

**MIGRATION INFORMATION SOURCE**  
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Migration Policy Institute

# About the Source

The Migration Information Source provides fresh thought, authoritative data from numerous global organizations and governments, and global analysis of international migration and refugee trends. A unique, online resource, the Source offers useful tools, vital data, and essential facts on the movement of people worldwide.

Working with a team of international correspondents, we chronicle global migration movements, provide perspectives on current migration debates, and offer the tools and data from numerous global organizations and governments needed to understand migration. We do this in a way that is accessible to researchers, policy makers, journalists, and other opinion shapers.

Our advisory board and other prominent migration scholars who contribute to The Source include some of the most respected voices in the migration and refugee fields. The Source also relies on the good will of several global organizations and governments who make their data and research publicly available on our site.

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## What Surprised You Most About Migration in 2005? Top Experts Respond

The Migration Information Source asked leading migration experts from all over the world, "What surprised you most this year?" Their answers came from the headlines as well as personal observations about what the media does — and does not — report.

### **Dr. Rubén G. Rumbaut**

*Professor of Sociology, University of California, Irvine; Co-author, Immigrant America: A Portrait and Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation; and Co-Director, Center for Research on Immigration, Population, and Public Policy, UCI*

"It never ceases to surprise me that, in a world of 6.5 billion people, 98 percent are 'stayers,' living in the country of their birth; that the remaining two percent, international migrants of a bewildering variety of origins, migration motives, and modes of adaptation to their new environments, are at heart ambitious, determined, and intrepid souls, which is what makes migration the 'selective' process that it is; and that, all things considered, so little focused attention is paid to either of those two facts."

### **Dr. Mary Garcia Castro**

*Member of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM); Researcher at the UNESCO Representation in Brazil; and Associated Researcher at the Center of Studies on International Migration, University of Campinas, Sao Paulo*

"The year 2005 was important to international migration in singular ways. Its visibility grew, and despite the fact that, in the media, a great deal of information was about migrants' vulnerability and state control and reactions against them, as well as first-world population fears of these 'others,' positive signals about the importance of the issue came out.

"The Global Commission on International Migration report and its international repercussions indicate that a coherent and sound proposal for the governance of international migration was presented.

"Another positive trend, despite its ambiguous meaning, is how some world media have captured the reactions of the young second generation of migrants in France against the situation they have been enduring for so long: racism, prejudice, and human rights violations by police and other state institutions. The message sent by the second generation is clear: it is enough, there are limits to human rights violations, and migrants are not as passive as they are commonly represented.

"Summing up, other types of information and actions on international migration are needed by the international community, first-world countries as well as origin ones. In 2005, clear signals on such a need were sent by different sources, including the migrants themselves."

**Mohamed Khachani**

*Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco;  
President, Moroccan Association of Migration Studies*

"It is astonishing that certain politicians in positions of authority treat young citizens from the [Paris] suburbs as migrants, sons of migrants, confirming them in their status as citizens apart, while in order better to integrate them, they must be considered as full-fledged citizens."

**Bela Hovy**

*Head of Statistics, UNHCR, Geneva*

"In 2005, the global refugee population under the mandate of the UN Refugee Agency dropped to 9.2 million, the lowest level since 1980.

"The number of refugees is falling for two main reasons. First, fewer people need to escape their country due to conflict or persecution. Second, more refugees are able to return home or to integrate in host societies.

"This may be a surprise to those who rely on the mass media for their information, but it is very good news, not least for refugees."

**Dr. Jorge Santibañez Romellon**

*President, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico*

"I will say that in 2005 the three most important events regarding international migration took place in three different spaces and are related to three different processes.

"First I will mention the violence initiated in Paris's suburbs, showing that receiving countries are making a huge mistake handling immigrant's integration, from the conceptual and practical point of view.

"The second one is related to sub-Saharan migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea through Melilla and who were shot by Moroccan police, indicating that transit countries do not have the means, nor an appropriate public policy, to handle transit migration processes.

"Finally, in the Mexico-US region, it is clear that if migratory reform were to take place, if ever, it would be under the umbrella of national security, and that Mexico is not doing the job it should be doing regarding its own migratory flows under this umbrella in the short term and social development in the long term, showing that we are currently facing a worst-case scenario, where the receiving country is mistaken about its migratory process and the exit country is not facing its responsibilities."

**Graeme Hugo**

*Federation Fellow, Professor of the Discipline of Geographical and Environmental Studies and Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems at the University of Adelaide, Australia*

"A most surprising (and encouraging) development in international migration to me in 2005 was an unexpected increase in the amount of bilateral and multilateral discussion and dialogue on migration-related issues between sending and receiving nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

"This has partly come as a kick-on effect of discussions between nations undertaken initially on migration and security issues in the wake of 9/11. This has set up relationships of trust and linkages which are beginning to convince sending and receiving nations that they both have something to gain from mutual discussions.

