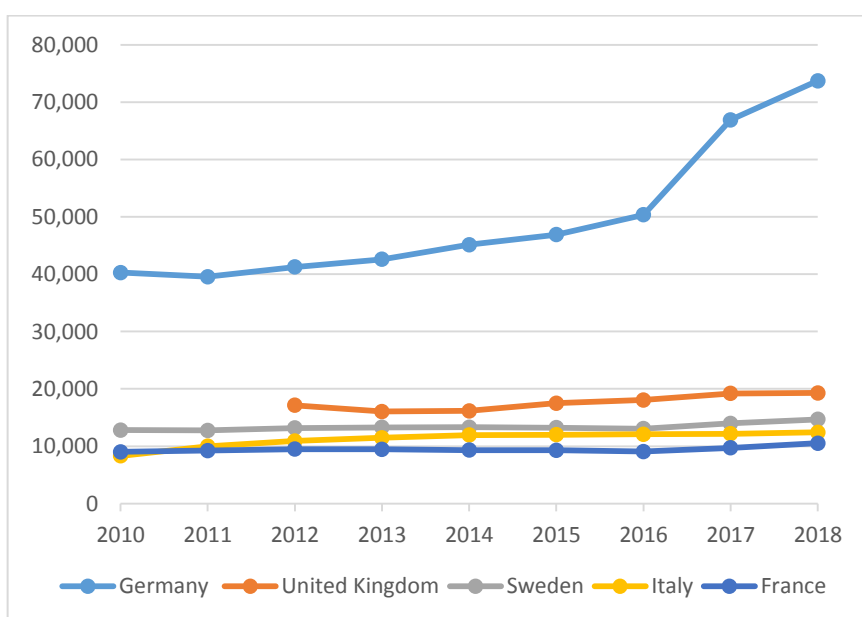


Chart 56: Iranians (by citizenship) with all valid permits in top 5 destination in Europe (2010-2018)  
Source: (Eurostat, 2020)

Total population of Iranians with valid residence permit in the EU countries amounted to 171,176 people, which was 95,798 in 2010.

The following chart shows the population of Iranians with valid residence permit in the EU countries during this period.



1. all valid stays and their changes until 31 December each year (EUROSTAT, 2019b)

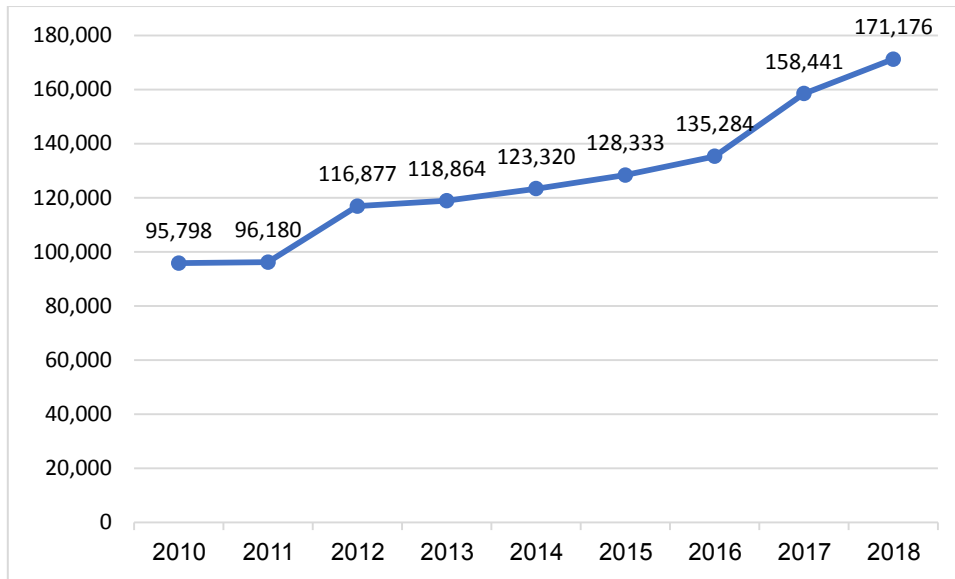


Chart 57: Iranians with all valid permits in European Union (2010-2018)  
Source: (Eurostat, 2020)

Residence permit could be granted to family reunifications, education, work<sup>1</sup>, refugee status and subsidiary protection,

and other reasons.

Chart 58 indicates the reasons for Iranians' residence in top European countries in 2018:

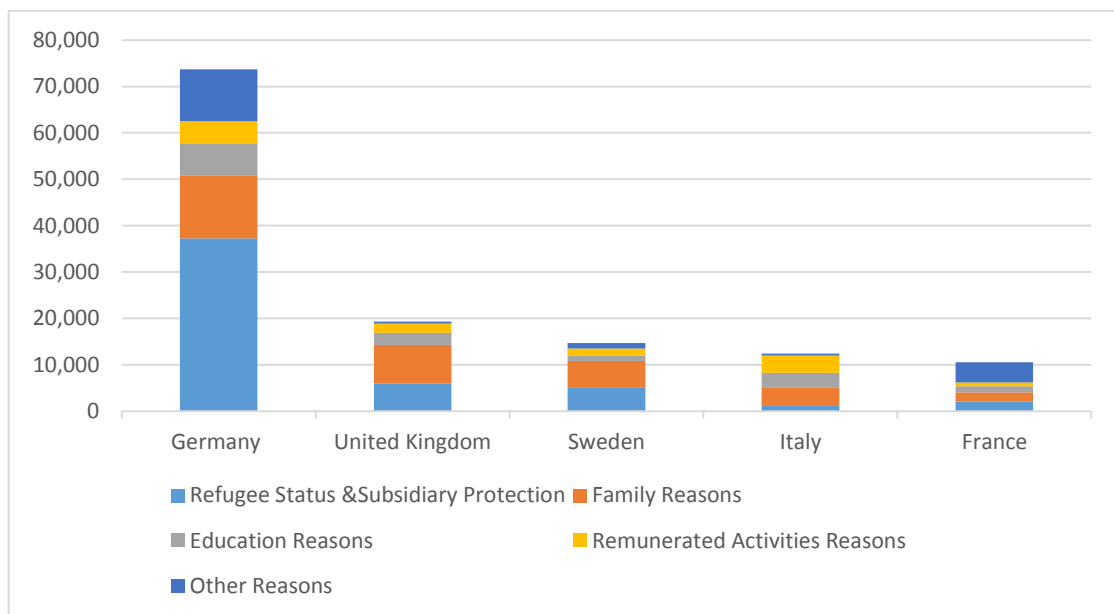


Chart 58: Iranians with valid permit in top 5 European countries of destination by permit reason (2018)  
Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

On the other hand, residence permits based on duration of stay could be classified into three types of 3 to 5 months, 6 to 11 months, and 12 months or more. The

following chart indicates the duration of residence permit granted to Iranians in top 5 European destination countries in 2018.

1. Remunerated activities reasons

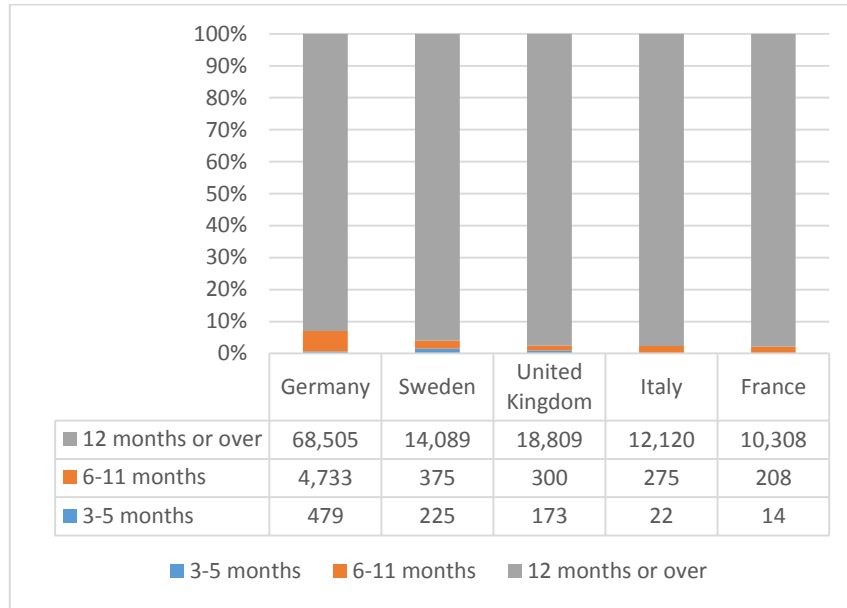


Chart 59: Iranians with valid permit in top 5 European countries of destination by stay duration (2018)  
Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

Some immigrants have been granted long-term residence status (which means a legal residence of 5 years or more with some conditions), (EUROSTAT, 2020). The total number of Iranians with long-

term residence permit in the EU was only 4,134 people in 2004 which had an almost 20 times increase to 84,583 since 2018. Chart 81 indicates the trend of Iranians with long-term residence permit in the EU.

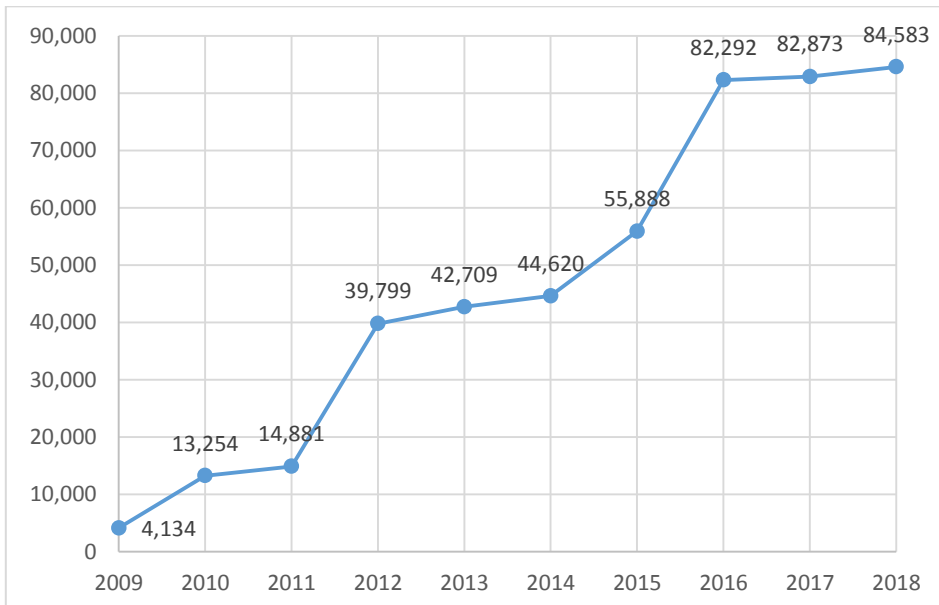


Chart 60: Iranians with long-term residence permit in European Union (2009-2018)  
Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

The top host countries with the highest populations of Iranians granted long-term residence in Europe permit include the UK, Germany, Sweden, France, and Italy, respectively. As indicated, Germany and Sweden are among the top 5 destination coun-

tries for Iranian immigrants and also among the top 5 countries with the highest number of Iranians with long-term residence. Chart 61 illustrates the trend of the population of Iranians with long-term residence permits in these countries during 2009-2018.

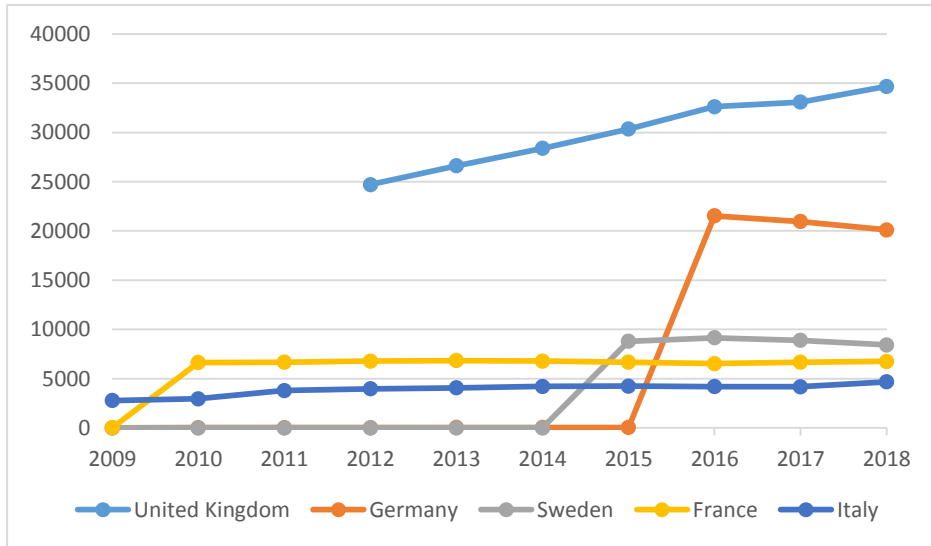


Chart 61: Iranians with long-term residence permit in top 5 European countries (2009-2018)

Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

The number of Iranians holding residence with work permits in the EU was 6,028 in 2010, which had an almost 200% increase to 17,926 people

in 2018. Chart 62 indicates the changing trend of the number of Iranians with work resident permits in EU during 2010 to 2018.

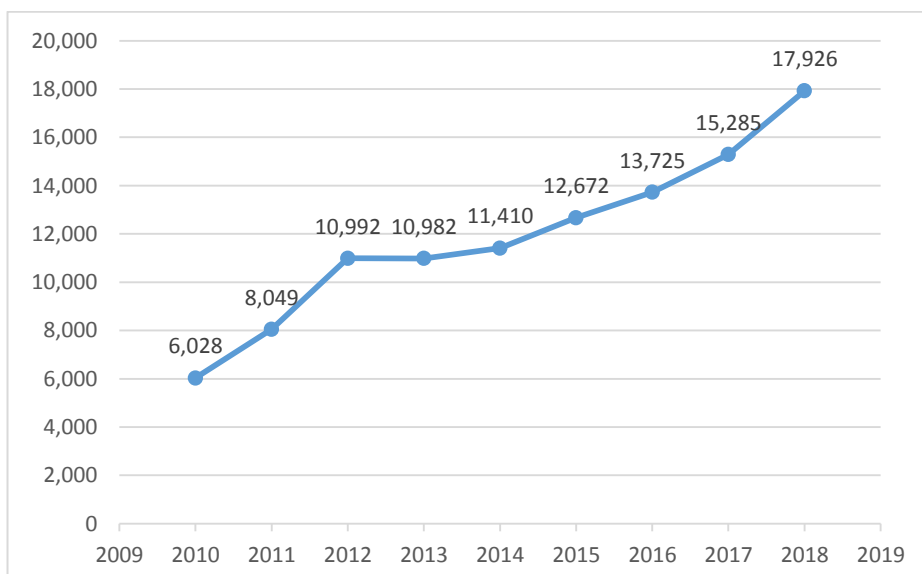


Chart 62: Iranians with valid work permit in European Union (2010-2018)

Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

The top 5 destination countries for labour migration of Iranians in Europe include Germany, the UK, Sweden, and the Netherlands. In 2018, the European countries hosting the largest population of Iranian immigrants with work resident permit included Germany with

4,903, Italy with 3,727, the UK with 2,046, Sweden with 1,560, and the Netherlands with 1,481 people, respectively. The following chart indicates the number of Iranians migration with work resident permit in these 5 countries during 2010 to 2018.

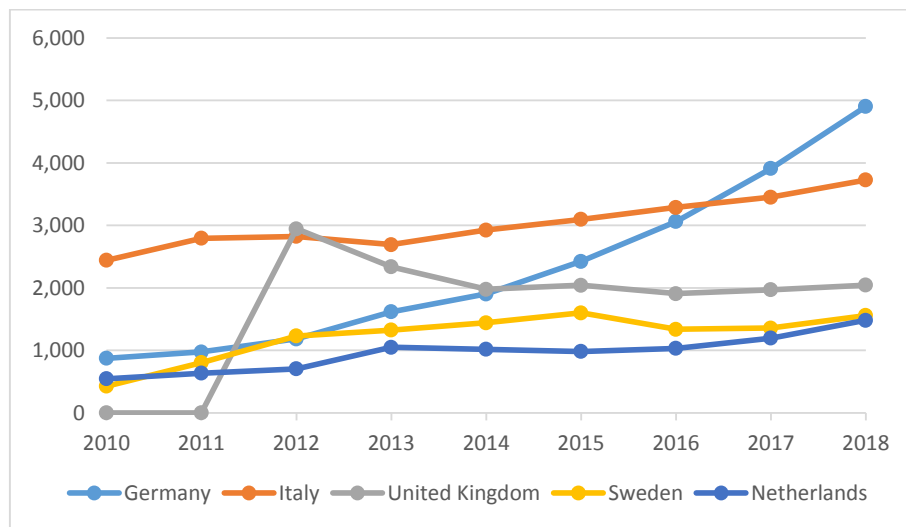


Chart 63: Iranians with valid work permit in top 5 European countries of destination (2009-2018)  
Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

The work residence permit could be different by duration of stay. Chart 64 indicates the number of Iranians with work

residence permit in the five top countries classified by duration of stay.

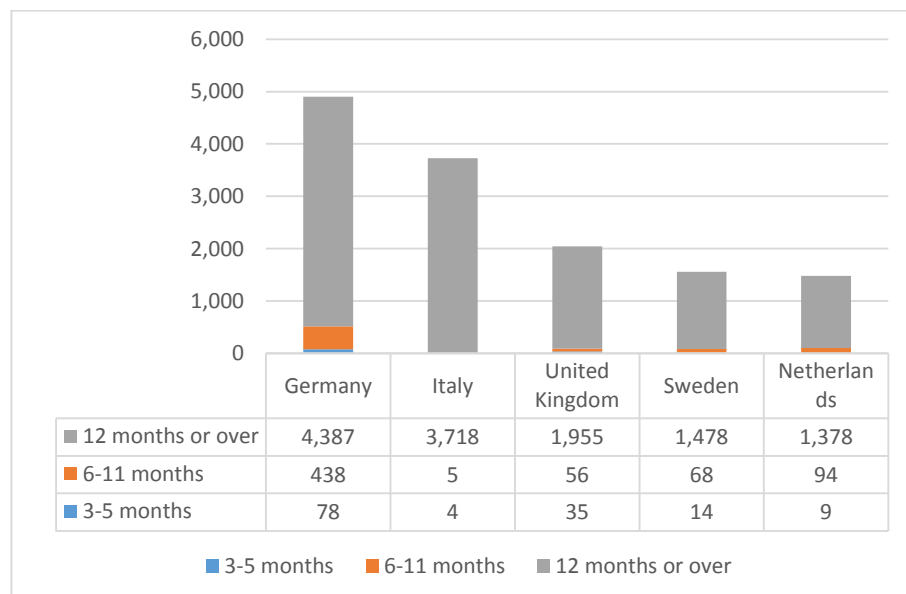


Chart 64: Iranians with valid work permit in top 5 European countries of destination by duration of stay (2018)  
Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

● **Schengen visa**

Chart 65 shows Iranians application for Schengen visas (top 10 countries) according to the EU statistics. Chart 66 indicates

the total number of visas granted to Iranians including tourist visas and other types of the Schengen visas in the top 10 countries.

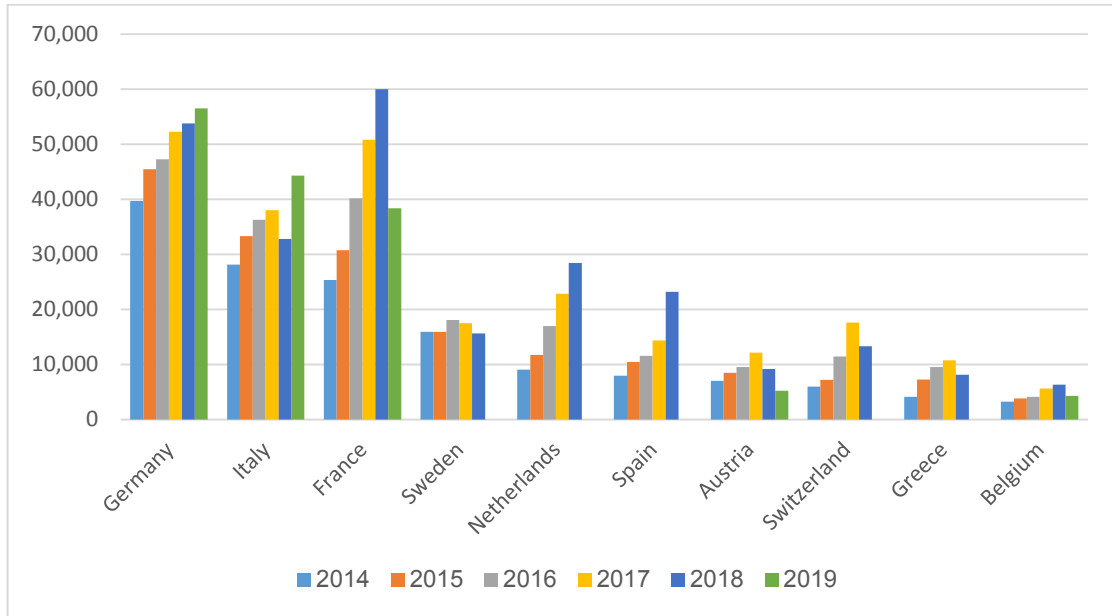


Chart 65: Iranians application for Schengen visas - top 10 countries (2014-2019)  
Source: (Schengen Visa Info, 2020)

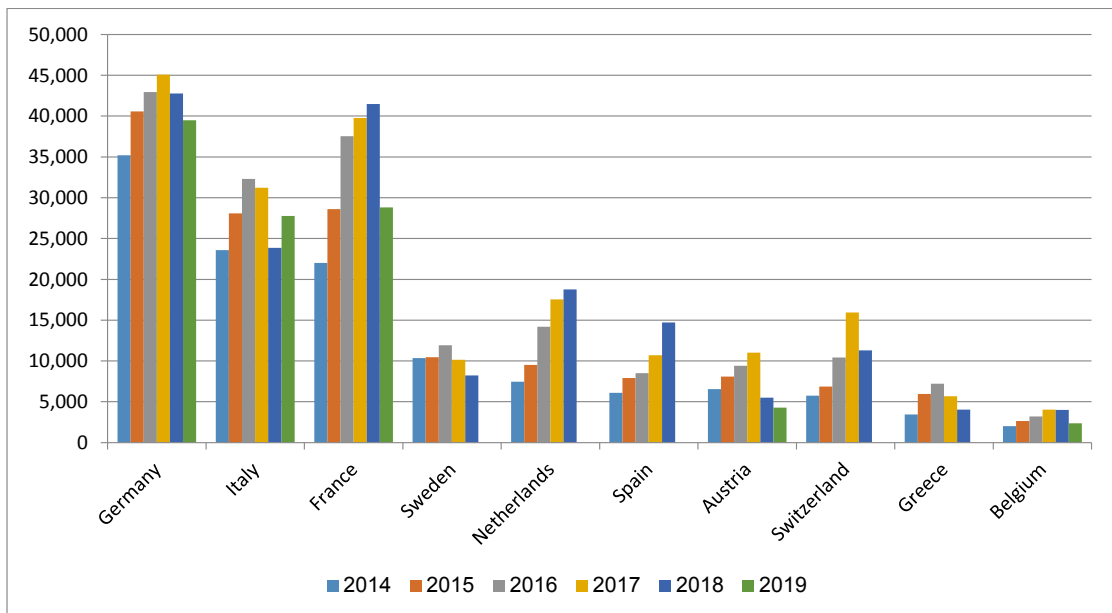


Chart 66: Schengen Visas issued for Iranians -top 10 countries (2014-2019)  
Source: (Schengen Visa Info, 2020)

### 2.3.2. Iranians in the United Kingdom

The UK is the second European destination country for Iranians and is currently home to over 90,000 Iranians.

Chart 67 shows the number of Iranians residing in the UK during 1990-2019. The following statistics have been obtained through censuses and based on the country of birth.

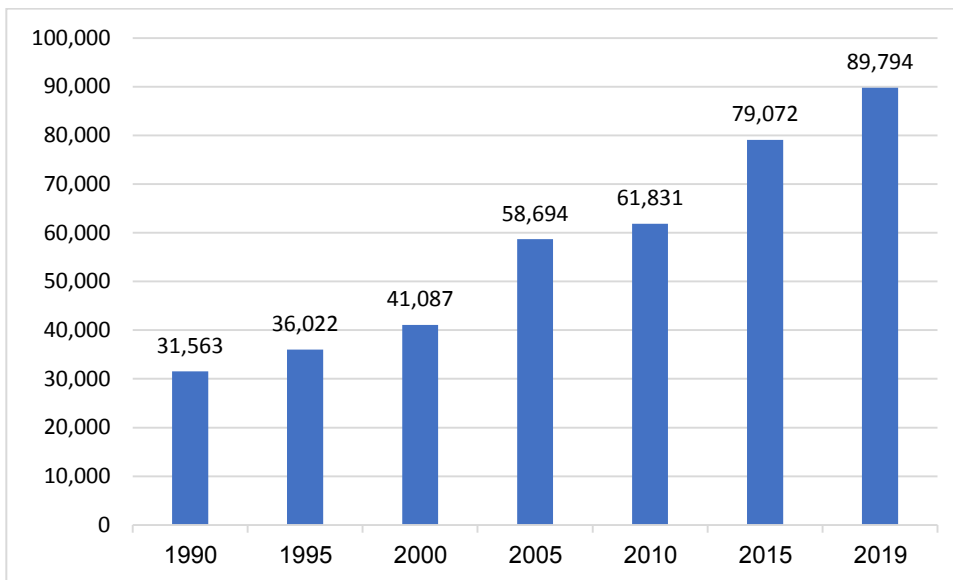


Chart 67: Iranians application for Schengen visas - top 10 countries (2014-2019)

Source: (Schengen Visa Info, 2020)

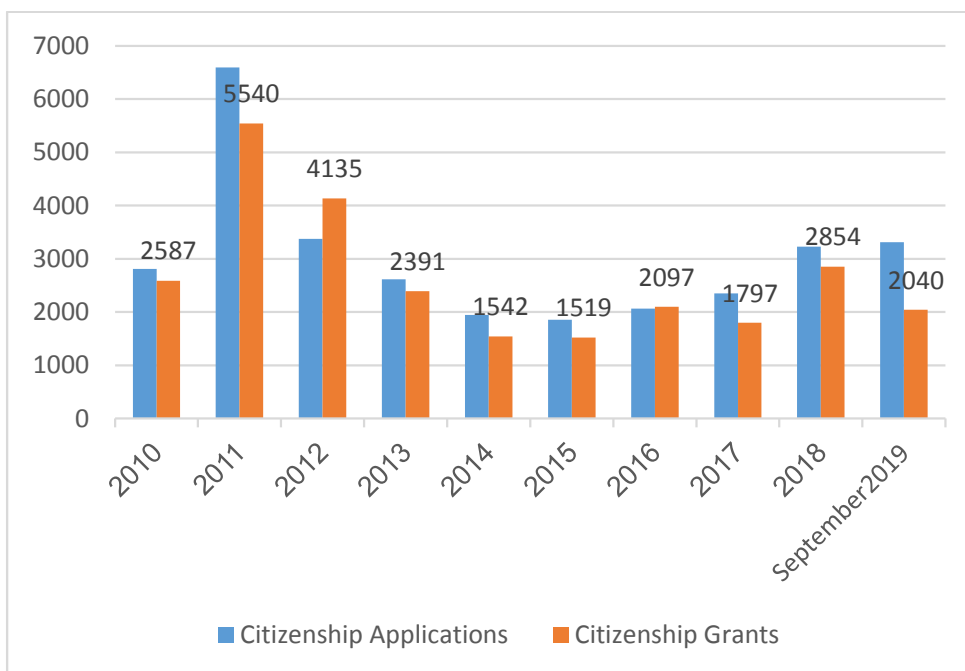


Chart 68: Citizenship applications and citizenship granted to Iranians in the UK (2010-2019)

Source: (Home Office, 2019b)



Chart 69 indicates the annual number of visas were received by Iranians. This number used to be 27,149 in 2011 but dropped to 11,377 in 2012 and underwent a 58% decrease. The number of vi-

sas granted has not changed much since, the highest number being 13,816 in 2017. These numbers include a variety of work visas, study permit, family reunifications, tourist, transit travelers, etc.

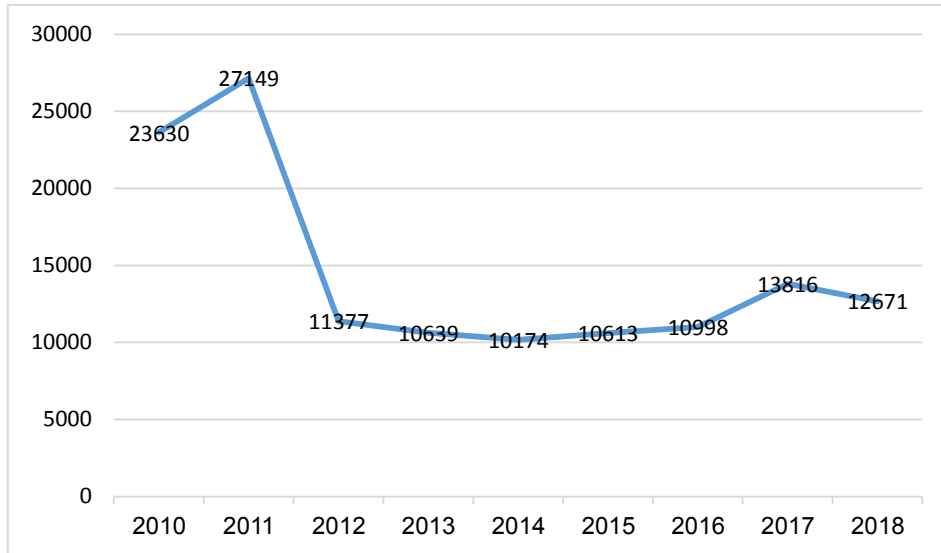


Chart 69: Total entry visas issued for Iranians in the UK (2010-2018)  
Source: (Home Office, 2019a)

As mentioned before, the charts above take all types of visas into account (including tourism visas and transit travelers) the following chart indicates education, work (main applicant and

companies), family reunifications, and other types of visas except for travel and transit-related visas.

Chart 70 indicates the work visas granted to Iranians.

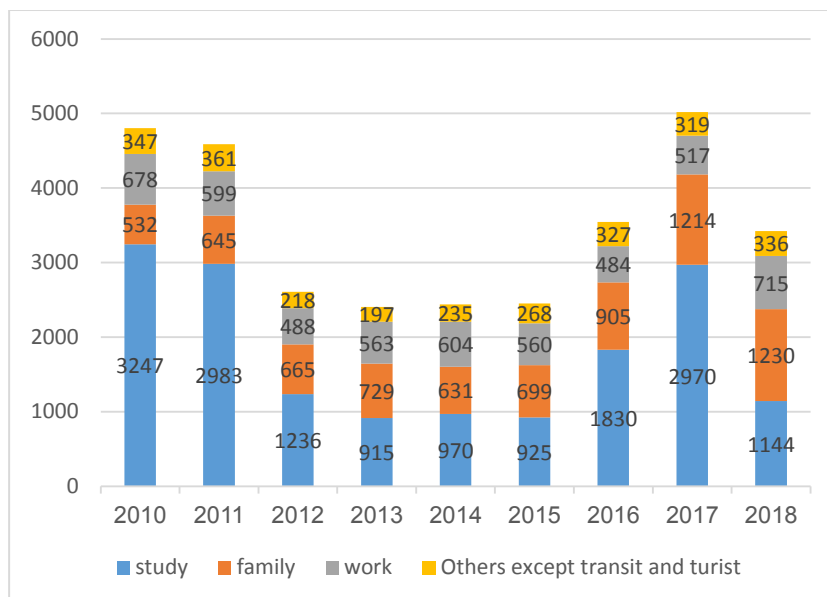


Chart 70: Entry clearance visas granted to Iranians by purpose in the UK (2010-2018)  
Source: (Home Office, 2018a) (Home Office, 2018c) (Home Office, 2018b)



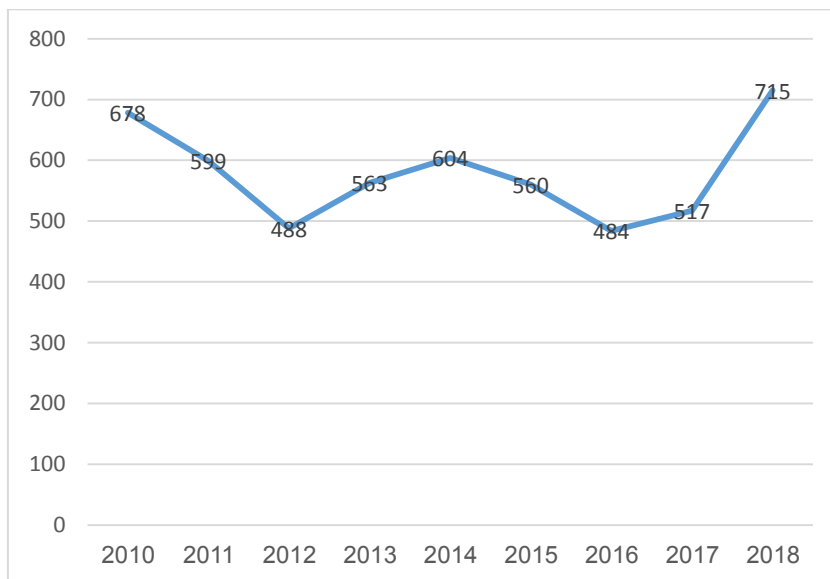


Chart 71: Entry clearance Work visas granted to Iranians in UK (2010-2018)

Source: (Home Office, 2018b)

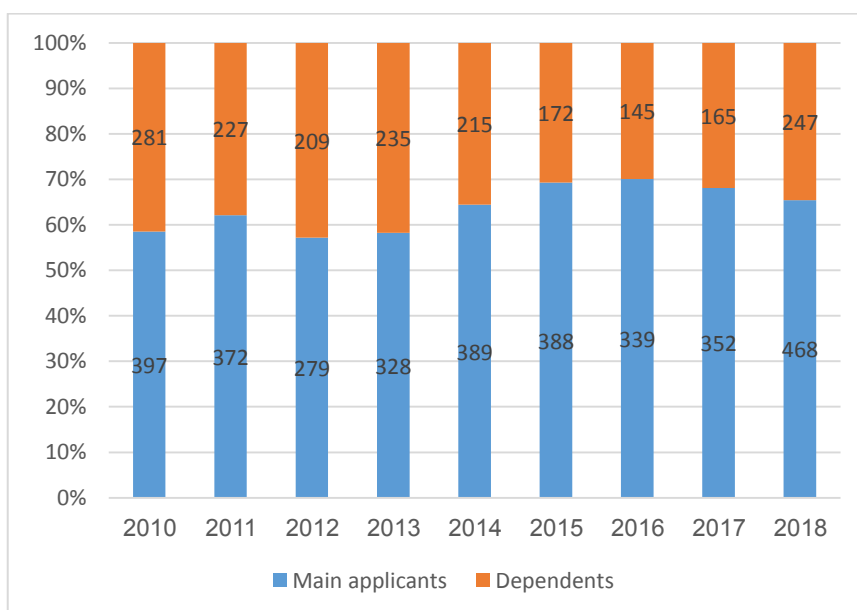


Chart 72: Entry clearance work visas granted to Iranians by main applicants and dependents(2010-2018)

Source: (Home Office, 2018b)

The UK work permits are classified into four categories: 1. short-term work visas; 2. long-term work visas; 3. investment, entrepreneurship, businesses, and talent visas; 4. other work visas. According to the statistics presented in chart 94, long-term visas granted to skilled labor forces (General work visa (Tier 2)) have the highest number among the four. Another type of visas with large numbers of recipients are short term Creative and Sporting visa (Tier 5) and Domestic Workers

in a Private Household visa.

Chart 73 indicates the changing trend of these visas as well as Investor visas (Tier 1) and Entrepreneur visas (Tier 1). It should be noted that Investor visas (Tier 1) and Entrepreneur visas (Tier 1) have expired since 2019, and have been replaced by Innovator visas and Start-up visas (GOV.UK, 2020). The data presented in chart 94 include only main applicants and do not account for their dependents.

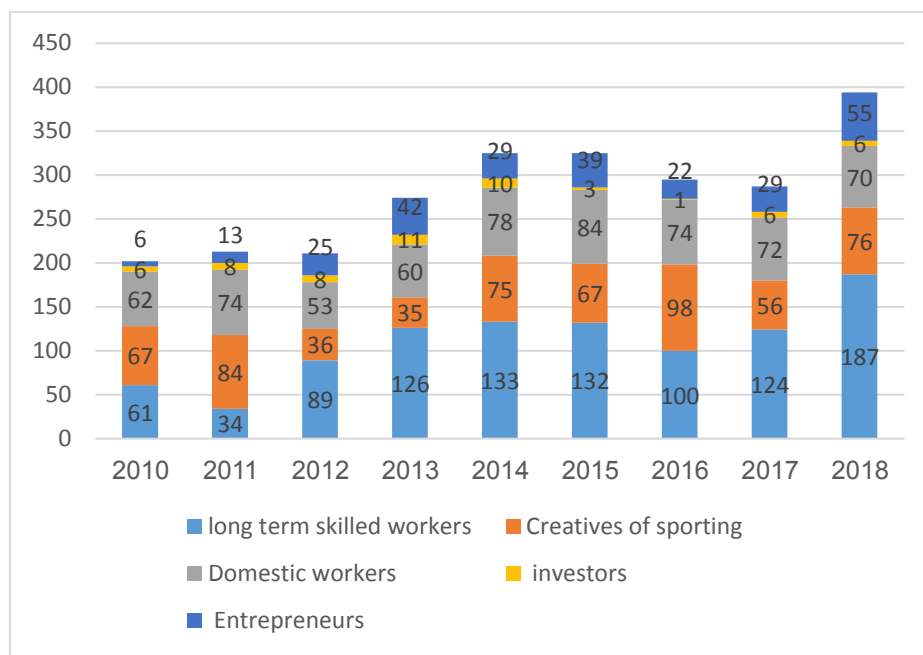


Chart 73: Entry clearance work visas granted to Iranians in the UK by categories (2010-2018)

Source: (Home Office, 2018b)

### 2.3.3 Iranians in Germany

Germany is among the top destination countries for Iranian immigrants. The following chart indicates the changing trend

of population of Iran-born immigrants in Germany during 1990-2019 which has been estimated through country census based on the country of birth by UN.

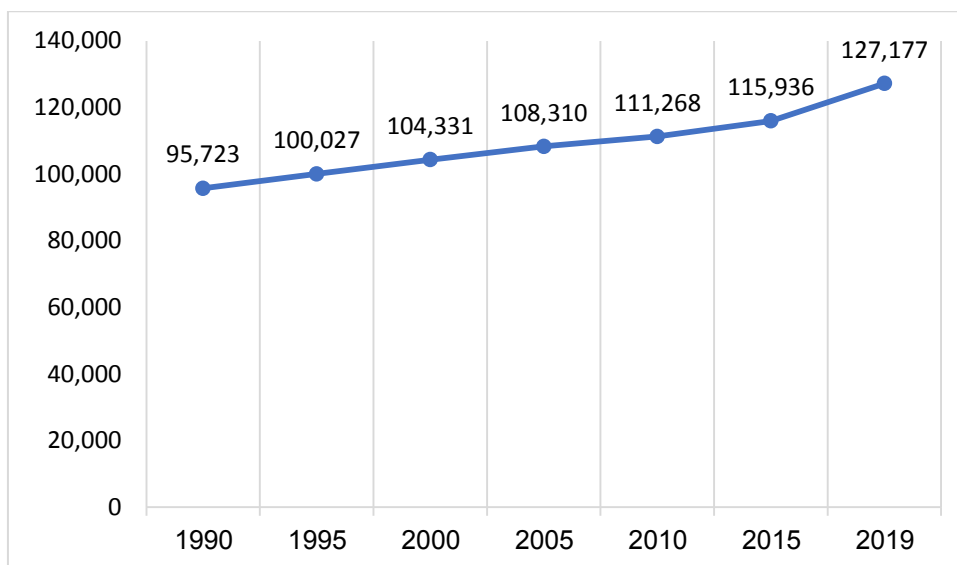


Chart 74: Iranian population (born in Iran) in Germany (1990-2019)  
Source: (UNDESA, 2020)

Chart 75 indicates the annual number of Iranian citizens naturalized in Germany.

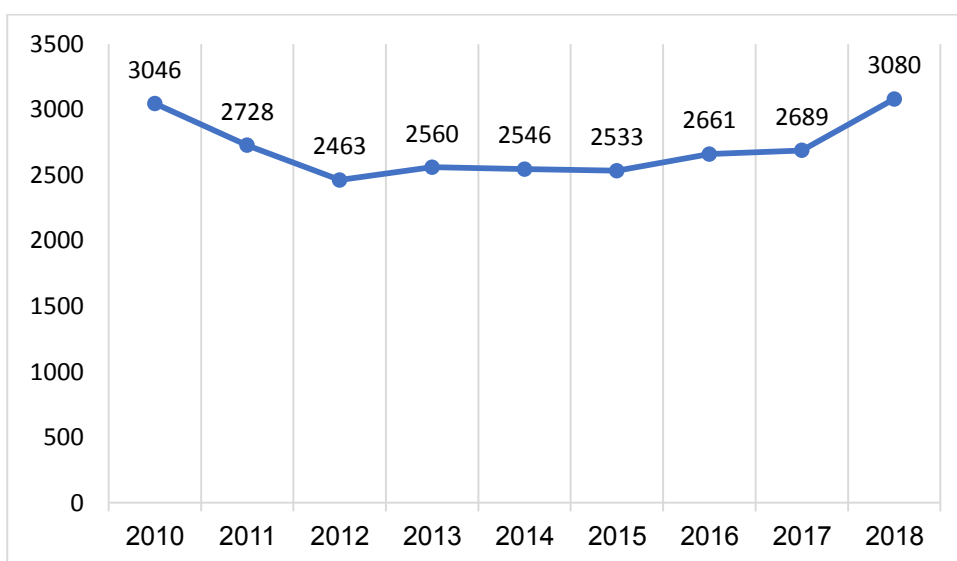


Chart 75: Iranian citizens naturalized in Germany (2010-2018)  
Source: (DESTATIS, 2020a)

As shown, contrary to the increasing general trend of naturalizations in Germany (see chart 76), there has been decreasing trend in the number of Iranians being naturalized in Germany during 2010-2012. Also, the number of Iranians being natu-

ralized in Germany has not changed much although there has been an acute drop in the total number of naturalization cases in Germany this country from 2013 to 2015.

The following chart illustrates the total number of German naturalization cases.



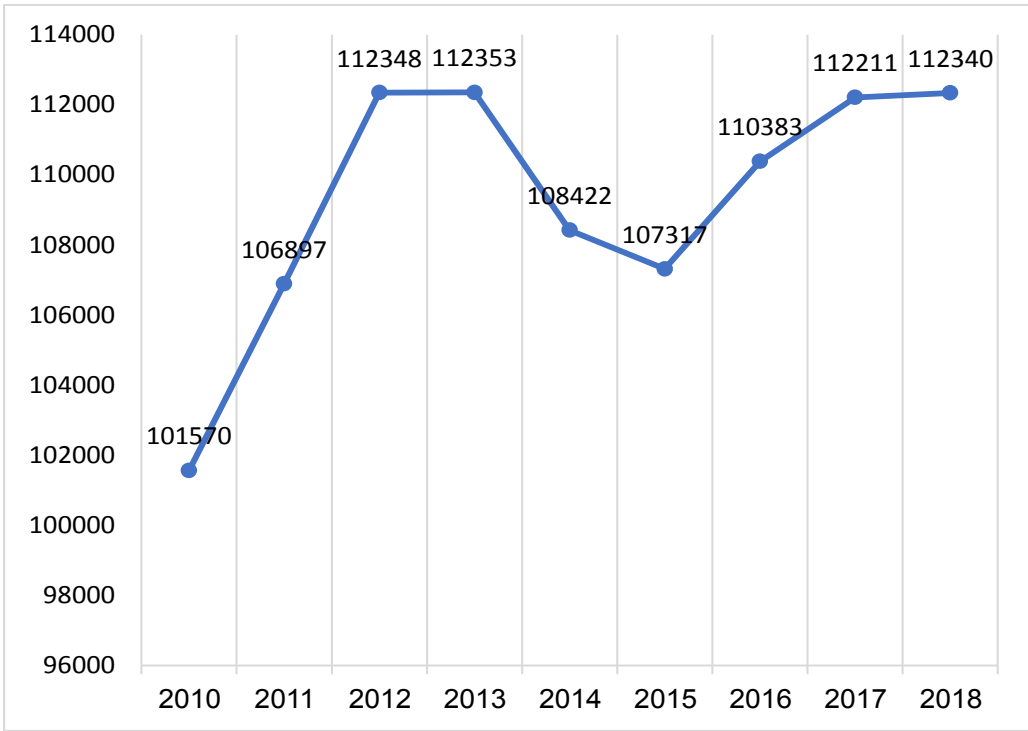


Chart 76: Total immigrants naturalized in Germany (2010-2018)  
Source: (DESTATIS, 2020a)

Figure 6 classifies immigrants based on their residence status in Germany:

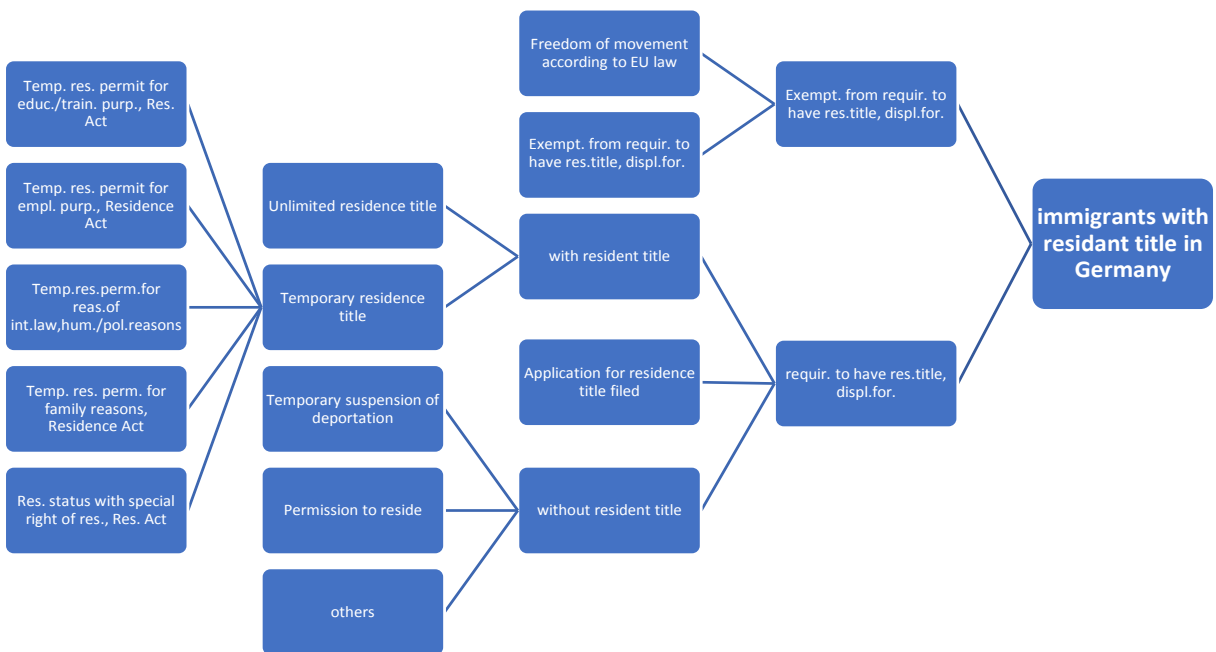


Figure 6: Immigrants with resident title in Germany  
Source: (BAMF, 2018b)

Chart 77 shows the number of Iranians who have got temporary and permanent

Germany residence titles from 2010 to 2018.

