

THE AMERICAN SEGMENT OF GLOBAL MIGRATION PROCESSES

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INTRODUCTION

Global migration processes are showing striking dynamics. From 1990 to 2017, the number of international migrants increased by 105 million, or 69%. In 2017, there were 258 million migrants worldwide, and 57% of them were moving to developed countries. In other words, every 29th person in the world is a migrant and lives outside his or her motherhood¹.

Influenced by the globalization, economic integration, scientific and technological progress the geographical flows of population movements are being transformed, number of migrants is growing; new types of migration and factors that cause it are emerging. In today's world, migration is already considered as a normal, natural process of redistribution of human capital. A particularly important role of population movements in the intellectualization of the economic potential of the world economy should be underlined.

Migration is mostly driven by economic factors, such as search of ways to improve one's well-being and the intention of finding place, where the one's labor will be used in the most efficient way. Labor as one of the most mobile factors of production, tends to center where its use will be most effective. Therefore, labor migration flows tend to be directed towards countries with high levels of productive forces development.

The American region, consisting of developed Northern America, represented by the USA and Canada, and less developed Latin America, (another approach is to divide Americas for North, including Mexico, Central and Southern parts) is an interesting study object from the point of variety of types, motives and corridors of migration. The region is characterized by significant differentiation of levels of economic development of the countries, differences in national political systems. The assessment of migration processes within the former NAFTA (followed by USMCA) will allow to reveal the effect of regional economic integration factor in the distribution of migration flows.

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *International Migration Report 2017*. URL: https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf

1. General features of migration processes in the Americas

Military conflicts, international contradictions, environmental disasters are also among the factors causing the worldwide movement of population. In the face of local military and political conflicts, or worsening criminogenic situation in certain regions of the world, the migration growth is also happening between the neighboring countries and countries, which are close in terms of development of productive forces, levels of average per capita income, or are approximated by historical and cultural characteristics.

The consequences of migration processes for hosting countries and countries of emigration also differ, as the influence of immigration on the economy of the country depends on the structure of migration flows and motives for migration. Thus, constant and relatively small-scale incoming movement of the working age population, motivated by the desire to find job and stay in the hosting country for a longer time, willingness to be integrated into a socio-economic environment of the country, can contribute to economic growth in the hosting country. It has been calculated, that increase in the foreign-born population by one percentage point elevates income per capita by approximately six percent in the long-run².

On the other hand, emigration from the country with a high unemployment level, can temporarily reduce social tension at the local labor market and increase foreign exchange earnings in the form of migrant transfers to the country. However, uncontrolled flow of youth and children (the categories that most often leave their homeland due to the political or environmental crisis), threaten the host country with destabilization of the socio-demographic situation. It may cause increased tax burden on the working population of the country, because of growing expenditures on social services, unemployment benefits, education and medicine, housing construction for immigrants. Therefore, the larger and more diverse the composition of the countries belonging to the investigated macro region, the more differences in the levels of their development – the more difficult it is to make generalizations about the impact of migration on its development, the greater are the features and differences between migration processes in certain countries.

Traditionally, Western Europe, Northern America, Australia, the Middle East's oil-exporting countries and other global or regional leaders in terms of economic and social development, are also among the major centers of gravity for migration in the modern world. The main flows of international migrants are directed to those countries, and the share of foreign migrants in the population structure is much higher than average in the world. Migrant concentration is the

² Estevadeordal Antoni. Latin America: The opportunity of migration. June 14, 2019. URL: <https://theglobalamericans.org/2019/06/latin-america-the-opportunity-of-migration/>.

highest in such countries as: the UAE in the Middle East, Gabon in Africa, in the USA in America, Switzerland in Europe, Australia in the Asia-Pacific region. As can be seen from Figure 1, the largest number of migrants in the world is coming from Asia (over 80 million), Europe (78 million), North America (58 million). Europe and North America have a positive migration balance and together host two-thirds of international migrants. The Latin American region has the largest negative migration balance among all regions of the world (over 39 million people in 2017). According to report of International Organization for Migration, with only 7.2 % of the total global population (over 550 million inhabitants in 2014), the region of North America, Central America and the Caribbean hosts about 25 % of all migrants in the world and experiences unique migratory flows³.