"While these developments have been small, they may be important in encouraging bilateral and multilateral discussions on migration."

**Prof. Rita Süßmuth**

*Member of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM); former President of the German Federal Parliament; and former Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Women, Youth and Health*

"In 2005, a new immigration law went into force in Germany; its concepts reaffirmed the current migration paradigm that Germany is indeed a country of immigration. It also introduced, for the first time in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany, integration courses designed by the government.

"Contrary to popular opinion, immigrants in Germany showed great interest and extreme motivation in participating in integration courses on language and culture. This disproved the notion that immigrants do not want to play an active role in the integration process. It also showed that immigrants do prefer integration over segregation when given a choice."

**Dilip Ratha**

*Senior Economist, World Bank*

"To me, a major milestone in the area of international migration for the year 2005 was a broad agreement in the international community that international migration helps reduce poverty and achieve other internationally agreed development goals.

"This was reflected by the decision of the World Bank to devote a flagship report to remittances and migration. Remittances posted another year of surprisingly strong growth: the 2004 figure turned out to be 26 percent higher than what was expected earlier in the year."

**Marek Okólski**

*Chair of the Demography Department and Distinguished Professor, Faculty of Economic Sciences, Warsaw University, Poland*

"The most interesting thing to me was a sudden collapse of the republican French policy of immigrant integration, which manifested itself in recent Muslim street riots, especially vis-a-vis a German policy of immigrant selective exclusion which seems to bring about more social peace."

## Issue #1: Challenges of Immigrant Integration: Muslims in Europe

It took decades before Western European countries acknowledged that the guest workers of the 1960s and 1970s had stayed and transformed them into countries of immigration. But only recently have European politicians and public opinion leaders talked about the need to focus on the integration of these immigrants and their children.

In 2005, the spotlight on Muslim immigrants and their children intensified with the deadly bombings on July 7 of a London bus and three underground trains by three British-born men of Pakistani descent and one Jamaican-born man. Later that month, Mohammed Bouyeri, born in the Netherlands to Moroccan parents, was sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole for the November 2004 murder of filmmaker Theo van Gogh.



The October 27 deaths of two teens of North African descent in Clichy-sous-Bois, a suburb of Paris, sparked two weeks of rioting in disadvantaged immigrant communities across France and inspired possible copy-cat incidents in Belgium, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Greece, and Switzerland. In 2003, France struggled with the issue of Muslim girls wearing headscarves to school before banning them, along with other religious symbols, in 2004.

These events have highlighted the presence of millions of Muslims in Christian Europe, and natives are concerned about whether, if ever, they can coexist.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Challenges of Integration for the EU (October 2003)</li><li>• Integration: The Role of Communities, Institutions, and the State (October 2003)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• United Kingdom: Rising Numbers, Rising Anxieties (May 2005)</li><li>• The Netherlands: Death of a Filmmaker Shakes a Nation (October 2005)</li><li>• The Challenge of French Diversity (November 2004)</li><li>• Germany: Immigration in Transition (July 2004)</li><li>• Belgium's Immigration Policy Brings Renewal and Challenges (October 2003)</li><li>• Turkey: A Transformation from Emigration to Immigration (November 2003)</li><li>• Morocco: From Emigration Country to Africa's Migration Passage to Europe (October 2005)</li><li>• Mali: Seeking Opportunity Abroad (September 2004)</li></ul>
<b>News Articles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Top German Parties Back Islamic Education (October 2002)</li><li>• Germany's High Court Allows Teacher to Wear Muslim Headscarf (November 2003)</li><li>• Gender, Religion, and Secularism Meet in Germany's Headscarf Battle (March 2003)</li><li>• French Muslims, Government Grapple With Integration Pains (August 2003)</li></ul>

## Issue #2: Linking Security and Immigration Controls: The Post-9/11 US Model Goes Global



Since the terror attacks of 2001, the United States has emphasized the link between domestic security and foreign travelers by creating the Department of Homeland Security, which includes immigration processing and enforcement bureaus, and launching a number of initiatives, including the US-VISIT program, an automated entry-exit system that collects biographic and biometric information at ports of entry.

In the process, the United States has helped push its border inspection and security agenda and a focus on biometric solutions onto the agendas of other nations. All countries in the US visa waiver program (VWP), which includes most European countries, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan, were required to have biometric passports by October 2005, though that deadline was pushed back to October 2006. Germany, Australia, New Zealand, and the UK debuted their biometric passports this year, and the United States will begin issuing biometric passports in December.