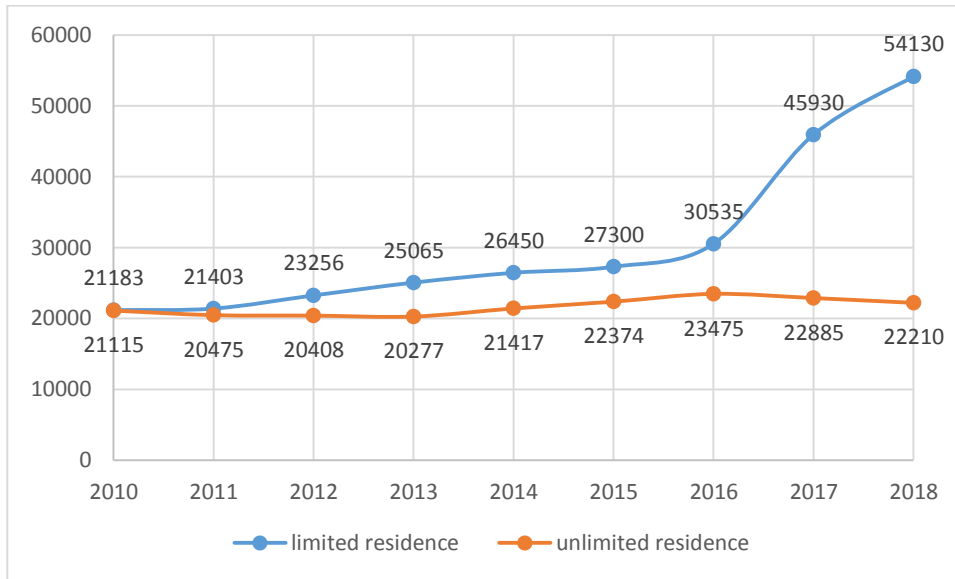


Chart 77: Iranians with limited and unlimited residence permit in Germany (2010-2018)  
Source: (DESTATIS, 2020b)

As shown in chart 78, the total number of Iranians with temporary residence permit is higher than those with permanent residence permit in Germany, and the distinction between these two numbers has been constantly growing (except for in 2014). In 2017, there has been an abrupt and acute in-

crease in the number of Iranians with temporary residence permit, while the number of people granted unlimited permit underwent a decrease at the same year. Chart 78 reports the number of Iranians holding temporary residence permits by the different reasons for residency in Germany.

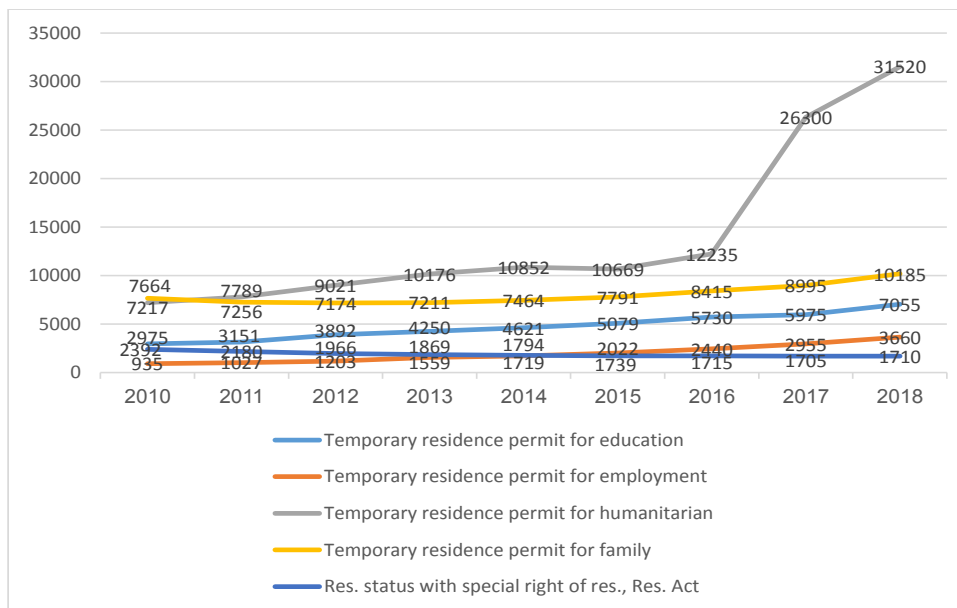


Chart 78: Iranians holding temporary residence permit (by types of permit) in Germany (2010-2018)  
Source: (DESTATIS, 2020b)



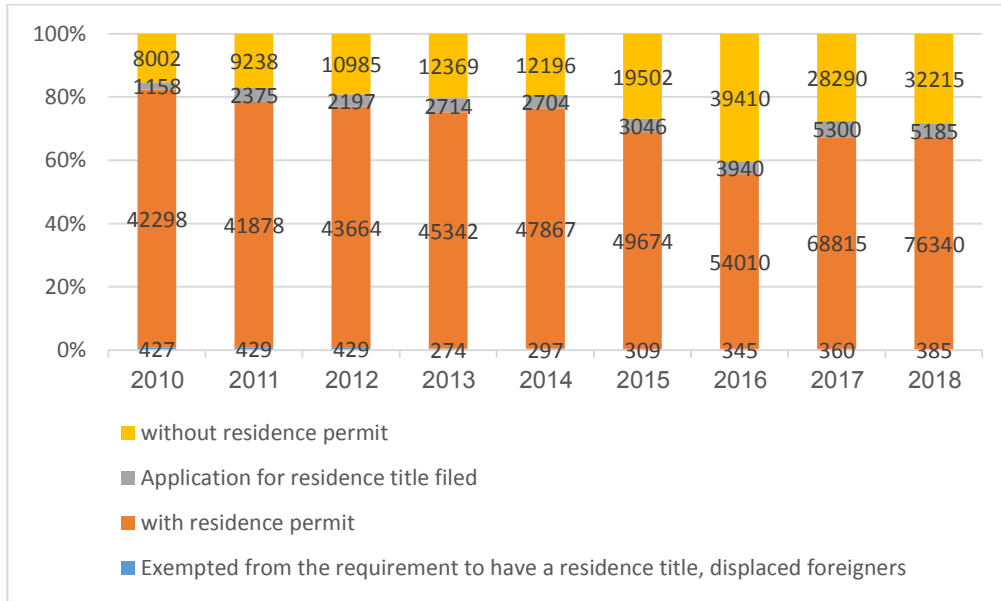


Chart 79: Iranians by residence permit status in Germany (2010-2018)  
Source: (DESTATIS, 2020b)

As can be seen, the number of Iranians with humanitarian residence permit is higher than other temporary residence types and has had an abrupt increase

since 2016.

Chart 100 indicates Iranian immigrants' status in Germany based on their type of residence.

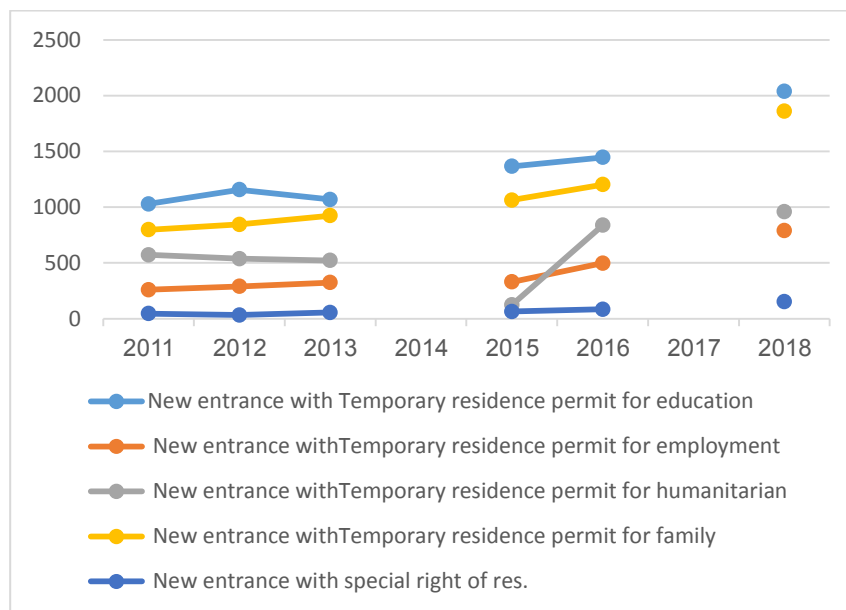


Chart 80: Temporarily new entrance of Iranians to Germany by residence permit type(2011-2018)  
Source: (BAMF, 2011) (BAMF, 2012) (BAMF, 2013) (BAMF, 2015b) (BAMF, 2018b)

Chart 80 indicates the annual trend of Iranian immigrants holding temporary

residence titles based on the type of residence from 2011 to 2018.

Chart 81 displays a schematic image of the annual arrival of Iranians in Germany

based on their residence title from 2011 to 2018.

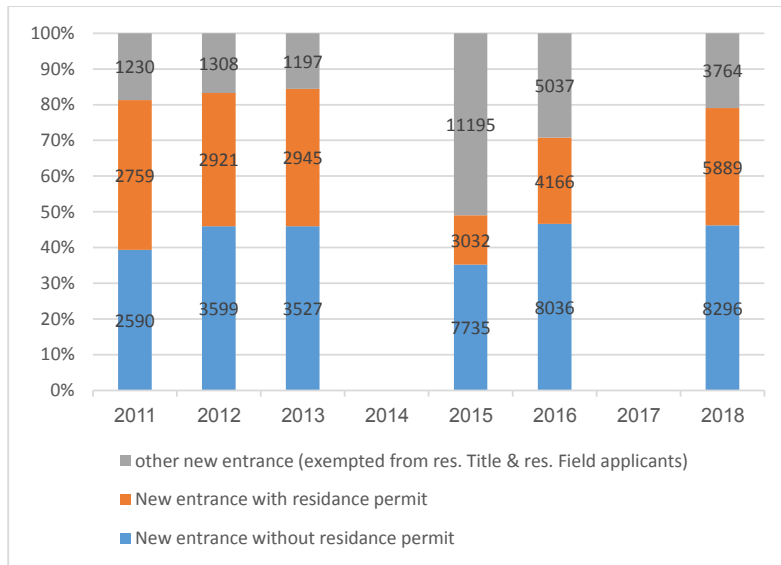


Chart 81: Entrance of Iranian to Germany by type of residence permit(2011-2018)  
Source: (BAMF, 2011) (BAMF, 2012) (BAMF, 2013) (BAMF, 2015b) (BAMF, 2018b)

One of the major ways of work migration to Germany is receiving a Blue Card so that an individual first receives a 4-year residence permit and can then apply for permanent residence if he succeeds in finding a job position. Iran is among the top 10 sending countries

whose nationals are working in Germany by Blue card.

Chart 82 shows indicates the total number of Iranian immigrants in Germany who held the blue card from 2016 to the first half of 2019. Iran ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in 2016 and 9<sup>th</sup> in the next three years.

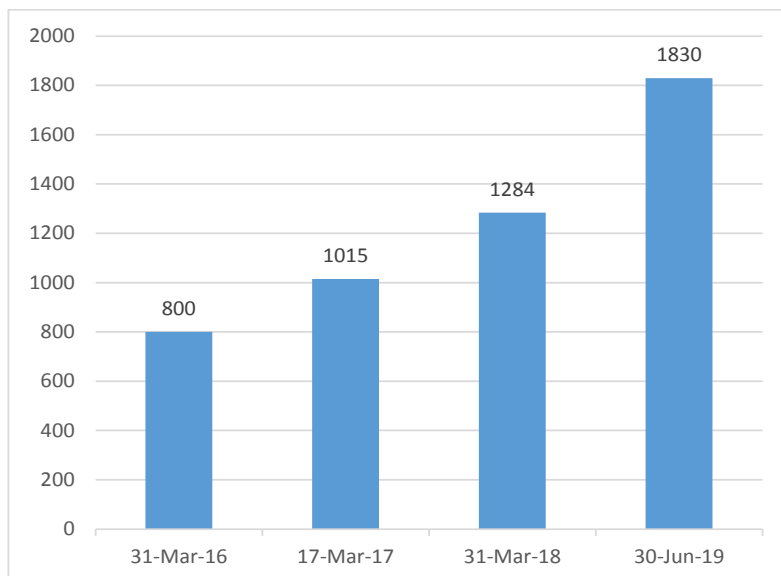


Chart 82: Iranian Blue card holders in Germany  
Source: (BAMF, 2015a) (BAMF, 2016) (BAMF, 2017a) (BAMF, 2018a) BAMF, 2019)



Chart 83 report the annual number of the Blue Cards granted to Iranians.

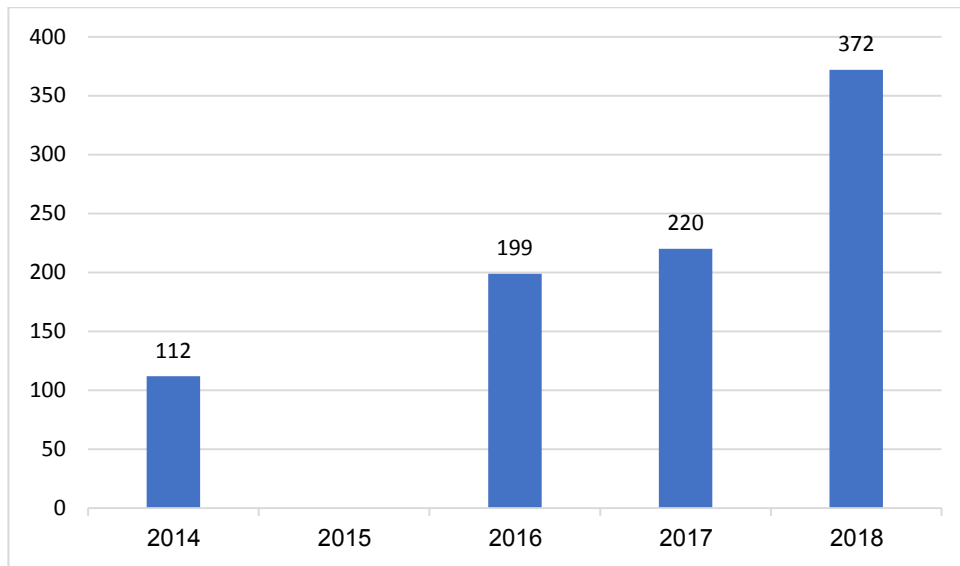


Chart 83: Blue Card issued for Iranians in Germany (2014-2018)  
Source: (BAMF, 2014) (BAMF, 2017b) (BAMF, 2018b)

Iran is also among the top 10 countries outside of the EU whose citizens receive permanent German residence due to being employed there.

Chart 84 indicates the permanent res-

idences granted to Iranians in Germany due to the employment in the country from 2014 to 2018. During these five years, Iran has ranked 8<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

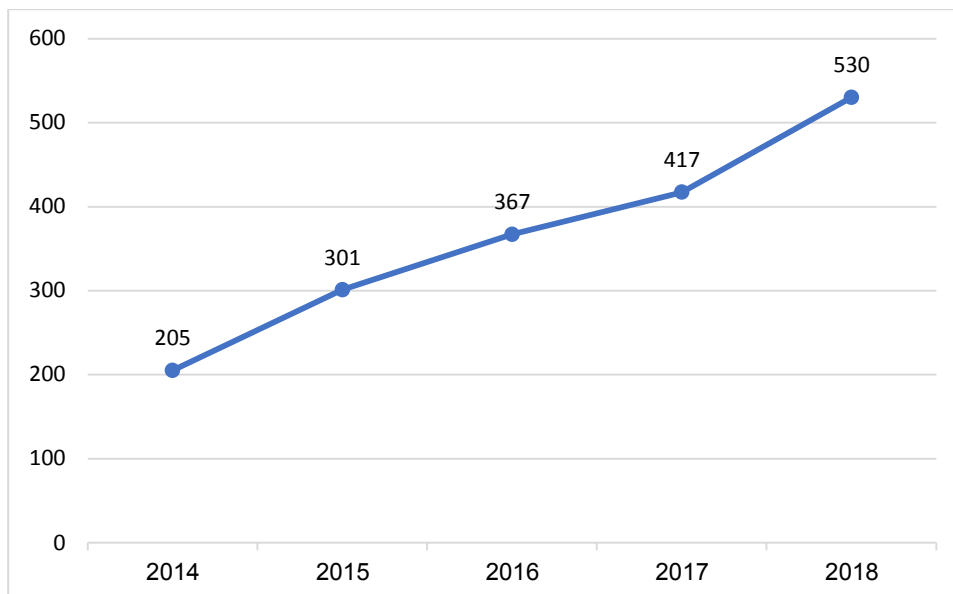


Chart 84: Permanent residence (settlement) permit Granted to Iranians for the purpose of employment(2014-2018)

Source: (BAMF, 2015a) (BAMF, 2016) (BAMF, 2017a) (BAMF, 2018a) (BAMF, 2019)



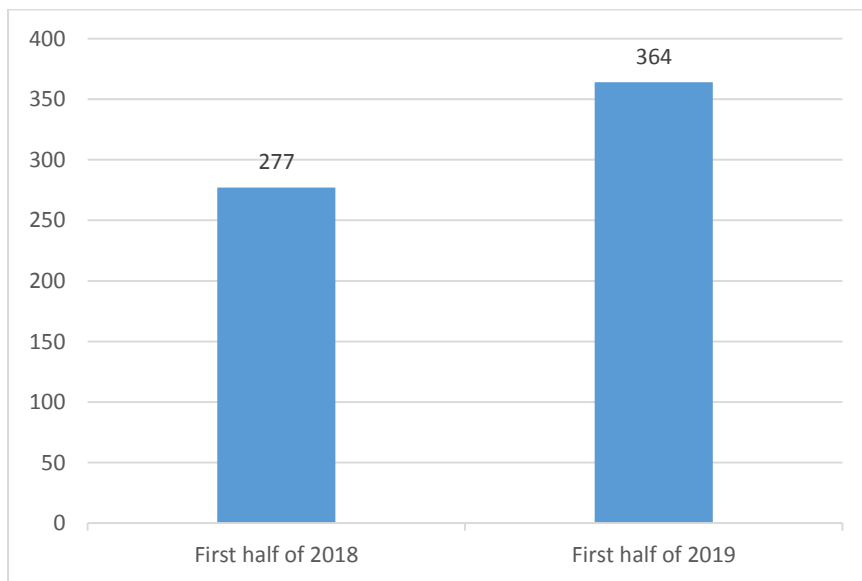


Chart 85: Permanent residence granted for Iranians to employment purpose  
Source: (BAMF, 2019)



Another way to obtain a residence is running a business in Germany. Iran is among the top 10 countries whose citizens receive this type of residence. Chart

86 indicates the changing trend in the number of this type of residence permit recipients during 2011-2018.

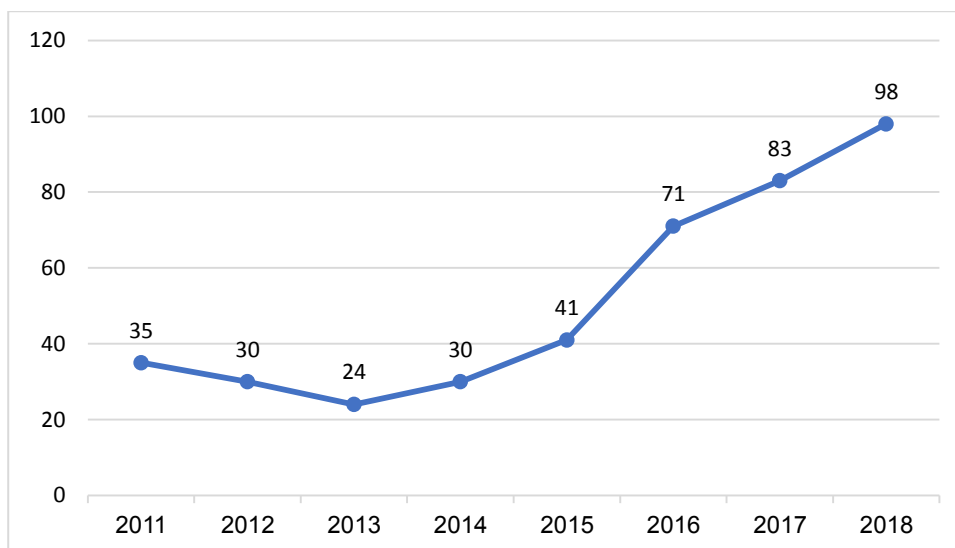


Chart 86: Self-employed residence permit granted to Iranians (2011-2018)  
Source: (BAMF, 2011) (BAMF, 2012) (BAMF, 2013) (BAMF, 2014) (BAMF, 2015b) (BAMF, 2017b) (BAMF, 2018b) Iranians in Turkey

### 2.3.4. Iranians in Turkey

Turkey is among the emerging destination countries for Iranians in recent years. Due to the asylum-seeking channel being opened in Turkey caused by the conflicts in Syria and Iraq over the past decade, the number of Iranians seeking asylum in this country has increased significantly. According to international migration data by the UN, the number of Iranians in Turkey is reported 83,000 people (2019), taking into account the number of people seeking asylum or those who have a similar status.

However, the same statistic is reported to be 36,000 in Turkey about to the World Bank Statistics. It appears that the number reported by the World Bank has not taken the population of Iranians wait

listed for refugee registration in Turkey into account.

Turkey is one of the influential countries in the Middle East which has been the destination country of many nations including Syria, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Uzbekistan. As indicated in the chart 87, the number of Iranians residing in Turkey has undergone a 45% decrease over the period of 1990-1995 and then has increased slightly until 2010. However, the number of Iranians residing in Turkey has had a remarkable 2.7-fold (167%) increase over the period of 2010-2015.

This increase has continued until 2019, indication a 111% (2.1 times) increase in 2019 compared to 2015. The chart 88 illustrates the changing trend of Iranians in Turkey.

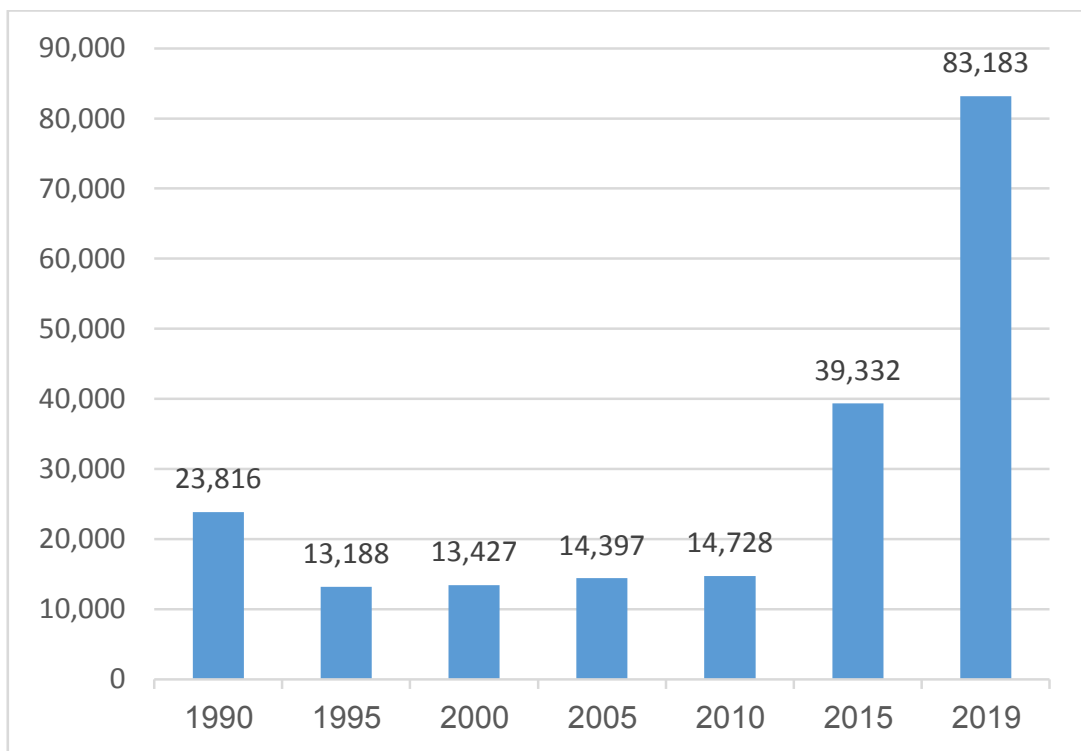


Chart 87: Iranian population (by place of birth) in Turkey (1990-2019)

Source: (UNDESA, 2020)

As shown in chart 88, Iranian citizens entering Turkey indicates a sudden increase in 2018 compared to 2017.

After Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria, Iran has been the 4<sup>th</sup> country in 2016

with the largest population relocating to Turkey. Iran ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in 2017 and 5<sup>th</sup> in 2018 among the origin countries immigrants in Turkey (TURKSTAT, 2019a).

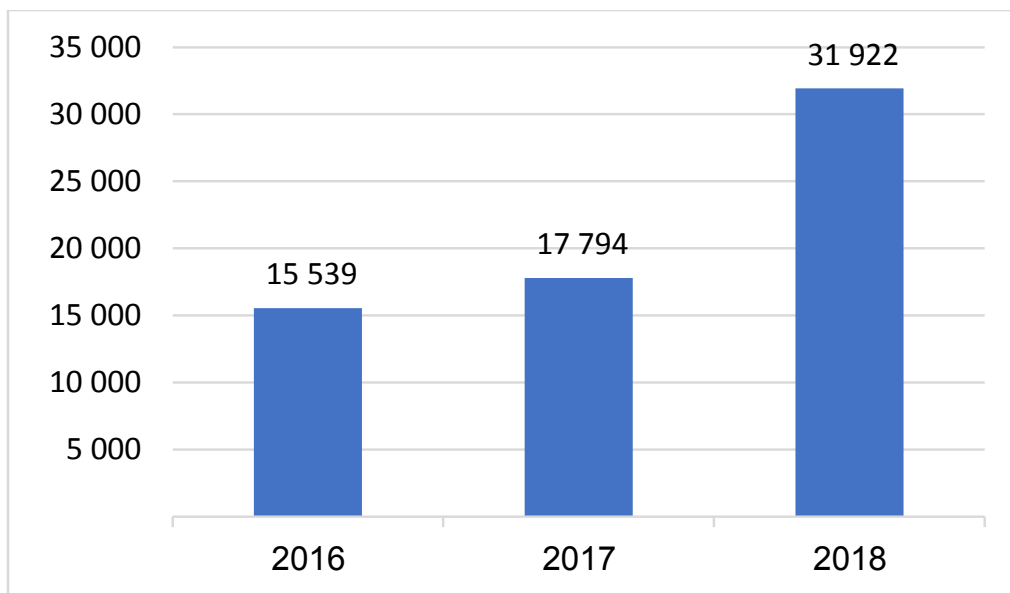


Chart 88: Iranian citizens Immigration to Turkey (2016-2018)

Source: (TURKSTAT, 2019a)

Chart 89 indicates Iranian citizens who have left Turkey over 2016-2018. This

number has had an 82% increase in 2018 compared to 2017.

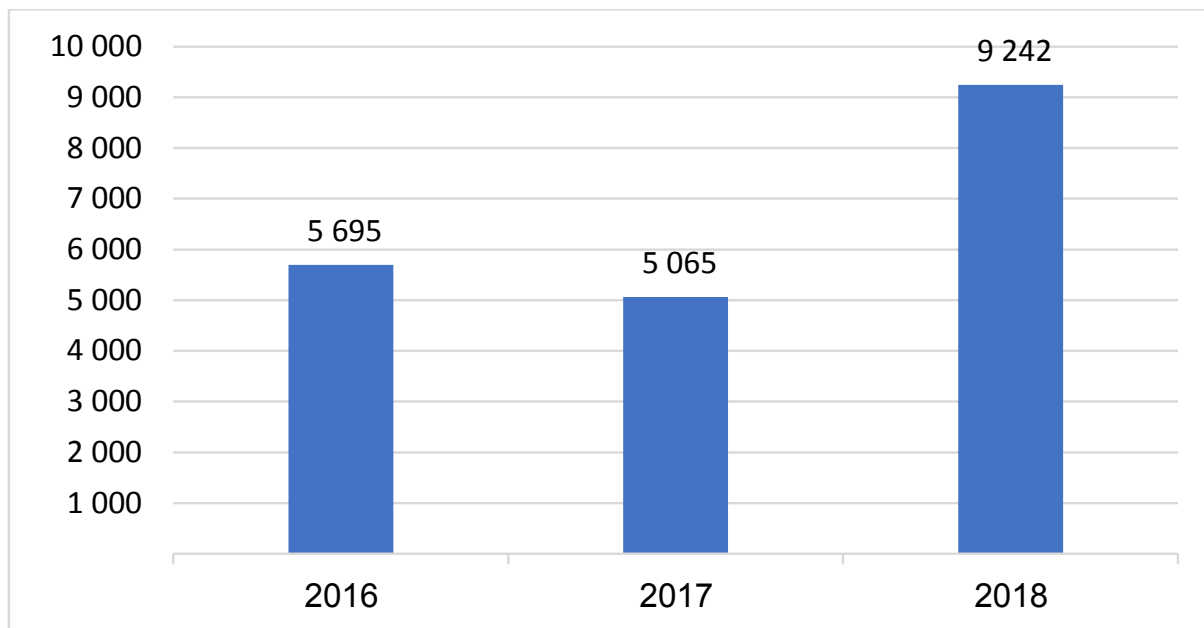


Chart 89: Iranian citizens Emigration from Turkey (2016-2018)

Source: (TURKSTAT, 2019a)



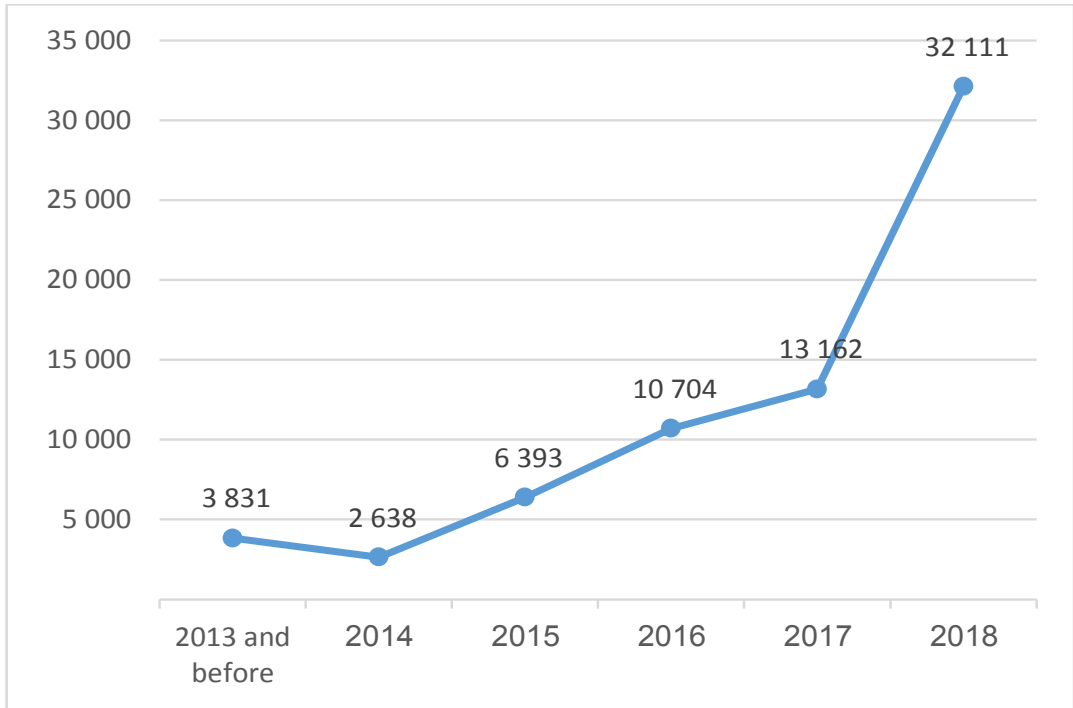
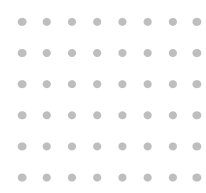


Chart 90: Iranian population (by citizenship) by first year of residence in Turkey (2013-2018)  
Source: (TURKSTAT, 2019b)

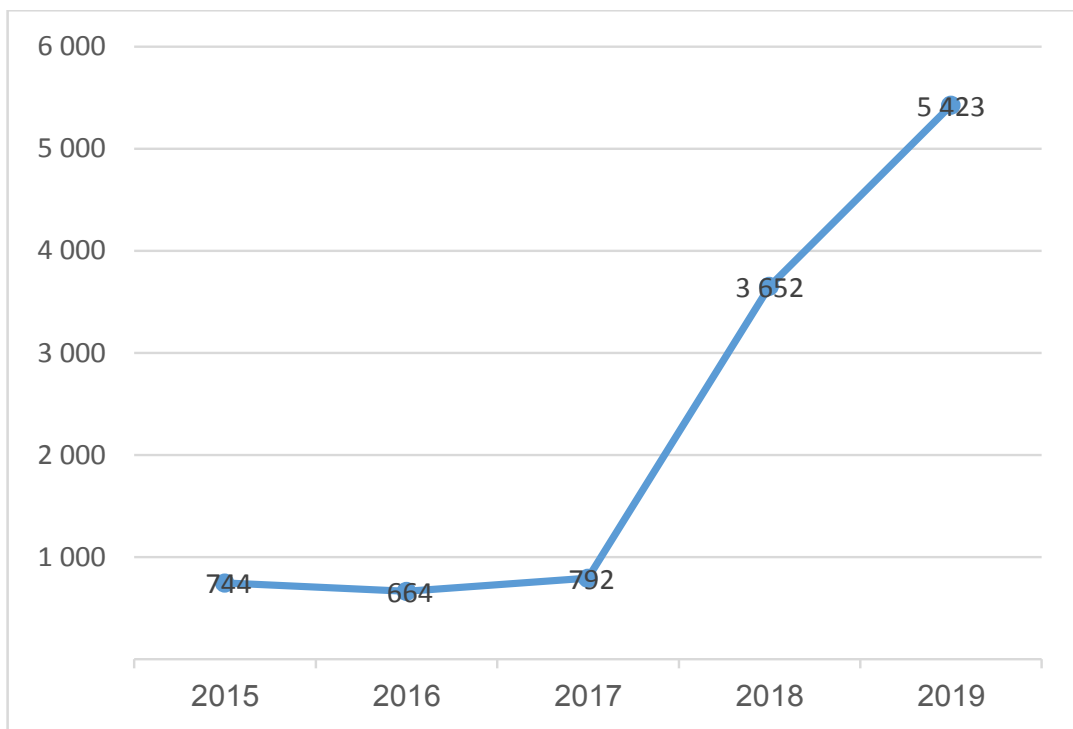


Chart 91: Number of houses bought by Iranians in Turkey (2015-2019)  
Source: (TURKSTAT, 2020)

The trend of purchasing properties by Iranians increased since 2017, and in the first quarter of 2020, They purchased 1,864 houses that surpassed Iraqis with 1,856 properties acquired and ranked first

among the foreign nationals purchasing properties in Turkey. Chart 92 compares the number of houses purchased by Iraqis and Iranians during the first quarter of 2020.

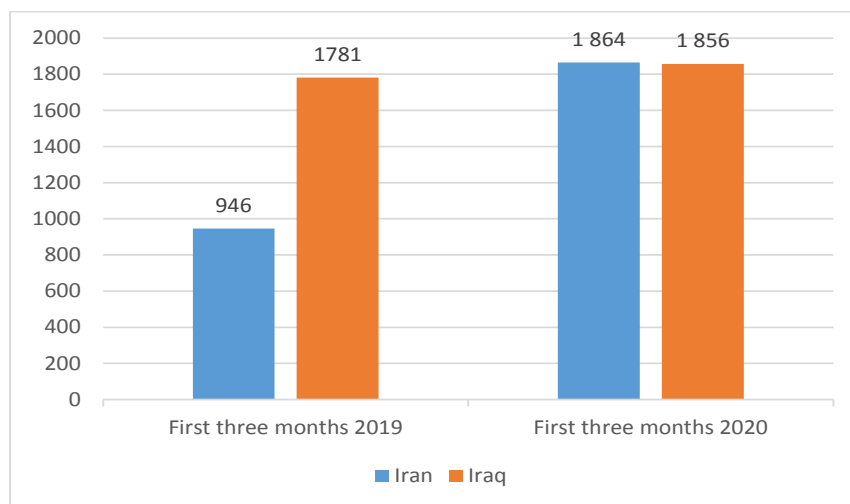


Chart 92: Number of houses bought by Iranians and Iraqis in first quarter of 2019, 2020  
Source: (TURKSTAT, 2020)

Iranians have also been among the top countries in terms of establishing companies in Turkey. Iranian citizens have ranked first in this regard in 2019 by establishing 970 companies in Turkey (TOBB, 2020).

## 2.4. Iranians in Asia

The following table indicates number of Iranians in Asia and the top 10 countries with largest numbers of Iranians based on the World Bank Bilateral Migration Matrix<sup>1</sup>.

Table 23: Iranian population in top 10 Asian countries of destination(1960-2017)

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2013	2017
Asia	128,112	179,055	249,177	214,002	269,182	378,702.5	610,229	668,023
The United Arab Emirate	74	2210	24124	44762	76,907	62,449	412,400	<sup>2</sup> 454,000
Kuwait	1,9453	46,502	75,133	12,408	11,717	98,302	46,419	46,419
Israel	44,782	53,211	59,753	53,077	58,326	76,259	53,236	45,170
Qatar	646	3271	6,628	2,984	3,401	255	30,000	30,000
Iraq	31,419	21,455	15,104	13,305	1,923	8,639	15,611	15,611
Malaysia	-	36	107	342	542	-	9,817	9,817
Armenia	-	-	-	-	15,999	18,154	8,929	8,929
Japan	5	84	186	644	5,591	5,225	6,077	6,077
Turkmenistan	-	5,068	4,827	7,637	5,598	-	-	3,182
Pakistan	7,102	443	355	285	229	15,605	-	2,154

Source: (World Bank, 2020b)

1. This database presents more comprehensive data on Asian countries compared to the UN data  
2. 2017 data on Iranian population in the UAE was extracted from uae-expatriates.com

## 2.5. Iranians in Australia

Australia has always been one of the popular destination countries for various types of Iranian immigrants including work emigration, and the population of Iranians residing in Australia has had an increasing trend over the past years.

The population of Iranians in Australia has reached over 73,000 people which indicates an increase of over 100% since 2010. Chart 93 illustrates this trend. Data presented in this chart has been estimated from county census and is based on the country of birth by UN.

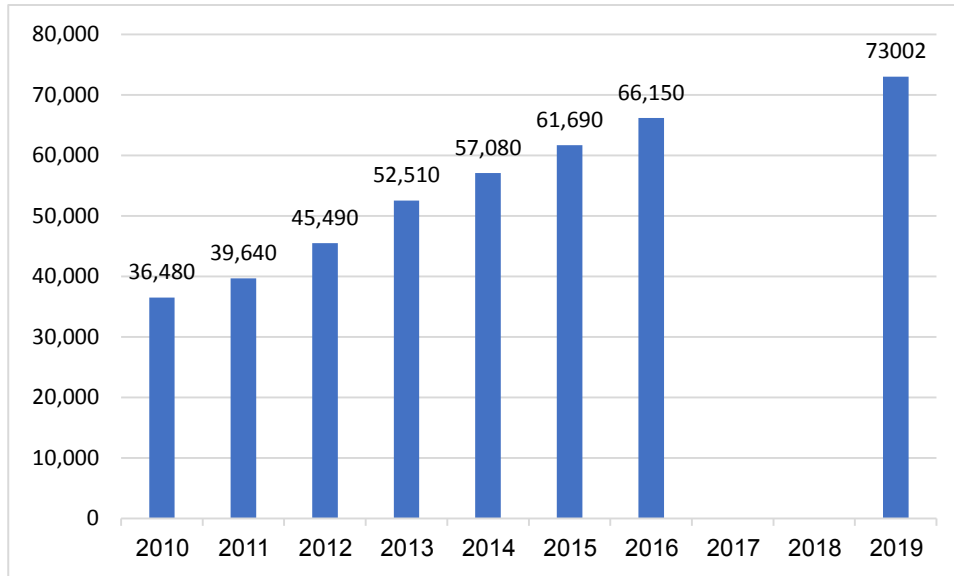


Chart 93: Iranian population (by place of birth) in Australia(2010-2019)  
Source: (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020) (UNDESA, 2020)

Australia currently offers 24 types of temporary and permanent visas for attracting required human resource. Iranian migration flows to this country have been presented as follows.

### Temporary Residence in Australia

There are several types of temporary

visas for residing in this country: transit, special category, student, crew and transit, working holiday maker, skilled employment, other employments, etc. Chart 94 indicates the number of Iranians holding temporary Australian residencies, that shows an increase of about 140% during 2012-2018.

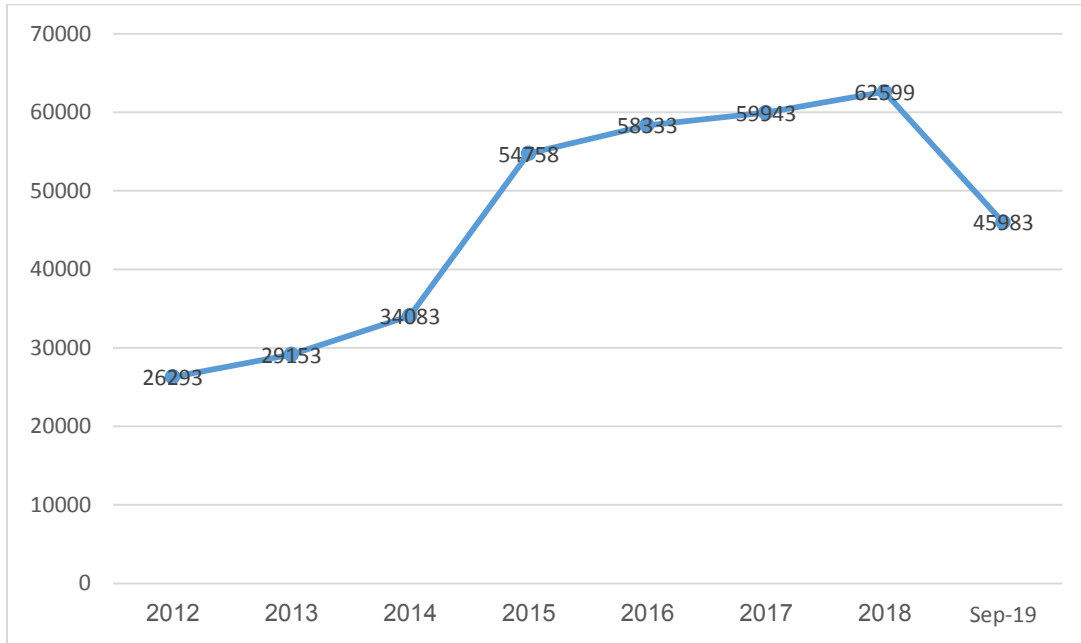


Chart 94: Iranian Temporary visa holders in Australia (2012-2019)  
Source: (Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, 2020c)

Chart 95 shows a schematic of the Iranian temporary residence status in Australia.

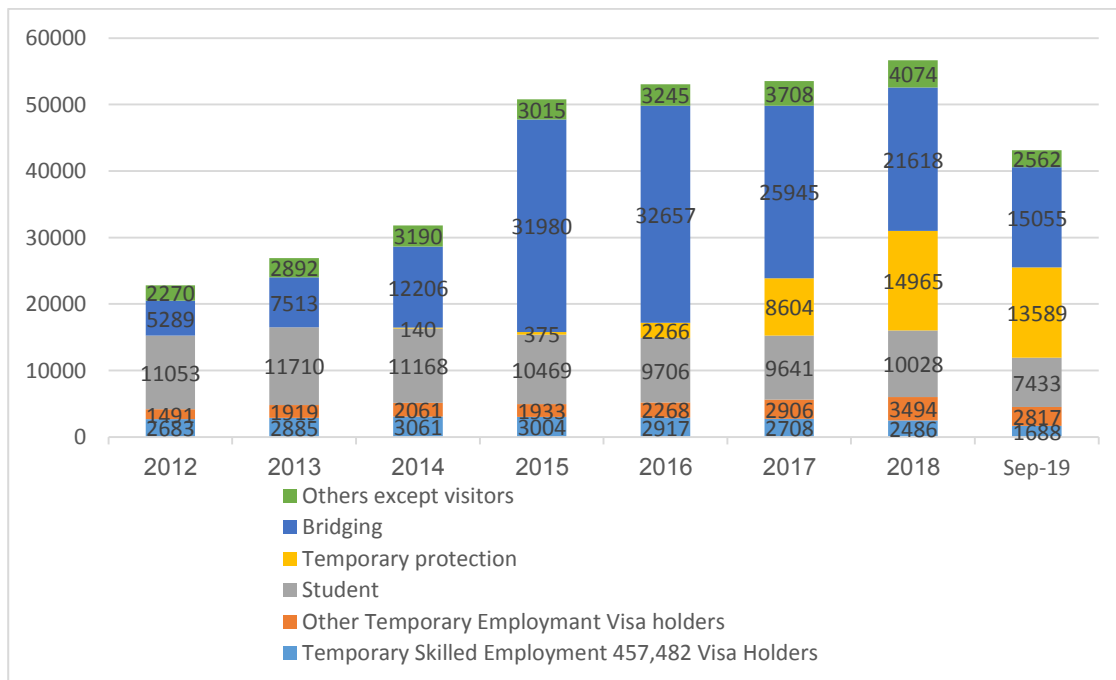


Chart 95: Iranian Temporary visa holders in Australia by type of visas  
Source: (Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, 2020c)

**Temporary Skill Shortage visa (subclass 482)**

Many of the Australian work visas are for recruiting skilled labor force. This

type of visa used to be called Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) which expired in 2017 and replaced by the Temporary Skill Shortage visa (subclass 482).



Chart 96 reports the statistics on the annual number of this type of visa granted to Iranians. The chart shows that the highest number of this type of visa issued to Iranians has been in 2011 (518 visas). The trend has gone through a decrease after 2011 and has dropped to 262 visas

in 2017. The number of this type of visa granted to Iranians increased again and hit 300 visas in 2018 but seems to have a decreasing trend in 2019 so that only 74 Temporary Skill Shortage visas (subclass 482) were granted to Iranians by the end of September 2019.