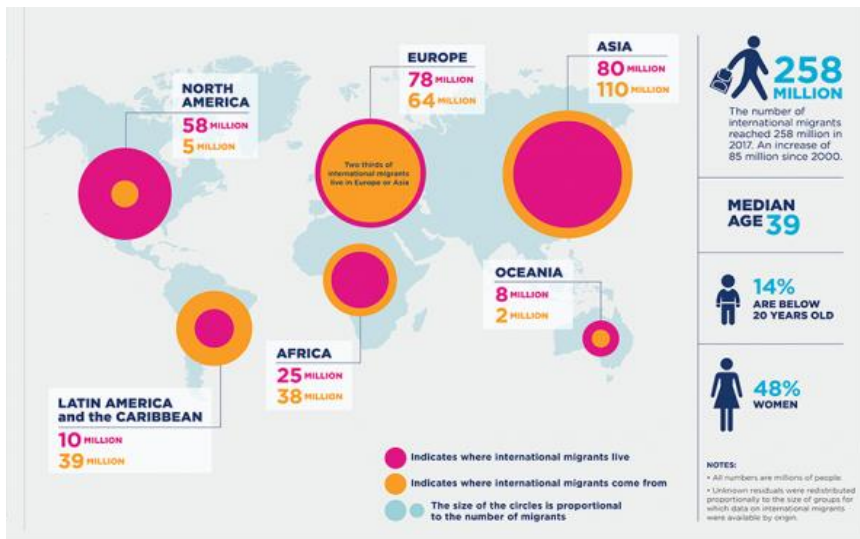


Figure 1. Number of international migrants in 2017⁴

The United States, as the undisputed economic leader of the region, is also the largest recipient of migrants in the world. In 2017, the country became a new home to 49.8 million migrants, or 19% of all migrants in the world. According to data of the US Citizenship and immigration service, more than

³ Central and North America and the Caribbean. URL: <https://www.iom.int/central-and-north-america-and-caribbean>.

⁴ International migrant stocks. *Migration data portal*. URL: <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/international-migrant-stocks>

700000 persons are naturalized in the US yearly. In 2018, the Immigration service received more than 8.7 applications from foreign citizens. Quarter of them were asking for official employment authorization (2.1 million), more than 750 000 were naturalized, and more than 1 million persons have their temporary residence approval⁵.

The methodology of the International Labor Organization examines global migration flows in the context of migrant movements:

1) According to the direction of migration between the parts of the world ‘from – to’ (North – North, South – South, North – South, South – North);

2) According to the movement of migrants between regions of the world in their different combinations (Europe-Asia, Asia-Europe, Latin America-North America, etc.).

Analysis of the data by the first approach makes it possible to determine the following breakout of migration flows within the Americas: South-South destinations account for 38% of international migrants, about 34% goes to South-North direction, 22% of migrants move from North to North, and 5% – from North to South. In addition, over a quarter of all migrants in the world accounted for North (USA, Canada) and Latin America (the rest of the countries, including Mexico). 23% of all migrants went to North America, 4% – to Latin America⁶.

Data estimation by regional migration corridors by number of migrants also shows that Latin America-North America is one of the biggest migration corridors in the world. It takes fourth position after Asia-Asia, Africa-Africa, Europe-Europe corridors. In addition, Mexico-US bilateral migration corridor is among the top 10 corridors with the highest average growth rate of migrants in 2010-2017.

Flows within the American region (Including Northern and Latin Americas) should be considered in two conditional directions in terms of the proximity of the levels of economic development of countries:

1. “Horizontal” – migration between countries, which are close in terms of economic and social development. That is, between the developed US and Canada, or between the underdeveloped Latin American countries;

2. “Vertical” – includes upward (or “bottom up” migration – migration flows from less developed countries of Latin America to the USA and Canada),

⁵ US Citizenship and Immigration Services report 2018. URL: https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/statistics/2018_USCIS_Statistical_Annual_Report_Final_-_OPQ_5.28.19_EXA.pdf

⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). International Migration Report 2017. URL: https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf

or downward (“from top to bottom”, as from the developed USA and Canada to Mexico, or to countries of Latin America).

In the case of horizontal migration between the United States and Canada, the movement of the population is mainly happens due to intellectual migration (migration of highly skilled workers, young people for the purpose of education). Horizontal migration between underdeveloped Latin American countries, in addition to economic factors, is also determined by security aspects (people are moving from regions affected by local conflicts and from areas with a negative criminogenic situation to more safe and stable regions) and ecological aspects (natural disasters).

Table 1 provides detailed information on migratory flows within the Americas (excluding small island territories). The country of origin of the migrants is delayed horizontally, while the country of destination is shown vertically. Thus, the intersection of the columns shows information on the movement of migrants from one country to another (the number of migrants from a given country of origin in the hosting country as of the end of 2017 year).