The United States and the European Union (EU) signed the landmark Passenger Name Record (PNR) agreement in 2004, which requires airlines to provide EU-origin passenger data for flights to the US. In November 2005, the EU police agency Europol and Canadian authorities agreed to share a variety of data, including those related to terrorism, and immigration and customs matters.

The European Biometrics Forum, launched in 2003 by the European Commission and the Irish government, announced the formation of the International Biometric Advisory Council (IBAC) in November 2005. Among its prominent members are the deputy director of the US-VISIT program and officials from Canada and Japan.

Perhaps more than any other country, the UK has embraced the US border security model. In June 2005, parliament introduced a controversial bill that would increase sharing of passenger data with overseas law enforcement counterparts and give power to immigration officials to check biometric details in visa and travel documents.

But advanced industrial countries' responses have not stopped at the border. Since the July bombings, the UK Home Secretary more than once has used his power to detain and deport terror suspects "whose presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good for reasons of national security." France also used national security as the primary reason for its decision to detain and deport legally resident foreigners involved in the riots this fall.

It is possible in the coming years that other countries will put US-VISIT-type programs in place. The challenge for all governments will be balancing security with economic interests and individual rights.

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For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "One Face at the Border" - Is It Working? (July 2005)</li><li>• Biometrics, Migrants, and Human Rights (March 2005)</li><li>• Security at US Borders: A Move Away from Unilateralism? (August 2003)</li><li>• Consular ID Cards: Mexico and Beyond (April 2003)</li><li>• Immigration and Security Post-Sept. 11 (August 2002)</li></ul>
<b>Spotlights:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spotlight on US Immigration Enforcement (September 2005)</li><li>• Spotlight on 'Special Registration' Program (April 2003)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A New Century: Immigration and the US (February 2005)</li><li>• United Kingdom: Rising Numbers, Rising Anxieties (May 2005)</li><li>• The Challenge of French Diversity (November 2004)</li></ul>
<b>Policy Beat:</b>
2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• US Commits to New Passport Requirements and Beefed-Up Border (May)</li><li>• Immigration Reform Bill and DHS Restructuring Focus on Enforcement and Facilitation (August)</li><li>• Supreme Court Addresses Deportation Cases, DHS Undergoes Leadership and Oversight Changes (February)</li></ul> 2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Security Checks Affect Legal Immigration (October)</li><li>• 9/11 Commission Urges Immigration and Border Reform (August)</li><li>• Post-Sept. 11 Security Fears, Policies Seize Spotlight (May)</li><li>• First Phase of US-VISIT Becomes Operational (January)</li></ul> 2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FBI, BICE Interview Iraqi-Born Immigrants; Entry-Exit Rules Changed (April)</li><li>• Revamped Homeland Security Department to Incorporate INS Duties (March)</li></ul>
<b>MPI Publications (see <a href="http://www.migrationpolicy.org">www.migrationpolicy.org</a>):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secure Borders, Open Doors: Visa Procedures in the Post-September 11 Era</li><li>• Real Challenges for Virtual Borders: The Implementation of US-VISIT</li></ul>

### Issue #3: US Immigration Reform Moves Forward

President George W. Bush put immigration reform on the national agenda in January 2004 by outlining his general plans for a temporary worker program. But last year, the main reform proposal, the Democrat-sponsored Safe, Orderly, Legal Visas and Enforcement (SOLVE) Act, died in committee.

This year, however, members of Congress have sponsored numerous reform proposals that have pushed the debate forward and generated significant media coverage. In late November, Bush renewed attention to immigration reform with speeches in Arizona and Texas in which he stated his support for both increased border enforcement and a temporary worker program.

The McCain-Kennedy "Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act" in the Senate and the Cornyn-Kyl "Comprehensive Enforcement and Immigration Reform Act" in the House are the best known proposals, but new bills continued to be introduced nearly every week as the fall progressed. Some analysts expect the White House to make December "Border Security Month."

Many of these bills use the president's temporary worker plan as a base, though none perfectly reflect the Bush administration's vision as articulated by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao in recent testimony before the US Senate in October.

Of course, events such as the Minuteman Project, which involved citizen patrols along the Arizona-Mexico border in April, the declaration of states of emergency by the governors of New Mexico and Arizona in August, and illegal immigration as a campaign issue in the Virginia governor's race have all helped keep immigration reform on the national agenda.

Even if none of the current proposals become law, immigration reform will be issue number one starting again in early 2006.