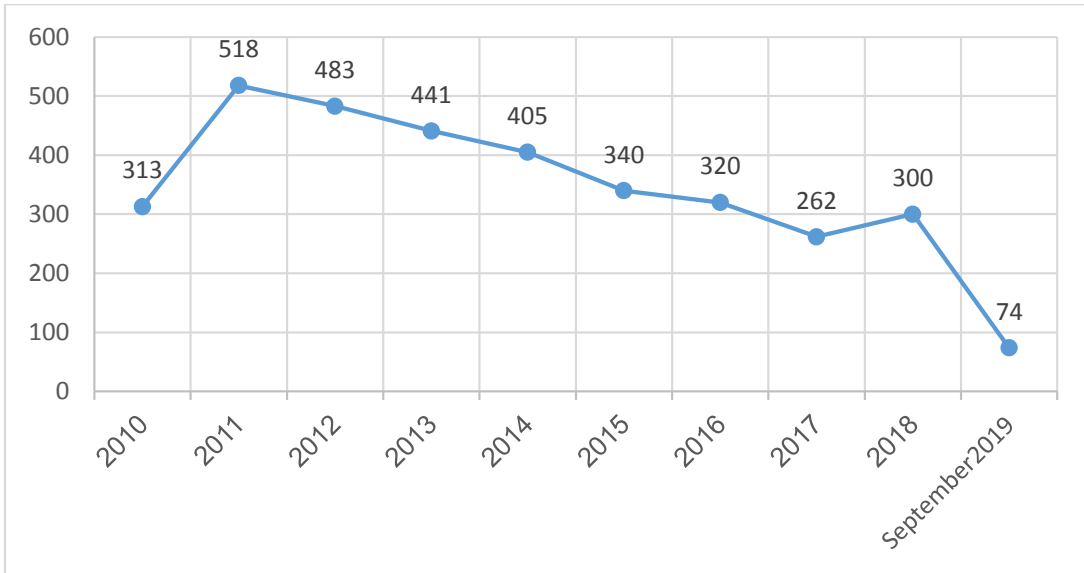


Chart 96: Skilled Employment 457,482 visa granted for Iranians in Australia(2010-2019)  
Source: (Australian Government department of Home Affairs, 2020b)

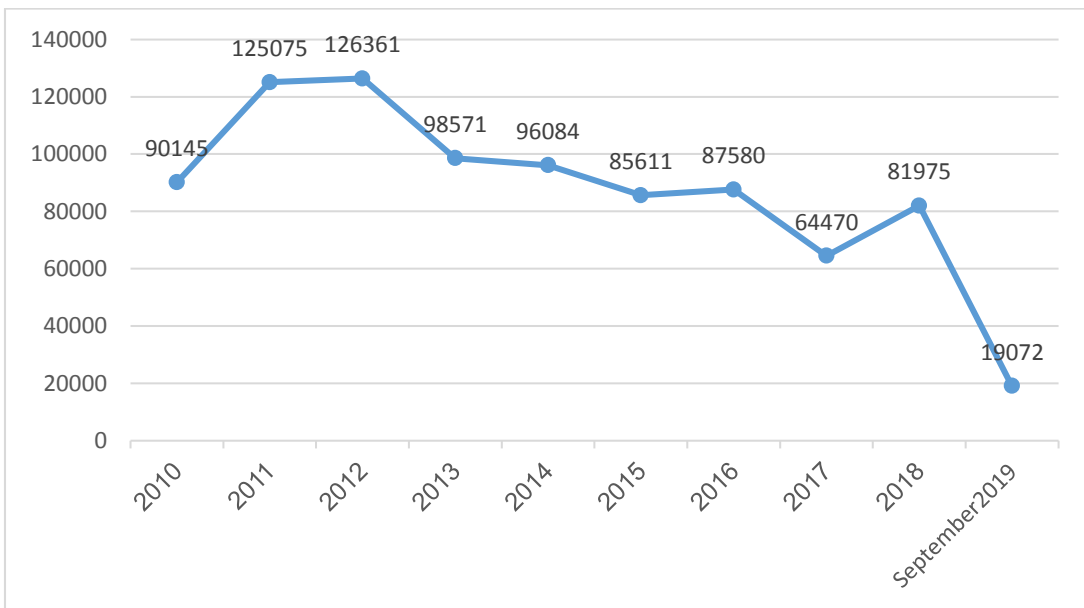


Chart 97: Total skilled employment 457,482 visa granted in Australia (2010-2019)  
Source: (Australian Government department of Home Affairs, 2020b)



Chart 98 indicates the total number of Iranians holding skilled employment of visa in Australia.

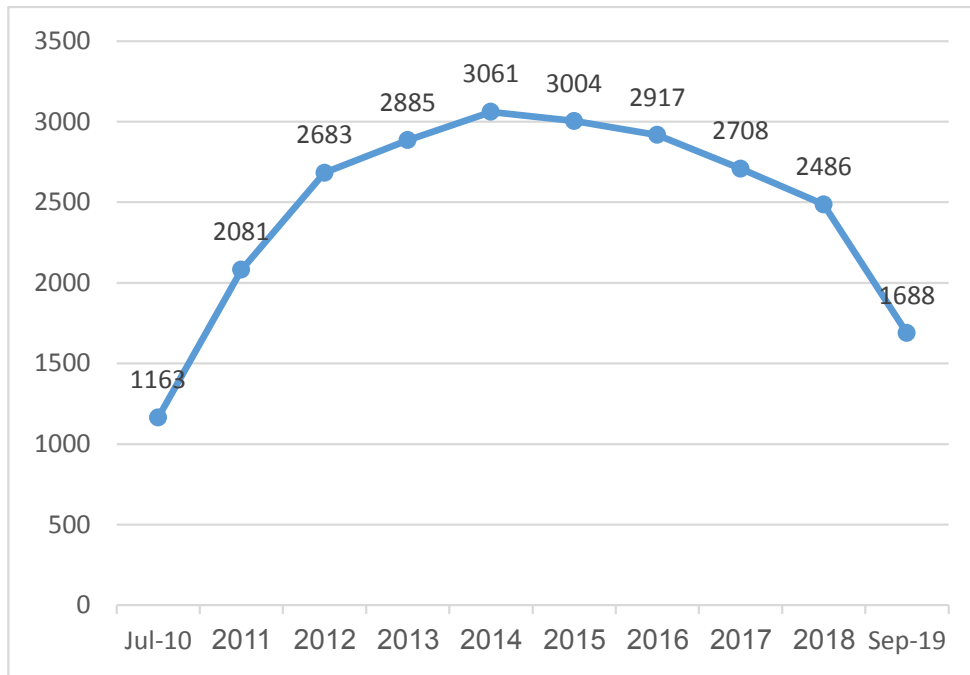


Chart 98: Iranian Skilled Employment 457,482 Visa Holders in Australia (2010-2019)  
Source: (Australian Government department of Home Affairs, 2020b)

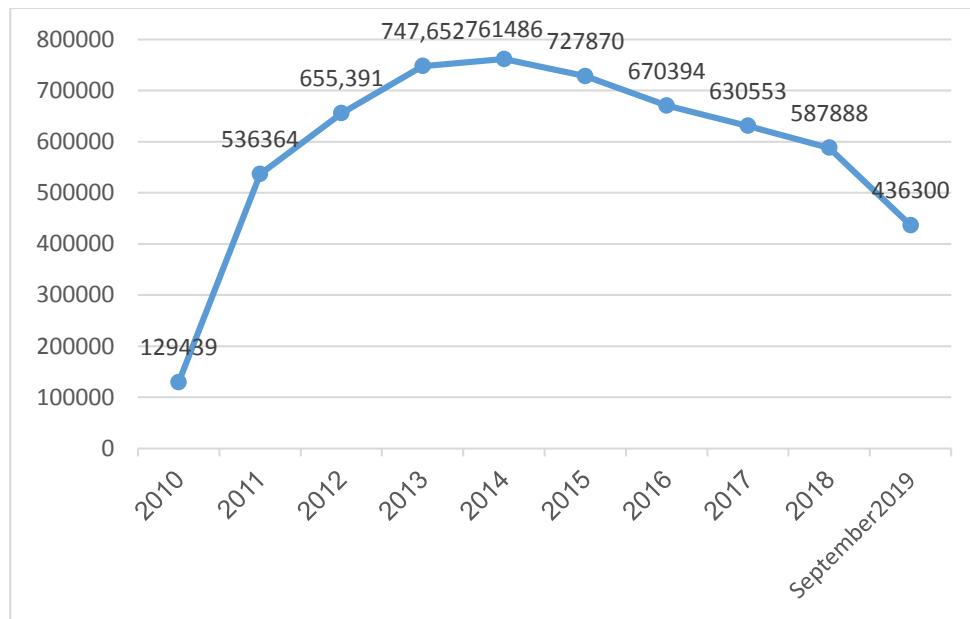
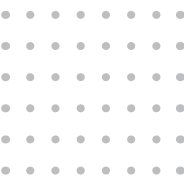


Chart 99: TOTAL Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) Visa Holders in Australia (2010-2019)  
Source: (Australian Government department of Home Affairs, 2020b)

**Temporary Residence Visa for other Types of Employment**

Another type of temporary residence

visa is related to other Types of employment. The number of Iranians holding this visa is indicated in chart 100.



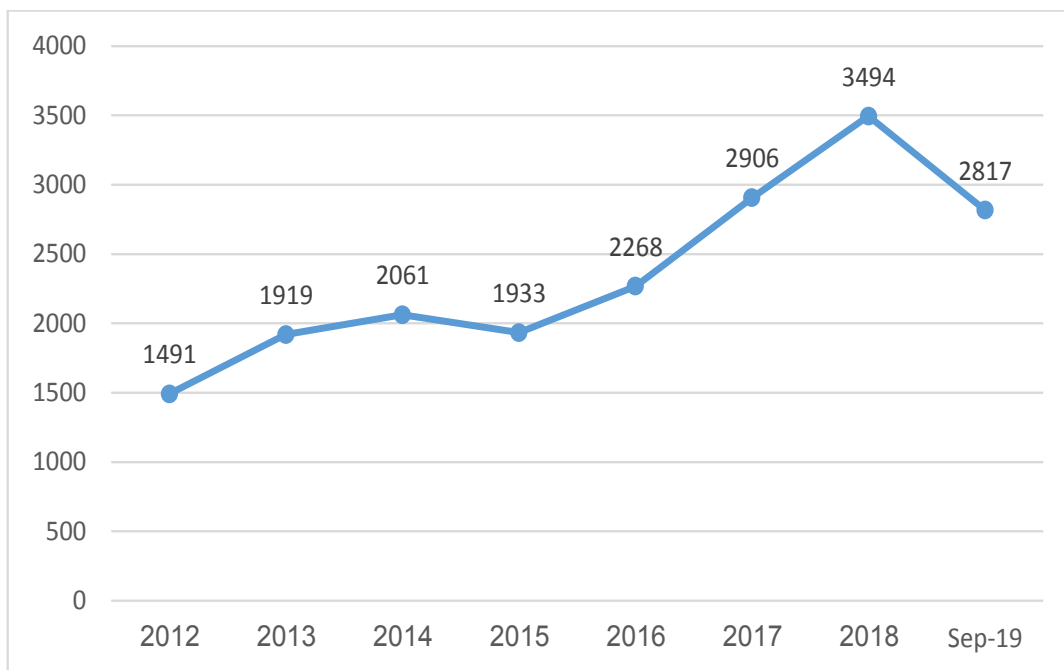


Chart 100: Iranian other employment visa holders in Australia (2012-2019)  
Source: (Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, 2020c)

Chart 101 illustrates the number of total temporary resident visa holders related to other Types of employment.

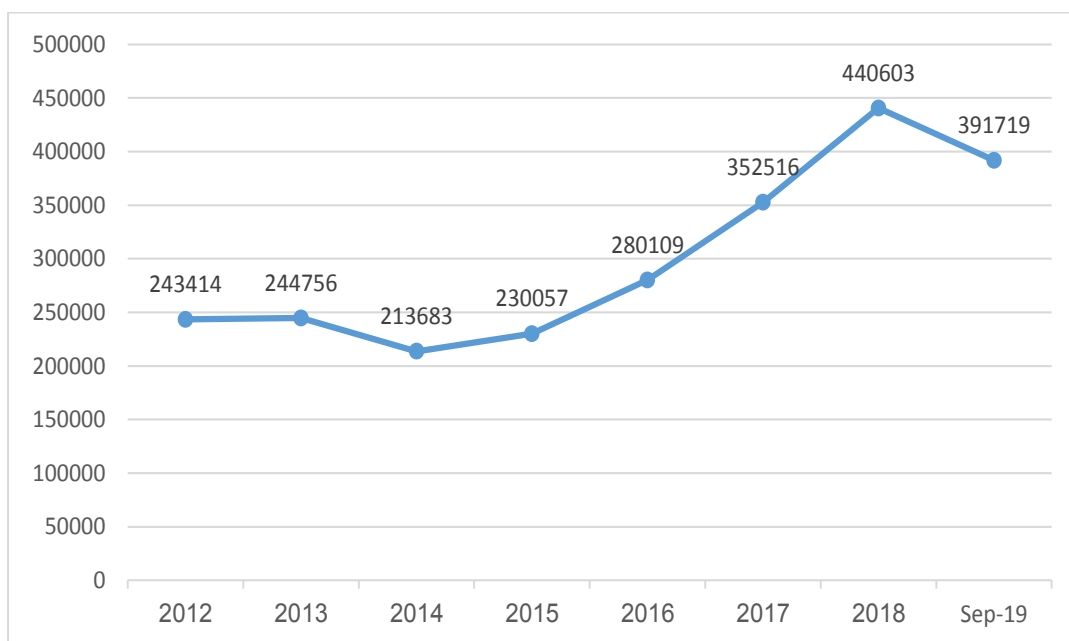


Chart 101: Total Temporary Resident (Other Employment) Visa holders in Australia (2012-2019)  
(Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, 2020c)

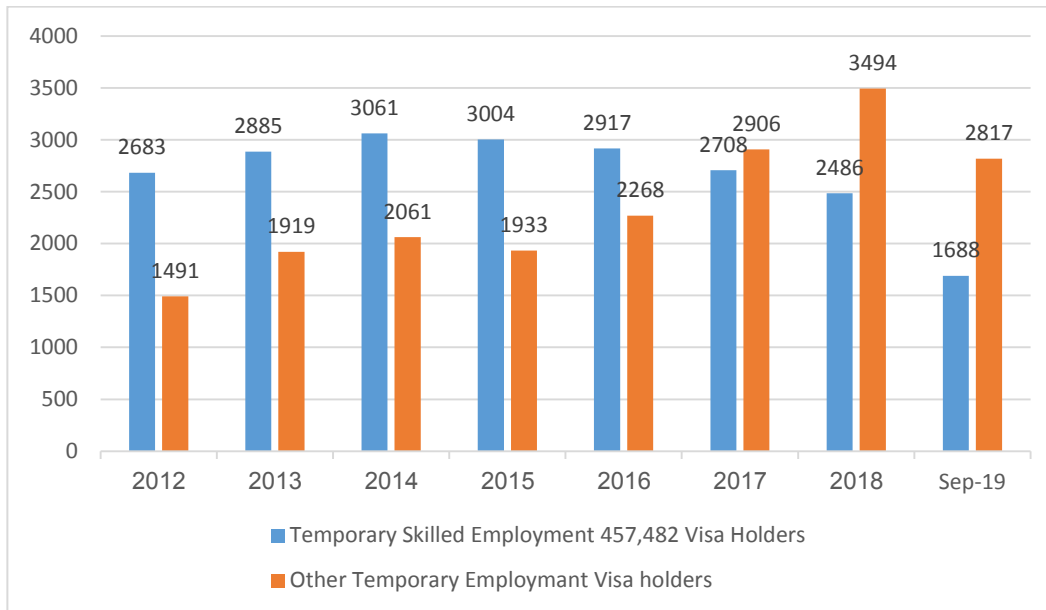


Chart 102: Temporary skilled Employment and Other Temporary Employment Iranian visa holders in Australia (2012-2019)

Source: (Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, 2020c)

### Permanent Residence in Australia

Permanent residence in Australia usually includes four main streams: Skill stream, Family stream, Child stream, and Special eligibility. The skill stream, in turn, divides into three streams, seek-

ing to attract professionals to Australia: Employer-Sponsored visas, Points Tested Skilled Migration visas and other skill-oriented visas. Each of the streams is divided into different types which are indicated in figure 7.

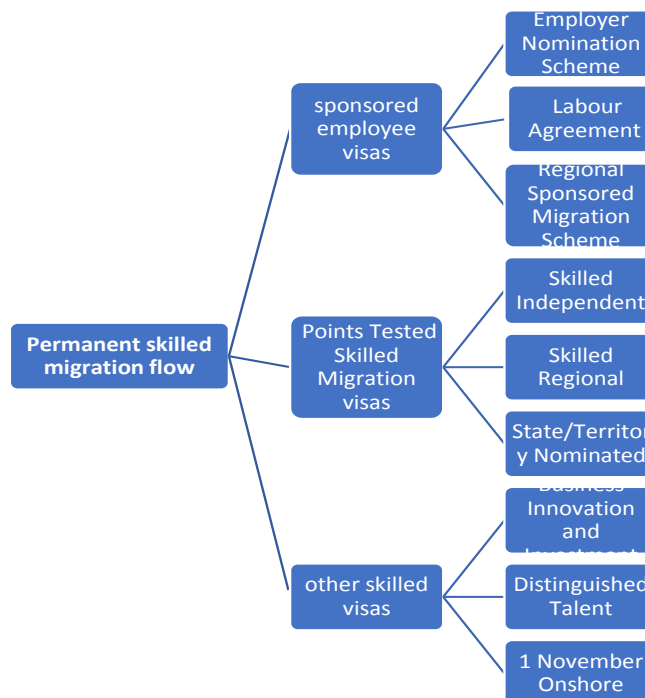


Figure 7: Australia permanent migration visa types

Source: (Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, 2020a)

### Skill Stream Permanent Visa Immigration Program

The largest part of permanent immigration to Australia is made up of skilled labor force migration. 37.6% of the total migration to Australia in 2018 was through this program. Iran is among the

top 15 countries along with other countries such as India, China, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, etc. that citizens receive this type of visa.

Chart 103 indicates the number of visas issued to Iranians during 2010-2018.

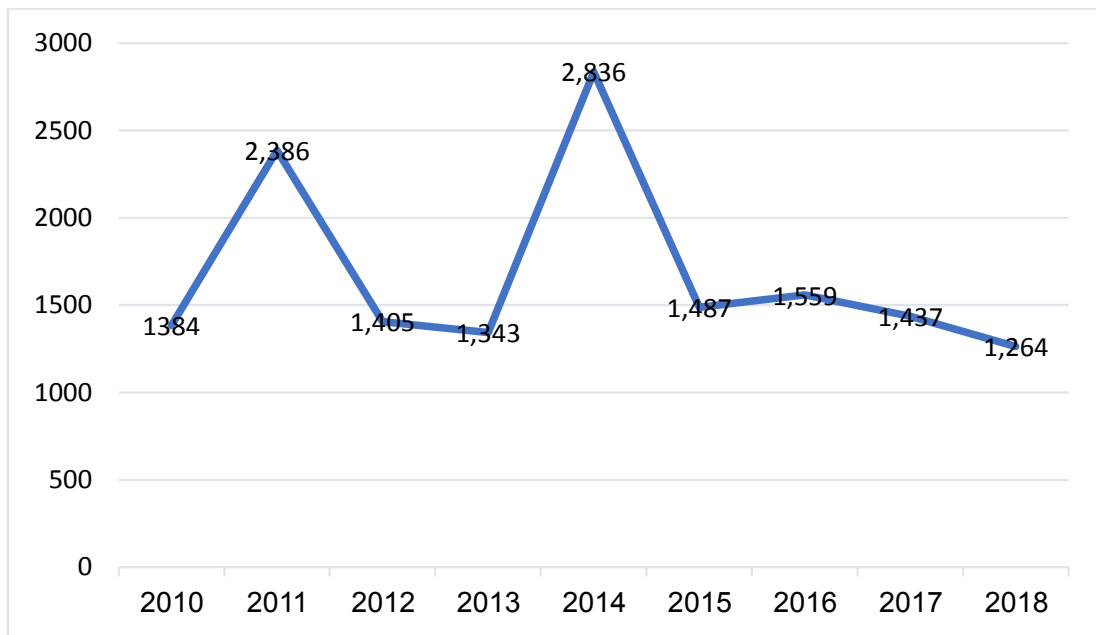


Chart 103: Tested Skilled Migration Australian permanent visas issued for Iranians (2010-2018)  
Source: (Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, 2020a)

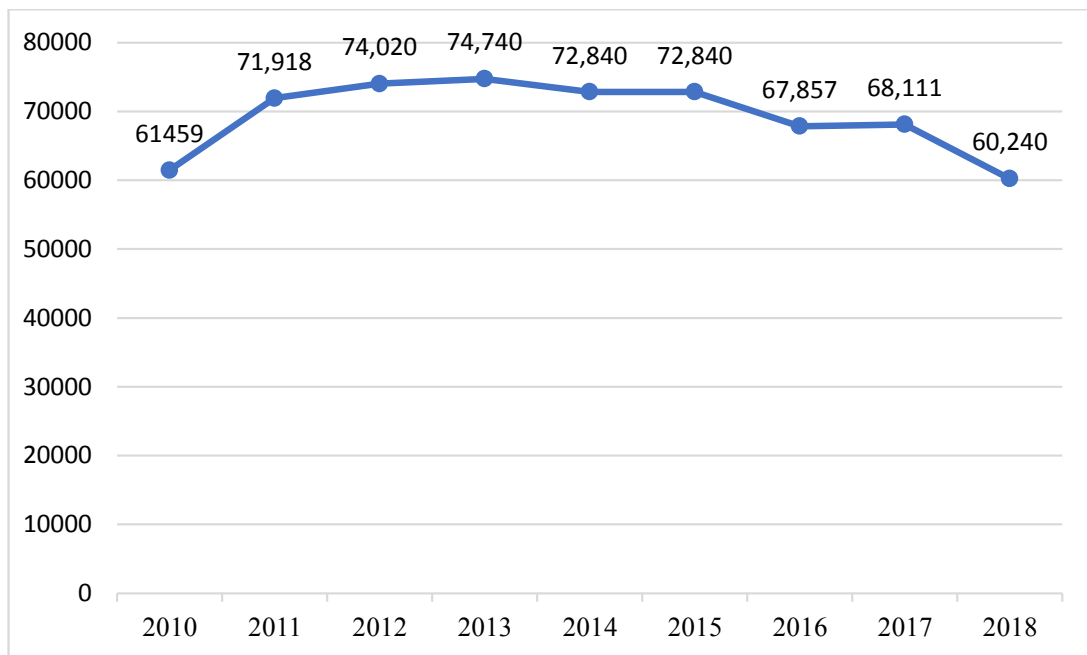


Chart 104: Total Points Tested Skilled Migration Australian permanent visas issued(2010-2018)  
Source: (Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, 2020a)

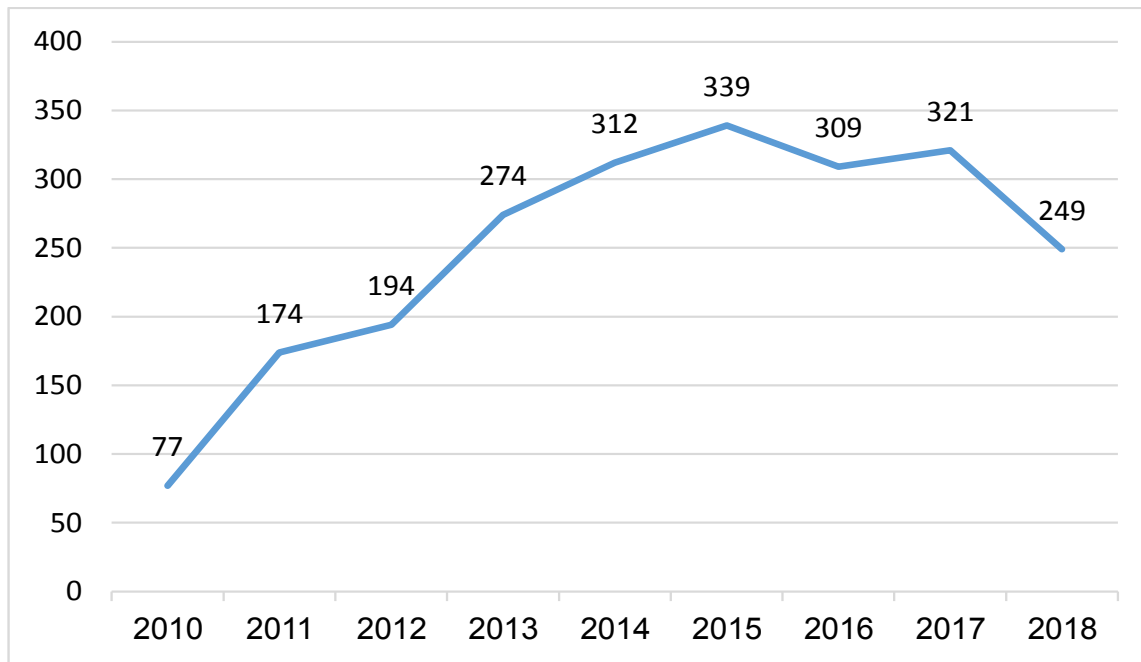


Chart 105: Australia Business Innovation and Investment visas Issued for Iranian(2010-2018)  
Source: (Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, 2020a)

### Innovation and Investment in Business Permanent Visa

Receiving an Australian permanent visa through innovation and investment in business makes up a small part of the total permanent visas granted in this country. This visa encompassed 4.5% of the total permanent immigration to Australia in 2018. However, Iran is among the top 15 countries with the largest number of recipients of this type of visa in 2019 according to the migration data published by the Ministry of National Affairs in Australia. The chart 105 indicates the annual number of this visa issued to

Iranian citizens. The number has been increasing until 2015 when it reached 339. The number of this type of visa granted to Iranians has decreased since 2015 and gone through many fluctuations which has finally reached 249 in 2018.

### 2.6. Desire to Migrate among Iranians

Table 24 presents the desire to migrate to different parts of the world. It should be noticed that desire to migrate has been increasing worldwide according to Gallup surveys. The average global willingness to migration has been 15% (2015-2017).

Table 24: People's desire to migrate across the world (%)

Desire to migrate	Year		
	2010-2012	2013-2016	2015-2017
Global average	13	14	15
Sub-Saharan Africa	30	31	33
Latin America and the Caribbean	18	23	27
MENA	19	22	24
The EU	20	21	21
Northern America	10	10	14
Australia, New Zealand and Oceania	9	10	9
Eastern Asia	8	7	8
Western Asia	8	8	8
Southeast Asia	7	7	7

Source: (Gallup, 2020) According to Gallup survey (2017),

over 750 million people across the world (15% global population) have declared a desire to migrate. A notable point is that two-thirds of these people have named 18 countries as their hypothetical destination.

The highest desire to migrate rate is attributed to the African regions. However, the average migration dreamers' percentage out of the total population has been in Europe than Asia over the period of 2010-2015.

According to Gallup surveys conducted in 120 countries, the number of people answering positive to the question "Do you intend to migrate?" has increased remarkably in Latin American countries during 2010-2015.

Currently, the desire to migrate is 31% across Latin America, while it was only

19% in 2010. The reasons for around one-third of the Latin Americans desire to migrate are issues such as economic crisis, corruption, and crime rates.

According to Gallup (2017), Iran ranks 87<sup>th</sup> among the 157 countries of the world in terms of the willingness to migration index.

Based on a survey conducted by the Arab Barometer in late 2018 and early 2019 among 25,000 people residing in 11 Arab states revealed that an average of one in every five people thinks about migration.

The following table indicates the willingness and reasons for migration among university students, Start-up employees, and small Iranian business owners based on an online survey conducted by IMO (2019) in Iran.

Table 25: Desire to migrate among university students, Start-ups and small Iranian business owners

2019 After the return of sanctions and currency fluctuation	and graduates (2018-2019)	Startups (fall, 2018)	SME (fall 2018)	(2016)
Willingness /intention for migration	42	27	46	29.8 <sup>9</sup>
Taking actual measures towards migration	11	-	-	-
Willingness to return after migration	16	20	24	-

Source: Iranian Migration Observatory-IMO (2019)

According to the survey of the moral, cultural, and social status of the Iranian community conducted in 2016, about 30% of Iranian population expressed desire to migrate. It should be noted that there is a remarkable distinction between the desire to migrate and taking actual measures for migration. The aforementioned survey had unfortunately gathered no data on the number of people taking measures towards migration.

Despite the 42% of university students and graduates desired to migrate, only 11% had taken measures towards this end.

University students and SME owners revealed to have a higher desire (42% and 46%, respectively) than start-ups activists (27%).

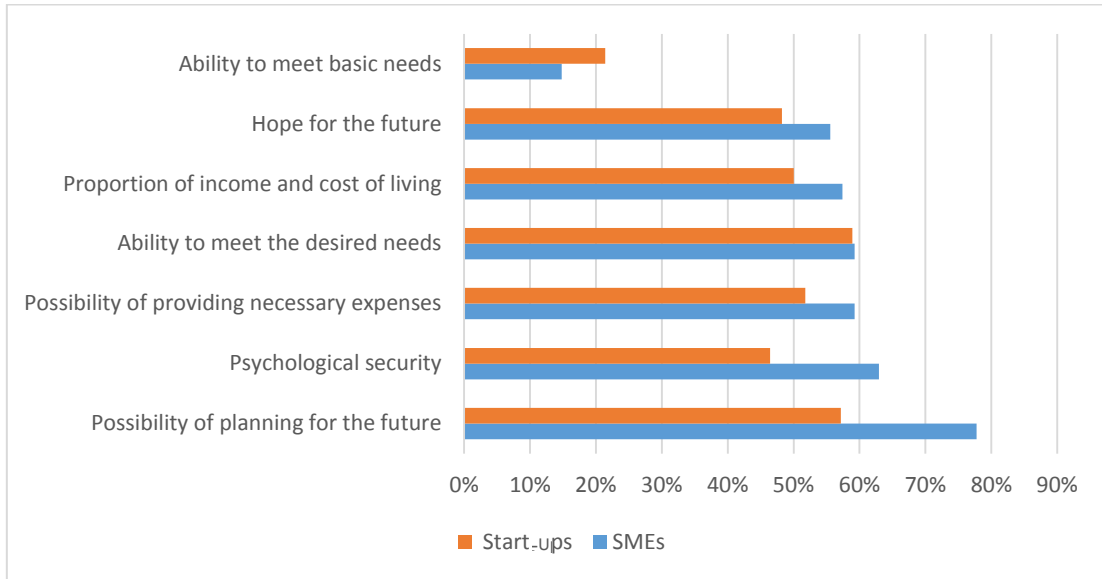
Start-up activists (20%) and SME owners (24%) revealed to have higher tendencies to return compared to university students (16%).

Being frustrated and having no hope in national reformations, desire to experience studying or working abroad, as well as desire to experience living abroad are among the university students' main reasons for their desire to migrate.

### 2.6.1. Desire to Migrate among Entrepreneurs and Business people in Iran

The IMO conducted a survey in fall and winter 2019 among entrepreneurs and business owners aiming to examine the impacts of economic fluctuations after the return of sanctions in 2018 and other economic changes such as domestic currency fluctuations on the participants' desire to migrate. More than 100 people volunteered to participate in the survey, about 95% of whom had started their business in 2018 and after. 54% of the participants had started small and medium-size businesses and 56 % were active in start-ups.

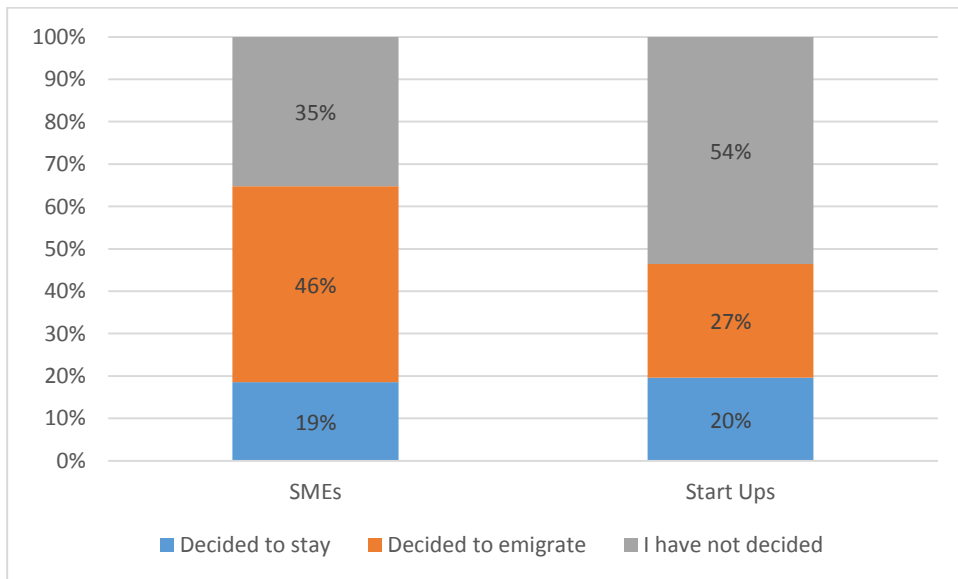
Among the SME owners, 78% have declared the return of sanctions and Iranian Rial fluctuation in 2018 to have decreased their planning chance, and 63% have declared these occurrences to have damaged their psychological security. Among start-ups activists, 59% reported a significant decrease in the ability to meet the desired needs and 57% reported a significant decrease in the ability to plan ahead.



**Chart 106: The percentage of business people (startups & SMEs) affected by and suffer from Iran's economic crisis and return of sanctions in 2018**  
 Source: (Iranian Migration Observatory, 2019)

The business owners and those active in start-ups had a disagreement regarding the intention of migration. Business owners reported a higher desire for migration than those active in start-ups and both

groups had the same ratio of people determined to stay. The percentage of people hesitant about migration was higher in those working in start-ups.



**Chart 107: Decision of startup and small business activists about migration**  
 Source: (Iranian Migration Observatory, 2019)

The main reasons for having a desire to migrate across the two groups are indicated in the chart 108. Among start-ups, 87% reported economic reasons to be the cause

of their willingness to migrate. The same factor was the top reason for business owners (64%). Chart 129 indicates the reasons for migration across the two groups.



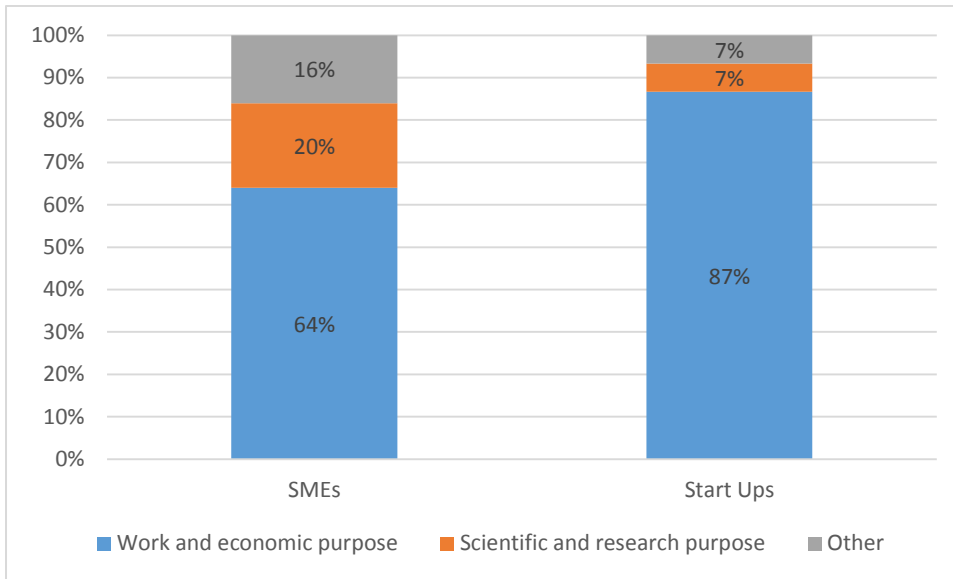


Chart 108: The main reasons for the decision to migrate among startups and small businesses  
Source: (Iranian Migration Observatory, 2019)

Approximately 90% of the participants in both groups reported that the return of

sanctions and domestic currency drop significantly affected their desire to migrate.

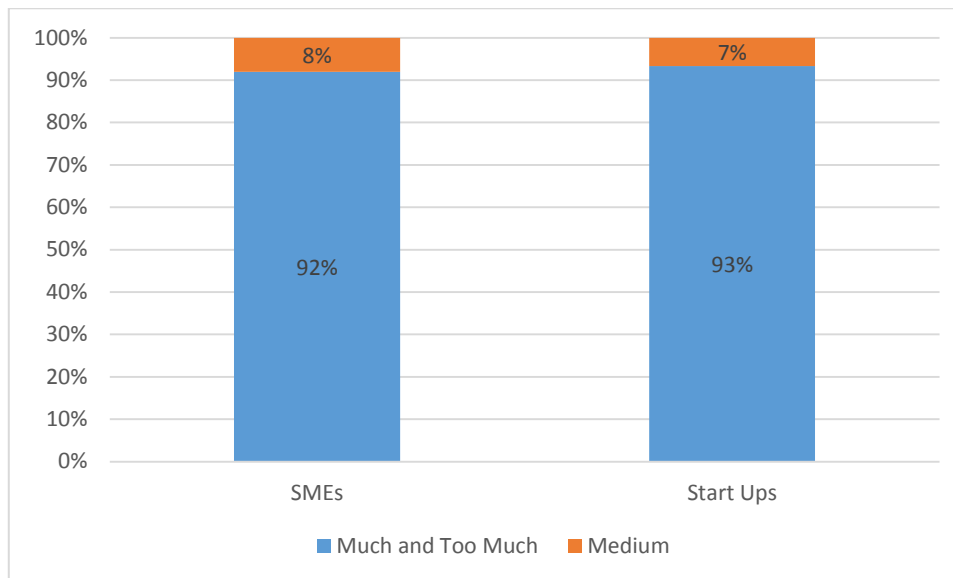


Chart 109: The Impact of the 2018 Return of Sanctions and Currency Changes in Iran on the Decision to Immigrate among Startups and SMEs  
Source: (Iranian Migration Observatory, 2019)

In terms of return intention, 40% of the participants in both groups do not know what they would do yet, 40% have re-

ported the intention to stay away, and around 20% have reported that they would return.



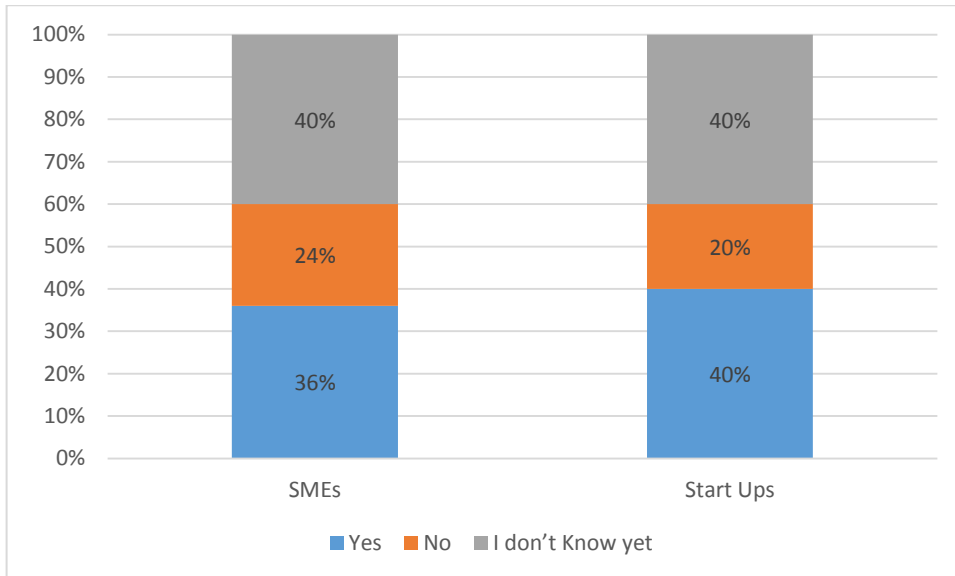
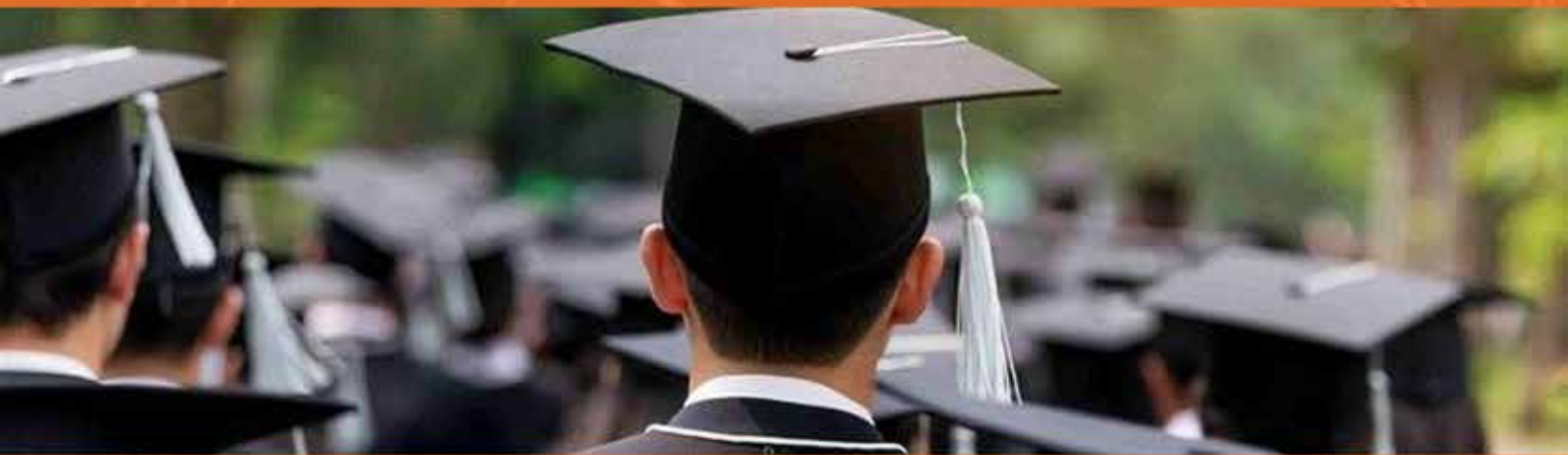
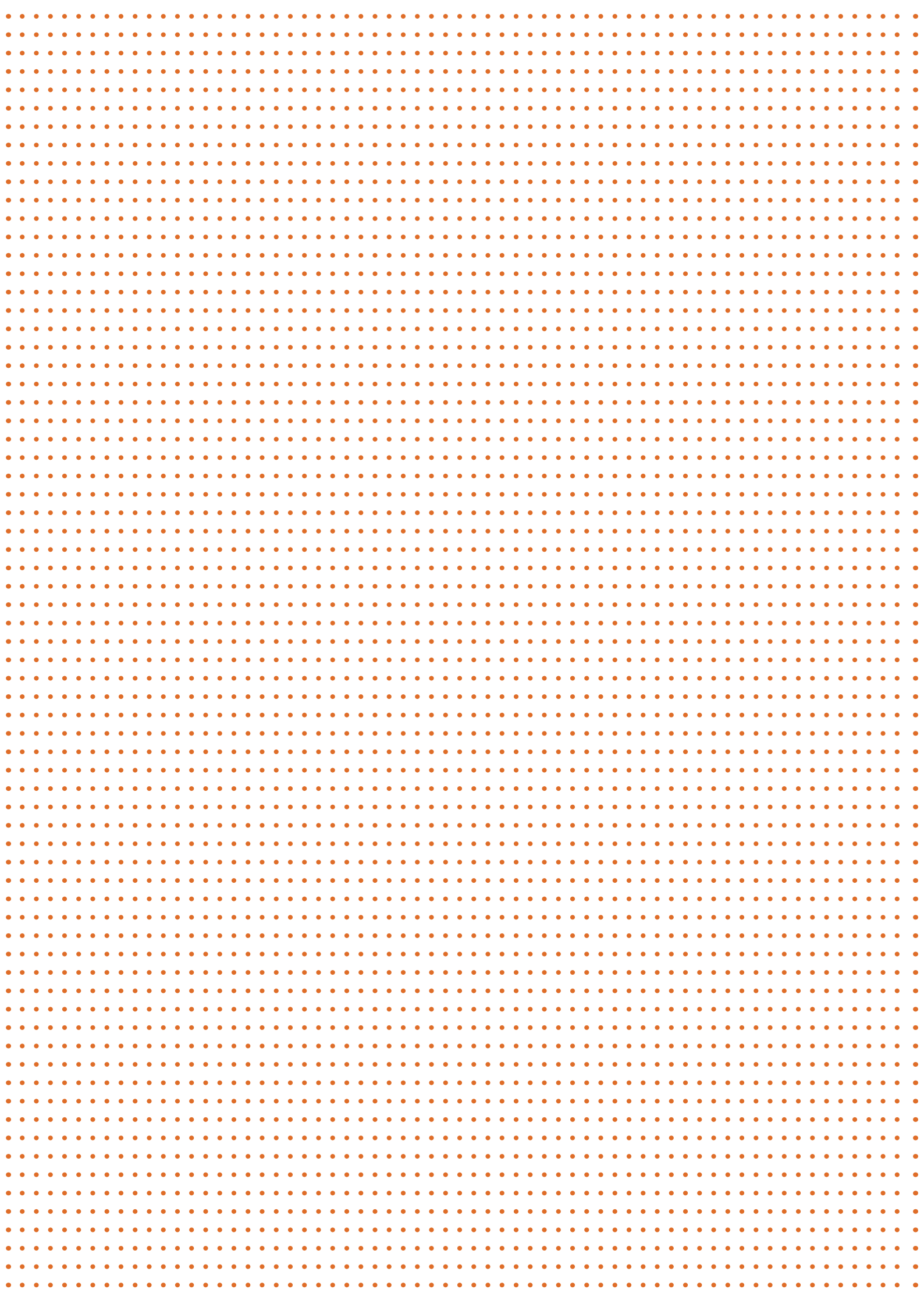


Chart 110: Desire to return after migration among startup activists and SMEs  
 Source: (Iranian Migration Observatory, 2019)

# 3 International Student Mobility Status in Iran



I r a n M i g r a t i o n O u t l o o k 2 0 2 0



### 3.1. International Student Mobility Status in Iran

Along with economic growth in the h economies, demand for skilled labor force is significantly increasing compared to the unskilled labor force. Accordingly, developed economies are trying to fill their skilled labor shortage through various options such as skilled immigration channel. In this line, international student mobility is one option for legal, safe, and regular migration to fulfill host countries' demand. That is why many receiving countries try to devise a set of measures to attract international students during recent years. On the other hand, sending countries also could benefit from international student mobility through brain circulation and return migration of graduates returning home after studying abroad.

Regarding a significant expansion of global student mobility market during recent years, Iran's share of this market is quite little. According to the last available data published in 2019, the number of Iranian students in abroad has changed from 19,000 to 53,000 during 2003-2017 which shows a drop in share of sending student in the international student mobility market from around 1.3% to about 0.9%.