The top-10 migration corridors within the Americas (North, South, Central and Caribbean) as of the number of migrants are:

- 1) Mexico-USA (12 680 thousands);
- 2) Dominican Republic – USA (1 070 thousands);
- 3) Venezuela – Columbia (990 thousands);
- 4) USA – Mexico (900 thousands);
- 5) Canada – USA (890 thousands);
- 6) Haiti -USA (670 thousands);
- 7) Haiti-Dominican Republic (340 thousands);
- 8) USA-Canada (310 thousands);
- 9) Costa Rica – Nicaragua (290 thousands);
- 10) Chile – Argentina (220 thousands).

Within these ten corridors, the share of migrations from the USA to Canada and from Canada to the USA comprise only 7%, while migrations from the countries of South and Central America (mostly Mexico) to the developed USA and Canada – 83%, the rest migrations happen between the countries of the Central and Southern America and to Mexico. Almost 15 % of the population of North America is foreign-born. In fact, about 72 % of all migrants born in Latin America and the Caribbean reside in North America, the vast majority of which are from Mexico and Central America⁷.

⁷ Central and North America and the Caribbean. URL: <https://www.iom.int/central-and-north-america-and-caribbean>.

Table 1

Migration corridors in America, 2017 (thousands of people)

Outbound		North America			Central America							South America										Caribbean							
		USA	Canada	Mexico	Belize	Guatemala	Honduras	Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Panama	El Salvador	Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil	Venezuela	Guyana	Ecuador	Colombia	Paraguay	Peru	Surinam	Paraguay	Chile	Cuba	Dominican	Haiti	Jamaica		
North America	Inbound	890	12680	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	200	10	20	10	10	30	20	10	10	1	1	100	20	1070	670	10		
	Outbound	310	-	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	1	1	30	10	10	90	10	
Central America	USA	900	-	10	50	20	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Canada	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Mexico	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Belize	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Guatemala	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Honduras	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Costa Rica	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Nicaragua	10	10	10	10	10	10	290	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Panama	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	El Salvador	10	50	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
South America	USA	20	20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Canada	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	Mexico	20	30	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	Belize	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	Guatemala	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	Honduras	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	Costa Rica	20	70	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	Nicaragua	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	Panama	10	30	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	El Salvador	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
Caribbean	USA	1	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	Canada	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
	Mexico	10	30	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
	Belize	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
	Guatemala	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
	Honduras	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
	Costa Rica	1	20	20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
	Nicaragua	30	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			
	Panama	10	90	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			
	El Salvador	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			

Source: developed by the author from the data.

* Origins and Destinations of the World's Migrants, 1990-2017. URL: <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/interactives/global-migrant-stocks-map/>

The issue of emigration from the US is rather rarely discussed in the scientific literature, as the US is traditionally considered an a country of immigrant, leading hosting country in the world. The positive migration balance is about 47 million people (as of 2017, over 3 million Americans resided outside the United States, while nearly 50 million foreigners resided in the United States). Mexico hosts the most migrants from the developed United States and Canada – more than any other country in the region (more than 1 million Americans and Canadians lived in Mexico in 2017). Mexico has also an unofficial status of an “illegal migration corridor”, a transition point for people moving to the developed United States and Canada from the rest of Latin America.

Thus, the study migration flows in America as part of the world process should be considered in the following contexts:

- 1) Mutual migration between the economically developed US and Canada – predominantly “family” migration, including affluent families, politically driven migration, and intellectual (student and skilled);
- 2) migration in the US-Canada-Mexico triangle;
- 3) migration from Latin American countries (except Mexico) to the USA and Canada;
- 4) internal migration in the Latin American countries, and in particular – the migration crisis caused by the socio-economic crisis in Venezuela.

2. Migration in the USA-Canada-Mexico triangle

Migration flows between the US and Canada are traditionally driven by economic factors. The number of Canadian residents who move to the US almost three times exceed the number of US citizens who are migrating to Canada. The structure of American migration to Canada is stable and involves, for the most part, households which are looking for more comfortable living conditions, or have to reside in the USA due to change of place of work or for the study purposes. No language barrier, democratic migration legislation, and a supportive social environment facilitate the easy and comfortable coming of American citizens to permanent or temporary residence, work or study.

The victory of Republican D. Trump at the US presidential elections has somewhat altered the trajectory of migration between these countries and has led to a significant increase in the number of migrants from the USA. In less than a year of the Republican presidency, the number of people who left the US for Canada increased by 2000 persons. In 2017, more than 1,000 Americans received Canadian citizenship, and the number of US student visas issued by the Canadian government increased too.