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For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solving the Unauthorized Migrant Problem: Proposed Legislation in the US</li><li>• The Declining Enforcement of Employer Sanctions</li><li>• IRCA: Lessons of the Last US Legalization Program</li><li>• The Mexico Factor in US Immigration Reform</li></ul>
<b>Policy Beat:</b>
2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bush Puts Immigration Reform Back on Agenda, Approves Funding for DHS</li><li>• Immigration Reform Bill and DHS Restructuring Focus on Enforcement and Facilitation</li><li>• Free Flights and New Enforcement Proposals Address Unauthorized Migrants</li><li>• Expansive Bipartisan Bill Introduced on the Heels of REAL ID Passage</li></ul> 2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bush Proposes New Temporary Worker Program</li></ul>
<b>MPI Publications (see <a href="http://www.migrationpolicy.org">www.migrationpolicy.org</a>):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy Brief - Lessons from the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986</li><li>• Policy Brief - Independent Task Force on Immigration and America's Future: The Roadmap</li><li>• Insight - Reflections on Restoring Integrity to the United States Immigration System: A Personal Vision</li><li>• Chart - Comparison of Major Immigration Legislation Pending in 109th Congress</li></ul>

## Issue #4: Temporary Work Programs Back in Fashion

Temporary work programs that do not allow workers to settle or bring over their family members have been common in a number of Middle Eastern and Asian countries since the 1970s. The legacy of post-war guest workers in Europe and the Bracero program in the United States has kept most Western countries from considering new schemes even when faced with low-skill labor shortages. But those attitudes began to shift in 2005.

Spain's decision to regularize illegal immigrants this year — an estimated 690,000 applied — was driven partly by the government's desire to turn as many of them as possible into legal, temporary workers. The regularization, similar to Spain's earlier initiatives, does not provide a path to legal permanent residence.



One of the immigration reform proposals in the United States Congress, the Cornyn-Kyl bill, would create a temporary worker program that would be open to illegal immigrants who first return home, but it too would not allow them to settle permanently in the United States.

Malaysia, which attracts hundreds of thousands of workers from Indonesia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, is also attempting to turn its illegal migrant population into legal, temporary workers. The government announced in October 2004 that it would allow illegal immigrants to leave the country without penalty before detaining and deporting those found after the "amnesty" deadline passed. Migrants who departed in time would be allowed to return through legal channels. The deadline for leaving was pushed back to February 28, 2005 in response to the tsunami devastation in Indonesia, and what many called a violent crackdown began March 1.

The desire on the part of Western countries to appear in control of immigration flows, coupled with economic and demographic pressures, may well lead to more temporary work programs in the years ahead.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Temporary Worker Programs: Lessons Learned (March 2004)</li> <li>• Regularizing Immigrants in Spain: A New Approach (September 2005)</li> <li>• Why Countries Continue to Consider Regularization (September 2005)</li> <li>• Saudi Arabia's Plan for Changing Its Workforce (November 2004)</li> <li>• Domestic Workers: Little Protection for the Underpaid (April 2005)</li> <li>• Asian Women Migrants: Going the Distance, But Not Far Enough (March 2003)</li> </ul>
<b>Spotlights:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spotlight on Temporary Admissions of Nonimmigrants to the United States (July 2005)</li> <li>• Temporary High-Skilled Migration (November 2002)</li> </ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Korea: Balancing Labor Demand with Strict Controls (December 2004)</li> <li>• Israel: Balancing Demographics in the Jewish State (July 2005)</li> <li>• Japan: From Immigration Control to Immigration Policy? (August 2002)</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Beat:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigration Reform Bill and DHS Restructuring Focus on Enforcement and Facilitation (Cornyn-Kyl bill) (August 2005)</li> <li>• Bush Proposes New Temporary Worker Program (February 2004)</li> </ul>

## Issue #5: EU Disunion: Immigration in an Enlarged Europe

The European Union (EU) celebrated the one-year anniversary of its historic enlargement from 15 to 25 members in May 2005, but the majority of its new citizens still face obstacles to living and working in most of the EU-15. Some of those barriers will start to come down in 2006.



Only the UK, Ireland, and Sweden have allowed accession-state nationals to work without permits since accession day, May 1, 2004. Over 230,000 Eastern Europeans had registered to work in the UK by June 30, a migration that some are already calling one of the largest in recent decades. The

British Home Office has stated that these workers are helping to fill gaps in the labor market though some natives in the manual trades have complained of depressed wages.

An estimated 128,000 Poles, Latvians, and Lithuanians had registered to work in Ireland as of August 2005 while Sweden had registered about 16,000 from the accession states, mostly from Poland, as of October.

Although the EU is most likely years away from creating an EU-wide immigration policy, November marked the first time an EU leader has put forth a labor migration idea that could affect all Member States. EU Justice, Freedom, and Security Commissioner Franco Frattini has proposed a "job-seeker's permit," which some have called a "green card," that would allow highly skilled immigrants who receive the permit from any one Member State to work in any industry in all 25 EU countries.