Considering return migration, there is

almost no reliable data about total number of Iranian migrants repatriating to serve their country of origin, and no comprehensive national program has been implemented to facilitate such repatriation yet. Although, the only measure taken in this regard is an assisting program that has been established by the Iran's Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and the National Elite Foundation since 2015 in order to facilitate the re-integration of experts and graduates returning home after studying abroad.

It should be also noted that Iran host many international students from abroad. The number of international students in Iran has had an almost 4.5-fold increase, changing from 4,512 students in 2011 to 21,601 students in 2018. The top three international student sending countries to Iran (where constitute 86% of the total international student in Iran) include Afghanistan with 13,800 students, Iraq with 2,810 students, and Lebanon with 1,370. However, Iran does not hold a remarkable share of attracting international students market (Salavati et al., 2018). Other countries in the region have planned some sort of ambitious programs to attract more international students in a severely competitive environment (Pilvar et al., 2019).

## 3.2. International Student Outflow in Iran

### 3.2.1. The Population of Iranian International Students

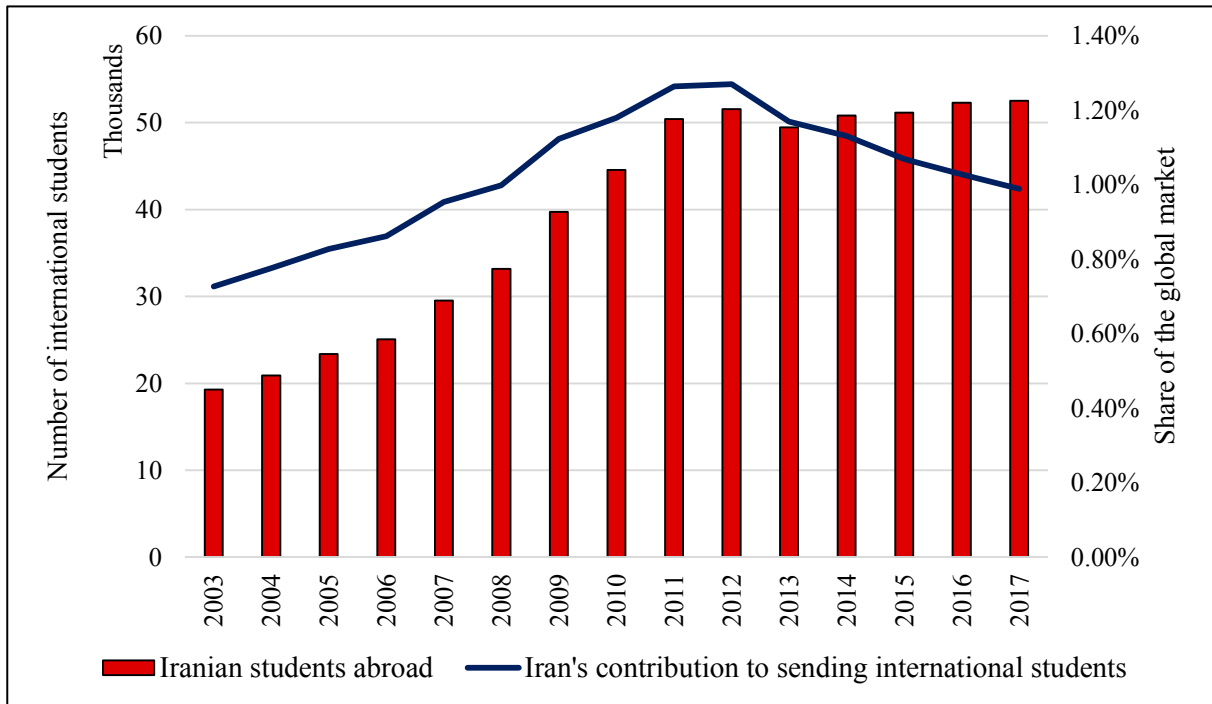


Chart 111: Outbound international student mobility in Iran (2003-2017)

Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

The Iranian international student stock had a significant increase from 19,000 in 2003 to 53,000 in 2017. While the number of Iranian international students has been increasing, it has remained constant at 52,000 during recent years (2018-2019).

Regarding fast growing of the international student mobility across the world, student mobility in Iran is still growing slower than the global average. Accordingly, Iran student-sending share out of the global student mobility stock has undergone a decreasing trend since 2010 and

has changed from 1.3% to about 0.9%. Therefore, Iran's ranking among the student-sending countries has changed remarkably. Iran ranked 26th in 2000, which has been going up until 2003 when Iran ranked 29th. However, this trend has become a decreasing one during 2003-2012, demoting Iran to the 12th rank in the year 2012, it continued to have an upward trend and reached the 20th rank of student mobility in 2017.

According to Gallop surveys (2017), over 700 million people across the world

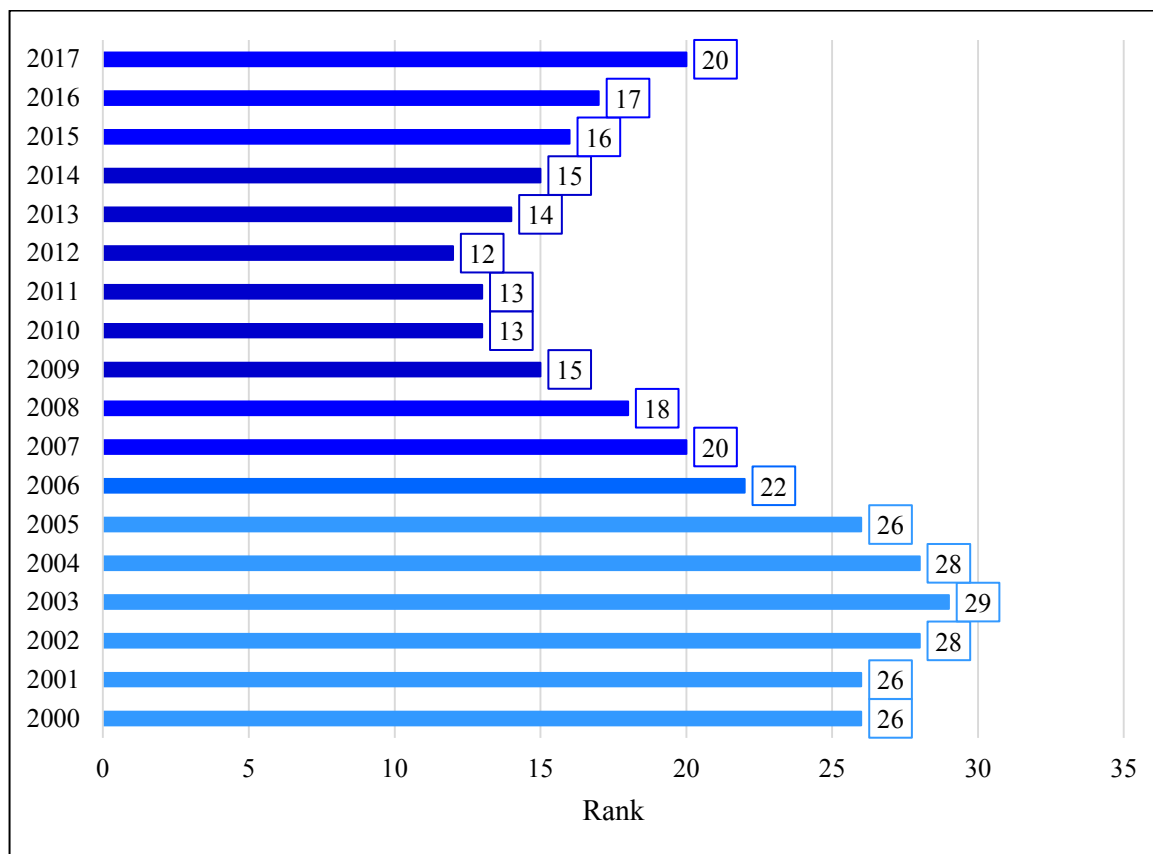


Chart 112: Iran global rank in outbound student mobility (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

have expressed willingness to migrate (15% of the global population), but the World Bank declares that 266 million people have actually migrated throughout 2017. This indicates that a great number of the people have a desire to migrate but only some of them actually intend to do so and take actual steps towards that (Iranian Migration Observatory, 2019).

Based on the results of a survey conducted by the Iran Migration Observatory (IMO) in 2018 (an online survey with 925 participants) on desire to migrate among university students and graduates, the top eight factors influencing individual decisions to migrate (out of 30 factors) include:

1. Frustration with reform of domestic affairs
2. Unbalance between income and liv-

ing cost

3. Job promotion opportunities in Iran
4. Social order
5. Desire to experience studying or working abroad
6. Meritocracy
7. Working abroad opportunities
8. Desire to experience living abroad;

Besides, although 30% of the students already desired to migrate before the economic transformations due to the return of sanctions and domestic currency fluctuation in 2018, these transformations have accelerated this desire up to 63%. However, we must keep in mind that a desire to migrate is far from taking actual measures towards this end. In this survey, participants were asked “How willing are you to play a role in the reform and devel-

opment of Iran?”, and another question asked them about the external possibility of playing such a role.

The results of the questions are presented in Chart 113. 22% have declared a little or very little desire to take measures towards national development, while 60% have declared much and very much levels of interest. On the other hand,

more than half of the participants believe that the external context for playing such an influential role is scarce (IMO, 2019). Therefore, it is inferred that improving the national infrastructures and ensuring the interests of students and graduates will significantly influence their intention of migration or returning after graduation.

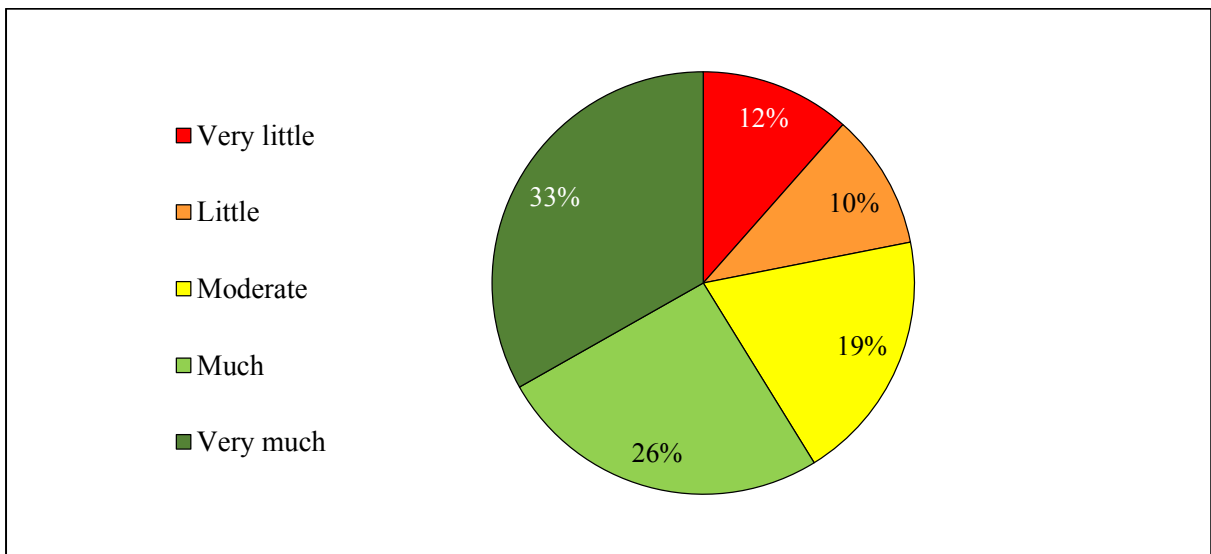


Chart 113: People’s answer to the question “How interested are you in playing a role in the reform and development of Iran?”

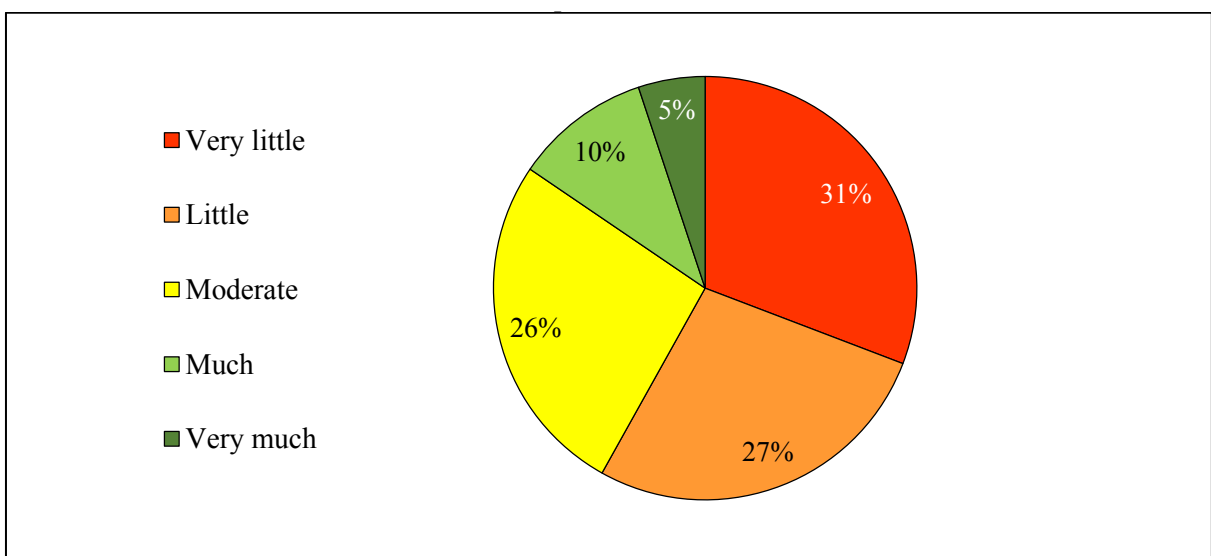


Chart 114: People’s answer to the question “How much opportunity do you have to play a role in reforming and developing Iran?”



### 3.2.2. Top destinations for Iranian International Students

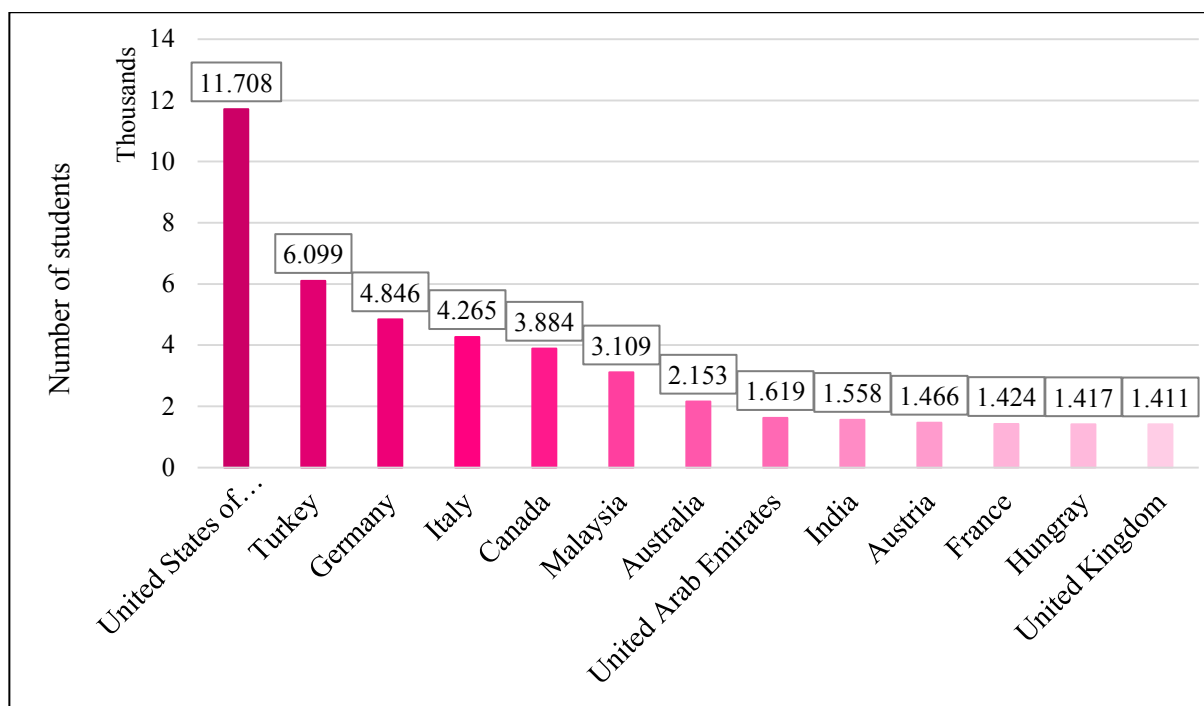


Chart 115: Top destinations for Iranian international students in 2017

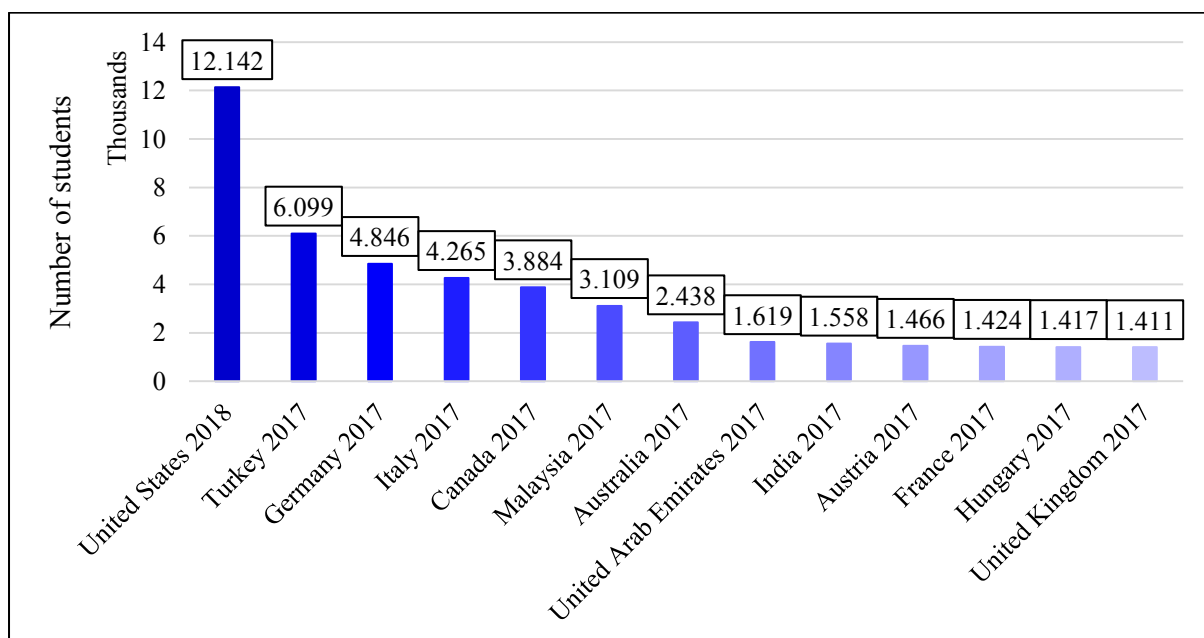


Chart 116: Top host countries of Iranian international students based on the latest available data <sup>1</sup>

Source:(UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b) (IIE, 2020) (Austrade-MIP, 2019)

1. Data on USA and Australia have been obtained from world education organization and Austrade-MIP, and data on other countries have been obtained from UNESCO database

### 3.2.3. Iranian International Students population in Top Selected Destination Countries

Destination country choice is among the most important concern for international students and student-sending countries. According to the willingness to migrate survey among Iranian students and graduates (IMO, 2019), about 80% of the students who intend to migrate, would like to migrate to any developed country possible. Besides, 27% of these people would choose destination countries such as Malaysia,

Turkey, Georgia, etc. should they fail to be admitted into the developed countries.

One of the significant factors on the desire to migrate and the destination country is the students' expectation of migration and living conditions, some of which are extremely inadequate or unrealistic. The answers of 425 Iranian international graduates to question, "How much information did you have about the destination country or city before migrating?" in the "factors impacting Iranians' migration and returning" survey (Salavati, 2017) are presented in the Chart 117. Answers were given in a range of 1 (very little) to 5 (very much).

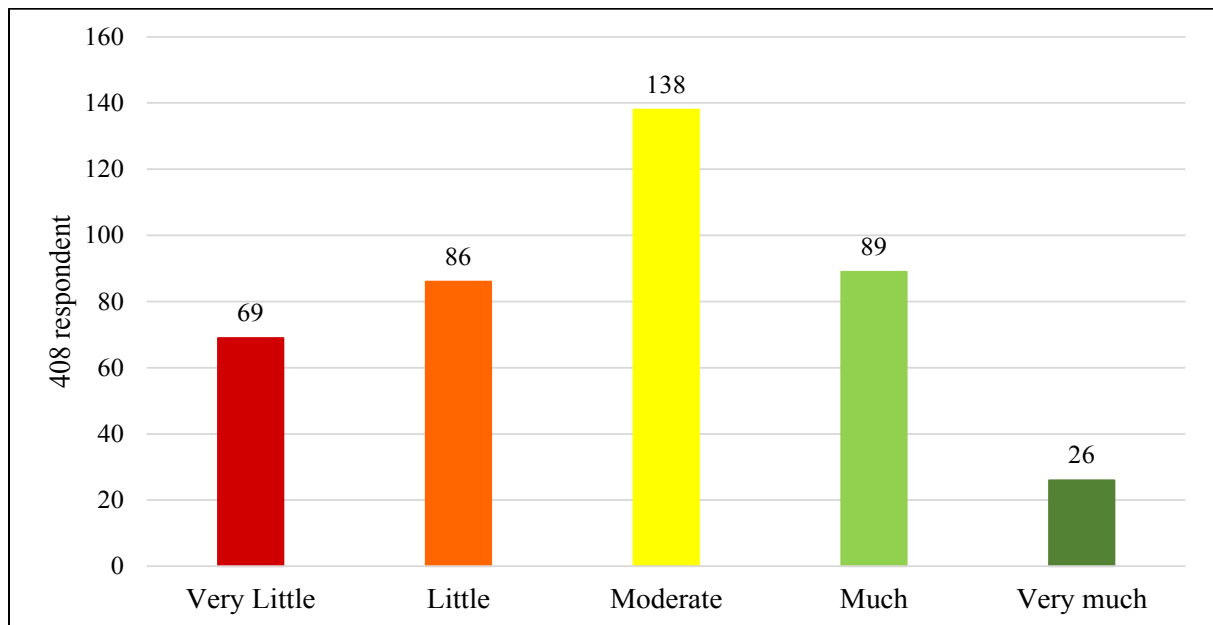


Chart 117: People's answer to the question "How much information did you have about the destination country or city before migrating?"

The chart above indicates that a wide spectrum of people migrated with little information of the immigration condition and the destination country status. Providing the students with accurate images of the countries abroad could have two types of impacts. Some might change their decision and stay in Iran, and others might perform better in regards to selecting a destination country, have a better migration experience, and therefore be

available for the implementation of proper strategies aimed at returning them to their country of origin after graduation, and therefore be available for the sake of national interests.

The following section focuses on the situation of Iranian students in selected destination countries and briefly describes the reasons for Iranian students when choosing their study abroad destination.

## ● The population of Iranian International Students in the US

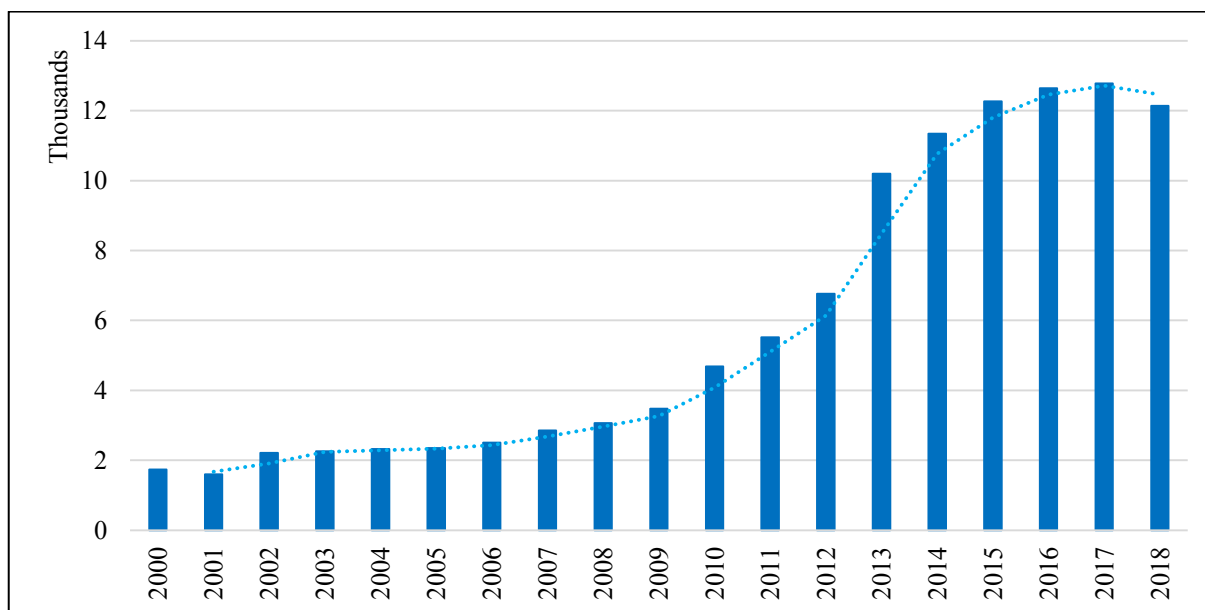


Chart 118: Number of Iranian students in the United States (2000 - 2018)<sup>1</sup>  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b) (IIE, 2020)

The US is the main destination country for Iranian international students. According to the Institute of International Education (IIE, 2020) report, the number of Iranian students in the United States has been constantly increasing, so that over 12,000 Iranian students have been residing in this country over the period of 2015-2018. However, the population of Iranian students in the USA has started to shrink so that it shows a 600 people decrease in 2018 compared to 2017.

On one hand, the US government anti-immigration policies restricting migration policy and the restrictions put on the entry of nationals from mainly Muslim origins (visa ban) including Iran have limited the ability of Iranian students' families to visit them and has therefore

brought feelings of insecurity and isolation upon many Iranian students residing in this country. On the other hand, the return of the US economic sanctions against Iran and Iranian Rial currency fluctuations have faced these students with difficulties towards paying their tuition and living expenses. Therefore, barriers put in the way of Iranian international students entering the United States have led them to choose other alternatives such as Germany, Canada, and Turkey which might become the top destination countries for Iranian international students in the coming future.

Table 26 indicates changes in growth of students (in percentage) from student-sending countries to American universities in 2019 compared to 2018 ac-

1. The number of Iranian students from 2000 to 2012 is obtained from UNESCO, and the number of Iranian students from 2013 to 2018 is obtained from the World Education Organization. The statistics in UNESCO are based on the number of students in one academic year, while the statistics in the World Education Organization are based on the number of students in one academic year. Thus, there is little difference between the population of Iranian students studying in the United States in these two databases.

ademic year. As indicated, this change has been remarkable and has undergone 10% and 7% reductions in undergraduate and graduate programs, respec-

tively. The Iranian international student stock in the USA has undergone the total decrease of 5% across all programs in 2019.

Table 26: Inbound international students growth changes in United States of America by country of origin (2018-2019 compared to 2017-2018)

Country of origin	Undergraduate	Graduate	Non-degree	All levels
China	0/20 %	2 %	- 5/40 %	1/70 %
India	6/30 %	- 5/60 %	18/80 %	2/90 %
South Korea	- 9 %	- 0/30 %	- 3/70 %	- 4/20 %
Saudi Arabia	- 21/20 %	- 14/60 %	0/40 %	- 16/50 %
Canada	- 0/9 %	- 0/50 %	0/30 %	0/80 %
Vietnam	0/7 %	0/30 %	- 29/20 %	0/30 %
Taiwan	3/7 %	1/20 %	- 3/70 %	4/10 %
Japan	- 2/1 %	- 1/50 %	- 8/40 %	- 3/50 %
Brazil	5/6 %	12/50 %	16/20 %	9/80 %
Mexico	- 2/9 %	- 2/10 %	5/90 %	- 1/50 %
Nigeria	- 3/4 %	10/80 %	101/60 %	5/80 %
Nepal	1/3 %	- 11 %	35/10 %	- 0/30 %
<b>Iran</b>	<b>- 10/10 %</b>	<b>- 7 %</b>	<b>- 11 %</b>	<b>- 5 %</b>
United Kingdom	- 3/80 %	0/20 %	- 9/90 %	- 2/70 %
Turkey	- 1 %	- 7/40 %	- 15/30 %	- 3/40 %

Source: (Redden, 2019)

The decrease in the number of Iranian students is also evident in engineering majors. According to the following table, the number of attracting Iranian students

in engineering majors of American universities has decreased since 2016 and has reached from 5,020 students to 4,540 students during 2016-2018.

Table 27: Top sending countries of international students to the US in engineering majors

Country of origin	2016	2017	2018
All countries	96,330	88,960	86,070
India	39,470	32,110	28,600
China	30,840	30,840	31,450
Iran	5,020	4,910	4,540

Source: (Anderson, 2020)

Chart 119 shows the decreasing trend of F1 and J1 visas granted to Iranian international students and scholars from 2016 to 2019.

The number of F1 visas decreased by

almost 57%, and J1 visas dropped by 68%. Besides, the number of F1 and J1 visas issued in the first quarter of 2020 also dropped significantly to 145 and 116, respectively.

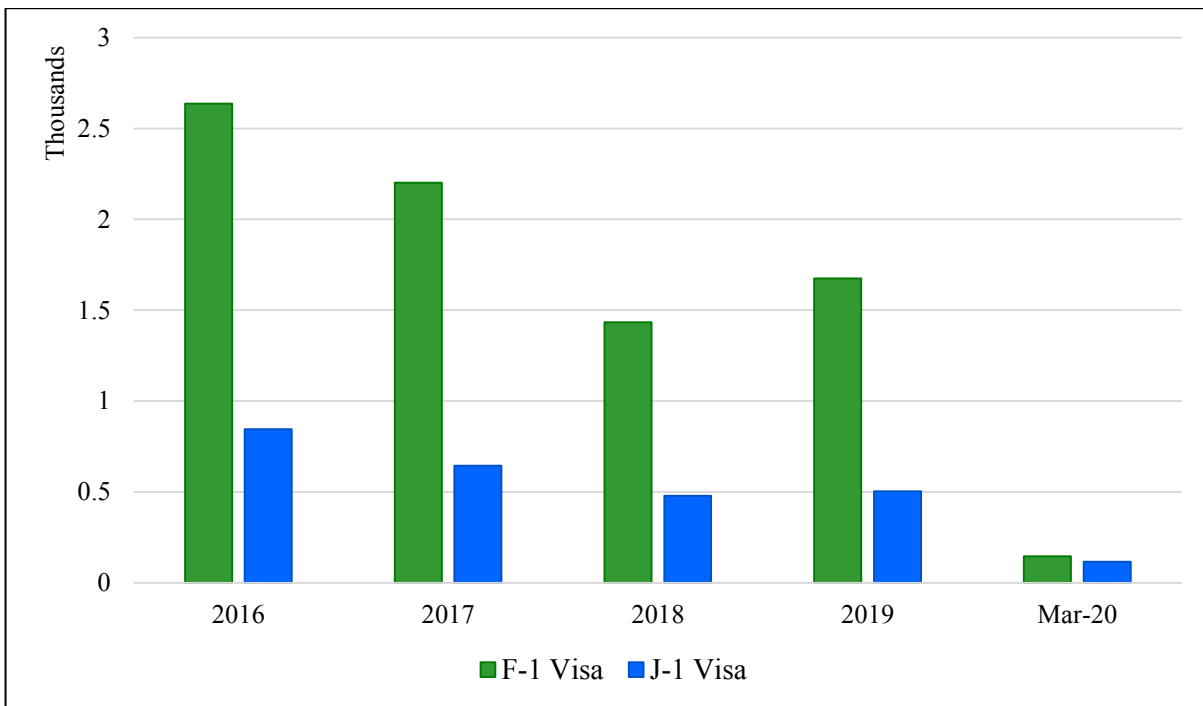


Chart 119: Nonimmigrant Visa Issuances for Iranian migrants in the United States of America by visa class (2016-March 2020)

Source: (TravelState.gov, 2020)

## ● The Population of Iranian International Students in the UK

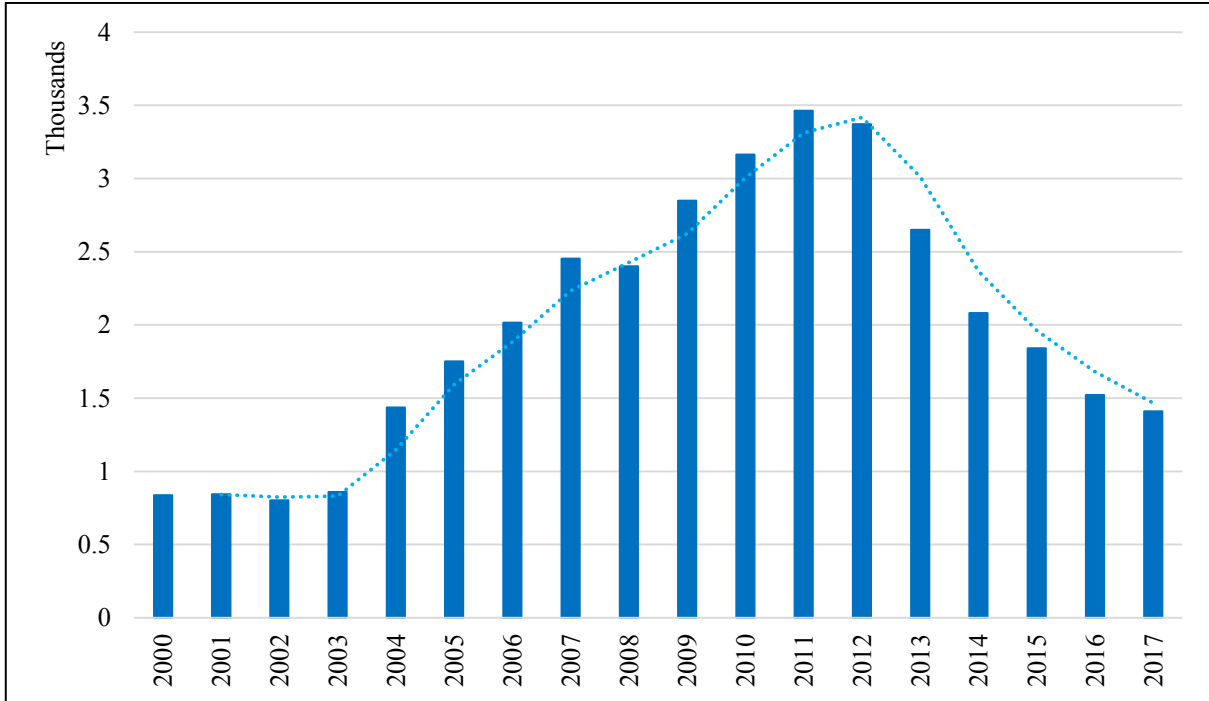


Chart 120: The Number of Iranian students in the United Kingdom (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

The UK is another important destination country for all international students, to which Iranian students are no exception. The number of Iranian students in this country has been increasing until 2011, changing from 838 students in 2000 to 3,463 students in 2011. However, after the attack on British embassy in Iran, ten-

sions between the two sides raised and the embassy closed, so making it difficult for Iranian students to obtain student permit from this country (RNZ, 2011). The number of Iranian students in British universities has therefore decreased since then, dropping from about 3,500 students in 2011 to around 1,500 students in 2017.

## ● The Population of Iranian International Students in Australia

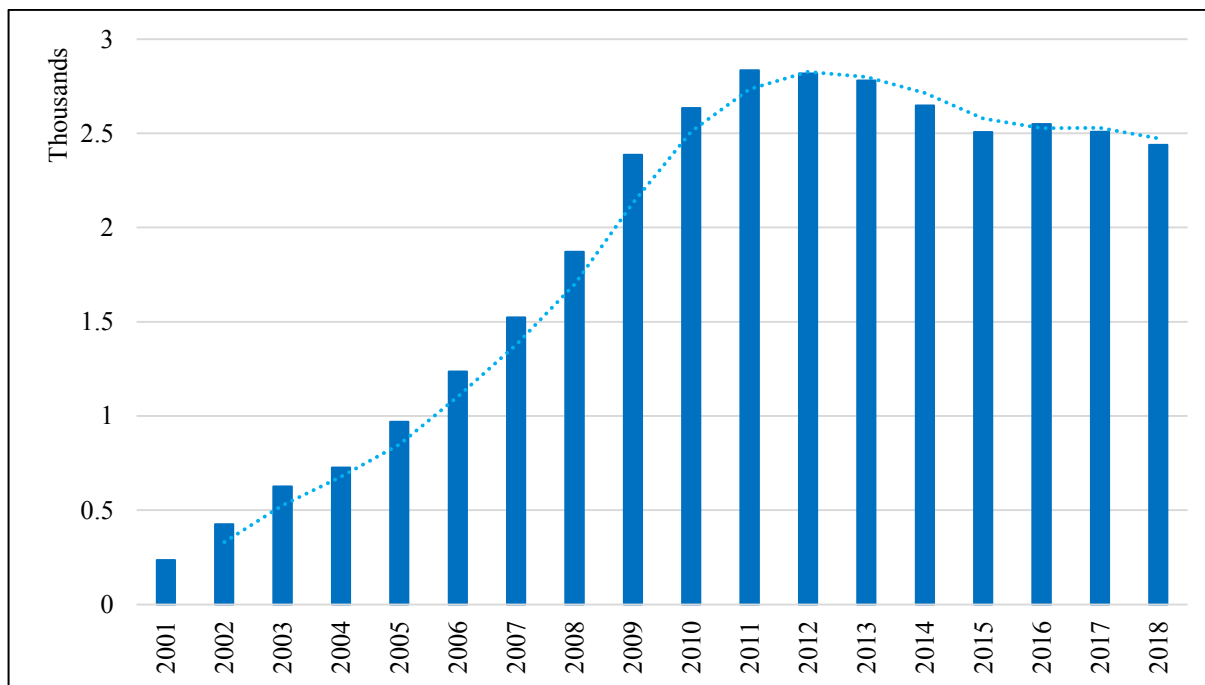


Chart 121: Number of Iranian students in Australia (2001-2018)  
Source: (Austrade-MIP, 2019)

During 2001-2017, the number of Iranian students in Australia has increased from around 236 students to 2,500 students. However, there has been a slight drop since 2010, which could be attributed to increased tuition in this country. Although the tuition is less in Australia compared to traditional student-attracting countries such as the US and the UK, it is higher than other English-speaking countries such as New Zealand and Canada (IDP Education, 2017).

Generally, there are many factors turning this country to a desirable destination country for international students as well as Iranian students. As an English-speak-

ing country, Australia has been able to create tremendous capacities for attracting international students. This country has used the opportunity of its prevalent national language (English) and has started English Language Incentive Courses for Overseas Students. This industry has a 20-year history in Australia and is of global popularity (ELICOS, 2019). An interesting fact is that 7% of the top universities in the world are located in this country (QS, 2019b). Additionally, the students are permitted to 20 hours of work per week alongside studying (IFP News, 2019), and are able to be employed in Australia after graduation.

## ● The Population of Iranian International Students in Germany

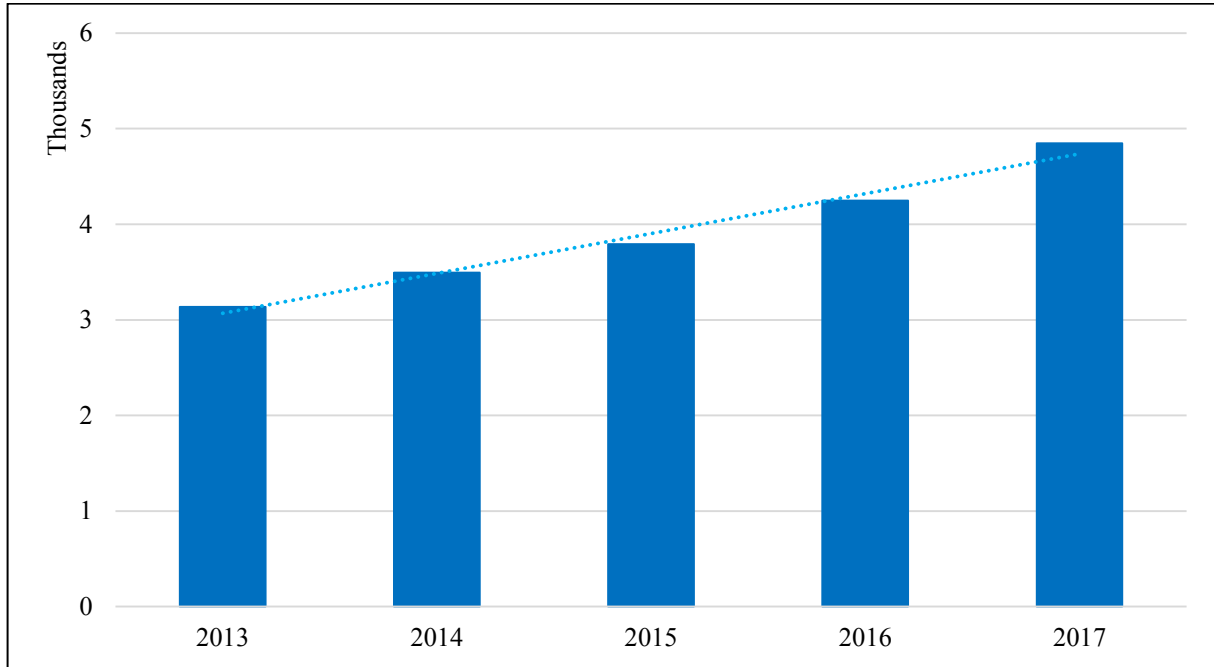


Chart 122: The Population of Iranian International Students in Germany (2013-2017)  
Source:(UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

Germany is one of the most popular study destinations in the world and one of the leading destinations for international students (DAAD, 2017). The population of Iranian international students in Germany increased by nearly 55%, from 3,135 in 2013 to 4,846 in 2017. Qualified universities, diverse fields of study, and different ways of financing tuition have put the country in the spotlight of those interested in studying abroad (DAAD, 2020). Tuition-free or low-tuition courses, along with the average cost of living in Germany, are the factors influencing the choice of this country as a destination country to international students. There is no dominant country or region for sending students to Germany, and this creates a significant diversity for international students in Germany compared to other countries (Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik & Grote,

2019). Germany is also one of the most important destinations countries for Iranian international students. Various information and marketing measures have been taken to encourage studying in Germany. The DAAD is the most important institution in this field, having built a large international network over the past few decades. The website of this institute provides complete information about studying in the centers of this country in Persian, English, and German languages. However, due to the high number of visa applications by Iranians and the lack of sufficient capacity, the waiting time for obtaining a student visa takes more than a year. To address this issue, Germany established a new visa unit in Tehran in 2018 and reduce barriers to Iranian students studying in the country (Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik & Grote, 2019).



## ● The Population of Iranian International Students in France

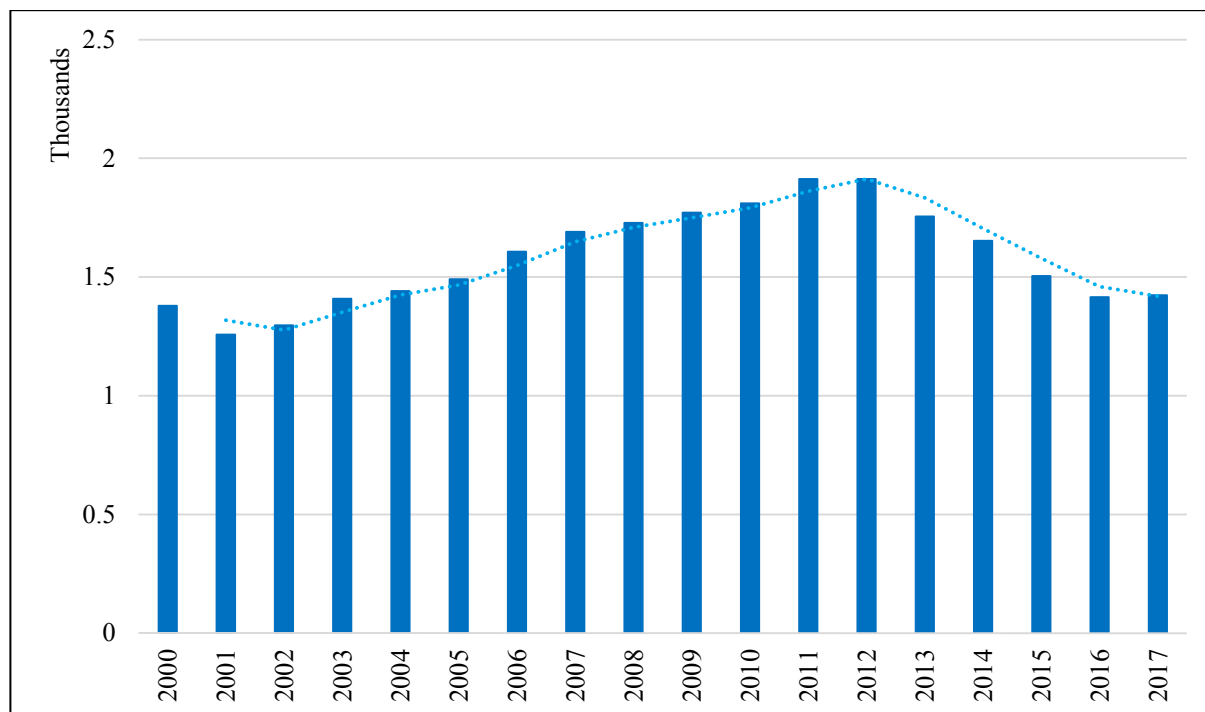


Chart 123: Number of Iranian students in France (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

There has not been a remarkable change in the number of Iranian students in France over the past two decades and this number has stayed almost constant at 1,500 students. However, this population has had an increasing trend during 2006-2015, so that it reached a peak of 1,900 students in 2011 then continued to decrease and got back to 1,500 students in 2015.

France is among the traditionally student-attracting countries and is the most popular non-English destination country for international students since its education quality is at a moderately desirable level (Campus France, 2018). This country has taken numerous steps towards attracting international students and scholars. For instance, some of the education

programs in this country held in English, completely or partially. French public institutions are among the least costly compared to other student-attracting countries (Campus France, 2017).

On the other hand, this country offers numerous scholarship programs including French government scholarships, regional and organizational scholarships of France, scholarships of Erasmus and other international and foreign institutions, and finally scholarships of companies, foundations, and other institutions (Campus France, 2017). One of the French operational organizations devoted to international transfers is Campus France. The Campus France cooperates with educational institutions in over 100

foreign countries under the supervision of French embassies. Their goal is to promote higher education among foreign students and offer consultation to those who seek to continue their educations in France ((Duchêne & Lamouroux, 2010).

This institute has a branch in Iran and its informative website provides enough regarding education in France. All of the points above have turned France into an attractive destination country for students of all nationalities, including Iranians.

## ● The Population of Iranian International Students in Canada

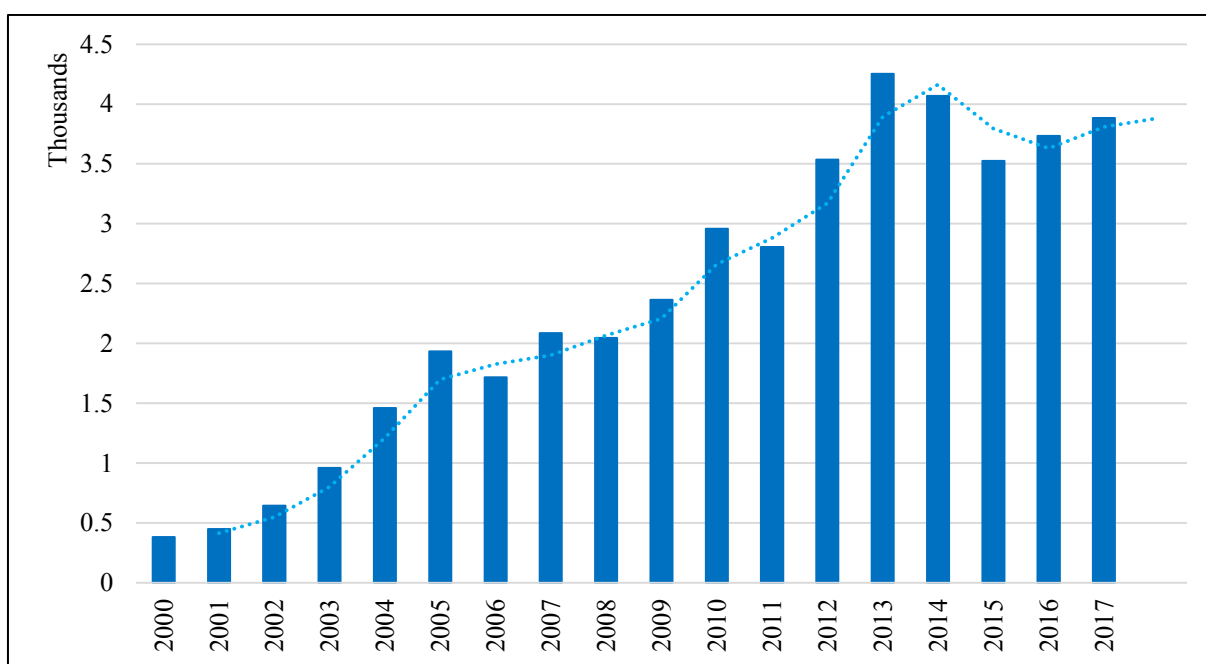


Chart 124: Number of Iranian students in Canada (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

The population of Iranian students in Canada indicates a significant increase from 381 in 2000 to around 4,000 students in 2017.

Given the cost-efficient education tuitions, high-quality universities and courses, the possibility of obtaining permanent residence after graduation, and Canadians welcome towards foreign national, made it the leading destination country in attracting international students rapidly.

This country has been host to numerous international students over the past two decades, and demand from the international students to reside in this country has grown significantly (IDP education, 2020). It is estimated that the request from Iranian students to reside in Canada will increase in the coming years, especially given the recent restrictions of the US put on Iranian student applications to American universities.

## ● The Population of Iranian International Students in Turkey

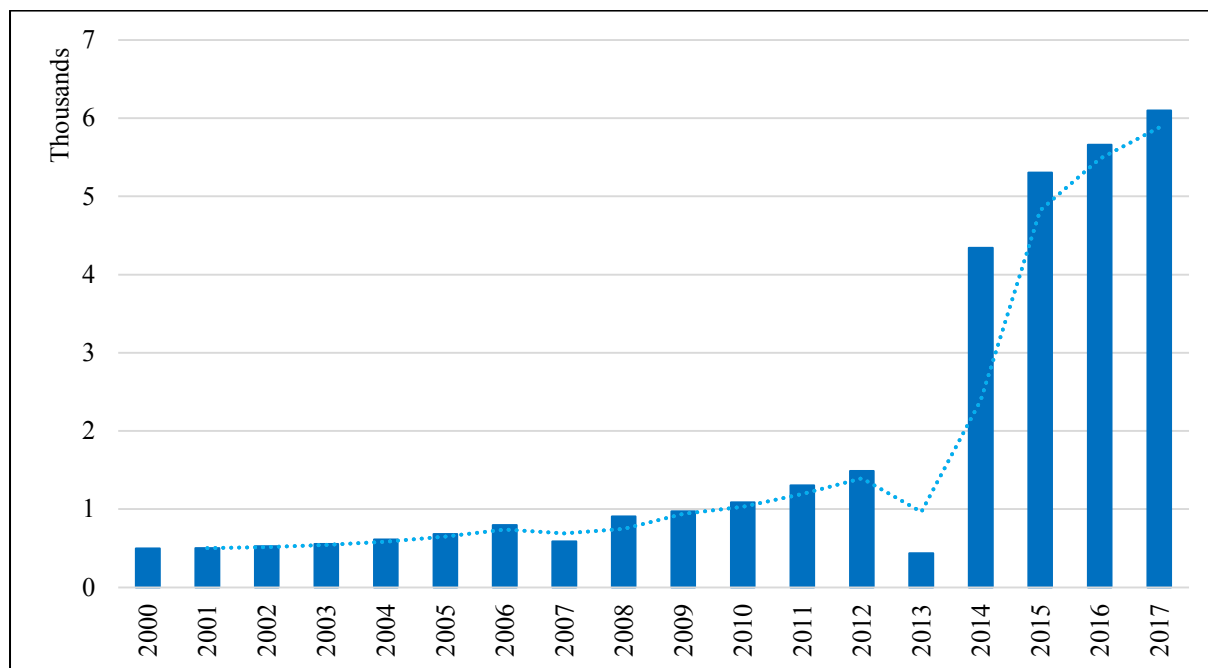


Chart 125: Number of Iranian students in Turkey (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

The number of Iranian students residing in Turkey shows a slightly increasing trend during 2000-2012, changing from 499 students to 1,488 students, but has suddenly gone through a remarkable increase since 2013, changing from 438 students in 2013 to 6,099 students in 2017 which indicates a 1290% increase. Turkey is one of the most important destinations for Iranian students due to its geographical, cultural, historical, religious and ethnic proximity to Iran. (Özoğlu, Gür, & Coşkun, 2015).

Over the past two decades and through the international projects and plans which are inseparable parts of this country's higher education sector, the number of international students has increased significantly in Turkey, making it one of the major regional poles in attracting international students (Daily Sabah, 2019).

International student attraction decentralization since 2010, increasing the number of English courses, numerous scholarship programs, developing strategic international education programs, granting study opportunities to students in less developed countries, establishing knowledge of universities in neighboring countries, and attracting financial resources through international cooperation are all effective factors in attracting students to this country. A majority of the international students in this country come from Arab countries, Middle Asian regions, and South and West Asia. The available statistics indicate this country's attractiveness for international students is at the regional level. The top countries sending students to Turkey include Azerbaijan, Syria, Iran, and Iraq (ICEF, 2019).

## ● The Population of Iranian International Students in Malaysia

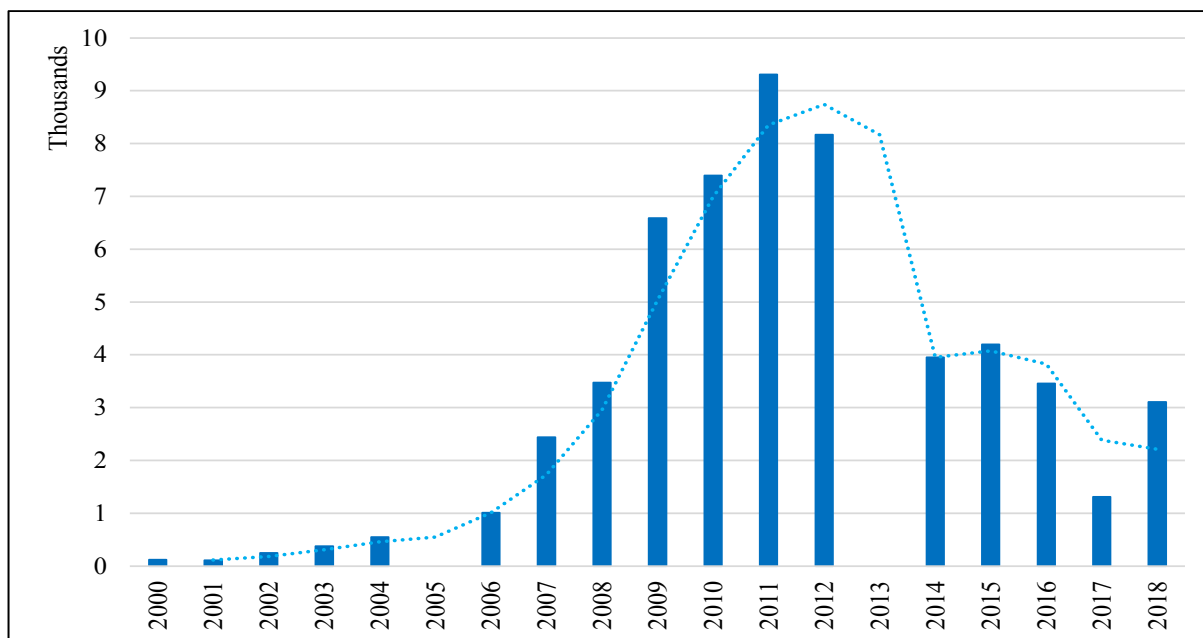


Chart 126: Number of Iranian students in Malaysia (2000-2018)

Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

The number of Iranian students in Malaysia has gone through a significant increase during 2000-2011, changing from 122 students to 9,311 students. However, this trend has become a decreasing since 2011, so that the number of Iranian students in Malaysia has dropped to 3,109 in 2018. According to a survey conducted on 250 Iranian students in Malaysia, the low cost of education and expenses, presence of international companies in Malaysia, unique educational technologies in universities, easy access to universities and higher social freedoms than Iran are among the main reasons of Iranian students to choose this country for study.

The desire of Iranians to study in Malaysia has a significant correlation with socio-political factors and religious concerns in Iran, low education expenses in Malaysia, and access to advanced technologies and international cooperation (Kazemi, Bagh-

banian, Maymand, & Rahmani, 2018). Therefore, during 2008-2012 and at the same time at the economic recession, Malaysia became the top destination country for Iranian students and the number of Iranian students moving to Malaysia increased to an extent that it surpassed the number of Iranian students moving to the United States. One of the reasons for Iranian students studying in Malaysia has been the scholarships granted by the Iran Ministry of Science, Research and Technology to Iranians. However, many Malaysian universities were put in black list which their degrees were not acceptable to Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in 2011. Moreover, Malaysia's economic woes and a sharp drop in the country's higher education budget in 2016, which led to increased tuition, scholarships and research budgets cuts caused decreasing the intention of Iranian students to study in this country.

## ● The Population of Iranian International Students in Italy

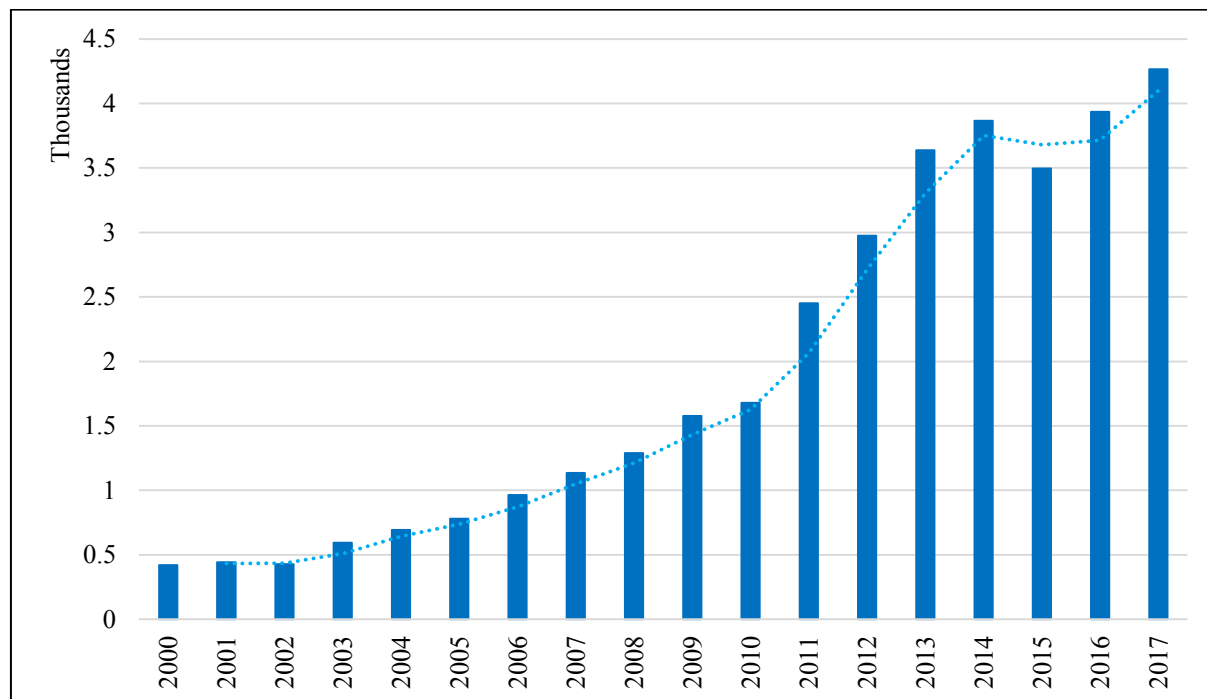


Chart 127: Number of Iranian students in Italy (2000-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020b)

The number of Iranian international students in Italy reveals a remarkable increase from 420 students in 2000 to 4,265 students in 2017. The majority of Iranians moving to Italy in recent years are students. Various reasons affected Iranian students' interests in studying in Italy. Most of them choose this country due to its easy admission process and having access to Italian scholarships.

Considering that Italian universities offer programs with no limitations in the number of foreign students or students from low-income countries, many Iranian students are eager to apply in Italian universities. According to data available in the Iranian embassy in Rome, about 600 to 1000 new Iranian students have

entered Italy between years 2007 and 2013. Besides the scholarships offered in Italian universities, many Iranian students can also take advantage of scholarships offered by the Iran Government as well. The eligible applicants register their applications in Iran consulates in Italy and receive a scholarship of around 1000 Euro each semester. This process has been designed by the Iran government, aiming to identity of Iranian youth living abroad (Mostafavi Mobasher, 2018). The Italian school in Tehran, which is dependent on the Italian embassy in Iran has, also provided a mechanism through which Iranian students intending to study in Italy could receive student permit for Italy.

### 3.3. The Iranian Migrants Returning Home

#### 3.3.1. International Graduates and Professionals Returning to Iran

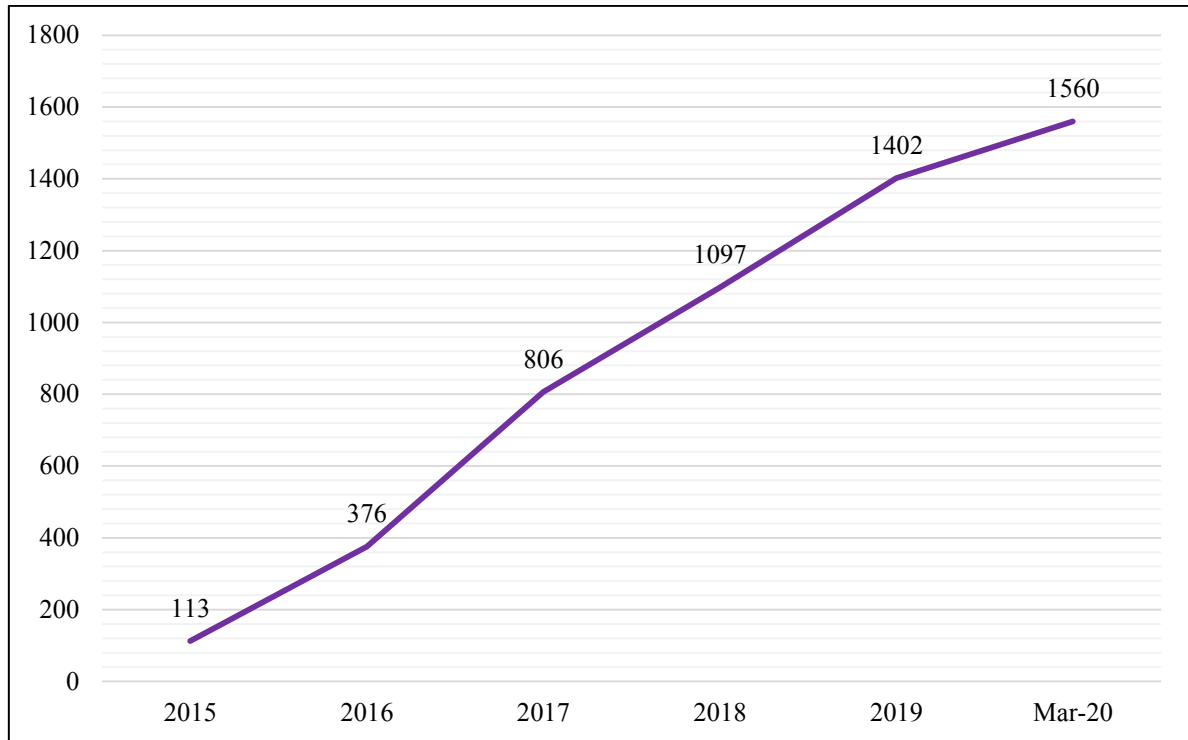


Chart 128: Cumulative return rate of Iranian highly skilled migrants by collaboration plan with non-resident Iranian specialists and scientists (2015-March 2020)

Source: (Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology, 2020)

No accurate statistics have yet been published regarding the returning rate of Iranian migrants. Moreover, no program has been implemented to facilitate the returning of these people to serve their country of origin. The only program implemented to this end is the project of “Cooperation Plan with non-resident Iranian specialists and scientists”, designed by Iran vice presidency for science and technology and the center for International Science and Technology Interactions which has been officially implemented since March 2015. This pro-

gram helps to transfer knowledge, and new technological ideas to the country through an effective interactive environment between high-profile returnees and domestic counterparts (selected science and technology centers). The main idea behind this plan which follows the brain circulation models is to create an acceleration mechanism for making the most out of the knowledge spillover of Iranian international graduates from top-ranked universities in various forms such as post-doctorate positions, giving lectures and workshops and technology startups.

Supporting over 1,500 graduates from the top 200 universities in the world is one of the most significant achievements of this project.

According to Chart 149, the number of returned Iranian experts has reaped 1,560 people during March 2015 to April 2020. In other words, an average of one Iranian expert has returned every day since commencement of this program.

Based on the results of a survey conducted by the IMO in 2018, around 16% of respondents stated they would like to return, about half of them have not yet decided whether or not they would like to return while 38% have no intention returning. Therefore, undecided persons have stated that they might return if the proper facilitation and external opportu-

nities to play a role in the reform and development of the country be provided for them.

Another important issue to motivate international students and graduates to return home is providing proper information on the supporting programs offered by the Iran government. In the “factors impacting the migration and repatriation of Iranians” conducted in 2017 (Salavati, 2017), about half of the participants have reported that they have not taken any advantage of these programs, and about 34% reported they did not know about the programs. Therefore, spreading information in this regard can encourage the repatriation of Iranian international students and experts to their country of origin. Chart 129 indicates this issue.

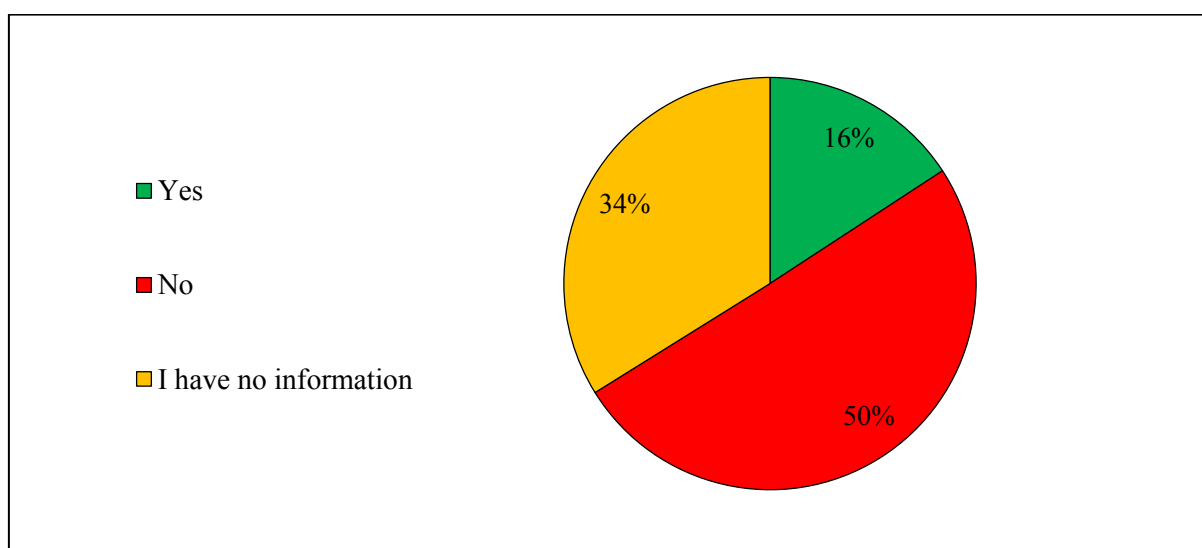


Chart 129: People’s answer to the question “Have you, as an Iranian emigrant, ever benefited from Iran government support programs?”

### 3.4. International Student Inflow in Iran

#### 3.4.1. The Population of International Students in Iran

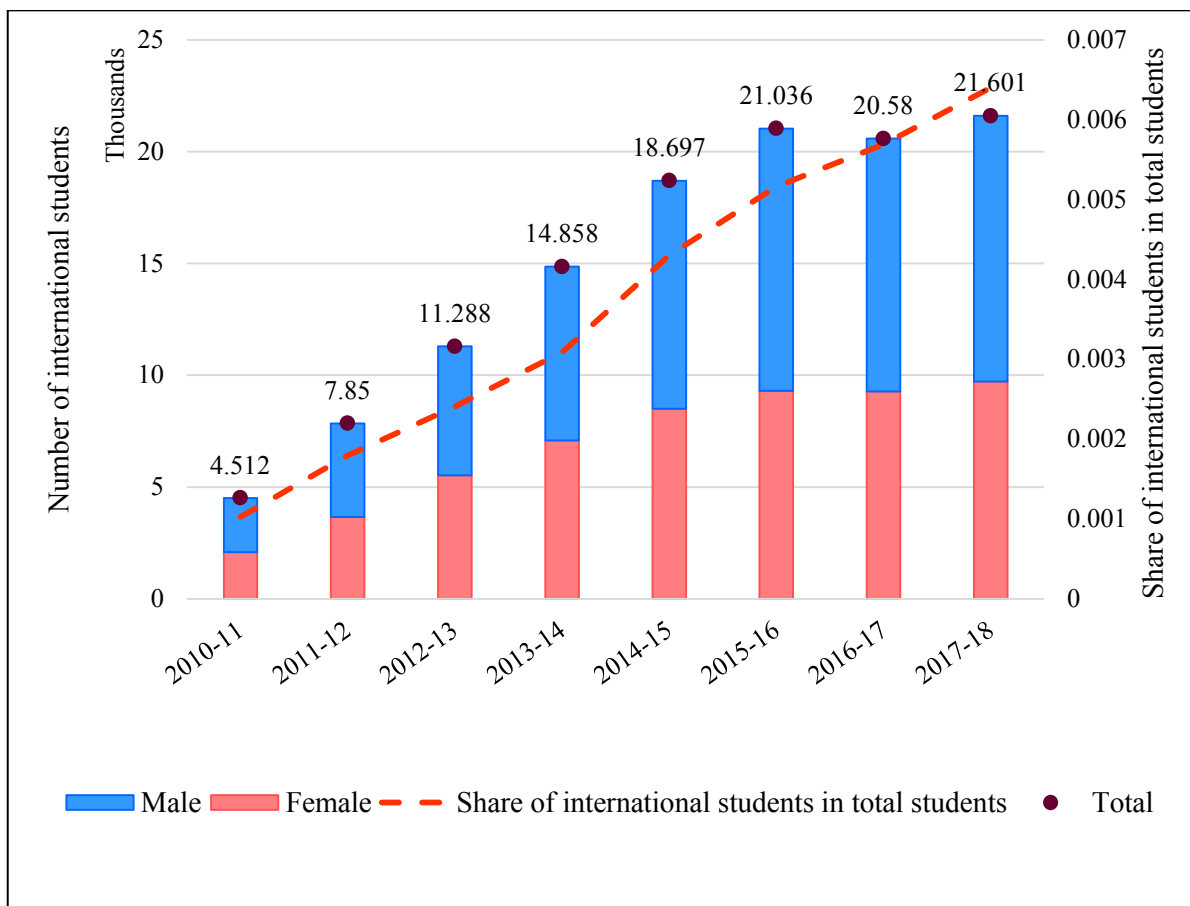


Chart 130: Number of inbound international students in Iran by gender (2010-2011 to 2017-2018)  
 Source: (Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education, 2019)

The number of international students in Iran has almost had a 4.5-fold increase during 2011-2012 compared to 2018-2019 academic year, changing from 4,512 students to 21,601 students. The gender gap

among the international students in Iran is also growing and fewer women are interested to continue their educations in Iran. Currently, 55% of the international students in Iran are men and 45% are women.





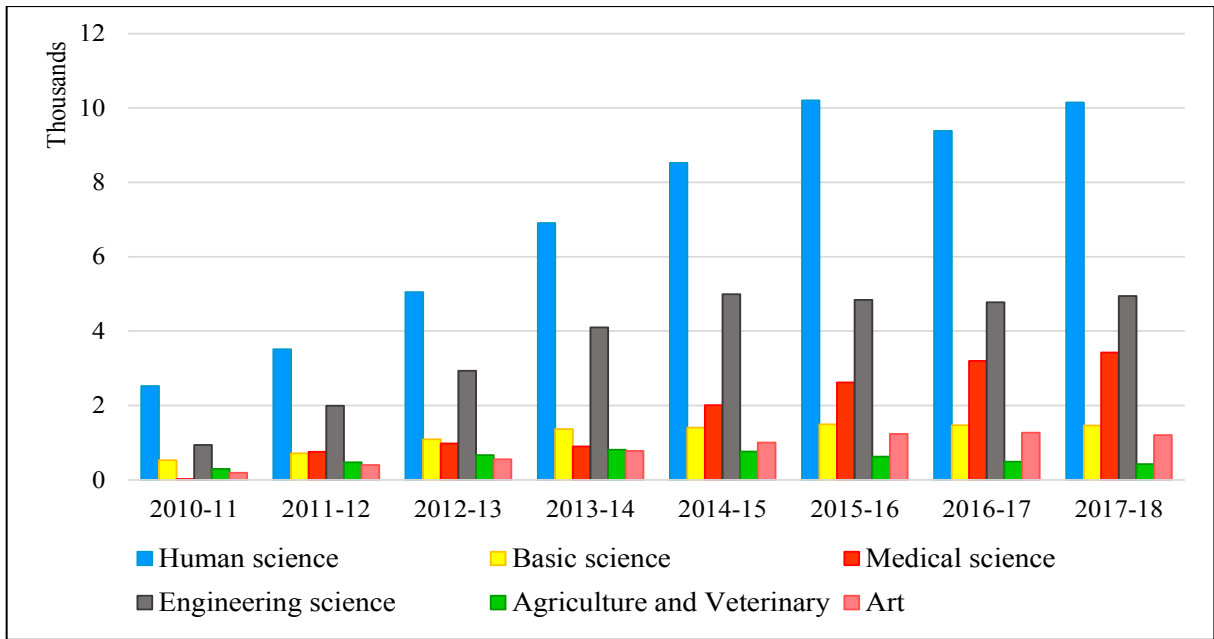


Chart 131: Number of non-Iranian students by field of study (2010-11 to 2017-18)  
 Source: (Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education, 2019)

Most of international students in Iran are studying the humanities, but it must be kept in mind that applications in medicine are also increasing since 2015 due to the programs implemented by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education such as easy access to all educational programs in universities' websites in English. On the other hand, some practical information provided on the courses offered by medical sciences universities and all oth-

er universities to create an opportunity for international student attraction.

Throughout the 2018-2019 academic year, humanities, engineering, and medical sciences were the top majors with the largest numbers of international students making up 47%, 23%, and 16% of the total population of international students, respectively. The next ranks respectively belong to basic sciences, arts, agriculture, and veterinary, respectively.

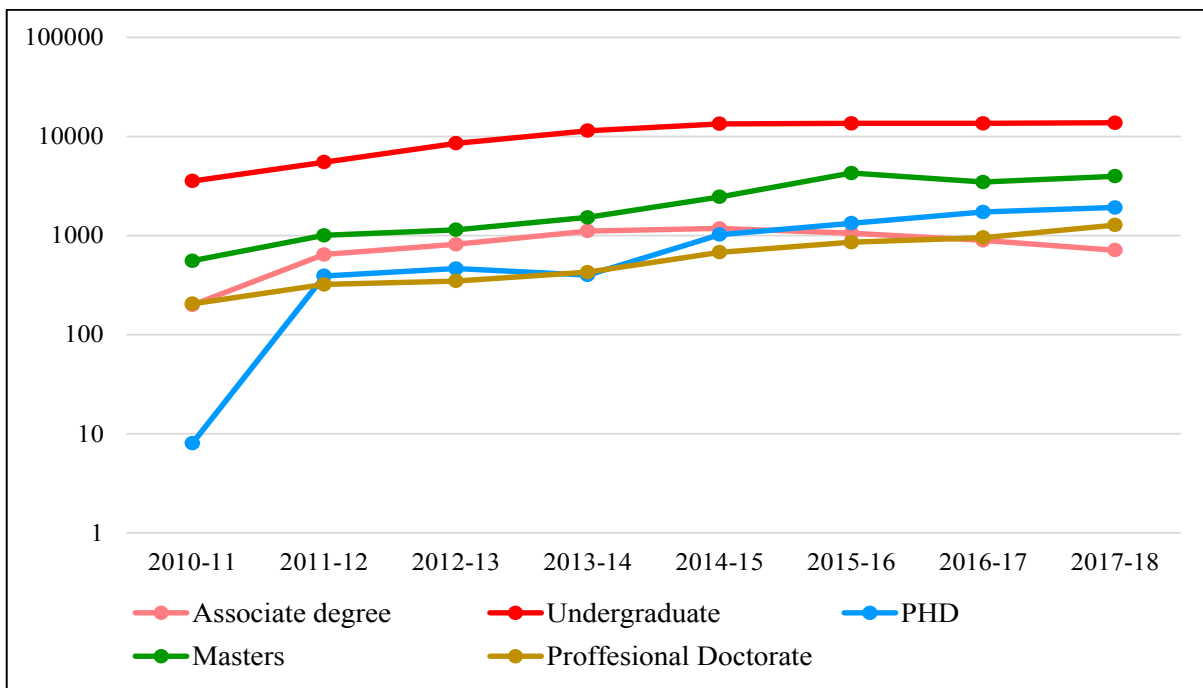


Chart 132: Number of non-Iranian students by degree level (2010-11 to 2017-18)  
 Source: (Institute of Higher Education, Research and Planning, 1398)

The majority of the international students in Iran are studying in undergraduate programs.

The highest number of international students (64%) were in undergraduate

programs only in the academic year 2018-2019. The next ranks belong to postgraduate programs (18%), general doctorate (9%), Ph.D. (6%), and associate's degree (3%).

### 3.4.2. The Main Sending Countries of International Student to Iran



Figure 8: International student inflow in Iran, 2017  
 Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020a)

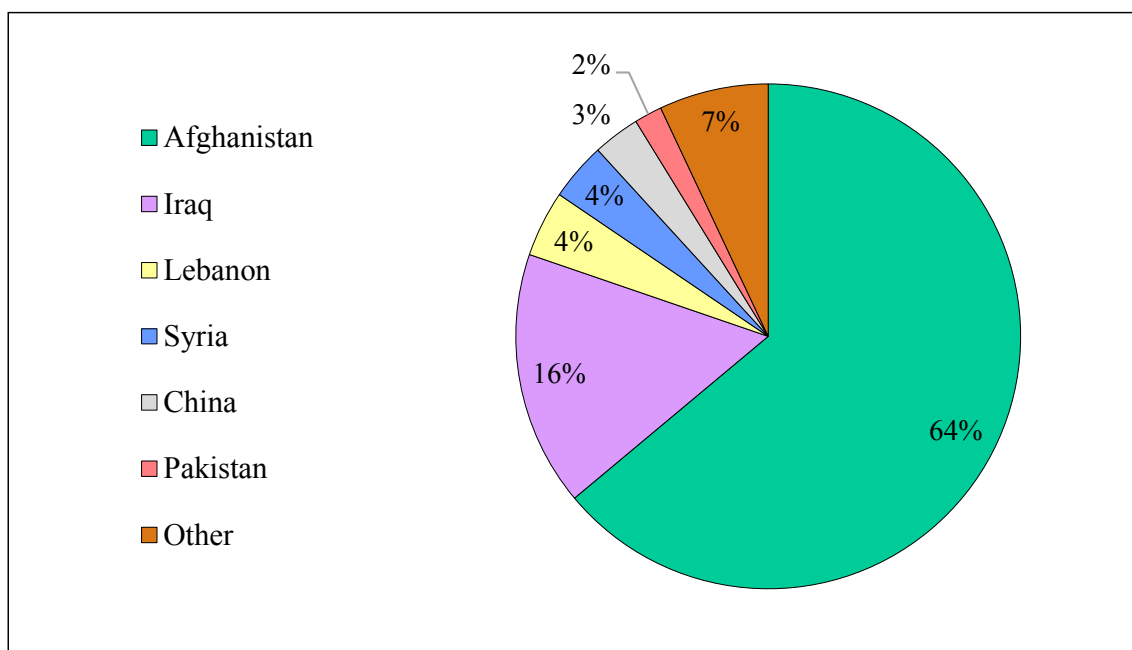


Chart 133: Share of top origin countries of international students in Iran (2017-2018)  
Source: (Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education, 2019)

The major student-sending countries to Iran are neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. Some other Asian countries like China and Syria send students to Iran. During the 2018-2019, Afghanistan has been the top country in sending international students to Iran (13,850 students). Following Afghanistan, Iraq ranked second with 2,810 students, and finally, Lebanon ranked third with 1,368 international students in Iran. These top three student-sending countries make up 86% of the total number of international students in Iran.

### 3.5. Iran from the Lens of Human Development Index and Global Talent Competitiveness Index

Theoretically, there are two main approaches for talent management strat-

egies and policies. The first approach refers to the productive capacity of countries and their appropriate ability to grow, flourish and retain talents. The other approach pays attention to the condition in which countries lack the capacity to grow and flourish talents at least in the short run, therefore such countries make attempts towards attracting talents from other countries through effective migration policies.

The following chart uses the “Human Development Index (HDI)” to represent the first approach and the “Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI)” to represent the second approach to classify countries. Based on their status regarding these two indicators, countries could be divided into four categories of pioneers, movers, limpers, and laggards in terms of HDI and GTCI.

**Pioneers**, are most talent competitive

countries with high HDI and GTCI, such as the US, Australia, Canada, Singapore, and Germany.

**Movers** are countries with relatively good conditions in both HDI and GTCI. These countries implement plans and adopt policies to decrease the gap between themselves and the pioneer coun-

tries. **Limpers** are countries with a high HDI but a low GTCI. These countries have recently put plans and programs regarding the internationalization of higher education on their agenda with a focus on neighboring countries. **Laggards** are the countries with unfavorable conditions in both indexes.

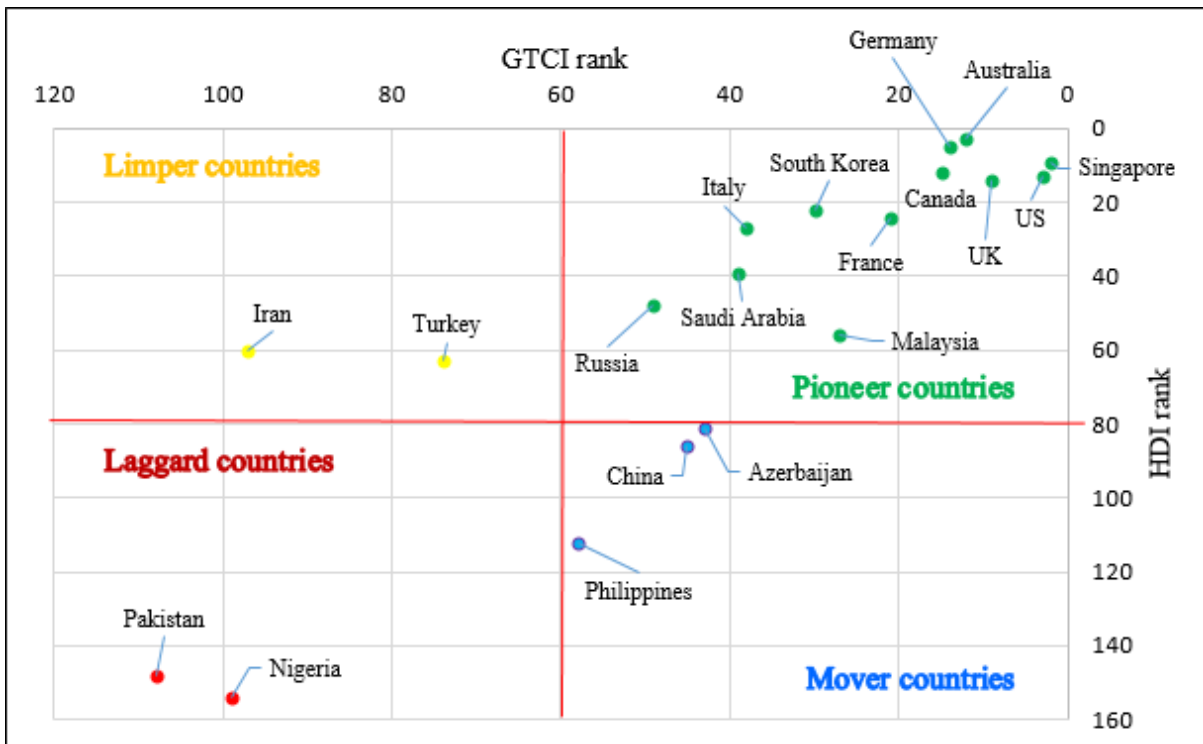


Figure 9: Status of some selected countries in the Human Development Index and the Global Talent Competitiveness Index rank (2019)  
Source: (HDI, 2019) (GTCI, 2019)

The position of Iran in these indexes shows that it has a favorable position in the HDI, but an unfavorable one in the GTCI. Iran's ranking in the scientific publications and quality of educational centers (Pillar Innovation) is evidence of this claim, which is annually published by the World Economic Forum. Iran ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in 2019 in these two components, respectively. However, Iran's status regarding the GTCI is unfavorable, except for the case of the global knowledge skills component, in which Iran ranked 63<sup>rd</sup> in 2019.

Iran's status in the human development index and the global talent competitiveness index shows that this country has a high capacity for human resource development and deployment. However, this capacity has not been developed with regards to national requirements but rather based on the Western developed countries' needs. Seemingly, Iran still lacks a consistent socio-economic context for efficient talent management and has serious difficulties to fully deploy its human resource capacity. Neglecting the national needs and deficiencies in national skill system accompanied by the lack of appropriate context for deploying talents has led Iran in some sort of brain waste or brain drain. It goes without saying that paying close attention to these challenges in talent management and also making the proper context ready for deploying national human capital capacity can turn Iran into a leading country in science and technology on a regional level.

### **3.6. The Status of Iran in the International Student Mobility Competition**

Since human resource is a centric factor in economic growth and development, talented and skilled individuals are among essential determining factors in the Vision Plans of a country. According to the definition of the OECD on Talent Attractiveness Index (TAI), university students count as *talents*. Thus, paying efforts towards attracting international students or returning and recruiting international students could improve a country's human resource. In this regard, five types of countries could be identified as follows:

**Pioneer countries**, include traditional student-attracting and newly-emerged countries in the international student mobility market. Traditional student-attracting countries are those that have long been among the popular destination countries for international students. Newly-emerged countries are those that have successfully attracted large numbers of international students over the past two decades through adopting effective policies.

**Program-based countries**, are those that have been facing the crisis of international students leaving the country, but have resolved this issue and succeeded in making optimal use of the movement and circulation of international students and talents through adopting effective policies regarding student mobility management.

**Countries in transition**, have a high international student outflow but have been able to compensate for the respective damages partly by implementing limited programs for attracting international students and returning their national students who have studied abroad over the past two decades. However, these countries have not been able to bring the net international student mobility balance from

negative to positive.

**Losing countries**, have faced the problem of high international student outflow over the past two decades. On the other hand, these countries do not have enough capacities for attracting international stu-

dents or bringing their nationals back.

**Passive countries**, are those with low international student inflow and outflow and are reluctant to use the scientific and technological capacities of other countries through brain circulation and student

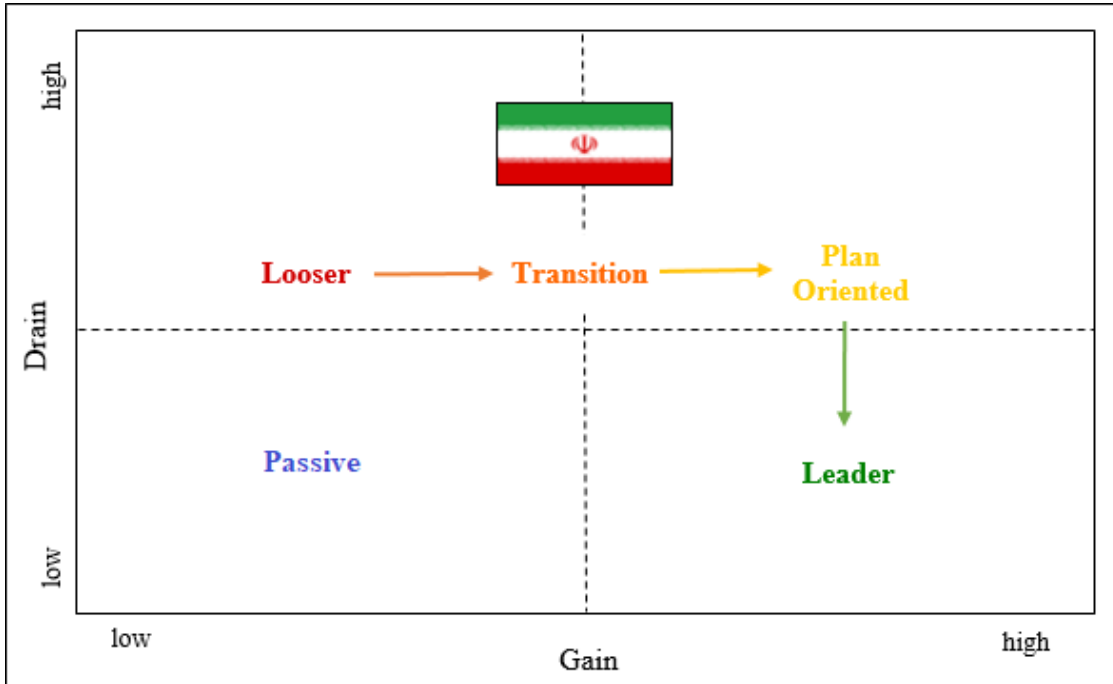


Figure 10: Status of Iran based on the amount of benefit from international student mobility

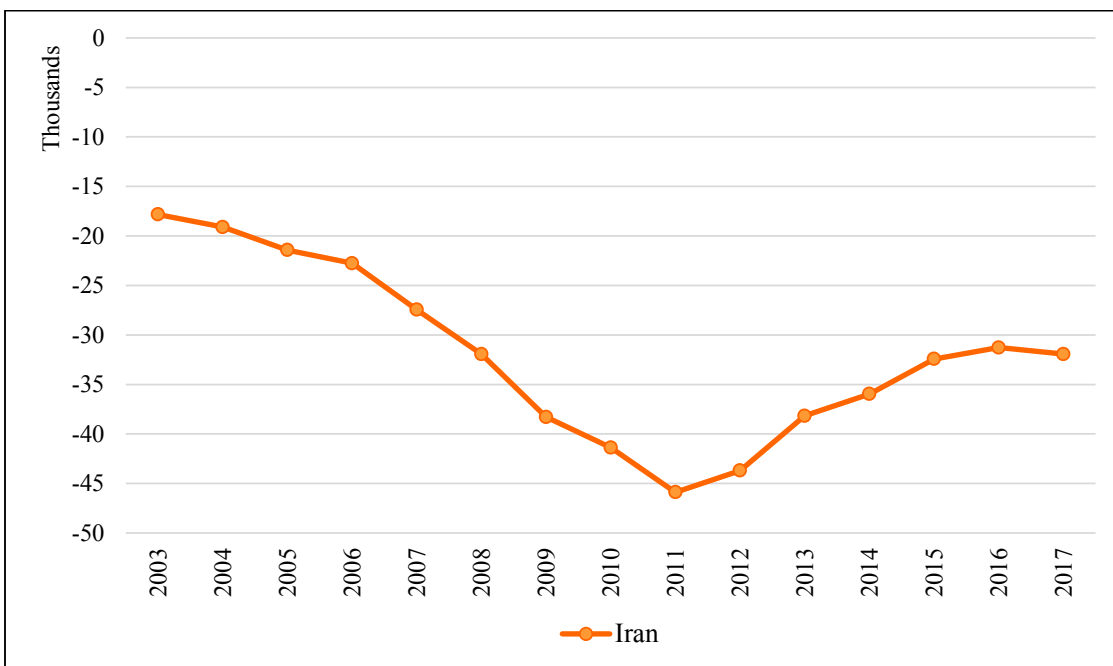


Chart 134: Net flow of internationally mobile students in Iran (2003-2017)  
Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020a)

mobility.

Iran is both student-sending and student-receiving country. During 2003-2018, the number of international students has increased, changing from around 1,400 students to nearly 21,000 students. On the other hand, the number of Iranian students studying abroad has also increased from 19,000 in 2003 to 53,000 in 2017. Iran's international student inflow has shown a constantly increasing trend, while its international student outflow has remained constant at 52,000 students over the recent years in spite of its general increase over the 2003-2017 period. Iran is a traditional student-sending country and was the 12<sup>th</sup> country of the world in sending students in 2011, but has been dropped to 20<sup>th</sup> position since 2017. This is while the country international student-attraction rank has also improved and changed from 57<sup>th</sup> in 2012 to 42<sup>th</sup> in 2016 (UIS, 2019a; UIS, 2019b).