This year also saw the failure of the EU constitution with strong "no" votes from France and the Netherlands. Some analysts pointed to integration as a cause of the rejection, but long-lingering EU Member States publics' distrust of Brussels, discontent with their governments' policy posture on a number of key issues, and anxiety about the social and economic direction of the Union were equally powerful motives.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schengen and the Free Movement of People Across Europe (October 2005)</li><li>• The Hague Program Reflects New European Realities (January 2005)</li><li>• EU Enlargement and the Limits of Freedom (May 2004)</li><li>• The Roma of Eastern Europe: Still Searching for Inclusion (May 2005)</li><li>• The Challenges of Integration for the EU (October 2003)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EU Membership Highlights Poland's Migration Challenges (April 2005)</li><li>• The Czech Republic: From Liberal Policy to EU Membership (August 2005)</li><li>• Hungary: Transit Country Between East and West (November 2003)</li><li>• United Kingdom: Rising Numbers, Rising Anxieties (May 2005)</li><li>• Ireland: A Crash Course in Immigration Policy (October 2004)</li></ul>

## Issue #6: Remittances Reach New Heights

For centuries, immigrants have sent money home to help their families pay for basic needs and consumer goods as well as investments in education and small businesses. Since the late 1990s, international institutions and governments have paid more attention to remittance flows to developing countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, though data have often been hard to find and incomplete.

In 2005, research into the size of remittances and their role as a development tool reached a new peak. Among the concerns are high costs for remitting money, weak financial institutions, and antiquated lending and investment laws in developing countries.



A flurry of studies and data estimates have been published this year, including one from the World Bank in November that estimated that about \$232 billion will be remitted through formal channels in 2005, more than 70 percent of which (\$167 billion) will go to developing countries. The countries receiving the largest flows (in order) are India, China, Mexico, France, and the Philippines.

There is some consensus that remittances reduce poverty, but a vigorous debate continues on whether they promote development as robustly as they could. Development agencies, national governments, and foreign investors are now trying to figure out how to incorporate remittances into their planning and policies.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Special Issue: Migration and Development (see June 2003 issue)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration as a Factor in Development and Poverty Reduction</li><li>• Using Remittances and Circular Migration to Drive Development</li><li>• Circular Migration: Keeping Development Rolling?</li><li>• Migration and Development: Reframing the International Policy Agenda</li><li>• Soaring Remittances Raise New Issues</li><li>• Remittances, the Rural Sector, and Policy Options in Latin America</li><li>• Remittances from the United States in Context</li><li>• Refugee Diasporas, Remittances, Development, and Conflict</li></ul>
<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding the Importance of Remittances (October 2004)</li><li>• The Oaxaca-US Connection and Remittances (January 2004)</li><li>• How Remittances Help Migrant Families (December 2004)</li><li>• Labor Export as Government Policy: The Case of the Philippines (January 2004)</li><li>• Migration and Development: Blind Faith and Hard-to-Find Facts (November 2003)</li><li>• Latino Remittances Swell Despite US Economic Slump (February 2003)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Morocco: From Emigration Country to Africa's Migration Passage to Europe (October 2005)</li><li>• Jordan: A Refugee Haven (July 2004)</li><li>• Nepal's Dependence on Exporting Labor (January 2005)</li><li>• Albania: Looking Beyond Borders (August 2004)</li><li>• Moldova Seeks Stability Amid Mass Emigration (December 2003)</li><li>• Tonga: Migration and the Homeland (February 2004)</li></ul>

## **Issue #7: Extreme Measures: What Migrants Are Willing to Do to Get in and What Governments Will Do to Stop Them**

There's nothing new about migrants taking risks to enter a country where they believe a better life awaits them. But with some countries narrowing their legal immigration channels, raising the bar for asylum, and increasing security measures at airports and land borders in part to show they are in "control," migrants took unprecedented — and deadly — risks that captured headlines in 2005.

In the United States, where concerns about security have led to increased border policing, a record 464 migrants died in the summer of 2005 crossing the US-Mexico border, more than half (260) in the Arizona desert. The 464 deaths represent a 41 percent increase over the 330 border deaths in 2004. Officials attributed the increased deaths to more than 30 straight days of 100-degree-plus temperatures in parts of Arizona and to better record-keeping.

On the African continent, hundreds of sub-Saharan Africans who had survived the journey across the Sahara stormed the razor-wire fences surrounding the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in Morocco in late September; at least five people died and several were injured. A similar attempt to enter the Spanish enclave of Melilla in early October resulted in a reported six deaths. The Moroccan government has said that because of the violent attack, security forces were forced to shoot migrants in self-defense.