The most important countries sending students to Iran are Asian. Over the year 2018-2019, Afghanistan has been the top country in sending international students to Iran (13,850 students). Following Afghanistan, Iraq ranked second with 2,810 students, and finally, Lebanon ranked third with 2,810 international students. The next countries with the highest numbers of sending students to Iran include Syria, China, and Pakistan, respectively.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has put international student-attracting programs on its agenda. The national upstream documents have declared the needs to promote the international activities of universities towards achieving the country's development goals during the past two decades. Some of these documents

have mentioned the demand to adopt internationalization strategies in developing higher education system multiple times. The mentions indicate an emphasis on the internationalization of some functions and services of higher education, but these efforts do not appear to be following a specific approach and logic. Higher education internationalization has been mentioned as key goal in the country's Vision Documents, country's Comprehensive Scientific Plan, and Fifth and Sixth National Development Plan Act. According to the goals and policies adopted in the Sixth National Development Plan Act, the number of international students studying in Iran must reach to 75,000 people by 2021. Although there is only one year left until this deadline, only 28% of this goal has been hit. Besides, a supporting plan to interact with non-resident Iranian professionals and scientists has been developed by National Elite Foundation and the Iran vice Presidency for Science and Technology since March 2015.

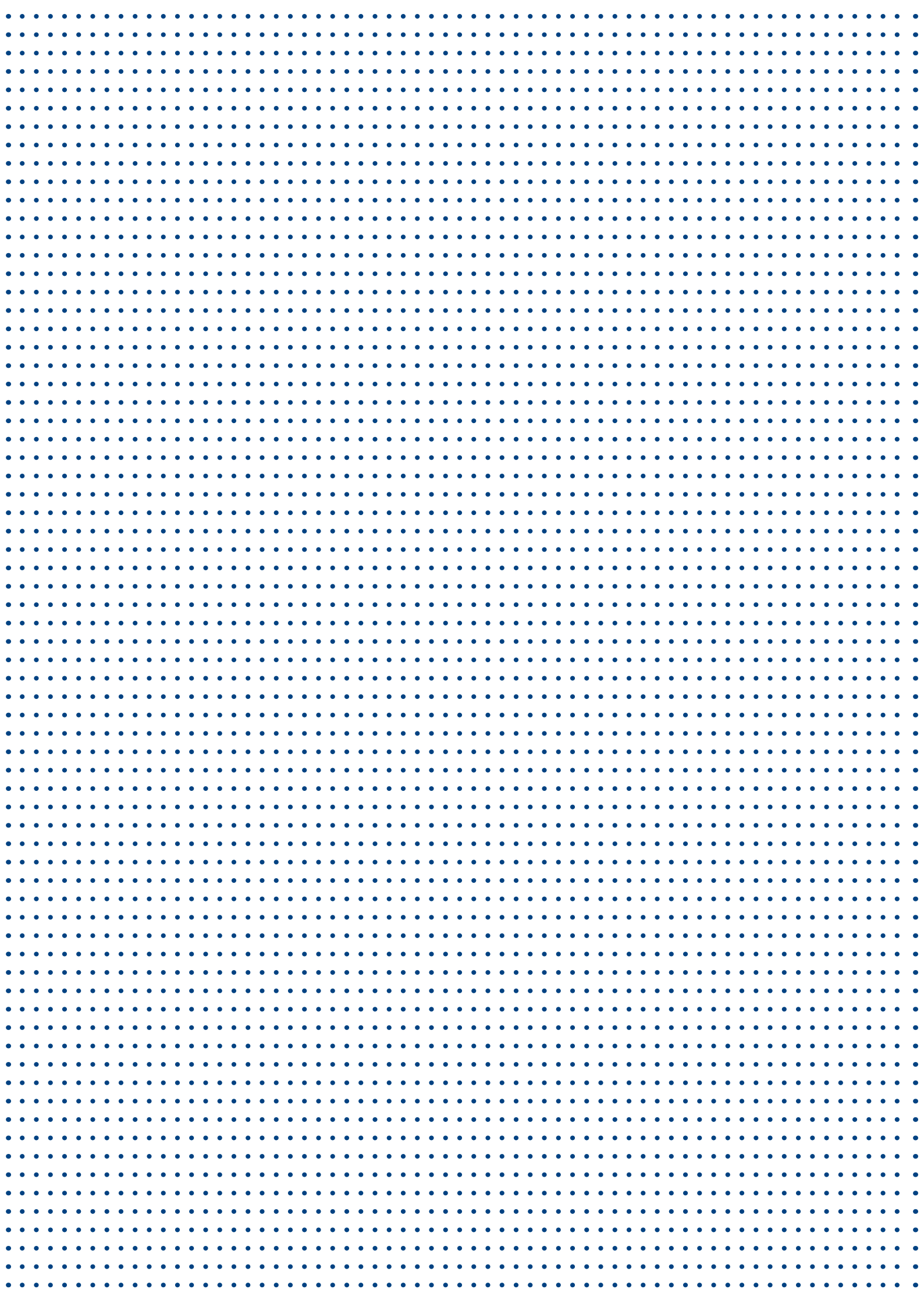
Efforts aimed at internationalizing higher education through attracting international students and facilitating the returning of Iranian international students are the most important parts of Iran National Vision Plan. However, internationalization of higher education had little improvement in Iran so far. Considering the needs for adoption new approach (brain circulation) in Iran, if the purposeful policies would be implemented successfully, Iran could transform its status from a loser country to a program-oriented one. However, without paying sufficient attention to the implementation of such ambitious programs, Iran will demote to becoming a loser country in the international student mobility competition.



# 4 Forced and Asylum Related Migration in / from Iran



I r a n M i g r a t i o n O u t l o o k 2 0 2 0



According to the Statistical Center of Iran 2016 report, the total population of foreign nationals in Iran was 1,654,388 people. Given that the majority of foreign nationals residing in the country are from Afghanistan and Iraq, this chapter addresses the statistics relating to these nationals. Moreover, considering that there is no available data on the number of refugees and foreign nationals based on their legal resident status, the statistics published by the Statistical Center of Iran which encompasses all foreign nationals will be presented in this chapter. However, statistics also include refugees, documented

and undocumented migrants. It seems that foreign nationals, especially undocumented migrants, have not been covered in the survey.

This chapter focuses on the number of Afghan and Iraqi nationals in Iran in the beginning and then presents the statistics of Afghan refugees in Iran according to the UNHCR data. Trends of refugees and migrants returning will also be presented based on the statistics released by the IOM. At the end of this chapter, the number of Iranian asylum seekers registered in other countries will be explored.



## 4.1. Foreign Nationals in Iran

According to the Statistical Center of Iran (2016), there were about 1.6 million Afghan

and around 34,000 Iraqi nationals in Iran which approximately one-thirds of Afghans are residing in Tehran Province and one-fourth of Iraqis are residing in Qom Province.

Table 28: Foreign nationals in Iran - by province (2016)

Province	Total Population	Foreign Nationals	Afghan Nationals	Iraqi Nationals
Ardabil	1,270,420	74	35	14
Isfahan	5,120,850	186,390	183,124	2,211
Alborz	2,712,400	84,805	84,321	210
Ilam	580,158	1,734	29	1,694
East Azerbaijan	3,909,652	342	139	35
West Azerbaijan	3,265,219	951	107	702
Bushehr	1,163,400	30,286	29,691	143
Tehran	13,267,637	525,033	515,567	4,965
Chahar Mahal & Bakhtiari	947,763	106	91	6
South Khorasan	768,898	5,075	5,045	16
Khorasan Razavi	6,434,501	232,671	219,442	6,400
North Khorasan	863,092	127	93	25
Khuzestan	4,710,509	11,432	6,290	4,972
Zanjan	1,057,461	201	40	17
Semnan	702,360	35,544	35,409	71
Sistan & Baluchestan	2,775,014	29,676	26,846	14
Fars	4,851,274	110,098	109,247	563
Qazvin	1,273,761	18,686	18,401	112
Qom	1,292,283	120,028	96,367	8,365
Kurdistan	1,603,011	450	18	424
Kerman	3,164,718	126,106	125,411	76
Kermanshah	1,952,434	883	47	830
Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad	713,052	1,559	1,503	4
Golestan	1,868,819	18,782	18,273	54
Gilan	2,530,696	425	309	42
Lorestan	1,760,649	331	99	226
Mazandaran	3,283,582	2,749	2,623	56
Markazi	1,429,475	29,650	29,257	289
Hormozgan	1,776,415	26,107	24,195	97
Hamedan	1,738,234	444	217	187
Yazd	1,138,533	53,643	51,743	1,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,926,270</b>	<b>1,654,388</b>	<b>1,583,979</b>	<b>34,532</b>

Source: (Statistical Center of Iran, 2016)

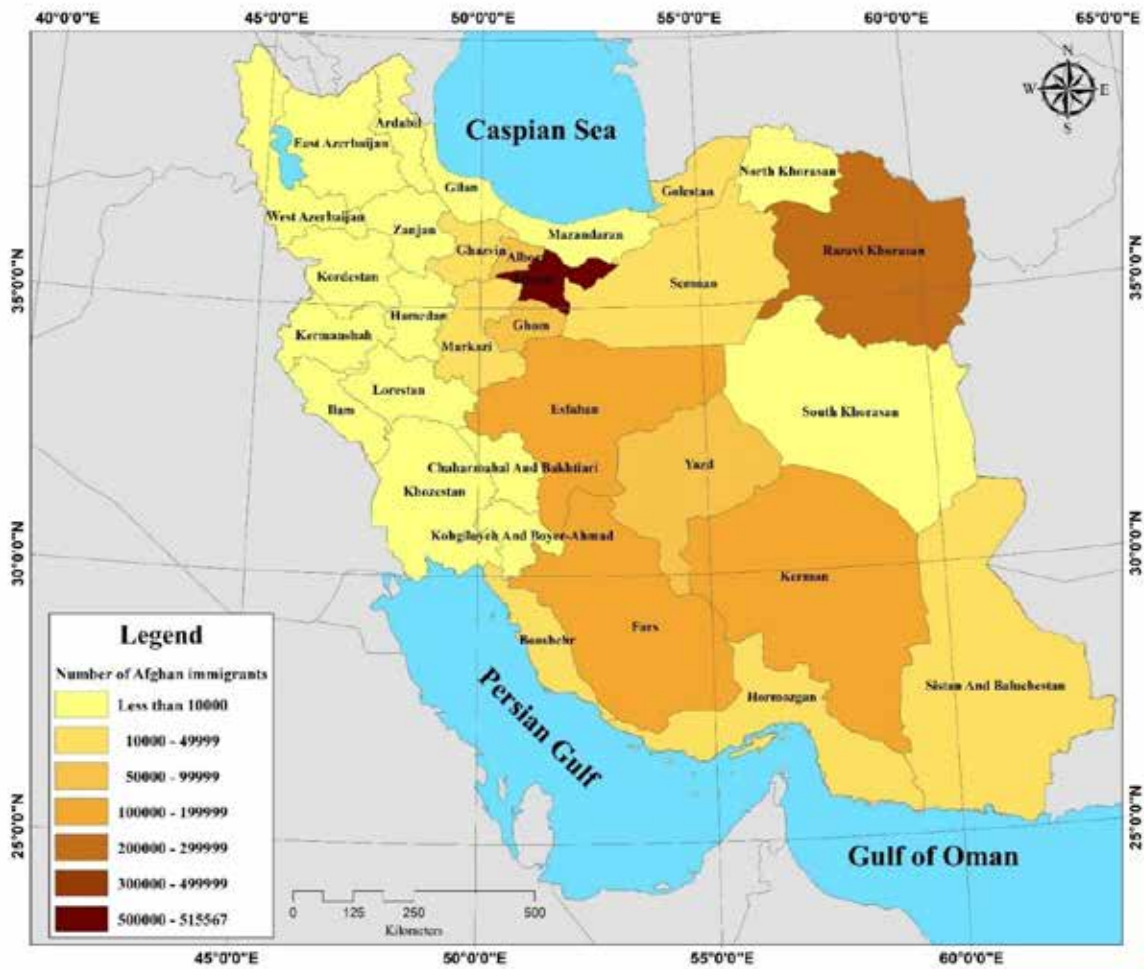


Figure 11: Geographical distribution of Afghans in Iran - by province  
 Source: (Statistical Center of Iran, 2016)

Entry of some foreign nationals including Afghans is prohibited in some countries and provinces (called as No-Go-Areas - NGA), their distribution in Iran has therefore been impacted by these restrictions (Figure 11). the provinces which completely restricted for foreign nationals include Ardabil, West Azerbaijan, Zanjan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, Ilam, Lorestan, Chaharmahal and Bakh-

tiari, North Khorasan, Gilan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Sistan and Baluchestan, Mazandaran, Hamedan, and Hormozgan. Some provinces are partly restricted for foreign nationals including Bushehr, Isfahan, South Khorasan, Khuzestan, Khorasan Razavi, Semnan, Qazvin, Fars, Golestan, Yazd, Kerman, and Markazi. Provinces with no restriction in this regard include Tehran,

Alborz, and Qom. (Adapted from the admission and registration procedure for foreign students presented by the Student Affairs Organization, 2015).

#### 4.1.1. Foreign National Population by Gender

The population of Afghan and Iraqi nationals in Iran is presented by gender in the table

Table 29: Total population of Afghans in Iran - by gender (2016)

	Afghans (Men)		Afghans (Women)	
	Number	%	Number	%
Tehran	274,780	53.3	240,787	46.7
Khorasan Razavi	111,396	50.8	108,046	49.2
Isfahan	94,773	51.8	88,351	48.2
Kerman	69,906	55.7	55,505	44.3
Fars	61,198	56	48,049	44
Alborz	45,548	54	38,773	46
Qom	48,759	50.6	47,608	49.4
Yazd	28,286	54.7	23,457	45.3
Other provinces	110,621	55.7	88,136	44.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>845,267</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>738,712</b>	<b>46.6</b>

Source: (Statistical Center of Iran, 2016)

29. Accordingly, the number of male Afghans residing in Iran is 845,267 and the number of female Afghans is 738,712.

The gender composition of Afghan nationals shows that Ardabil, West Azerbaijan, and Ilam have higher population of Afghan women over men, while the other provinces indicate a higher percentage of Afghan males. One of the reasons for this issue is marriage of Iranian men with foreign nationals in these

provinces. Provinces of Kurdistan, Bushehr, Gilan, Mazandaran, Lorestan, and Hamedan have a higher male population (60%) since these provinces are No-Go-Areas for foreign nationals, then major part of foreign nationals are single men workers.

The number of Iraqi male nationals in Iran is 19,725 people and the population of female Iraqis is 14,807.

Table 30: Total population of Iraqis in Iran - by gender (2016)

	Iraqis (Men)		Iraqis (Women)	
	Number	%	Number	%
Tehran	2,892	58.2	2,073	41.7
Khorasan Razavi	3,750	58.5	2,650	41.4
Isfahan	1,324	59.8	887	40.1
Kerman	39	51.3	37	48.6
Fars	337	59.8	226	40.1
Alborz	125	59.5	85	40.4
Qom	4,719	56.4	3,646	43.5
Yazd	1,003	58.5	709	41.4
Other provinces	5,536	55.1	4,494	44.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,725</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>14,807</b>	<b>42.9</b>

Source: (Statistical Center of Iran, 2016)

The gender composition of Iraqis in Iran has been indicated in table 30. There are equal male and female percentages of Iraqi in Ardabil province. In provinces of Khuzestan, Western Azerbaijan, Hamedan, and Kurdistan, women surpass men and in other provinces, the percentage of male Iraqis is higher

than females. In total, 57.1% of Iraqi residents in Iran are male and 42.9% are female.

#### 4.1.2. Afghan Nationals by Age

Table 31 indicates the number of Afghans in Iran divided into 6 age groups of 0-14, 15-29, 30-44, 45-59, 60-74, and 75 and older.

Table 31: Total population of Afghan nationals in Iran- by age group (2016)

	0-14		15-29		30-44		45-59		60-74		75+	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Tehran	168,884	32.8	170,671	33.1	105,720	20.5	50,193	9.7	16,710	3.2	3,389	0.7
Khorasan Razavi	69,480	31.7	69,361	31.6	43,164	19.7	24,983	11.4	9,969	4.5	2,485	1.1
Isfahan	70,094	38.2	57,428	31.3	33,175	18.1	15,894	8.6	5,262	2.8	1,271	0.6
Kerman	48,370	38.5	40,356	32.1	22,014	17.5	10,176	8.1	3,593	2.8	902	0.7
Fars	41,660	38.1	35,132	32.1	19,354	17.7	9,614	8.8	2,825	2.5	662	0.6
Alborz	29,386	34.8	27,736	32.8	16,867	20	7,525	8.9	2,312	2.7	495	0.5
Qom	31,715	32.9	29,744	30.8	19,540	20.2	10,577	10.9	3,877	4	914	0.9
Yazd	20,516	39.6	17,293	33.4	8,852	17.1	3,814	7.3	1,056	2	212	0.4
Other provinces	70,365	35.4	67,435	33.9	35,843	18	17,601	8.8	6,006	3	1,507	0.7
Total	550,470	34.7	515,156	32.5	304,529	19.2	150,377	9.4	51,610	3.2	11,837	0.7

Source: (Statistical Center of Iran, 2016)

The age group 0-14 years old has the highest number among other groups in most of the provinces, followed by the 15-29 age

group. Afghans aged 75 and older make up the smallest portion of Afghans in Iran compared to other age groups.

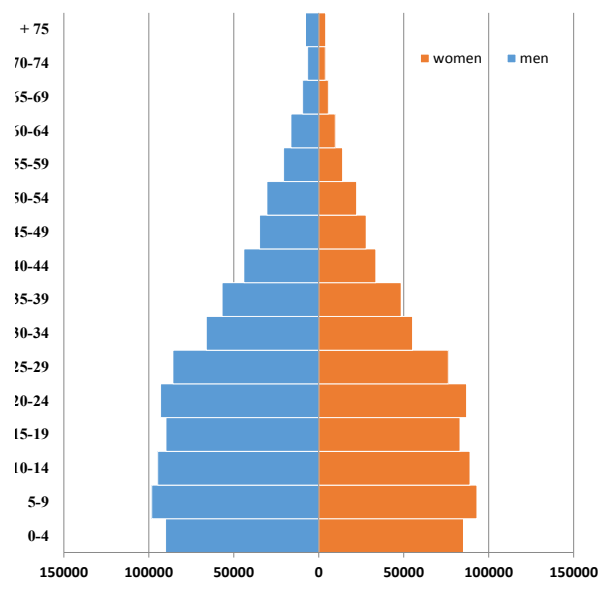


Chart 135: Population Pyramid of Afghans in Iran (2016)

Source: (Statistical Center of Iran, 2016)

### 4.1.3. Afghan Nationals in Urban and Rural Areas

According to the statistics provided in table 32, approximately 1.2 million Afghan

nationals have been residing in urban areas and about 341,000 Afghan nationals have been residing in rural areas in 2016.

Table 32: Number of Afghans in rural and urban areas in Iran (2016)<sup>1</sup>

	Afghans in urban areas		Afghans in rural areas		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Tehran	373,000	72.3	142,489	27.6	515,489
Khorasan Razavi	185,780	84.6	33,658	15.3	219,438
Isfahan	166,797	91	16,321	8.9	183,118
Kerman	89,909	71.6	35,500	28.3	125,409
Fars	92,541	84.7	16,147	14.7	108,688
Alborz	59,131	70.1	25,175	29.8	84,306
Qom	88,616	91.9	7,751	8	96,367
Yazd	42,459	82	9,284	17.9	51,743
Other provinces	144,099	72.5	54,643	27.4	198,742
Total	1,242,332	78.4	340,968	21.5	1,583,300

Source: (Statistical Center of Iran, 2016)

Based on the data presented in table 32, 78.5% of Afghans in Iran live in urban areas and 21.5% live in rural areas. About 46% to 55% of Afghans in Mazandaran, Golestan, Ardabil, Sistan and Baluchestan, and West Azerbaijan reside in urban areas which have been depicted in yellow in the figure 12. The highest percentage of Afghans in urban areas

(86%-93%) has been recorded in Isfahan, South Khorasan, Fars, Ilam, and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad (Provinces with dark brown color in the figure).

Less than 10% of the Afghan in Qom, South Khorasan, and Isfahan provinces reside in rural areas which make up the lowest amount of Afghans in rural areas in compare

1. The mismatch of the total population of Afghan citizens with the populations living in urban and rural areas is based on the 2016 statistics.



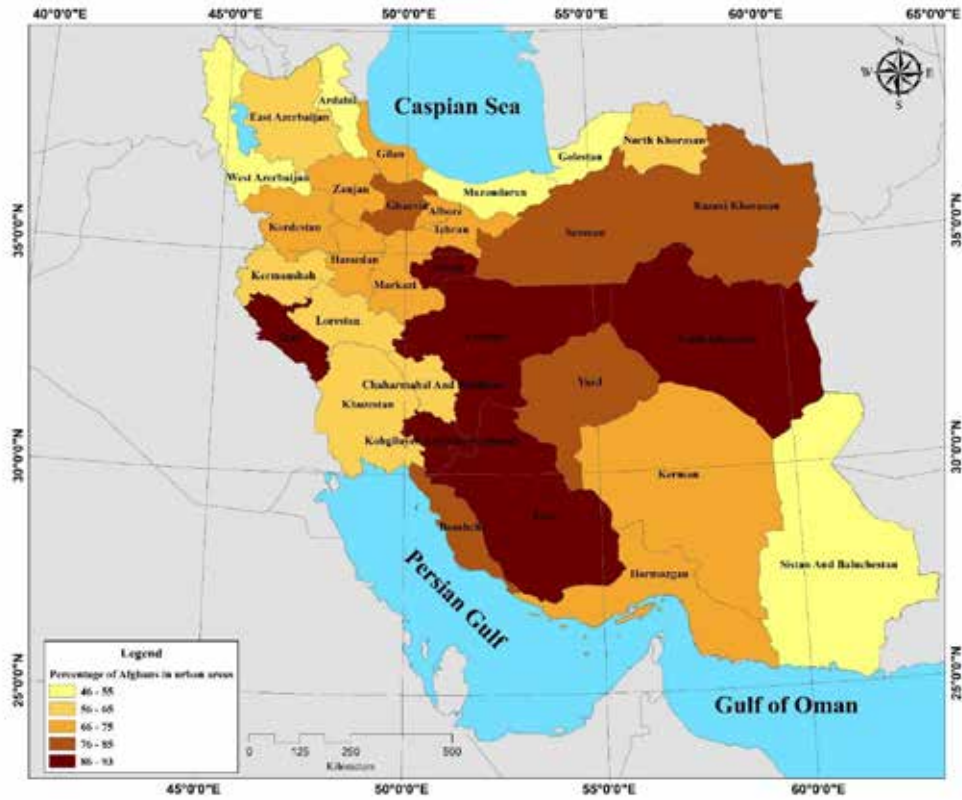


Figure 12: Afghans in urban areas (%)  
 Source: (Statistical Center of Iran, 2016)

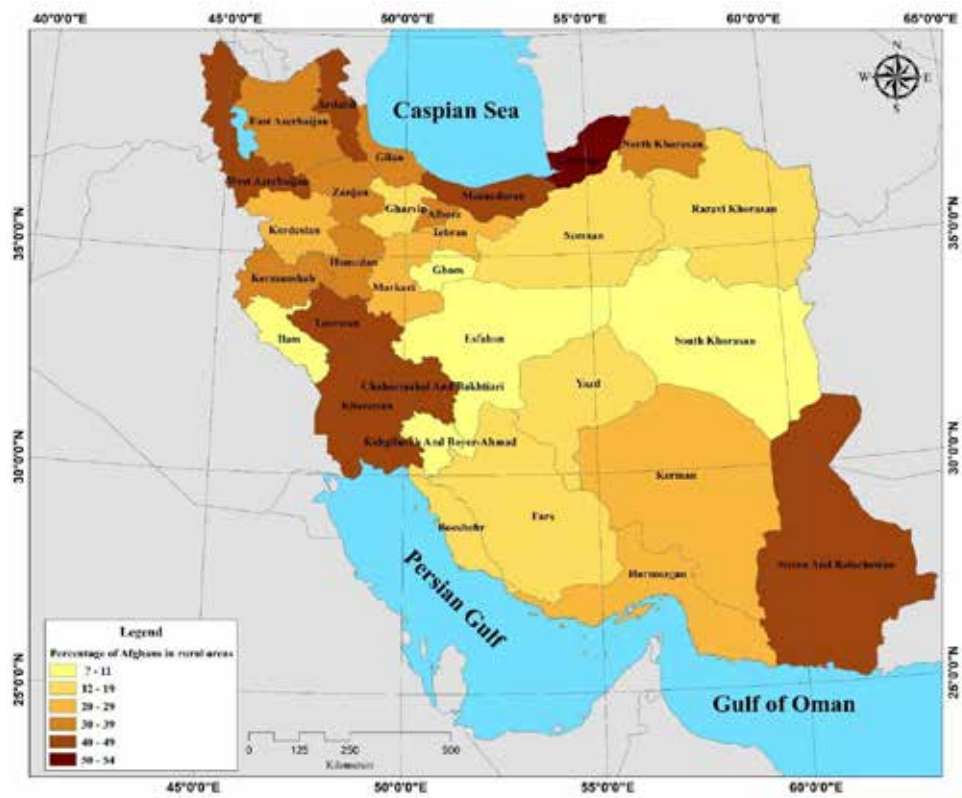


Figure 13: Afghans in rural areas (%)  
 Source: (Statistical Center of Iran, 2016)



to the total population of Afghans in those provinces (Provinces in light yellow color in figure 13).

#### 4.1.4. Employment of Foreign Nationals in Iran

Total number of employed foreign nationals

in Iran is 538,646 people and the population of unemployed foreign nationals is 21,394 including both men and women. In total, the employment rate of foreign nationals in Iran is 96.1%, means 3.9% is unemployed, and the economic participation rate of the foreign nationals is about 44%.

Table 33: Employment and unemployment rate of foreign nationals and their participation rate in Iran (2016)

	Number of employed foreign nationals	Number of unemployed foreign nationals	Employment rate (%)	Unemployment rate (%)	Foreign labour participation rate (%)
Ardabil	19	2	90.5	9.5	32.3
Isfahan	55,666	2,129	96.3	3.7	41.4
Alborz	28,975	1,160	96.2	3.8	46.2
Ilam	706	67	91.3	8.7	53.9
East Azerbaijan	149	8	94.9	5.1	56.1
West Azerbaijan	268	39	87.3	12.7	38.6
Bushehr	13,921	267	98.1	1.9	61.1
Tehran	182,730	4,203	97.8	2.2	45.5
Chahar Mahal & Bakhtiari	35	9	79.5	20.5	53.7
South Khorasan	1,219	88	93.3	6.7	35.8
Khorasan Razavi	71,305	4,776	93.7	6.3	41.5
North Khorasan	40	6	87	13	46.5
Khuzestan	4,004	442	90.1	9.9	48.2
Zanjan	133	3	97.8	2.2	71.6
Semnan	11,656	835	93.3	6.7	43.8
Sistan & Baluchestan	8,877	1,033	89.6	10.4	44.9
Fars	36,386	1,065	97.2	2.8	45.6
Qazvin	5,914	179	97.1	2.9	43.5
Qom	28,080	1,372	95.3	4.7	31.4
Kurdistan	129	18	87.8	12.2	38.5
Kerman	43,328	1,054	97.6	2.4	47.9
Kermanshah	160	74	68.4	31.6	31.1
Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad	674	34	95.2	4.8	58
Golestan	6,323	453	93.3	6.7	46.7
Gilan	155	22	87.6	12.4	47.5
Lodestone	109	14	88.6	11.4	44.4
Mazandaran	1,268	66	95.1	4.9	60.7
Markazi	9,415	253	97.4	2.6	42.1
Hormozgan	9,926	332	96.8	3.2	53.9
Hamedan	122	8	93.8	6.2	36.6
Yazd	16,954	1,383	92.5	7.5	46.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>538,646</b>	<b>21,394</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>44</b>

Source: (Center for Statistics and Strategic Information, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, 2017)

## 4.2. Afghan and Iraqi Refugees in Iran

Table 34 presents the population of Iraqi and Afghan refugees in Iran from 1979 to 2018, which fluctuated during the past 40 years. According to these data, the majority of refugees in Iran are from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The entry and registration of Afghan refugees have mostly started in 1979 and has

reached its peak in the 1990s. For instance, over 3 million Afghans resided in Iran during 1990-1991. The number of Afghan refugees in Iran is decreasing and has been nearly 1 million people since 2004. The largest population of Iraqi refugees has also resided in Iran in the early 1990s, but their population has dropped since the mid-90s and remained less than 50,000 since 2005.

Table 34: Afghan and Iraqi refugee population in Iran over a 40-year course (1980-2018)

Year	Number of Afghan refugees in Iran	Number of Iraqi refugees in Iran	Total Afghan and Iraqi refugees
1980	300,000	30,000	330,000
1985	1,900,000	400,000	2,300,000
1990	3,061,110	1,113,291	4,174,401
1995	1,429,038	595,500	2,024,538
2000	1,482,000	386,000	1,868,000
2005	920,248	54,000	974,248
2010	1,027,577	45,708	1,073,285
2015	951,142	28,268	979,410
2018	951,142	28,268	979,410

Source: (UNHCR, 2020), Retrieved at 26 January 2020  
Available at: [http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/persons\\_of\\_concern](http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/persons_of_concern)

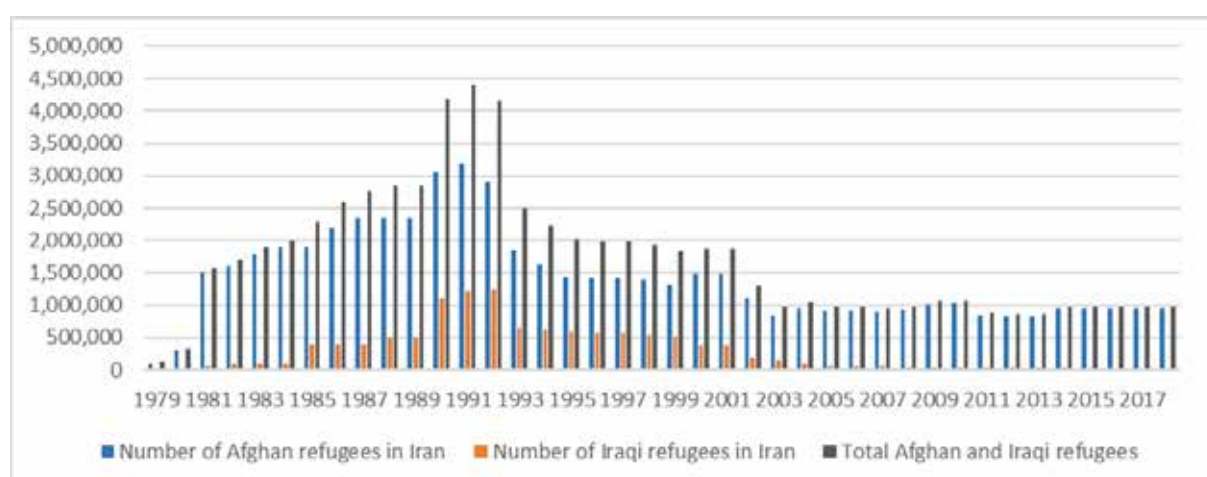


Chart 136: Total population of Afghan and Iraqi refugees (1979-2018)  
Source: (UNHCR, 2020), Retrieved at 26 January 2020

### 4.2.1. Refugees in Guest Cities

As mentioned earlier, less than 30,000 Afghan refugees in Iran are living in guest cities (refugee settlements). In other words, around 97% of Afghan refugees in Iran are living in cities or rural areas and 3% residing in 20 guest cities in Iran.

Active guest cities are located in 12 provinces, the most important of which are in Khorasan Razavi, Kerman, Markazi, Yazd, and Semnan provinces, and are mostly host to Afghan refugees. The largest Iranian guest

cities is Rafsanjan guest city in Kerman province with 5,380 refugees. After the voluntary repatriation of Iraqi migrants and refugees, some of the guest cities are now hosting small portion of Iraqi nationals; these guest cities are mainly located in Western provinces such as West Azerbaijan and Kermanshah.

Table 35 indicates the number of refugees in guest cities in Iran divided by gender and age group in 2018. In cases where the population of an age group is not reported due to the small population (less than 5 people), star sign \* is placed.

Table 35: Number of refugees in the camps (Guest cities) in Iran - by gender and age group (2018)

	Camp name	Province	Age group (Women)						Age group (Men)						Total
			0-4	5-11	12-17	18-59	60 and older	total	0-4	5-11	12-17	18-59	60 and older	total	
1	Abazar	Lorestan	*	6	9	32	5	53	5	6	12	45	*	71	124
2	Ardakan	Yazd	169	251	314	692	52	1,478	195	270	281	726	66	1,538	3,016
3	Bani Najjar	Khuzestan	103	110	170	601	12	996	122	104	155	586	21	988	1,984
4	Bazileh	West Azerbaijan	*	*	*	10	*	15	*	*	*	9	*	17	32
5	Bardsir	Kerman	275	281	312	664	42	1,574	264	284	324	685	41	1,598	3,172
6	Dalaki	Bushehr	33	14	16	39	7	109	28	14	14	30	8	94	203
7	Dilzeh	West Azerbaijan	*	*	*	5	*	9	*	*	*	*	*	8	17
8	Ebrahim Ababd	Markazi	*	*	*	11	*	17	*	*	0	10	*	16	33
9	Mohajerin	Kerman	225	248	319	862	92	1,746	207	295	279	1,036	112	1,929	3,675
10	Jahrom	Fars	5	9	12	33	7	66	5	8	12	32	*	59	125
11	Meybod	Yazd	74	68	84	342	14	582	62	67	100	405	14	648	1,230
12	Rafsanjan	Kerman	352	580	607	877	220	2,636	393	540	695	824	292	2,744	5,380
13	Sarvestan	Fars	47	70	48	105	10	280	37	51	58	126	25	297	577
14	Saveh	Markazi	395	609	495	805	55	2,359	470	574	545	834	154	2,577	4,936
15	Sonqor	Kermanshah	*	*	*	5	*	12	*	*	*	5	0	13	25
16	Soltaniyeh	Zanjan	0	0	*	*	*	6	0	0	*	*	*	*	6
17	Varmahang	Kermanshah	0	0	*	*	0	5	0	0	*	*	0	*	5
18	Taft	Yazd	41	37	112	311	24	525	31	77	99	284	14	505	1,030
19	Torbat-e jam	Khorasan Razavi	131	252	291	943	105	1,722	140	262	330	1,296	161	2,189	3,911
20	Ziveh	West Azerbaijan	6	18	32	74	5	135	5	15	16	100	9	145	280
Total					-	-	-	-	-	14,325	-	-	-	-	-

Source: (UNHCR, 2018), Retrieved at 08 February 2020

Available at: <http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/demographics>

### 4.3. Desire to Migrate Among Afghan Respondents in Iran

This section presents a brief result of two surveys regarding Afghan migrants in Iran. The first survey has been conducted through a cooperation between Shahid Beheshti University, Department of Human Geography, Iran and University of Turku, Finland in Oct. 2017 (see Jauhiainen & Eyvazlu, 2018). This

survey was conducted in four guest cities including Bardsir and Rafsanjan (Kerman province), Torbat-e-Jam (Khorasan Razavi province), and Bani Najjar (Khuzestan province), and 6 villages in Kerman and Khorasan Razavi provinces. A total of 644 Afghan migrants (aged at least 15) participated in the survey.

The second survey was conducted in summer 2019 through the cooperation of the Iran Migration Observatory (IMO) at the Policy Research Institute of Sharif University of

Technology and the Department of Geography at University of Turku, Finland, (see Jauhiainen et al. 2020). This survey was mostly conducted in four cities: Tehran (including Tehran metropolitan and some other small cities such as Pakdasht, Varamin, Shahriar, Pishva, Es-

lamshahr, etc.), Isfahan (including Isfahan and its adjacent cities), Mashhad, and Kerman (including Kerman city and SharafAbad village), and involved a total of 1,365 Afghan migrants (aged at least 15). A summary of these two surveys' results is presented below.

Table 36: Afghan respondents' background

gender/ age group	Refugees in guest settlements			Refugees elsewhere			Regular migrants			Irregular migrants			Total		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
15-18	15	10	13	6	12	9	5	11	8	10	12	10	9	11	10
19-29	24	34	29	38	54	46	49	57	53	47	43	46	39	48	43
30-49	36	45	40	35	27	30	34	27	30	30	29	30	34	32	33
50-64	16	9	12	17	6	12	8	3	6	11	14	12	13	7	11
65 and older	9	2	6	4	1	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	5	2	3
Total	50	50	100	48	52	100	48	52	100	69	31	100	52	48	100

Source: (Jauhiainen et al. 2020; Jauhiainen & Eyvazlu 2018)

### 4.3.1. Desire to Return among Afghan Migrants

Table 37: Desire to return among Afghan respondents (%)

	Refugees in guest settlements				Refugees elsewhere				Regular migrants				Irregular migrants			
	Y	M	No	N	Y	M	No	N	Y	M	No	N	Y	M	No	N
Total	38	16	46	516	28	33	39	645	35	31	34	413	50	22	28	338
Men	43	13	44	261	28	33	39	304	34	30	36	205	54	19	27	233
Women	34	19	47	255	28	33	39	335	36	31	33	207	40	29	31	103
15-18	42	21	37	65	28	28	44	58	21	32	47	34	50	13	37	38
19-29	36	20	44	152	28	33	39	298	38	29	33	219	48	21	31	155
30-49	34	16	50	206	27	32	41	193	35	33	32	124	53	27	20	97
50-64	47	7	46	61	32	33	35	75	22	39	39	23	52	23	25	40
More than 65	53	7	40	30	39	39	22	18	42	25	33	12	83	17	0	6
Unmarried	30	19	51	208	28	32	40	284	37	31	32	215	43	22	34	143
Married	45	13	42	293	20	32	38	357	33	30	37	197	55	22	23	193
with Children in Iran	43	12	45	263	28	28	44	159	33	29	38	55	48	25	27	77
With children in Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	38	35	27	190	43	29	28	156	49	26	25	207
Employed	38	16	46	285	26	34	40	337	33	34	33	233	55	20	25	230
Unemployed	-	-	-	-	31	32	37	282	39	26	35	168	40	29	31	94
Elementary education	-	-	-	-	34	32	34	139	31	29	40	70	51	21	28	99
Attended university	50	28	22	36	28	46	26	65	42	30	28	174	24	35	41	29

Source: (Jauhiainen et al. 2020; Jauhiainen & Eyvazlu 2018)

Tip: Y= Yes desire to return M= Maybe No= Not desire to return N= Number of respondents

Table 37 indicates desire to return among Afghan migrants in Iran .undocumented Afghans are more likely to desire to return to Afghanistan, followed by documented ones.

In general, few refugees want to return to Afghanistan compared to documented and undocumented migrants.



### 4.3.2. Planning to Return among Afghan Migrants

Table 38: Planning to return among Afghan respondents (%)

	Refugees in guest settlements				Refugees elsewhere				Regular migrants				Irregular migrants			
	Y	M	No	N	Y	M	No	N	Y	M	No	N	Y	M	NO	N
<b>Total</b>	32	21	47	276	14	30	56	648	24	33	43	430	36	28	36	309
<b>Men</b>	28	22	50	144	15	30	55	308	24	31	45	208	41	25	34	216
<b>Women</b>	36	20	44	132	12	30	58	334	23	36	41	222	25	33	42	91
<b>15-18</b>	44	33	22	9	15	26	59	58	14	29	57	35	27	15	58	33
<b>19-29</b>	36	15	49	47	13	33	53	297	25	34	41	228	42	24	34	135
<b>30-49</b>	27	21	52	141	14	25	61	197	26	33	41	130	37	33	30	92
<b>50-64</b>	33	22	45	54	16	36	48	75	20	32	48	25	22	34	44	41
<b>65 and older</b>	33	34	33	24	17	11	72	18	10	45	45	11	50	50	0	6
<b>Unmarried</b>	20	15	65	80	14	28	58	283	23	36	41	219	33	27	40	129
<b>Married</b>	36	24	40	186	14	31	55	361	24	31	45	210	38	28	34	178
<b>with Children in Iran</b>	34	23	43	177	14	26	60	162	17	37	46	57	20	45	35	69
<b>With children in Afghanistan</b>	.	.	.	.	18	40	42	194	26	38	36	163	38	28	34	209
<b>Employed</b>	24	20	56	168	15	29	56	343	25	31	44	235	41	27	32	206
<b>Unemployed</b>	.	.	.	.	14	32	54	281	23	37	40	176	26	30	44	92
<b>Elementary education</b>	.	.	.	.	16	29	55	143	25	19	56	75	41	21	38	101
<b>Attended university</b>	56	16	28	18	23	31	46	64	23	42	35	179	27	38	35	26

Source: (Jauhiainen et al. 2020; Jauhiainen & Eyvazlu 2018)

Tip: Y= Yes plan to return M= Maybe No= Not plan to return N= Number of respondents

Table 38 indicates planning to return among Afghans in Iran. Generally, planning to return is less prevalent than desire to return among Afghan migrants. In this regard, undocumented migrants are more likely to plan to return than other groups. Besides, fewer employed migrants plan to return, and so do single people compared to those who are married.

### 4.3.3. Planning to Migrate to European Countries

The results of this survey indicate that

regular Afghan migrants are more likely planning to migrate to European countries. (documented migrants holding passport and Iranian visa) in Iran (those who have answered “Yes” and “Maybe”). In contrast, undocumented migrants and refugees in guest cities are less likely to migrate to European countries.

One of the important reasons is that irregular migrants are usually seasonal labour migrants who are moving between Iran and Afghanistan regularly.

Table 39: Planning to migrate to European countries among Afghan respondents (%)

	Refugees in guest settlements				Refugees elsewhere				Regular migrants				Irregular migrants			
	Y	M	No	N	Y	M	No	N	Y	M	No	N	Y	M	NO	N
<b>Total</b>	36	20	44	523	31	32	37	654	34	37	29	430	33	20	47	337
<b>Men</b>	40	21	39	261	34	35	32	309	34	35	31	208	35	19	46	231
<b>Women</b>	33	18	49	262	28	31	41	340	34	38	28	221	28	22	50	104
<b>15-18</b>	36	15	49	66	36	31	33	58	31	40	29	35	33	11	56	36
<b>19-29</b>	36	27	37	150	34	36	30	300	39	39	22	228	45	21	34	154
<b>30-49</b>	44	21	35	211	28	29	43	200	31	36	33	129	23	27	50	100
<b>50-64</b>	22	9	69	64	23	31	46	75	24	32	44	25	15	13	72	39
<b>+ 65</b>	17	3	80	30	17	17	66	18	0	8	92	12	0	17	83	6
<b>Unmarried</b>	40	18	42	209	36	35	29	287	36	43	21	218	44	19	37	140
<b>Married</b>	33	21	46	297	27	30	43	363	31	31	38	211	25	21	54	195
<b>with Children in Iran</b>	35	15	50	269	28	24	48	162	28	36	36	58	20	13	67	80
<b>With children in Afghanistan</b>					27	33	40	197	33	35	32	162	35	22	43	206
<b>Employed</b>	39	25	36	289	31	34	35	341	38	36	26	236	32	22	46	228
<b>Unemployed</b>					31	30	39	286	32	38	30	175	35	18	47	94
<b>Elementary education</b>					29	28	43	143	30	30	40	76	33	21	46	100
<b>Attended university</b>	46	28	26	35	21	43	36	63	32	48	20	178	54	32	14	28

Source: (Jauhiainen et al. 2020; Jauhiainen & Eyvazlu 2018)

Tip: Y= Yes plan to migrate M= Maybe No= Not plan to migrate N= Number of Respondents

#### 4.4. Return of Afghan Migrants from Iran and Pakistan (2002-2019)

Thousands of undocumented migrants or Afghan refugees are voluntarily returning to their country of origin for various reasons. Unemployment and economic issues in Iran and Pakistan are among the most significant reasons for returning to Afghanistan. On the other hand, Afghanistan is also dealing with numerous difficulties such as violence and war, unemployment increase, slight economic growth, and high number of internal displaced people which encounters the returnees with numerous issues.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), around 1.3 million undocumented Afghan migrants have returned home from Pakistan and Iran over the past two years (2018-2019). The withdrawal of the US from Iran and 5+1 agreement (JCPOA) and imposing economic

pressures against Iran have directly affected the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands Afghan migrants in Iran. It should also be considered that there is a seasonal mobility between Iran and Afghanistan and the statistics on the number of Afghans returning to their country cannot be counted as definite and permanent returns. The number of undocumented Afghans returning to their country from Iran has increased over the past two years, mainly as a result of economic pressures. Generally, the migrants returning to their country could be categorized into three groups:

- Voluntary return of documented migrants
- Voluntary return of undocumented migrants
- Forced return (deportation) of undocumented migrants

Most of migrants returning to Afghanistan have proceeded to reside in Kabul,



Nangarhar, Kunduz, Baghlan and Kandahar and a small number have settled in Ghazni and Herat. On the other hand, a majority of migrants from Pakistan tend to reside near Kandahar, Jalalabad and Kabul, while those returning from Iran tend to reside in Herat and other western provinces. (Akseer et al, 2018).

Given the weekly reports published by the IOM, statistics published at the end of every month are slightly different from those published by the end of each year. Thus, this report has used monthly data whenever available. The detailed statistics on the return of Afghan migrants during 2002-2019 have been presented as follows.

#### 4.4.1. Afghan Returnees during 2002 and 2009

After the fall of the Taliban and the establishment of the Afghan government in late 2001, voluntary returning of Afghan refugees from Pakistan and Iran began, so that by the end of 2002, over 300,000 refugees moved back to their country of origin. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), around 2,563,145 Afghan migrants returned from Iran and Pakistan during 2002-2009. Over this period of time, the highest returning rate has been in 2007 which encompasses around 21% of total returns in this time period. On the other hand, the number of Afghan returnees dropped significantly in 2009 and reached 40,000.

Table 40: Afghan Refugee Returnees (2002-2009)

	Spontaneous Returnees from Pakistan	Spontaneous Returnees from Iran	Deportees from Pakistan	Deportees from Iran	Total returnees from Pakistan	Total returnees from Iran	Grand Total
2002	194,127	117,364	4,680	42,360	198,807	159,724	358,531
2003	45,125	124,615	503	53,897	45,628	178,512	224,140
2004	41,103	74,976	52	79,410	41,155	154,386	195,541
2005	11,597	225,815	112	95,845	11,709	321,660	333,369
2006	9,681	238,384	284	146,387	9,965	384,771	394,736
2007	7,541	155,721	209	363,369	7,750	519,090	526,840
2008	7,897	74,773	781	406,524	8,678	481,297	489,975
2009	799	3,227	280	35,707	1,079	38,934	40,013

Source: (UNHCR, 2009: 16)

\*: It is worthy of note that since the host country simply cannot deport this (high) number of refugees according to the asy-

lum laws. Therefore, it appears that most of the deportees have been undocumented migrants.



Chart 137: Afghan Refugee Returnees (2002-2009)

Source: (UNHCR, 2009: 16)

#### 4.4.2. Undocumented Afghan returnees (2015-2019)

According to IOM, approximately 800,000 Afghan migrants have returned to Afghanistan in 2018, which indicates a 66% increase compared to 2017. This number represents the largest annual undocumented Afghan returnees since 2012. Among the most important reasons for the return of such a huge population of undocumented Afghan migrants in

2018, could mention the US economic sanctions imposed against Iran and the devaluation of Iran's currency. Meanwhile, seasonal Afghan workers have been affected significantly by these economic issues since they remit a large portion of their income to their families and relative in Afghanistan.

IOM indicates that the number of undocumented Afghan returnees has decreased by 38% in 2019 compared to 2018, and has once again reached the level it used to be on before 2018.

Table 41: Return of undocumented Afghans from Iran and Pakistan (2015-2019)

	Total Returns from Iran	Total Returns from Pakistan
2015	544,016	119,279
2016	443,527	248,054
2017	451,469	97,313
2018	773,125	32,722
2019	479,902	19,770

Source: (IOM,2016; 2017a; 2017b; 2017c; 2017d; 2017e; 2017f; 2017g; 2018; 2019; 2020)

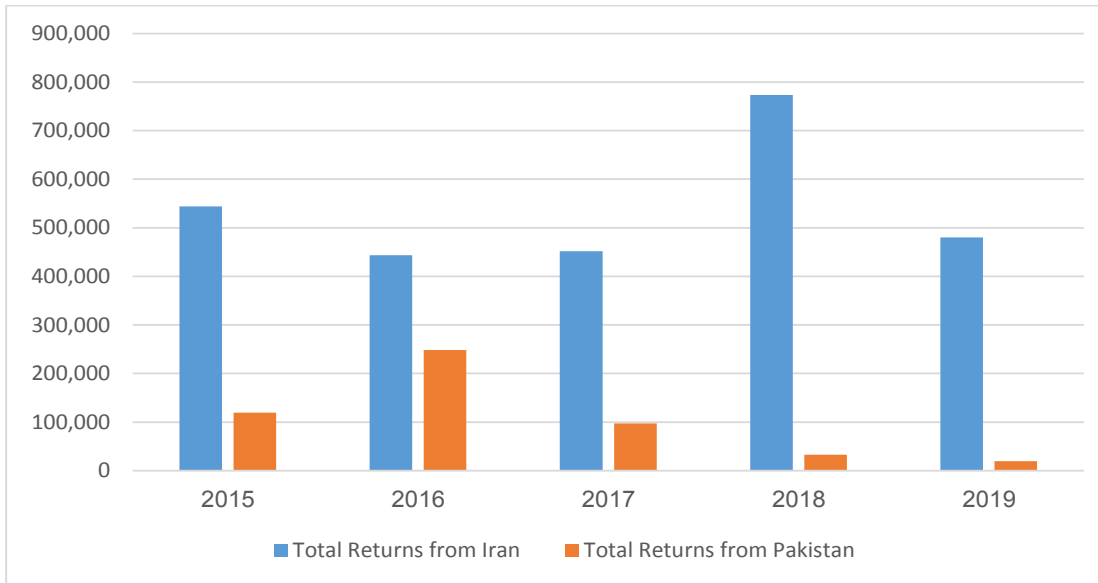


Chart 138: Return of undocumented Afghans from Iran (2015-2019)

Source: (IOM, 2016; 2017a; 2017b; 2017c; 2017d; 2017e; 2017f; 2017g; 2018; 2019; 2020)

According to IOM, the number of seasonal migrations between Iran and Afghanistan is significant since Iran is the second largest host country for Afghan refugees and migrants after Pakistan and the highest number of returns which are

mostly made up by undocumented migrants are also from Iran. According to IOM estimations, the trend of undocumented Afghans returning to their country of origin does not go through major fluctuations during 2012-2019.

Table 42: Return of undocumented Afghans from Iran (2012-2019)

	Spontaneous Returnees from Iran		Deportees from Iran		Total Returnees from Iran
	Number	%	Number	%	
2012	279,012	52.7	250,731	47.3	529,743
2013	217,473	49.6	220,846	50.4	438,329
2014	286,222	56.7	218,565	43.3	504,791
2015	316,415	58.2	227,601	41.8	544,016
2016	248,764	56.1	194,763	43.9	443,527
2017	194,321	41.7	271,982	58.3	466,303
2018	355,523	46.3	412,140	53.7	767,663
2019	208,059	43.6	268,828	56.4	476,828

Source: (IOM, 2015, 2016, 2017h, 2018, 2019, 2020)

\* Data for 2012, 2013 and 2014 retrieved from IOM, 2015 Source: (IOM, 2015, 2016, 2017h, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
 \* Statistics for January 1, 2019 to December 28, 2019 (total monthly or weekly data) have been considered.  
 \* The reason for the slight difference between the data of 2018 and the sum of the data ex-

tracted from the monthly reports in this year is that monthly data have not clarified the portion of voluntary and deported. Data for returnees are available at:

[https://Afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/Reports/iom\\_Afghanistan-return\\_of\\_undocumented\\_Afghans-situation\\_report\\_23\\_-\\_29\\_dec\\_2018\\_003.pdf](https://Afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/Reports/iom_Afghanistan-return_of_undocumented_Afghans-situation_report_23_-_29_dec_2018_003.pdf)

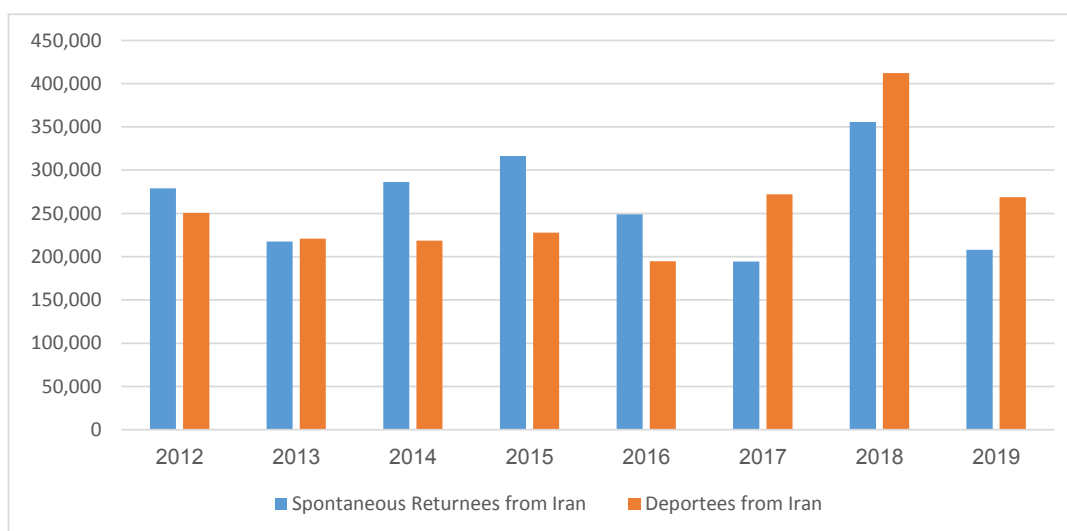


Chart 139: Return of undocumented Afghans from Iran (2012-2019)

The monthly trend of undocumented Afghan returnees during 2015 to 2019 indicates that most of the undocumented Afghan returnees are seasonal workers which leave

Iran in warm months (September and October). However, the number of returnees has decreased in cold months (January and February).

Table 43: Return of undocumented Afghans from Iran -by Month (2015-2019)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Jan</b>	31,535	34,188	34,058	47,266	34,413
<b>Feb</b>	39,669	28,302	11,485	52,757	24,071
<b>Mar</b>	36,411	27,828	20,134	54,639	37,512
<b>Apr</b>	44,981	39,726	48,609	73,228	53,898
<b>May</b>	46,056	47,941	32,462	77,610	39,886
<b>Jun</b>	44,455	37,805	17,630	51,386	35,277
<b>Jul</b>	39,783	40,726	35,404	72,055	40,947
<b>Aug</b>	48,992	39,431	41,089	74,960	37,389
<b>Sep</b>	67,392	34,553	42,166	72,632	45,216
<b>Oct</b>	53,635	44,884	61,747	70,855	45,676
<b>Nov</b>	51,694	33,386	55,114	73,230	46,026
<b>Dec</b>	39,413	34,757	51,571	52,507	39,591
<b>Total</b>	544,016	443,527	451,469	773,125	479,902

Source: (IOM, 2016; 2017a; 2017b; 2017c; 2017d; 2017e; 2017f; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020)



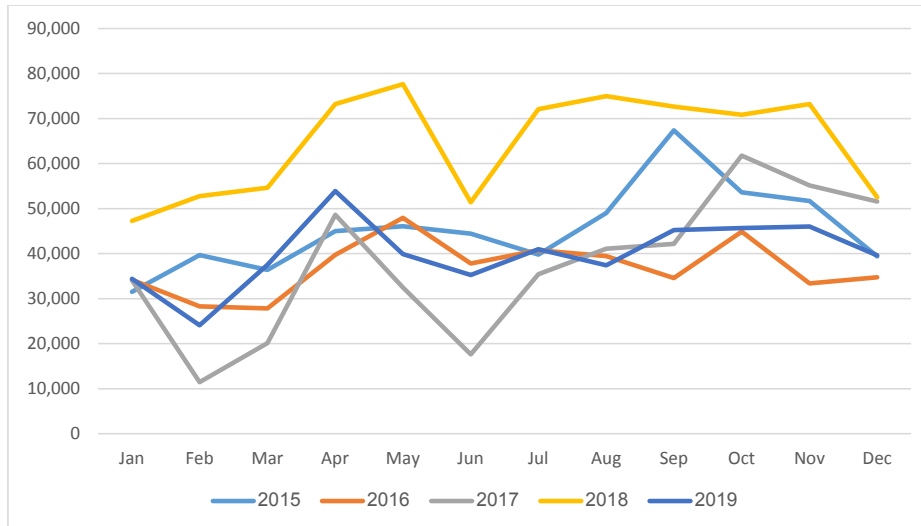


Chart 140: Return of undocumented Afghans from Iran - by Month (2015-2019)

## 4.5. Iranian Asylum-Seekers in the World

### 4.5.1. Iranian Asylum-Seekers' Destination Countries over the Last Decade

Iranian asylum-seekers have been among the three largest asylum-seekers population in Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Turkey, Sweden, and Romania. The largest increase in asylum applications in Austria (around 1,100 applicants) in 2017 belongs to Iranians, while the largest decrease of Iranian asylum applicants was in Australia (4,300 applicants less than to prior year). In 2018, the highest in-

crease in the number of Iranian asylum-seekers in compare to previous year has recorded in Denmark (500 applicants increase).

In 2018, asylum applicants from all countries in Germany has increased to 18.3% and reached 162,000 applicants among which 11,000 applications have been registered by Iranians. In the Netherlands, the largest increase in registration of the first-time asylum application compared to the previous year (2017) have been recorded by Iranians - nearly 1,900 asylum applications (1,150 applications more than 2017). In Romania, Iranians were among top three asylum applicants with around 100 first-time asylum applications.

In 2018, the number of Iranian first-time asylum

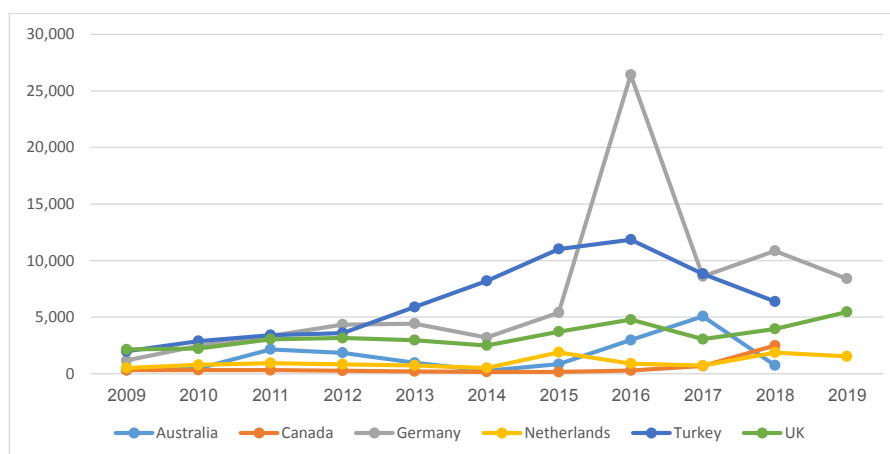


Chart 141: Chart 162: The Top destinations of Iranian asylum seeker applicants (2009-2019)  
Source: (Eurostat; OECD Stat, Retrieved at 19 May 2020)

\* Data available on OECD State for three countries: Australia, Canada and Turkey

applicants was about 1,100 cases in Sweden and 6,400 cases in Turkey. Moreover, the UK has been one of the main destination countries for Iranian asylums with 4,000 applicants.

Chart 141 indicates number of the first-time asylum applications by Iranians in the main selected countries. The noteworthy point is the emergence of some countries such as Tur-

key as a top destination country for Iranian asylums.

Table 44 shows that Germany and the UK were the main destination countries for Iranian asylum seekers from 2009 to 2019. An increasing trend of asylum seekers in 2015 and 2016 is shown in table 44. Decreasing the population of Iranian asylum seekers in

**Table 44: Iranian first-time asylum applicants in EU & EFTA countries (2009-2019)**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Germany	1,170	2,475	3,350	4,350	4,425	3,195	5,395	26,425	8,610	10,855	8,405
UK	2,145	2,225	3,050	3,160	2,965	2,500	3,715	4,835	3,095	4,005	5,455
Netherlands	500	785	930	835	595	505	1,885	885	720	1,870	1,535
Greece	*	*	245	210	170	295	190	1,085	1,295	1,730	2,325
Sweden	1,140	1,185	1,120	1,535	1,015	800	4,270	935	905	1,095	985
Austria	*	*	*	*	*	725	3,380	2,400	950	1,050	655
France	195	400	195	230	160	170	265	390	395	605	520
Belgium	270	270	385	350	205	180	450	255	200	485	710
Switzerland	225	275	325	315	180	115	570	530	280	455	490
Italy	165	270	235	170	395	385	260	385	225	230	270
Other	1,110	1,290	1,130	1,320	1,035	1,045	6,910	2,755	1,045	1,495	1,565
Total	6,910	9,180	10,955	12,480	11,150	9,910	27,290	40,875	17,710	23,890	22,920

Source: Eurostat, Retrieved at 19 May 2020

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Available at: <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

2017 was due to relative economic growth in Iran and more strict border controls in the European countries.

Chart 142 indicates top ten destinations for Iranian asylum seekers during 2009-2019 in European countries. It could be inferred that Germany and the UK have been among the top destination countries during all of those years, followed by Sweden except in 2016 and 2019. It is also observed that Greece has been added to this list since 2016 and has become one of the top five destination countries

for Iranian first-time asylum applicants.

Source: Eurostat, Retrieved at 19 May 2020

Except European countries, Turkey, Canada, Australia, and the US are among the main destination countries for Iranian asylum seekers. Among these four countries, Turkey has received the highest number of Iranian asylum seekers in 2015 and 2016 (11,000 asylum applicants) due to its adjacency and accessibility. In the same years, Australia has been the second destination country for Iranian asylum applicants among the above-mentioned countries.

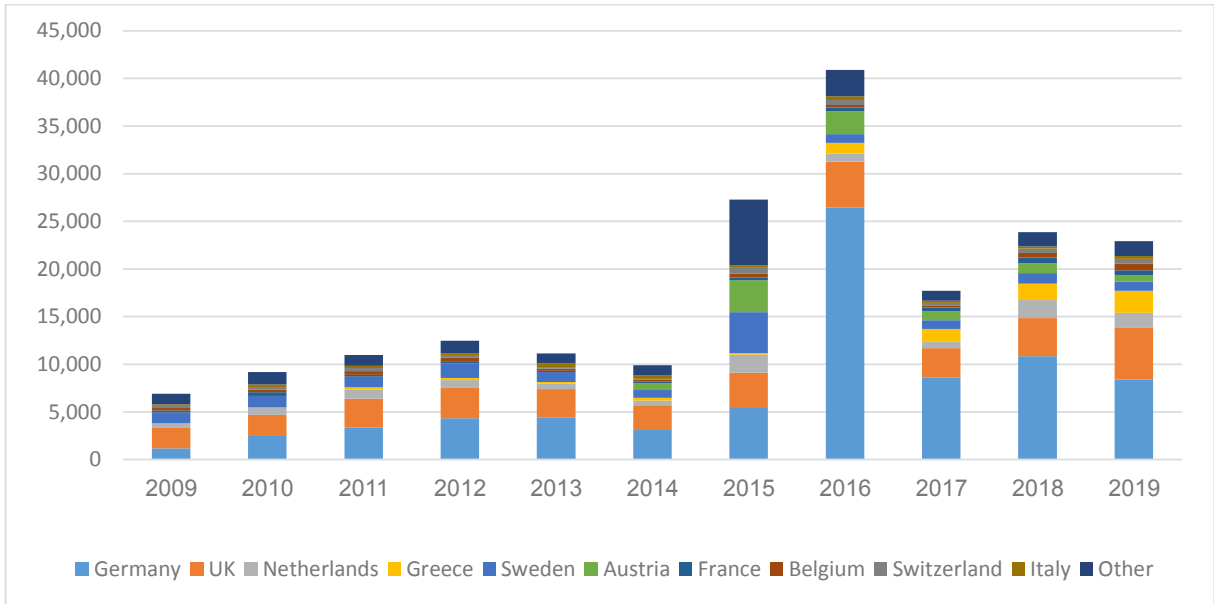


Chart 142: Top 10 destinations of Iranian first-time asylum applicants in EU & EFTA countries (2009-2019)

Table 45: New Iranian asylum applicants in selected OECD countries (2009-2018)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Turkey</b>	1,981	2,881	3,411	3,589	5,897	8,202	11,023	11,856	8,828	6,387
<b>Australia</b>	312	458	2,152	1,851	967	262	844	2,971	5,075	744
<b>Canada</b>	310	327	318	264	201	161	149	286	684	2,483
<b>United States</b>	344	504	595	767	1,010	1,100	1,048	991	691	325

Source: (OECD Stat, Retrieved at 25 December 2019)  
Available at: <https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?lang=en#>

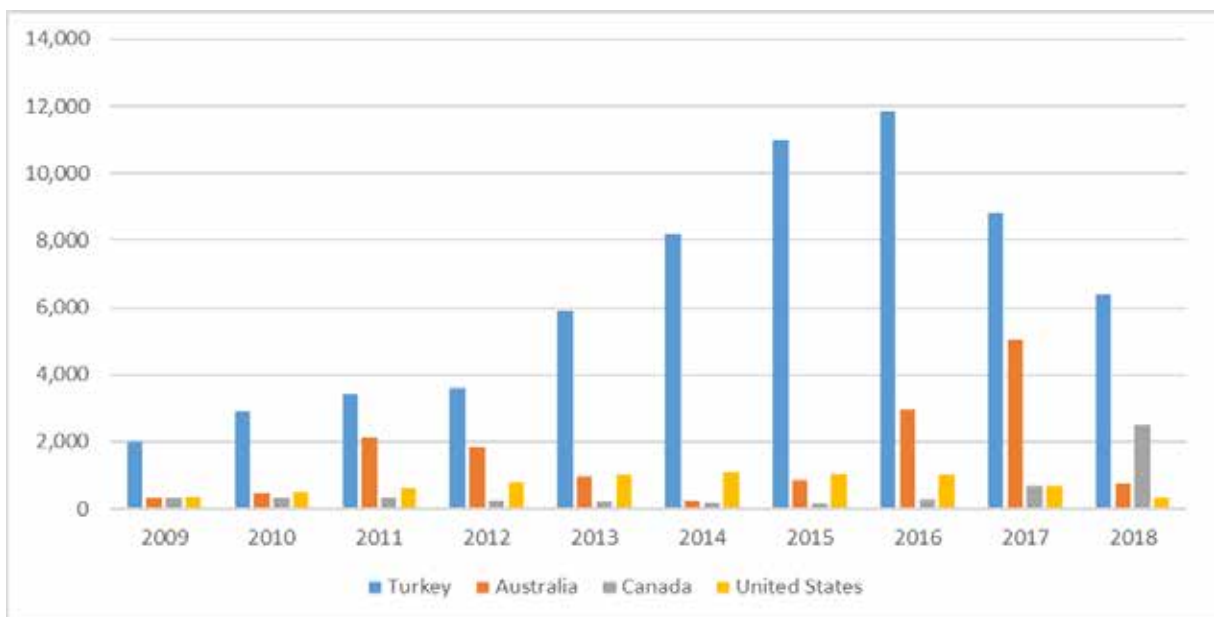


Chart 143: Chart 164: Iranian asylum applicants in selected OECD countries (2009-2018)  
Source: (OECD Stat, Retrieved at 25 December 2019)



## 4.5.2. Iranian Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Around the World

The number of Iranian refugees in oth-

er countries has always been increasing because asylum seekers who grant refugee status has been increased in the recent years.

Table 46: Total number of Iranians in asylum seeker and refugee status in the World (2010-2018)

	Total number of Iranian asylum seekers in the world (thousand)	Total number of Iranian Refugees in the world (thousand)
2010	16.1	68.6
2011	18.5	72.4
2012	24.1	75.9
2013	28.8	75.1
2014	35.8	82.2
2015	57.1	85
2016	87.5	94.1
2017	75.1	118.6
2018	87.3	129.9

Source: (Migration data portal; retrieved at 20 Dec 2019; available at: [https://migrationdataportal.org/?i=asyl\\_origin&t=2018&cm49=364](https://migrationdataportal.org/?i=asyl_origin&t=2018&cm49=364))

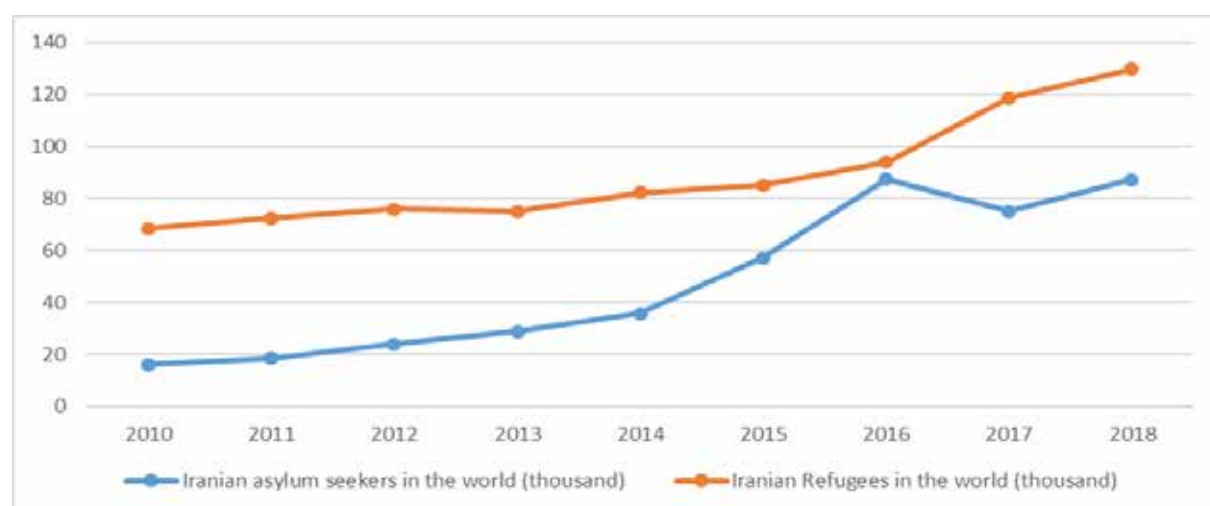


Chart 144: Total number of Iranian in asylum seeker and refugee status in the World (2010-2018)  
Available at: [https://migrationdataportal.org/?i=asyl\\_origin&t=2018&cm49=364](https://migrationdataportal.org/?i=asyl_origin&t=2018&cm49=364)

### 4.5.3. The Population of Iranian Asylum-Seekers per 10,000 Iranian Population

table 47 shows the number of Iranian asylum applicants in the OECD countries. 1.4,

2.3, 7 and 3.9 asylum applicants per 10,000 population of Iran are registered in 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2018 respectively. This rate has been increasing until 2016 and then has decreased.

Table 47: Iranian asylum applicants in OECD countries (2016-2018)

	Total population in Iran	Number of Iranian asylum seekers in OECD countries	Number of Iranian asylum seekers in OECD countries (per 10,000 Iranian population)
2006	70,495,782	10,400	1.4
2011	75,149,669	17,955	2.3
2016	79,926,270	56,431	7
2018	83,216,957	33,244	3.9

Source: (OECD stat, Retrieved at 26 January 2020)

Available at: <https://stats.oecd.org/viewhtml.aspx?datasetcode=MIG&lang=en>

### 4.5.4. Share of Iranian Asylum-Seekers in Destination Countries (%)

The UK was the first destination country for Iranian asylum applicants (31% of total Iranian asylum applicants among the EU and EFTA countries) in 2009, followed by Germany with 17%. But this trend has changed since 2018; The UK's share of Iranian asylum seekers in EU and EFTA countries has dropped to 17% in 2018, but has raised again to 24% in 2019.

On the other hand, Germany has turned into the top destination country for Iranian asylum seekers in the EU and EFTA

countries, hosting approximately 45% of total Iranian asylum seekers registered in the EU and EFTA countries. However, this country's share out of Iranian asylum seekers has dropped to 37% in 2019. Another significant point is the share of Iranian asylum seekers in "other countries"; while about 16% of Iranian asylum seekers were registered in these countries (except top 10 the European countries) in 2009, these countries' share has dropped to 7% in 2019 which means Iranian asylum seekers' desire to migrate to the top 10 EU and EFTA countries (mentioned in the table 48) during the past few years.

Table 48: Iranian first-time asylum applicants in the EU & EFTA countries (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Germany	16.93	26.96	30.58	34.86	39.69	32.24	19.77	64.65	48.62	45.44	36.67
UK	31.04	24.24	27.84	25.32	26.59	25.23	13.61	11.83	17.48	16.76	23.8
Netherlands	7.24	8.55	8.49	6.69	5.34	5.1	6.91	2.17	4.07	7.83	6.7
Greece	*	*	2.24	1.68	1.52	2.98	0.7	2.65	7.31	7.24	10.14
Sweden	16.5	12.91	10.22	12.3	9.1	8.07	15.65	2.29	5.11	4.58	4.3
Austria	*	*	*	*	*	7.32	12.39	5.87	5.36	4.4	2.86
France	2.82	4.36	1.78	1.84	1.43	1.72	0.97	0.95	2.23	2.53	2.27
Belgium	3.91	2.94	3.51	2.8	1.84	1.82	1.65	0.62	1.13	2.03	3.1
Switzerland	3.26	3	2.97	2.52	1.61	1.16	2.09	1.3	1.58	1.9	2.14
Italy	2.39	2.94	2.15	1.36	3.54	3.88	0.95	0.94	1.27	0.96	1.18
Other countries	16.06	14.05	10.31	10.58	9.28	10.54	25.32	6.74	5.9	6.26	6.83
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Tip: Not available data shown in star sign \*.

Source: (Eurostat, Retrieved at 19 May 2020)

Available at: <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

#### 4.5.5. Iranian Asylum-Seekers' Share Out of Total Asylum-Seekers in Destination Countries

Table 49 indicates share of Iranian asylum applicants out of total asylum applicants in each of the EU and EFTA countries during 2009-2019.

In general, the trend of asylum seeking in the EU and EFTA countries indicates that the share of Iranian asylum seekers from total asylum seekers in these countries has been around 3% to 4% until 2013, but due to the huge influx of asylum seekers from other countries to the EU, the share of Iranian asylum seekers has dropped.

Table 49: Share of Iranian first-time asylum applicants from total number of asylum applicants in the EU & EFTA countries (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Germany	4.24	6	7.33	6.75	4.05	1.85	1.22	3.66	4.34	6.71	5.9
UK	7	9.84	11.79	11.33	10	7.78	9.35	12.32	9.01	10.43	12.33
Netherlands	3.36	5.91	8.04	8.64	6.06	2.32	4.38	4.59	4.47	9.14	6.83
Greece	*	*	2.63	2.19	2.16	3.89	1.67	2.18	2.27	2.66	3.1
Sweden	4.83	3.73	3.78	3.5	2.06	1.07	2.74	4.19	4.08	6.06	4.26
Austria	*	*	*	*	*	2.82	3.95	6.02	4.23	9.07	6.08
France	0.46	0.83	0.37	0.42	0.26	0.29	0.38	0.51	0.43	0.54	0.43
Belgium	1.63	1.25	1.52	1.91	1.71	1.28	1.15	1.79	1.43	2.68	3.07
Switzerland	1.56	2.05	1.69	1.22	0.93	0.52	1.5	2.05	1.69	3.38	3.91
Italy	0.95	2.7	0.58	0.99	1.54	0.6	0.31	0.32	0.18	0.43	0.77
Other countries	2.82	4.67	3.55	3.12	1.38	1.02	2.18	2.61	1.37	1.62	0.95
Total	3.05	4	3.77	3.98	2.8	1.66	2.06	3.31	2.62	3.95	3.41

Tip: Not available data shown in star sign \*.

Source: (Eurostat, Retrieved at 19 May 2020)

Available at: <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Turkey receives a remarkable annual population of Iranian asylum seekers, due to having a common border with Iran and access to Europe, so a significant portion of total asylum seekers in this country have been from Iran during

2009-2011. Although the number of annual asylum seekers entering Turkey has been increasing until 2018, the share of Iranian asylum seekers decreased due to high number of Syrian asylum applicants in Turkey.

Table 50: Share of Iranian first-time asylum applicants from total number of asylum applicants in selected OECD countries (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Turkey</b>	25.29	31.23	21.29	13.56	13.16	9.34	8.25	15.23	7.14	7.62
<b>Australia</b>	5.03	5.55	18.7	11.73	8.24	2.91	6.83	10.75	14	2.58
<b>Canada</b>	0.91	1.45	1.27	1.31	1.94	1.18	0.93	1.2	1.38	4.48
<b>United States</b>	0.9	1.02	0.85	0.98	1.2	0.91	0.61	0.38	0.21	0.13

Source: (OECD Stat, Retrieved at 25 December 2019)

Available at: <https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?lang=en#>

#### 4.5.6. Iranian Asylum Seekers in the EU and EFTA Countries (by gender)

Table 51 shows that a majority of Iranian asylum applicants are male. This distinction between women's and men's share out of

Iranian asylum seekers has reached its peak in 2015 and 2016, when over 70% of Iranian asylum seekers were male.

One of the reasons for this gender composition is risks and difficulties of crossing several borders for women asylum seekers.

Table 51: Iranian first-time asylum applicants in EU & EFTA countries (by gender)

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Female</b>	N	2890	3625	4720	4420	3645	7170	11675	6850	9250	8190
	%	31.5	33.15	37.99	40.51	36.8	26.27	28.56	38.67	38.72	35.73
<b>Male</b>	N	6280	7305	7705	6485	6260	20105	29155	10860	14635	14725
	%	68.45	66.8	62.01	59.44	63.2	73.67	71.33	61.3	61.26	64.24
<b>Unknown</b>	N	5	5	0	5	0	15	45	5	5	5
	%	0.05	0.05	0	0.05	0	0.05	0.11	0.03	0.02	0.02
<b>Total</b>	N	9175	10935	12425	10910	9905	27290	40875	17715	23890	22920

Source: (Eurostat, Retrieved at 15 May 2020)

Available at: <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

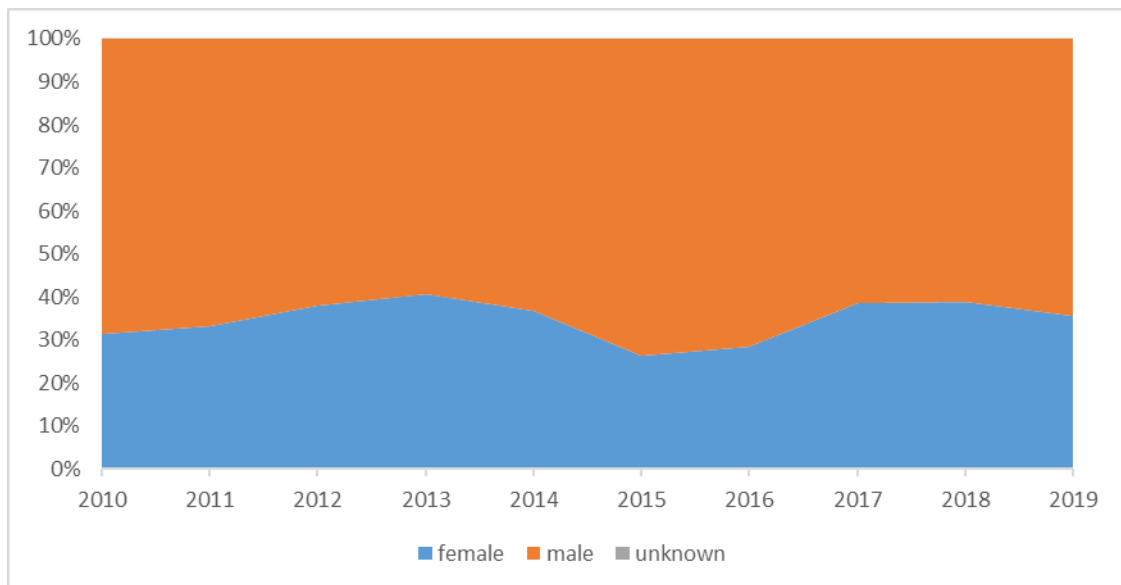


Chart 145: Iranian first-time asylum applicants in EU & EFTA countries (by gender)

Source: (Eurostat, Retrieved at 15 May 2020)

#### 4.5.7. Iranian Asylum Seekers in the EU and EFTA Countries (age group)

The highest number of Iranian asylum applicants are 18-34 years old, followed by 34-65 years-old, all of whom are in working age.

Table 52: Iranian first-time asylum applicants in EU & EFTA countries (by age group)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Less than 14</b>	1,085	1,355	1,610	1,560	1,330	3,040	5,130	3,150	3,880	3,645
<b>14-17</b>	560	600	600	545	485	1,425	1,945	975	1,275	1,515
<b>18-34</b>	5,370	6,350	6,925	5,730	5,140	17,010	24,290	8,335	10,905	10,115
<b>35-64</b>	2,025	2,515	3,135	3,055	2,740	5,555	9,180	5,005	7,480	7,300
<b>65+</b>	85	75	100	130	115	140	160	130	200	165
<b>Unknown</b>	50	60	110	120	95	120	165	115	150	180
<b>Total</b>	9,175	10,955	12,480	11,140	9,905	27,290	40,870	17,710	23,890	22,920

Source: (Eurostat, Retrieved at 19 May 2020)

Available at: <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Table 53: Iranian first-time asylum applicants in EU & EFTA countries- by age group (%)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Less than 14</b>	11.83	12.37	12.9	14	13.43	11.14	12.55	17.79	16.24	15.9
<b>14-17</b>	6.1	5.48	4.81	4.89	4.9	5.22	4.76	5.51	5.34	6.61
<b>18-34</b>	58.53	57.96	55.49	51.44	51.89	62.33	59.43	47.06	45.65	44.13
<b>35-64</b>	22.07	22.96	25.12	27.42	27.66	20.36	22.46	28.26	31.31	31.85
<b>65+</b>	0.93	0.68	0.8	1.17	1.16	0.51	0.39	0.73	0.84	0.72
<b>Unknown</b>	0.54	0.55	0.88	1.08	0.96	0.44	0.4	0.65	0.63	0.79
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: (Eurostat, Retrieved at 19 May 2020)

Available at: <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

The largest share of Iranian asylum seekers belongs to 18-34 years-old, followed by the 35-64 age group. It could be inferred that people in working ages are more inclined to migrate

and economic motivations are a key driver for such movements. Furthermore, forced migration and asylum-seeking difficulties for other age groups reduces their desire to migration.

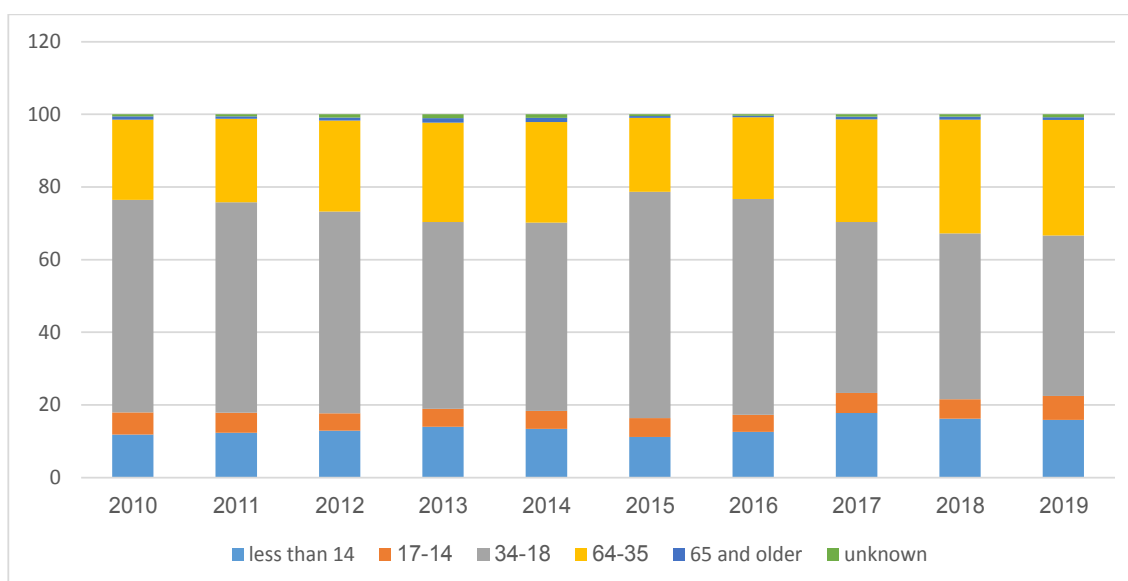


Chart 146: Iranian first-time asylum applicants in EU & EFTA countries- by age group (%)

Source: (Eurostat, Retrieved at 19 May 2020)

### 4.5.8. Iranian New Asylum Applicants (month)

The number of new Iranian asylum applicants in the selected European countries indicates a constant trend during 2010-2014 which is less dependent on the seasons; however, there has been a slight decrease in the number of Iranian asylum seekers during the cold months. Accordingly, in some other Eu-

ropean countries such as Germany, the trend has generally increased significantly from June to November, while in other countries such as the Netherlands and Sweden, this trend has been increased significantly between September and December. Following figures illustrated the trends of Iranian first-time asylum applicants between 2010 and 2014, as well as after 2015 migration crisis (2015-2019).

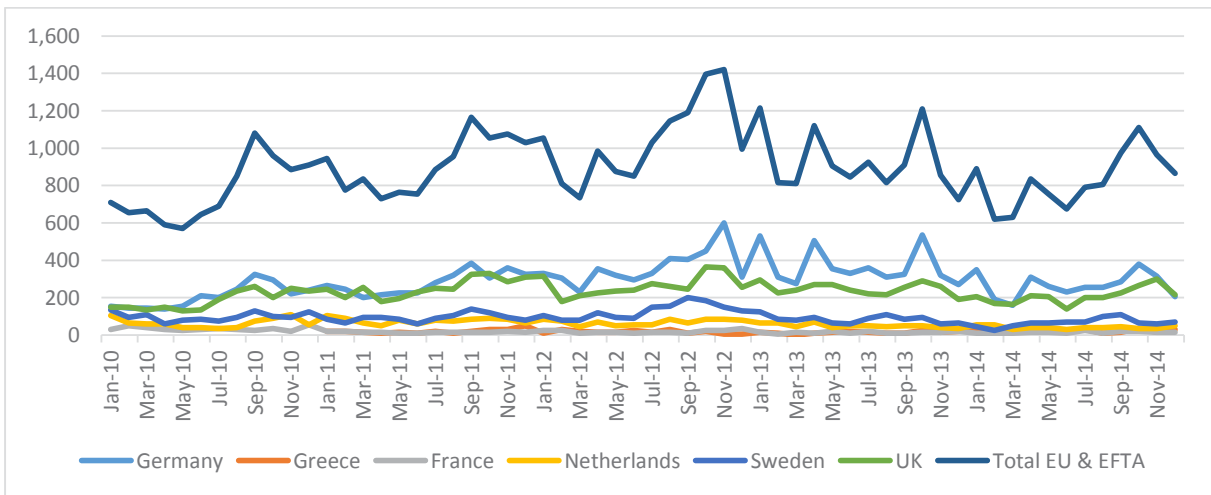


Chart 147: Iranian first-time asylum applicants- by month (2010-2014)

Source: (Eurostat, Retrieved at 09 December 2019)

Available at: [https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr\\_asyappctzm&lang=en](https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_asyappctzm&lang=en)

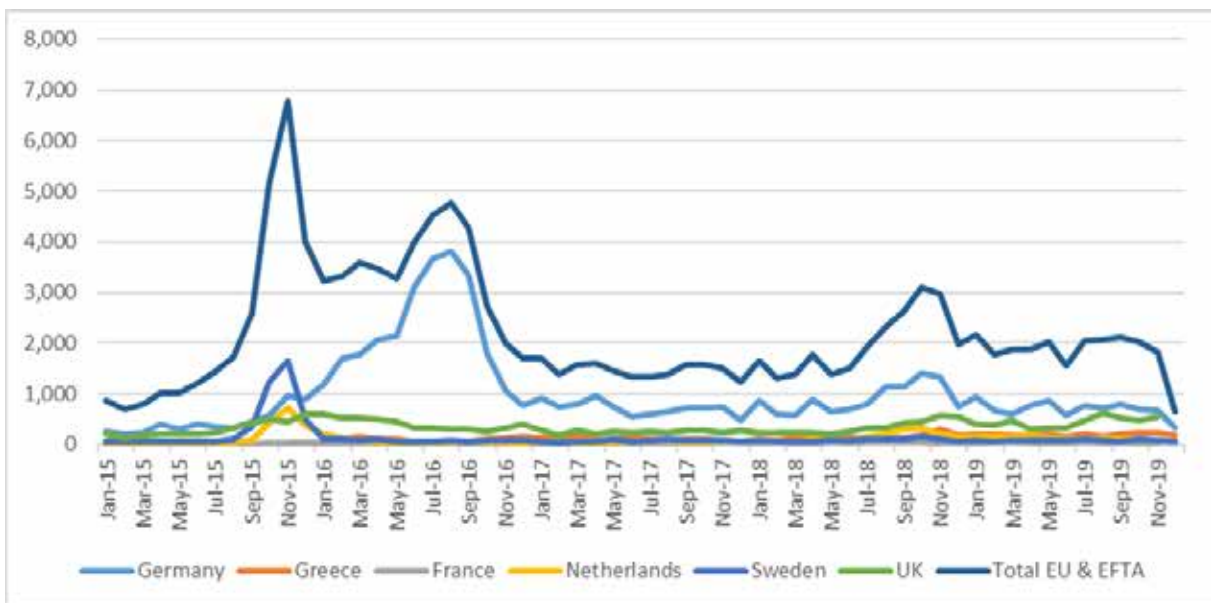


Chart 148: Iranian first-time asylum applicants- by month (2015-2019)

Source: (Eurostat, Retrieved at 20 May 2019)

Available at: [https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr\\_asyappctzm&lang=en](https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_asyappctzm&lang=en)

#### 4.5.9. Iranian Asylum-Seekers in Canada

As indicated in table 54, the largest number of Iranian asylum applicants in Canada

registered through inland offices. It could be inferred that majority of these asylums enter Canada through tourism-visas and then register their asylum applications in one of the inland offices.

Table 54: Iranian asylum claimants in Canada by claim office and claim year- January 2019- December 2019

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total 2019
<b>Airport</b>	5	10	20	10	15	5	10	5	5	10	10	*	115
<b>Border</b>	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	0	*	*	5
<b>Inland</b>	570	385	335	365	385	405	600	640	510	520	415	370	5,500
<b>Total</b>	575	395	355	375	400	410	610	650	515	530	425	375	5,620

Tip: Less than 5 claimants shown in star sign \*.

Source: (Government of Canada, Retrieved at 08 July 2020)

Available at: <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/b6cbcf4d-f763-4924-a2fb-8cc4a06e3de4>

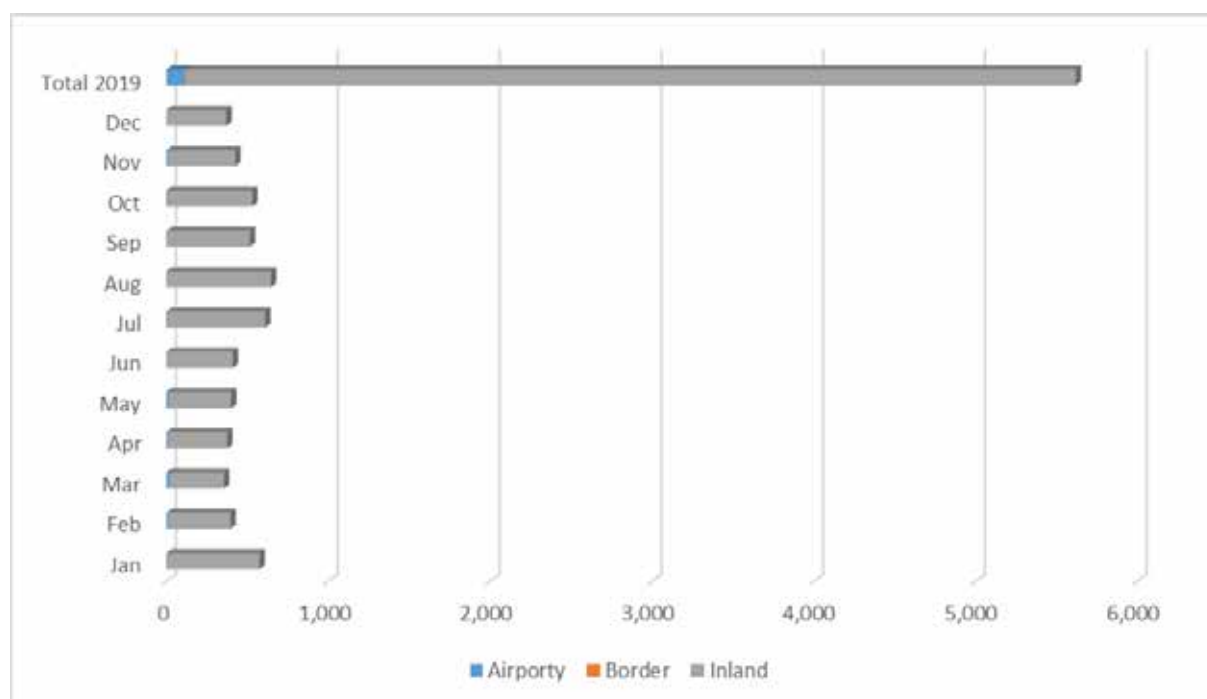


Chart 149: Iranian asylum claimants in Canada by claim office time and claim year- January 2019- December 2019

Source: (Government of Canada, Retrieved at 08 July 2020)

Table 55 indicates that, the number of asylum applicants in Canada in 2017 and 2018 have had a significant increase in the fourth quarter of these years. Also, total number of Iranian asylum applicants in Canada in

2018 has been 3.6 times of the number of Iranian asylum applicants in 2017. In 2019, the number of Iranian asylum applicants in Canada has increased to 2.2 times of that in 2018.