Before these events, Spain regularly transported illegal migrants from the enclaves to the Spanish mainland for interviews with immigration officials. From there, the migrants could flee into the rest of the EU. Morocco has stepped up its security and has already implemented a policy of mass deportations. Amnesty International has accused both Spain and Morocco of violating migrants' rights.

According to the Europe-based nonprofit United for Intercultural Action, over 6,000 migrants died attempting to enter the European Union between 1993 and April 2005 (275 between January and April this year). The majority of them perished attempting to cross the Mediterranean from North Africa in rickety boats in hopes of landing on the shores of Italy, Spain, Greece, and, more recently, new Member State Malta.

The small Italian island of Lampedusa, just southwest of Sicily, has been overwhelmed with migrants arriving by boat — as many as 10,000 this year as of October, according to the Italian interior ministry. In an article for an Italian weekly newspaper, an undercover journalist posing as a Kurdish refugee says he witnessed a number of human rights violations at the island's migrant holding center. His allegations have set in motion a government investigation.

The situations in the Spanish enclaves and along southern Europe's coast prompted EU Justice and Security Commissioner Franco Frattini to propose creating an EU coast guard to patrol the Mediterranean. The Spanish government has already expressed its support.

Since 2001, when Australia implemented its tough policy on intercepted boats, the country has seen a marked decline in the number of such incidents. Australia's approach includes detaining people on island territories declared to be outside of the country's migration zone.

Increasing enforcement at the border, though a smart political move in the United States and Europe, clearly has consequences.

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For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Global Struggle with Illegal Migration: No End in Sight (September 2005)</li><li>• Troubled Waters: Rescue of Asylum Seekers and Refugees at Sea (January 2003)</li><li>• The Changing Mosaic of Mediterranean Migrations (June 2004)</li><li>• Belgium's Undocumented Hold Lessons for EU (February 2004)</li><li>• Trafficking, Smuggling, and Human Rights (March 2005)</li><li>• Evaluating Enhanced US Border Enforcement (May 2004)</li><li>• The Mexico Factor in US Immigration Reform (May 2004)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A New Century: Immigration and the US (February 2005)</li><li>• Italy's Southern Exposure (May 2002)</li><li>• Morocco: From Emigration Country to Africa's Migration Passage to Europe (October 2005)</li><li>• Australia's Continuing Transformation (August 2004)</li></ul>
<b>News:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Undocumented Immigration Haunts Italy's Ruling Coalition (November 2003)</li></ul>
<b>MPI Publications (see <a href="http://www.migrationpolicy.org">www.migrationpolicy.org</a>):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Twilight Statuses: A Closer Examination of the Unauthorized Population</li><li>• Policy Brief –The "Regularization" Option in Managing Illegal Migration More Effectively: A Comparative Perspective</li></ul>

## Issue #8: Growing Competition for Skilled Workers (and Foreign Students)



Although the most pressing political issue for many immigrant-receiving countries has been controlling migration, the intensifying competition for professionals such as doctors, nurses, and IT workers, as well as university students, was on the minds of media pundits and policymakers in 2005. If one thing became clear it was that the United States can no longer assume it will, by default, attract the world's best and brightest workers and students as it did for most of the 20th century.

Just in the last few years, Germany, the UK, France, and the Netherlands realized the need to make it easier for highly skilled workers to enter their countries and adjusted their policies accordingly. Since 2001, Australia has been allowing foreign students to move easily into the labor market rather than requiring them to return home. Now the European Union is considering a "job-seeker's permit" for highly skilled workers.

In November, the United States Senate voted to increase the cap on H-1B visas, the main gateway for skilled migrants, from 65,000 to 95,000 per year. The move is partly a response to the 2006 quota being reached in August, a month earlier than last year. The 65,000 cap had temporarily expanded to 195,000 per year during the technology boom years but was allowed to return to 65,000, the cap set in 1990, in 2004. It is not certain yet whether this latest measure will become law.

Thanks to a stubbornly high unemployment rate, Germany is now fertile ground for the recruitment of high-skilled workers. In 2005, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada actively sought skilled migrants from Germany. Although concern about a "brain drain" from Germany to the United States has been discussed for years, the German government has encouraged skilled emigration to relieve unemployment pressure.

Australia is looking beyond Germany, though, to satisfy its desire for skilled workers. An immigration official told BBC News in August that the government planned to hold recruitment fairs in London, Berlin, Chennai (India), and Amsterdam before the end of 2005, though, he said, "We are looking for skills from anywhere."

New Zealand launched a website in 2005 that has two purposes: to attract some of its approximately 500,000 citizens abroad to move back home and to connect New Zealand employers with skilled workers looking for jobs in the country.

The second part of this story is the competition for foreign students. The reason is simple: today's foreign students are the skilled immigrants of tomorrow. According to a report in September by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Australia, France, Germany, the UK, and the US receive 70 percent of foreign students in OECD countries. However, the share for the UK and the US are falling while Australia's share is rising.

One reason: universities across Canada, Europe, and Australia have stepped up their recruitment efforts. US visa policy since 9/11, which has made it harder for students from some countries to enter, has also been cited as a reason for falling numbers. US graduate

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schools saw a one percent increase in first-time enrollment over 2004 (565,000 students — over half from Asia), but total enrollment was down three percent for the same period, according to a November 2005 report by the Council of Graduate Schools.

Even Canada, which has historically made it difficult for students to remain in the country, decided in May to extend its post-graduation work program from one to two years for students working in fields related to their degrees. The country saw its foreign student enrollment increase 17 percent to 70,000 between 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, according to a Statistics Canada report released in October.

The flow of students from China and India, the largest source countries for foreign students, is by no means certain as the quality of their national universities improve. This competition may well shape student policies in the United States and Europe in years to come.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skilled Migration Abroad or Human Capital Flight (June 2003)</li><li>• Reassessing the Impacts of Brain Drain on Developing Countries (August 2005)</li><li>• The Global Tug-of-War for Health Care Workers (December 2004)</li><li>• New Research Challenges Notion of German "Brain Drain" (August 2005)</li><li>• Brain Drain and Gain: The Case of Taiwan (September 2003)</li></ul>
<b>Spotlights:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• College-Educated Foreign Born in the US Labor Force (February 2005)</li><li>• Temporary Admissions of Nonimmigrants to the United States (July 2005)</li><li>• Foreign Students and Exchange Visitors (September 2003)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Zealand: The Politicization of Immigration (January 2003)</li><li>• Canada: Policy Changes and Integration Challenges in an Increasingly Diverse Society (November 2005)</li><li>• China: From Exceptional Case to Global Participant (April 2004)</li><li>• Australia's Continuing Transformation (August 2004)</li><li>• Germany: Immigration in Transition (July 2004)</li><li>• A New Century: Immigration and the US (February 2005)</li><li>• United Kingdom: Rising Numbers, Rising Anxieties (May 2005)</li></ul>

## Issue #9: Asylum Applications Drop Sharply

In the 1990s, rising numbers of asylum applications from the Balkans grabbed the attention of politicians and citizens across Europe. As a result, individual countries made it more difficult for migrants to claim asylum, and the European Union has harmonized the asylum process so Member States can better determine responsibility for asylum applicants.

This year, however, the asylum story was about a decrease in first-time applications — a 22 percent drop between 2003 and 2004, according to a UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report in March 2005. The cumulative fall since 2001 amounts to 40 percent.

In some countries, the decline since 2000 was particularly sharp: 87 percent in Slovenia, 78 percent in the Netherlands, 76 percent in Australia, 74 percent in Denmark, 63 percent in New Zealand, and 59 percent in the United Kingdom.

The trend was not limited to Europe. Between 2003 and 2004, the United States and Canada recorded a 26 percent decrease, and Australia and New Zealand a 28 percent drop.

The reasons for the decline include new restrictive policies in Switzerland, Denmark, and the UK designed to discourage asylum applicants, as well as interception-at-sea tactics of the United States, Australia, and Italy.

On a more positive note, the pool of people needing protection has shrunk. Refugees and internally displaced people in Africa and Asia — including Afghanistan, Angola, Liberia, and Sierra Leone — have been able to return home.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Data Tool:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analyzing Asylum Applications</li></ul>
<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drop in Asylum Numbers Shows Changes in Demand and Supply (April 2005)</li><li>Troubled Waters: Rescue of Asylum Seekers and Refugees at Sea (January 2003)</li><li>The US Refugee Program in Transition (May 2005)</li><li>Reconstructing Afghanistan: Lessons for Post-War Iraq? (April 2003)</li></ul>
<b>Spotlight:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spotlight on Refugees and Asylees in the United States (August 2005)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Switzerland Faces Common European Challenges (February 2005)</li><li>United Kingdom: Rising Numbers, Rising Anxieties (May 2005)</li><li>Austria: A Country of Immigration? (March 2003)</li><li>Colombia: In the Crossfire (November 2005)</li><li>Georgia Looks West, But Faces Migration Challenges at Home (June 2005)</li><li>Jordan: A Refugee Haven (July 2004)</li></ul>
<b>News:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>EU Sees Sharp Drop in Asylum Applications (April 2004)</li><li>Austria Adopts More Restrictive Asylum Law (December 2003)</li><li>Options Dwindle for Asylum Seekers in France (September 2002)</li></ul>

## Issue #10: Record Numbers Displaced by Natural Disasters

For many people, 2005 will be remembered for its sheer number of catastrophes. Relief efforts for victims of the December 26, 2004 Asian tsunami continued well into this year, helped by donations from Sri Lankans, Indonesians, and many others from abroad. Hurricane Katrina devastated the US Gulf Coast in August, forcing hundreds of thousands of Louisiana and Mississippi residents to find shelter in other parts of the country.