Table 55: Iranian asylum claimants in Canada- by month (2015- 2019)

	the first quarter				the second quarter				the third quarter				the fourth quarter				Total Year
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	
<b>2015</b>	10	5	15	30	5	15	10	30	15	25	10	45	10	15	20	45	150
<b>2016</b>	25	25	15	65	20	20	30	70	15	30	30	75	25	45	10	80	285
<b>2017</b>	45	45	40	125	30	40	60	130	35	70	80	185	70	95	80	245	685
<b>2018</b>	70	90	90	255	75	115	110	300	135	200	265	600	460	480	425	1365	2525
<b>2019</b>	575	395	355	1325	375	400	410	1185	610	650	515	1775	530	425	375	1330	5615

Source: (Government of Canada, Retrieved at 08 July 2020)

Available at: <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/b6cbcf4d-f763-4924-a2fb-8cc4a06e3de4>

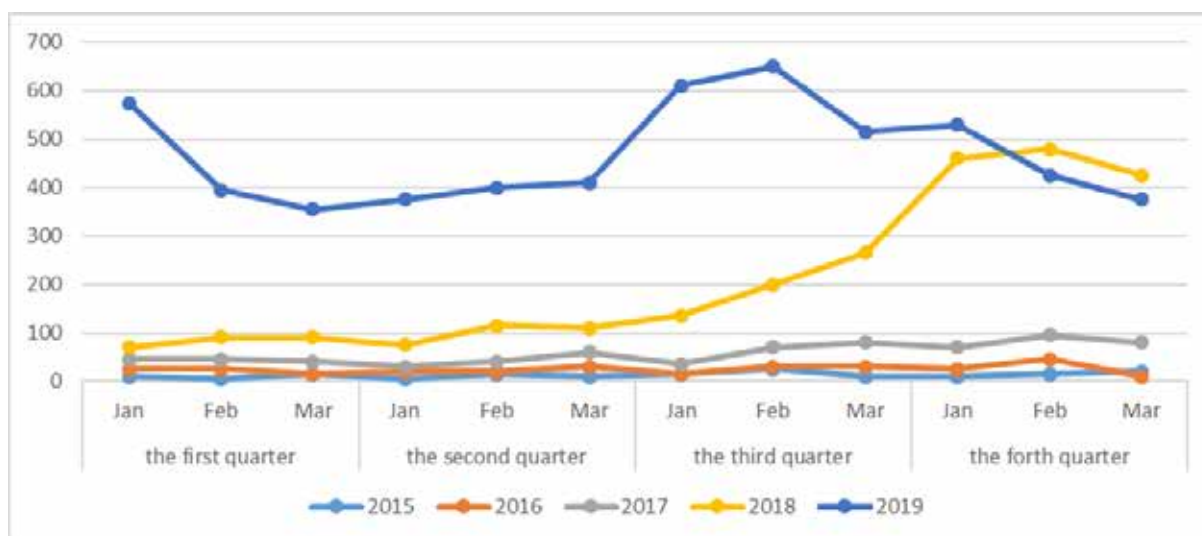


Chart 150: Iranian asylum claimants in Canada –by month (2015- 2019)

Source: (Government of Canada, retrieved July 8, 2020)

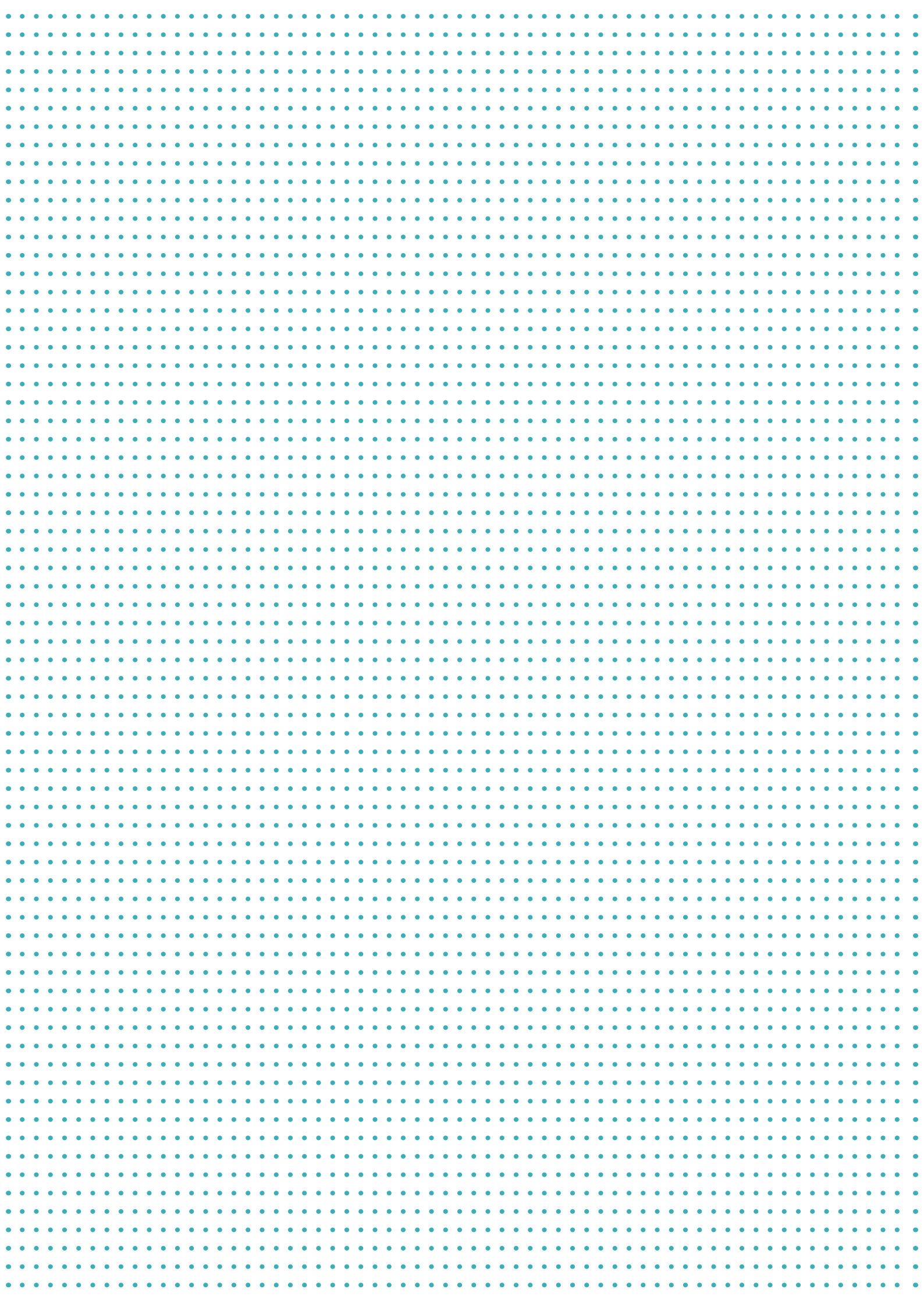
Available at: <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/b6cbcf4d-f763-4924-a2fb-8cc4a06e3de4>



# Summary



I r a n M i g r a t i o n O u t l o o k 2 0 2 0



## Chapter 1 (global migration trends) main points

### □ About 3.5 per cent of the world population were international migrants:

- According to the latest International Organization for Migration's reports (2020), the total number of international migrants was over 272 million people in 2019, which is 3.5% of the global population;
- The number of international migrants has increased faster than the global population growth;
- 52% of the international migrants are male while 48% are female;
- Population of the international labour migrants is estimated to be 164 million (IOM, 2018);
- 74% of the international migrants are in the working age (20-64 years old).

### □ Asia, the largest origin and destination for international migrants:

- 40% of international migrants in 2019 (112 million people) are Asians. Thus, Asia is the largest origin of international migration in the world;

- Over half of the Asian migrants (around 66 million people) have settled in this continent and Asian countries other than their own.

### □ India, the largest migration sending country in the world:

- Having 17.5 million international migrants outside of its national borders, India is the largest migration sending country in the world, followed by Mexico (11.8 million people), and China (10.7 million people).

### □ The United States, the largest migration host country in the world:

- Being a host to 50.7 million migrants, the US is the most significant country in terms of accepting migrants.

### □ Migration has been a determining factor in population size for several countries:

- Cross-regional migration has had a sig-



nificant role in population changes in several African countries such as Tropical Genoa;

- Labor force migration has contributed to remarkable population changes in the GCC countries. Except for Oman and Saudi Arabia, migrants make up the major part of GCC countries' population.

### ❑ Migration patterns differ in various regions:

- While most Asian, African, and European migrants continue to live in their original regions, most Latin American, Caribbean, and North American settle in other regions. In Oceania, the number of migrants settling inside and outside the region was almost equal in 2019;

- Over half of the international migrants (141 million people) settle in Europe and North America.

### ❑ Economic and labor migration

#### ❑ Labor migrant population increase and decrease in middle-income and high-income countries:

- The population of labor migrants has undergone a slight decrease (from 112.3 to 111.2 million migrants) in high-income countries during 2013-2017;

- Over the same course, the population of labor migrants has increased significantly (from 17.5 to 30.5 million migrants) in middle-income countries.

#### ❑ Main destination regions for migrant workers: North America, Europe, and GCC countries:

- A major portion of the global labor migrant stock (61%) belongs to North America (23%), North, South, and West of Europe (23.9%), and the GCC countries (13.9%).

#### ❑ Significant increase in remittances sent by migrant workers over the past two decades:

- Remittances sent by labor migrants has increased significantly in the recent years, changing from 126 billion dollars to 689 billion dollars during 2000-2018. This number has increased by 9% in only a year, changing from 633 billion dollars in 2017 to 689 billion dollars in 2018.

#### ❑ Main remittance sending and recipient countries:

- The top three remittance-receiving in 2018 countries were India (78.6 billion dollars), China (67.4 billion dollars), and Mexico (35.7 billion dollars), followed by Egypt and the Philippines;

- Top remittance-sending countries in 2018 were USA (68 billion dollars), Emirates (44.4 billion dollars), and Saudi Arabia (36.1 billion dollars), and Switzerland (26.6 billion dollars).

#### ❑ The impact of Covid-19 outbreak on remittances:

•According to the estimations (2020) remittances sent by migrants could have had a 4.4% increase compared to that in 2019, but the World Bank estimated (Apr. 2020) that it will undergo a 20% decrease, changing from 714 billion dollars to 572 billion dollars, which will reduce the remittances sent to low-income and middle-income countries by 19.7%.

## □ International Student Mobility

### □ Significant growth of the international student population:

•The international student population has increased significantly from 2 million to more than 5.3 million mobile students during 2000-2019;

•It has been predicted that the number of international students will double by 2030 and reach 10.2 million, should the 5.1% annual growth persist;

•There has been a remarkable growth in the number of international students in 2017 all around the world, but the largest increase has occurred in West and South Asia (102%);

• The population of international students in 2017 increased 71% in East and Middle Europe, 56% in Arab states, 40% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 28% in Middle Asia, 26% in North America and West Europe, and 17% in East Asia and Oceania compared to that of 2011.

### □ East and South Asia, the main international student sending regions:

•India and China are the major international student sending countries. Around 30% of the international students (around 1.5 million students) come from East and south Asia and Oceania;

•The top nine international student sending countries in 2017 were China, India, Germany, South Korea, Vietnam, France, the USA, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, and Saudi Arabia, respectively.

### □ International student attraction emerging markets:

•International student mobility market has grown rapidly during 2001-2019 and top destination countries of international students have changed;

•Countries such as Canada, China, and Russia are among the emerging destination countries for international students and have gained a notable share of this market over the past two decades;

•Several countries such as Spain, Japan, and Belgium have lost their position in competition with emerging destination countries and are no longer among the top eight destination countries for international students.

## □ Forced Migration

### □ Increasing of asylum-seekers and displaced people:

• Forced migration either international or internal (Internally Displaced People-IDP) has significantly increased over the past years due to the escalated regional tensions, violence, and climate change (such as drought, earthquake, floods, etc.);

• Over the past two decades, economic and political unfortunate incidents have mainly intensified forced migration and asylum-seeking in many countries. Civil wars in Syria, Middle African Republic, and Yemen, the increased violence against Rohingya Muslims, many of whom migrated to Bangladesh, and dreadful economic and political instability in Venezuela have been among the most significant issues exacerbating forced migration;

• Also, the large-scale movement of people occurred in 2018 and 2019 due to climate hazards in several regions of the world including the Philippines, Mozambique, China, the USA, and India;

• Around 71 million people have been forced to leave their homes in 2019, 41 million of whom were internally displaced people and around 30 million seeking asylum.

□ Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, the most significant origin countries of refugees:

• The Middle Eastern countries, especially Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan are the most important origin countries of refugees on a regional level. Since the early 2010s and at the same time as the escalation of domestic violence and strife, Syr-

ia soon became the main origin country of asylum-seekers in the world;

• Central American countries, specifically Venezuela, and African countries such as South Sudan are other important origin countries of asylum-seekers.

### □ About 4 million people have been stateless in 2018:

• Bangladesh hosts the highest number of stateless population (approximately 906,000), followed by Côte d'Ivoire (692,000) and Myanmar (620,000).

### □ Displacement remained an important concern in some regions:

• The highest numbers of new displacements in 2018 have been seen in the Philippines;

• About 4 million Venezuelans have left their country of origin by mid-2019. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was the largest origin of asylum-seekers in 2018 (over 340,000 people);

• The latest estimation for number of global child migrants is around 31 million people. There are around 13 million child refugees, 936,000 child asylum-seekers, and 17 million children who have been displaced in their country by force.

## Chapter 2 (Iranian Diaspora in the World) main points

## □ The most important countries hosting Iranian diaspora:

•According to the World Bank and UN statistics, top 20 countries hosting the largest numbers of Iranian migrants (those born in Iran) are the United Arab Emirates, the USA, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Sweden, Australia, Israel, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, France, Norway, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Iraq, Switzerland, Belgium, respectively.

## □ Iranian migrants: highly educated and experts:

•The DIOC database (in 2015) shows that 45%-56% of the Iranian migrants are well-educated and aged 25 years old. While the average percentage of people with higher education in this country was 36.9% in 2018;

•Iranian migrants residing in the OECD countries are mostly experts and holding high- status job positions (around 30% of Iranian migrants). The percentage of Iranians in this working group has increased from 25% to 30% over the period of 200-2015.

## □ Status of Iranians residing in the United States:

•According to the latest available data (2017), the number of people born in Iran and residing in the US reached 395,000. However, the number of people with Iranian origins (even born in the USA) was

477,000 over the same year;

•74.7% of the Iranians in the United States (aged 25 and older) are well-educated and 72.3% in working age (18-64 years old);

•Around 8,000 to 10,000 of Iranians have been naturalized in the United States during 2010-2018. This trend has had a recent decline, specifically during Trump's presidency;

•The permanent residency of Iranians in the US has dropped from 14,822 permits in 2010 to 10,116 permits in 2018;

•The number of Iranians receiving work permits and also study temporary permits has been decreasing since 2015, dropping from 9,000 to nearly 5,000 permits during 2015-2018;

•Iranians' participation rate in the US labor force market has been 61% to 64%, their employment rate has been 93% to 97%, and their unemployment rate has been 3% to 7%;

•75.5% of Iranians in the United States have been working at a paid job, 14.4% employed by the government, and 10% are self-employed.

## □ Status of Iranians residing in Canada:

•The population of Iranians residing in Canada has been constantly increasing during 1990-2019. This population reached 164,000 in 2019;

•The number of temporary residence permits granted to Iranians shows a constant

increase during 2015 to November 2019, changing from 3,620 to 17,390;

- The Iranians with Canadian temporary residence permits mostly hold two types of the study and work permits which the largest number of these permits are study- permits, increasing from 2,340 visas in 2015 to 8,865 visas in November 2019;

- Among all the temporary residence work permits granted to Iranians in Canada, the number of humanitarian visas has been increasing over the past years, reaching 4,335 visas in November 2019.

#### **□ Status of Iranians residing in Europe:**

- According to the UN's statistics (2019), the top five European countries with the largest number of Iranians include the UK (89,700), Sweden (79,000), the Netherlands (33,800), Germany (127,000), and France (25,000);

- However, the number of Iranians residing in European countries differ slightly in terms of residence permits. Accordingly, the total number of Iranians (Iranian citizens) with valid residence permits in EU countries in 2018 is 171,176. This number was 95,798 in 2010, which indicates a significant increase over recent years.

It must be mentioned that these numbers encompass individuals who have residence permits and does not account for those without the citizenship of these countries;

- The Iranian citizens who live in Germany are 73,717 in 2018, followed by a long gap in the UK with 19,282; Sweden with 14,689; and Italy with 12,417 Iranians;

- The number of Iranians holding long-term residence permits (5-year legal residency and more) in Europe shows a 20-fold increase during 2004-2018, changing from 4,134 to 84,583 long-term residence permits;

- The top five European countries with the largest number of long-term Iranian residents are the UK, Germany, Sweden, France, and Italy, respectively;

- The population of Iranians holding work permits in the EU countries increased from 6,028 to 17,926 during 2010-2018.

#### **□ Status of Iranians residing in Germany:**

- Germany is the first choice destination country for Iranians seeking residency in Europe. According to UN statistics (2019), the population of Iranians living in this country is 127,000 people;

- Approximately 2,500 to 3,000 Iranians have been acquiring annually citizenship of Germany during 2010-2018. This rate has slightly increased since 2012 and has changed from 2,463 to 3,080 naturalization cases in 2018;

- Holders of temporary residence have increased from 21,183 to 54,130 during 2010-2018, which indicates a constantly increasing trend. The exponential in-



crease that occurred in 2016 has been due to the increased humanitarian residence permits;

- In 2018, totally 54,000 temporary residencies issued for Iranians in Germany which includes: 31,500 permits for humanitarian residence reasons, 10,185 permits for family reunification, 7,055 study-related permits, 3,660 work-related permits, and 1,710 permits for the special rights.

### ▣ Status of Iranians residing in the UK:

- The annual rate of Iranians being naturalized in the UK has had a range of 1,500 to 5,500 cases during 2010-2019. An average of 2,650 Iranians was annually naturalized in the UK over these 10 years;

- The total number of visas granted to Iranians in the UK was 12,671, among which 3,425 visas were non-tourism in 2018;

- 1,144 study permits, 1,230 family reunification visas, 715 work permits, and 336 other non-tourism visas were granted to Iranians in 2018, each including the main applicants and their families;

- The distribution of different types of work permits granted to Iranians in Britain in 2018 has been as follows: 187 highly-skilled labor force visas, 76 creative labor force, and athlete visas, 70 home service labor force visas, 6 investment visas, and 55 entrepreneurship visas.

### ▣ Status of Iranians residing in Turkey:

- Turkey has become a popular destination country for foreign nationals including Iranians over the past years;

- The population of Iranians residing Turkey, taking asylum-seekers and similar conditions into account, has reached 83,000 in 2019, according to UN statistics. This is while the population of Iranians residing in Turkey in 2010 was reported to be no more than 14,000 people;

- The annual number of Iranians being naturalized in Turkey has increased from 2,638 to 32,111 during 2014-2018, which indicates an almost 12-fold increase over the recent 4 years;

- After Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Germany, Iran is the fifth country whose citizens are naturalized in Turkey;

- According to the statistics of the Turkish Ministry of National Affairs, Iranians obtained 2,565 family residence permits (10th rank), 2,565 work permits (10th rank) in 2018 and 4,456 student residence permits (4th rank) in 2017, which placed Iran among top-10 countries for sending migrants to Turkey;

- Iranians have bought 5,423 houses in Turkey in 2019. Iranians ranked 8th among the foreign nationals who purchased properties in Turkey in the years 2015, 2016, and 2017 and ranked 2nd in the years 2018 and 2019;



•Iranians have also been among the first nationals with the largest number of companies established in Turkey. Iranians have ranked first among the foreign national who established companies in Turkey in 2019, with 970 companies.

### □ **Status of Iranians residing in Australia:**

•The population of Iranians residing in Australia shows an increasing trend over recent years, rising from 36,000 people in 2010 to 73,000 people in 2019;

•The total number of visas granted to Iranians has also had a constant increase during 2012-2018, reaching from 26,000 to 63,000 visas which mainly issued under highly-skilled immigration system;

•Skilled labor force shortage temporary visa (former temporary labor force visa) is currently one of the important Australian visas whose issuance has decreased both generally and for Iranians over the recent years;

•In 2011, the highest number of Australian visas has been issued to Iranians over the period 2010-2019. But visa issuing to Iranians has been decreasing since 2011 until it reached its lowest point at 262 in 2017. The number of temporary visas for skilled labor force increased again in 2018 and reached 300 cases;

•Other sorts of temporary labor visas issued to Iranians in Australia have increased from 1,491 to 3,494 during 2012-2018;

•The total number of Iranians receiving permanent Australian residence was 15,101 during 2010-2018. An average of 1,677 Iranians has migrated to Australia using this type of visa annually.

## **Chapter 3 (Status of Iran in the International Student Market) Main Points**

### □ **Iranian international student outflow:**

•The Iranian international student stock has raised from 19,000 level to 53,000 level during 2003-2017. Although it shows an increasing trend, the Iranian international student stock has remained constant at 52,000-53,000 during the past few years;

•Iran's share in the global international student market was increasing during 2003-2012, but this share shows a slight decrease from 1.3% to around 0.9%;

•Iran's position in the international student market (sending countries) has dropped from 12th rank to 20th rank during 2010-2017;

### □ **The USA, Germany, Turkey, Italy, and Canada: top five destination countries for Iranian students:**

•The US has been a major destination for Iranian students over the past 40 years. Totally, 12,142 Iranian students were studying in American colleges and uni-

versities in 2018;

- According to the latest available data (2017), Turkey has become the second main destination country for Iranian students in recent years. So many factors such as Turkey's geographical and cultural proximity, cancellation of visa requirements between the two sides, Turkish language, Turkish universities ranking and scholarship opportunities, all have made Turkey as an attractive destination for Iranian students. Therefore, we see an increase of Iranian students in Turkey in recent years;

- Germany and Italy are the next popular destination countries for Iranian students. The aged population, and the needs for fresh labor force have led these countries to devise attractive programs for attracting international students. The DAAD office and Italian language school in Tehran have provided a context for Iranian youth to familiarize themselves with the education opportunities (such as scholarships and grants) in these countries;

- Also, Canada has become a popular destination country for Iranian students over the past years. This country hosts over 4,000 Iranian students and is the fifth popular destination country for Iranian international student. The English language, Trump's restrictions imposed on the entry of Iranian students, specific programs for international student attraction, and the presence of a significant population of Iranians in Canada, which provide study opportunities awareness

to Iranian youth, are among main factors that contribute to the increase of the population of Iranian students in Canada.

### ▣ **The decreasing trend of visas being issued to Iranian students in the United States:**

- The number of F1 and J1 visas granted to Iranian students and scholars have undergone a significant decrease during 2016-2019 so that the number of F1 visas had a decrease of almost 57% over this course and the J1 visas increased by about 68%;

- Although Donald Trump's strict migration policies and the restrictions put on the entry of nationals from Muslim countries do not include students, they have impacted Iranian students' admission and obtaining visas. Countries such as Germany and Canada are likely to replace the USA in the coming years.

### ▣ **The increasing return migration rate of Iranian experts and graduates:**

- The number of Iranian experts who voluntarily return home country has reached 1,560 people from March 2015 to April 2020, which means one Iranian expert has returned Iran every day on average, during this course of time.

### ▣ **The main motivations for migration among Iranian students:**

- Based on the results of a survey conduct-



ed by the Iranian Migration Observatory in 2018, eight main factors identified contributing to desire to migrate among Iranian students include: 1. frustration with reform of domestic affairs 2. unbalance between income and living cost 3. job promotion opportunities in Iran 4. social order 5. desire to experience studying or working abroad 6. meritocracy 7. working abroad opportunities 8. desire to experience living abroad;

- 30% of the students reported a desire to migrate before the economic pressures (in 2018 and 2019), which surged to 63% after 2019.

### ❑ **Desire to return migration among the Iranian students and graduates:**

- According to the results of the survey regarding migration desire among Iranian students and graduates conducted by the Iranian Migration Observatory in 2018, the survey indicates that 16% of those who would like to migrate report a desire to return after graduation, while 38% report no desire to go back to their home country. On the other hand, around half of those who have decided to migrate are still indecisive about returning home or settling abroad;

- Fortunately, 60% of Iranian students and graduates have reported very interested in playing a role in the national reformations, while 22% have reported little or very little of desire to do so;

- Another survey by IMO (2018) indi-

cates that a large portion of the participants (about 40%) migrate without having much information about immigration conditions and the situation of the destination country.

### ❑ **International student inflow:**

- The number of international students residing in Iran has had an almost 4.5 fold increase, reaching from 4,512 students to 21,601 students during 2011-2018;

- A majority of international students in Iran are studying in postgraduate programs. In the academic year of 2018-2019, the highest-ranking programs in number of international students were bachelor's programs (64%), followed by master's degree programs (18%), general doctorate (9%), Ph.D. (6%) and associate degree (3%);

- The top 3 countries with the largest shares of international students residing in Iran are Afghanistan (64%), Iraq (16%), and Lebanon (6%) which make up 86% of the international students in Iran;

- The gender gap among the international students residing in Iran is increasing. Currently, 55% of the international students in Iran are men while 45% are women.

## **Chapter 4 (Forced Migrations and Asylum-Seeking from/ in Iran) main points**

## □ Status of foreign nationals in Iran:

- The Islamic Republic of Iran has been hosting to a large number of Afghan and Iraqi refugees.

- The population of Afghan and Iraqi refugees residing in Iran reached near 4 million people in the late 1980s. A major part of the refugees in Iran in 2018 (around 950,000 people) were from Afghanistan;

- According to the National Population Census (2016), the number of foreign nationals in Iran was 1,645,388. The foreign-born population in Iran has been increasing from 1988 until 2011 but has started to decrease since 2016.

- The bulk of the foreign born population (95.7%) comprises the Afghan population in Iran (1,583,979 people), followed by 2.1% Iraqi (34,532 people), 0.9% Pakistani (14,320 people), 0.04% Turkish (713 people), and 1.3% (20,844 people) from other nations.

- It is estimated that around 1.5 up to 2 million undocumented Afghans live in Iran in addition to the refugees, some of whom are seasonal workers. Number of registered refugees in Iran has stayed constant at 980,000 people since 2015.

## □ Demographic structure of foreign nationals in Iran:

- 67% of Afghan immigrants living in Iran are aged 29 and younger, and about

80% of them live in urban areas;

- The provinces including Tehran, Khorasan Razavi and Isfahan host the most Afghan nationals in Iran, respectively;

- About 53% of Afghans living in Iran are men while 47% are women;

- Among 1,273,211 foreign nationals living in Iran aged 10 years and older and 794,108 (62.4 %) are educated and 474,919 (37.3 %) are illiterate.

## □ Status of foreign nationals in Iran labor market:

- Out of the foreign nationals aged 10 and older, 44% are active in the labor market: 96% of whom are employed and 4% are unemployed;

- In terms of the economic indicators, the unemployment rate of foreign nationals in Iran is less than 4%, which make 2.4% of total employed people in Iran;

- 2.4% of the employed persons are foreign nationals, 92.4% of whom are male while 7.6% are female.

## □ Foreign nationals' voluntary repatriation:

- Most Afghan and Iraqi refugees returned to their home country in the 1990s and 2000s;

- The main part of the Afghan returnees are undocumented migrants who are moving between Iran and Afghanistan;

- About 500,000 undocumented migrants have returned during 2012-2017. More than half of these migrants returned voluntarily and less than half were deported;

- A portion of the deported undocumented Afghans includes migrants passing through Iran towards Turkey and European countries who have been arrested and sent back to Afghanistan;

- Due to economic sanctions imposed by the USA against Iran and accordingly the national currency fluctuations in 2018, the number of Afghan returnees has increased to less than 800,000 migrants. This number decreased in 2019 and reached its former average (500,000 people annually);

- The undocumented Afghans' desire to return to their home country is higher than documented migrants according to studies conducted in 2017 and 2019;

- The desire to return for Afghans is around 38% among the residents of guest cities, 28% among the residents of urban and rural areas, 35% among holders of

visas, and about 50% among undocumented migrants;

- The desire to migrate to the European countries for documented Afghan migrants is higher (71%) compared to other migrants, and the lowest level of desire to do so is observed among refugees residing in guest cities (56%).

### ▣ **Outflow of asylum seekers from Iran :**

- Some Iranian migrants have migrated to the European countries as well as Syrian, Iraqi, and Afghan asylum-seekers over the past years;

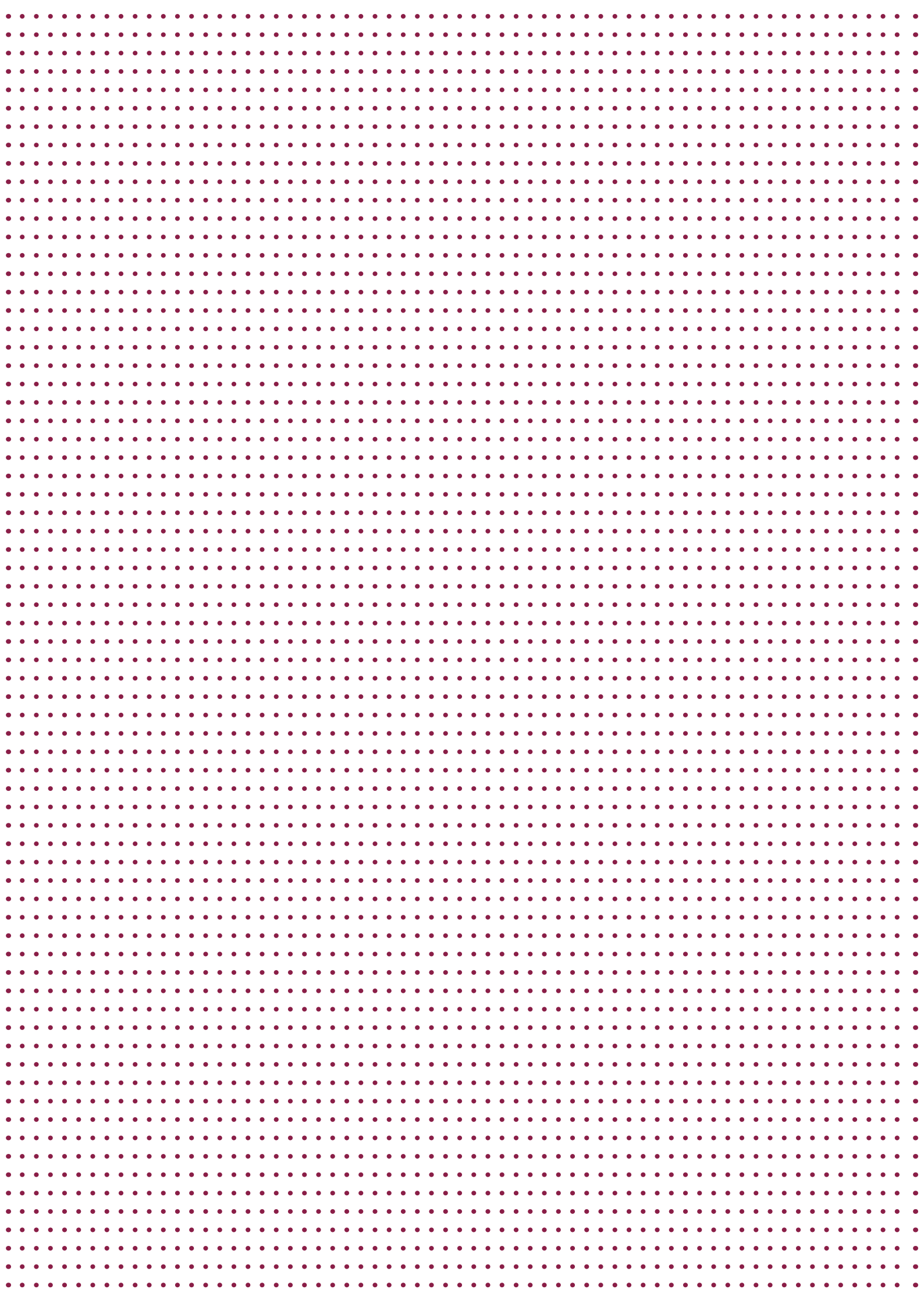
- Statistics released by asylum seekers' destination countries indicate that Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, and Turkey have been the top destination countries for Iranian asylum-seekers;

- The trend of Iranian people moving to Europe and registering as asylum-seekers has increased since 2015, in accordance with the increased entry of asylum-seekers from several countries to Europe.

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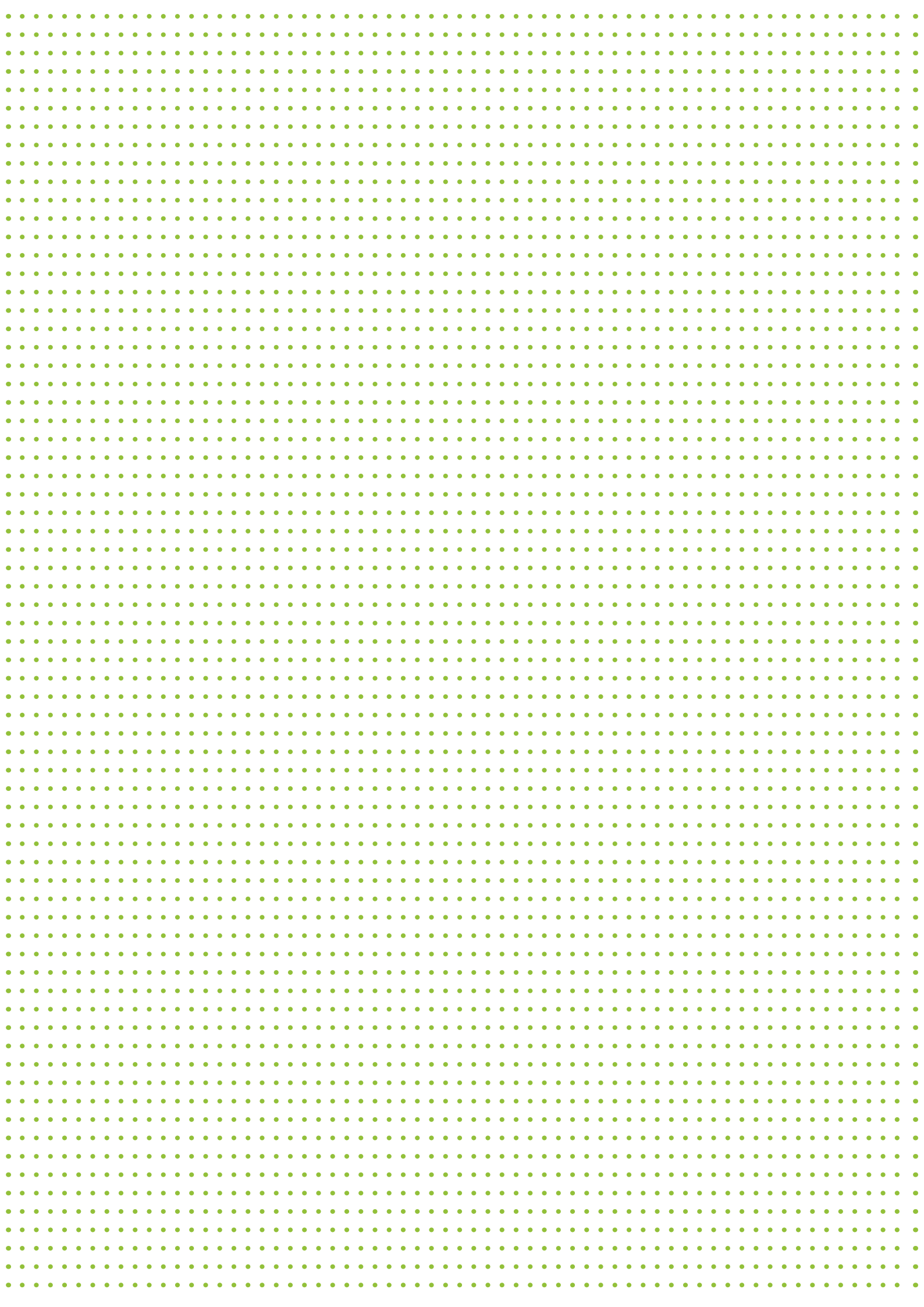
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# Appendices



I r a n M i g r a t i o n O u t l o o k 2 0 2 0



## Appendix 1

The basic definitions and concepts of international migration

<b>1- Assimilation</b>	
A one-directional policy approach to integration whereby an ethnic or social group – usually a minority – adopts the cultural practices of another – usually that of the majority ethnic or social group. Assimilation involves the subsuming of language, traditions, values, mores and behavior normally leading the assimilating party to become less socially distinguishable from other members of the receiving society	
<b>2- Assisted Voluntary Return</b>	
Assisted voluntary return and reintegration Administrative, logistical or financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country or country of transit and who decide to return to their country of origin.	
<b>3- Asylum-seeker</b>	
An individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which he or she has submitted it. Not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every recognized refugee is initially an asylum seeker.	
<b>4- Brain circulation</b>	
The effect of the movement of skilled migrants among their countries of origin and other countries, bearing their knowledge and skills which can benefit countries of origin as well as countries of permanent or temporary destination. The exchange of knowledge and skills of migrants with communities and institutions in their country of origin and destination that allow migrants to apply the benefits of the knowledge and skills they have gained while living and working abroad.	
<b>5- Internally Displaced Person (IDP)</b>	
Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.	
<b>6- Irregular migration</b>	
Movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination.	
<b>7- Brain drain</b>	



	Brain drain depletion of human capital in a specific occupation or economic sector resulting from the emigration of skilled workers engaged in this occupation or sector from the country of origin to another country (or from one region of a country to another – internal migration).
<b>8- Brain gain</b>	
	From the perspective of a country of destination, immigration of skilled workers into the country resulting in the acquisition of human capital. From the perspective of a country of origin, the positive spill-over effects of the emigration of highly skilled workers such as brain circulation, or the motivational effects of migration that spur aspiring migrants to acquire further skills. Brain gain also occurs when migrants return back to their country or communities of origin and bring back with them new skills and knowledge acquired in migration.
<b>9- Emigrant</b>	
	From the perspective of the country of departure, a person who moves from his or her country of nationality or usual residence to another country, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.
<b>10- Immigrant</b>	
	From the perspective of the country of arrival, a person who moves into a country other than that of his or her nationality or usual residence, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.
<b>11- Return migration</b>	
	In the context of international migration, the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having moved away from their place of habitual residence and crossed an international border. In the context of internal migration, the movement of persons returning to their place of habitual residence after having moved away from it.
<b>12- Resettlement (refugees)</b>	
	The transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought protection to another State that has agreed to admit them – as refugees – with permanent residence status.
<b>13- Remittance</b>	
	Personal monetary transfer, cross border or within the same country, made by migrants to individuals or communities with whom the migrant has links.
<b>14- Permanent residence</b>	
	The right, granted by the authorities of a State of destination to a non-national, to live therein on a permanent (unlimited or indefinite) basis.
<b>15- Migrant worker</b>	
	A person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.
<b>16- International migrant</b>	

Any person who is outside a State of which he or she is a citizen or national, or, in the case of a stateless person, his or her State of birth or habitual residence. The term includes migrants who intend to move permanently or temporarily, and those who move in a regular or documented manner as well as migrants in irregular situations.

<b>17- Humanitarian visa</b>	
A visa granting access to and temporary stay in the issuing State to a person on humanitarian grounds for a variable duration as specified in the applicable national or regional law, often aimed at complying with relevant human rights and refugee law.	
<b>18- Country of destination</b>	
In the migration context, a country that is the destination for a person or a group of persons, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly.	
<b>19- Country of origin</b>	
In the migration context, a country of nationality or of former habitual residence of a person or group of persons who have migrated abroad, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly.	
<b>20- Economic migrant</b>	
While not a category in international law, the term is sometimes used to refer to any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State, solely or primarily motivated by economic opportunities.	
<b>21- Deportation</b>	
In international humanitarian law, deportation refers to the forced displacement of civilians which is prohibited in times of occupation and non-international armed conflict except when required for their security or imperative military reasons.	
<b>22- Migrant</b>	
A person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students.	
<b>23- Diaspora</b>	
Migrants or descendants of migrants whose identity and sense of belonging, either real or symbolic, have been shaped by their migration experience and background. They maintain links with their homelands, and to each other, based on a shared sense of history, identity, or mutual experiences in the destination country.	
<b>24- Highly skilled migrant worker</b>	
A migrant worker who has earned, by higher level education or occupational experience, the level of skill or qualifications typically needed to practice a highly skilled occupation.	



<b>25- Refugee</b>	
A person who qualifies for the protection of the United Nations provided by the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in accordance with UNHCR's Statute and, notably, subsequent General Assembly's resolutions clarifying the scope of UNHCR's competency, regardless of whether or not he or she is in a country that is a party to the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol – or a relevant regional refugee instrument – or whether or not he or she has been recognized by his or her host country as a refugee under either of these instruments.	
<b>26- Applicant</b>	
In the migration context, a person who formally requests administrative or judicial action, such as the granting of a visa, work permit or refugee status.	
<b>27- Integration</b>	
The two-way process of mutual adaptation between migrants and the societies in which they live, whereby migrants are incorporated into the social, economic, cultural and political life of the receiving community. It entails a set of joint responsibilities for migrants and communities, and incorporates other related notions such as social inclusion and social cohesion.	

## Appendix 2

### Iranians' residence status in the European Union

Table 56: Iranians across top 10 EU countries by residence reasons , 2018

Remunerated activities reasons		Family reasons		Education reasons		Refugee status and subsidiary protection		Other	
Germany	4,903	Germany	13,625	Germany	Germany	4,903	Germany	13,625	Germany
Italy	3,727	Britain	8,367	Italy	Italy	3,727	Britain	8,367	Italy
United Kingdom	2,046	Sweden	5,683	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	2,046	Sweden	5,683	United Kingdom
Sweden	1,560	Italy	3,705	Hungary	Sweden	1,560	Italy	3,705	Hungary
The Netherlands	1,481	France	2,053	France	The Netherlands	1,481	France	2,053	France
France	811	Netherlands	1,701	Austria	France	811	Netherlands	1,701	Austria
Slovenia	625	Belgium	1,282	Sweden	Slovenia	625	Belgium	1,282	Sweden
Finland	438	Spain	1,148	Switzerland	Finland	438	Spain	1,148	Switzerland
Spain	392	Austria	926	Spain	Spain	392	Austria	926	Spain
Austria	336	Greece	832	Netherlands	Austria	336	Greece	832	Netherlands

Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

Table 57: Distribution of Iranians across top 10 UN countries divided by residence duration, 2018

3-5 months		6-11 months		12 months and above	
<b>Germany</b>	479	Germany	<b>Germany</b>	479	Germany
<b>Sweden</b>	225	Austria	<b>Sweden</b>	225	Austria
<b>Britain</b>	173	Switzerland	<b>Britain</b>	173	Switzerland
<b>Belgium</b>	83	Hungary	<b>Belgium</b>	83	Hungary
<b>Switzerland</b>	57	Sweden	<b>Switzerland</b>	57	Sweden
<b>Spain</b>	31	Britain	<b>Spain</b>	31	Britain
<b>Hungary</b>	26	Italy	<b>Hungary</b>	26	Italy
<b>Italy</b>	22	Spain	<b>Italy</b>	22	Spain
<b>Poland</b>	19	France	<b>Poland</b>	19	France
<b>Austria</b>	18	Slovenia	<b>Austria</b>	18	Slovenia

Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

Table 58: Ration of Iranians holding study permits to all educational migrants in top 10 UN countries, 2018

Country	Total student migrants	Iranian student migrants	Percentage
<b>Germany</b>	190,018	6,752	3.6
<b>Italy</b>	44,721	3,242	7.2
<b>United Kingdom</b>	467,977	2,600	0.6
<b>Hungary</b>	20,897	2,375	11.4
<b>France</b>	172,990	1,313	0.8
<b>Austria</b>	18,800	1,308	7.0
<b>Sweden</b>	17,993	1,122	6.2
<b>Switzerland</b>	24,720	728	2.9
<b>Spain</b>	55,979	500	0.9
<b>The Netherlands</b>	28,398	402	1.4
<b>The European union</b>	1,230,975	21430	1.7

Source: (EUROSTAT, 2020)

## Appendix 3

### Population of Iranian students around the world

Table 59: Population of Iranian students in their top destination countries (2003-2018)

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
USA	2,258	2,321	2,351	2,506	2,857	3,063	3,475	4,689	5,519	6,763	10,194	11,338	12,269	12,645	12,783	12,142
Turkey	554	615	682	769	589	906	975	1,087	1,305	1,488	438	4,343	5,302	5,661	6,099	-
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,135	3,493	3,791	4,248	4,846	-
Italy	593	694	780	965	1,136	1,289	1,577	1,678	2,452	2,975	3,637	3,866	3,495	3,935	4,265	-
Canada	960	1,461	1,935	1,716	2,086	2,047	2,364	2,958	2,805	3,537	4,254	4,068	3,525	3,735	3,884	-
Australia	627	727	969	1,236	1,523	1,872	2,386	2,634	2,834	2,817	2,781	2,648	2,507	2,549	2,509	2,438
Austria	477	514	-	509	537	609	663	728	793	753	991	1,021	1,147	1,232	1,466	-
India	336	472	1,038	1,258	-	-	-	-	2,589	2,131	2,109	1,328	1,544	1,459	1,459	1,558
France	1,408	1,441	1,491	1,607	1,690	1,728	1,772	1,810	1,913	1,913	1,755	1,653	1,504	1,415	1,424	-
Hungary	209	299	382	404	496	579	666	824	901	947	1,025	988	816	1,116	1,417	-
Britain	860	1,436	1,752	2,016	2,454	2,400	2,849	3,163	3,463	3,372	2,650	2,982	1,842	1,522	1,411	-
Malaysia	374	550	-	1,012	2,442	3,475	6,588	7,397	9,311	8,170	-	3,953	4,195	3,455	1,313	3,109
United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,046	3,204	3,167	2,463	2,383	2,297	-	-

Source: (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020) (IIE, 2020) (Austrade-MIP, 2019)



## Appendix 4

The ranking of selected countries in terms of HDI and GTCI

Table 60: The rank of selected countries in the Human Development Index and the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (2019)

	HDI rank	GTCI rank
Australia	3	12
Germany	5	14
Singapore	9	2
Canada	12	15
USA	13	3
Britain	14	9
South Korea	22	30
France	24	21
Italy	27	38
Saudi Arabia	39	39
Russia	48	49
Malaysia	56	27
Iran	60	97
Turkey	63	74
China	86	45
Azerbaijan	81	43
Philippines	112	58
Pakistan	148	108
Nigeria	154	99

Source: (HDI, 2019; GTCI, 2019)



سرشناسه: صلواتی، بهرام، ۱۳۵۸ -  
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 [برای] ستاد فرهنگ‌سازی اقتصاد دانش‌بنیان معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری، پژوهشکده  
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 شماره کتابشناسی ملی: ۶۷۷۸۸۸۲



## سالنامه مهاجرتی ایران - ۱۳۹۹

تدوین: بهرام صلواتی

ناشر: دانش‌بنیان فناوری

سال نشر: ۱۳۹۹

شمارگان: ۵۰۰ نسخه

شابک: ۹۷۸-۶۲۲-۶۹۰-۵-۲۹-۹

کلیه حقوق محفوظ و متعلق به انتشارات دانش‌بنیان فناوری است





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