This year's severe hurricane season also took its toll on Central America as Hurricane Stan killed more than 1,100 and caused flooding and mudslides in El Salvador and Guatemala in early October. As with Hurricane Mitch, which hit the region in 1998, some believe those displaced will migrate to the United States.



In October, a massive earthquake in northern Pakistan killed at least 87,000 and left millions displaced in a disaster considered by some more distressing than the tsunami because of the remote location and the onset of winter.

The tsunami, in migration terms, affected thousands of Burmese workers, both legal and illegal, in Thailand; delayed plans of numerous governments to deport Indonesians; spurred the Canadian and Australian governments to fast-track immigration paperwork for victims; and made thousands of orphaned children vulnerable to trafficking. Development experts hope that migrants from the affected countries working and living abroad will contribute to rebuilding costs now that most relief-related needs have been met.

As with the tsunami, Pakistanis in Canada, the UK, and the United States have mobilized to provide money and on-the-ground assistance for victims. US Congressional representatives Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) and Al Green (D-TX), have sponsored a bill that would grant Pakistanis Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which would allow them to live and work in the United States until the government deems it is safe for them to return.

Shortly after the earthquake, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began providing supplies in the region, which had also been home to refugees from Afghanistan. One of the agency's missions has been constructing temporary camps for the displaced and training local military and civil officials how to manage the camps.

UNHCR, which does not normally respond to natural disasters or specifically work on behalf of internally displaced persons (IDPs), set a precedent in 2005 by first providing emergency relief in Aceh, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, among the the areas worst affected by the tsunami, and then in Pakistan. UNHCR's involvement in 2005's disasters marks a turning point for cooperation among international humanitarian agencies in addressing the needs of IDPs.

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*(Continued from page 18)*

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessing the Tsunami's Effects on Migration (April 2005)</li><li>• Minimizing Development-Induced Displacement (January 2004)</li><li>• Interview with António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (August 2005)</li><li>• UNHCR and NGOs: Competitors or Companions in Refugee Protection? (February 2004)</li><li>• The Internally Displaced in Perspective (May 2002)</li></ul>
<b>Spotlight:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spotlight on Foreign Born in Areas Affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (October 2005)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indonesia's Labor Looks Abroad (September 2002)</li></ul>
<b>Policy Beat:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aftermath of Katrina Affects Immigration Enforcement (October 2005)</li></ul>

## Migration Issues: Ones to Watch

In addition to the top 10 migration issues of 2005, we have selected three issues to watch in 2006 and beyond.

### The European Union's Membership Talks with Turkey

The UK Presidency of the European Union (EU) made Turkey's membership talks its top priority for this fall. Austria's concerns nearly derailed the process, but the decision to open talks with its neighbor Croatia removed that obstacle. After a 40-year campaign, Ankara agreed in October to the EU's terms for the talks. Still, the prospect of a large Muslim country — which sent thousands of guest workers to Europe in the 1960s and early 1970s — joining the EU has many on edge, and membership is by no means guaranteed.

- See *Turkey: A Transformation from Emigration to Immigration* (November 2003)



### Increasing Reliance on Detentions and Deportations

Detaining and deporting migrants who do not have legal status or have violated the terms of their visas has long been a tool for governments. But the use of detentions and deportations to control illegal migration in the United States, Italy, Malaysia, and most recently Morocco have led to accusations of human rights violations. The reliance on detentions and deportations — and the media attention they generate — will most likely increase in the future.

- See *US Detention of Asylum Seekers and Human Rights* (March 2005) *and*
- *Morocco: From Emigration Country to Africa's Migration Passage to Europe* (October 2005)

### Migrants Voting in Home-Country Elections

In January, thousands of Iraqis living abroad and those of Iraqi descent voted in the country's first free elections. The political influence of diaspora populations is becoming more recognized now that over 90 countries allow dual citizenship (though not all allow citizens outside the country to vote). Mexicans and Colombians in the United States may sway the outcome of elections in their respective countries in 2006.

- See *The Political Importance of Diasporas* (June 2005) *and*
- *Understanding Immigrant Politics: Lessons from the US* (August 2004)