Even with relatively small quantitative changes, given the overall magnitude of migration from the US, experts see it as a rather threatening trend.

Similar growth in emigration from the United States due to political motives and disagreement with the basic foundations of the policies of the newly elected president and parliament have occurred before, but it is for the first time that these processes have such a significant scale⁹.

During 2017-2018, procedures that are more complicated and more strict requirements were introduced for immigrants to the United States. That caused a significant increase in migration to Canada, mainly students and professionals from other countries who have previously studied or worked in the United States. Over 2017-2018, the number of international students in Canada has increased significantly (by 20% in 2017-2018 and by 18% in 2018-2019). The Canadian economy has received over \$ 31 billion from international students in 2017¹⁰.

Due to the introduction of harsh measures in the US migration policy, the new type of migrations – so-called “technical refugees” or high-tech visa applicants appeared in Canada. Those are foreign high-skilled workers who have been previously working for US companies in the US, and were forced to leave work because of a legal requirement or lack of favorable conditions for their families at the USA territory. Instead, American companies, reluctant to lose skilled workers, offer them jobs at their offices in Canada, where they may apply for citizenship and family benefits in the nearest future.

US companies are expanding their presence in the Canadian market so that they can easily hire skilled workers from other countries. Sixty-three percent of employers surveyed in the Envoy study are increasing their presence in Canada, either by sending more workers there or by hiring foreign nationals there. More than half of those did both. Another 65 percent of hiring professionals said Canada’s immigration policies are more favorable to US employers than US policies. Of those surveyed, 38 percent are thinking about expanding to Canada, while 21 percent already have at least one office there¹¹.

The share of Canadian citizens in the overall immigration structure to the US is only 2%, and their number has remained virtually unchanged for almost 40 years. However, the USA remains the main migration corridor for Canada¹².

The USA is an undoubtable global and regional immigration center. The U.S. foreign-born population reached a record 44.4 million in 2017 (Figure 2).

⁹ About 2,000 more Americans than normal have moved to Canada since Trump’s election. *Global news*. URL: <https://globalnews.ca/news/4396938/move-to-canada-donald-trump/>

¹⁰ Top ten origin countries of international students at year’s end in Canada in 2017. Statista. URL: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/555132/top-10-origin-countries-of-international-students-at-years-end-canada/>.

¹¹ Canada is becoming a tech hub. Thanks, Donald Trump! URL: <https://www.vox.com/2019/3/19/18264391/us-tech-jobs-canada-immigration-policies-trump>

¹² Alperin E., Batalova J. Canadian Immigrants in the United States. Migration Policy Institute. URL: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/canadian-immigrants-united-states>

Since 1965, when U.S. immigration laws replaced a national quota system, the number of immigrants living in the U.S. has more than quadrupled. Immigrants today account for 13.6% of the U.S. population, nearly triple the share (4.7%) in 1970. However, today's immigrant share remains below the record 14.8% share in 1890, when 9.2 million immigrants lived in the U.S.¹³

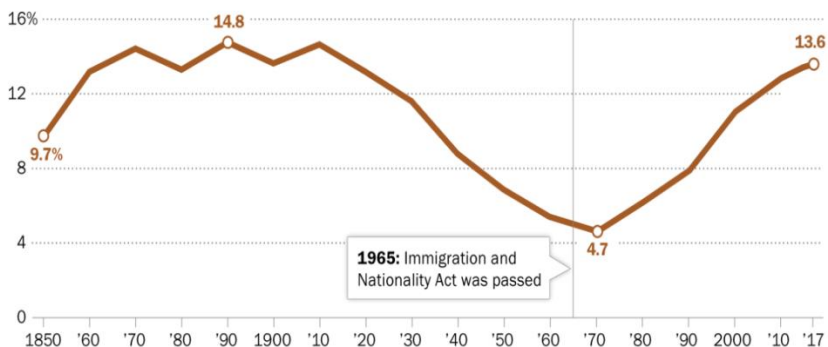


Figure 2. Immigrant share in the USA population, 1850-2017, %

Source: Radford Jynnah. Key findings about U.S. immigrants (2019)

The dynamics of migration to the United States over the past half century indicates significant changes. First, the geographical structure of immigration has changed. Whereas in 1960, the majority of migrants came from Europe and neighboring Canada (83%), now 77% are Latin American and Southeast Asian nationals. Second, the duration of immigrant stay in the United States has increased. In 2017, 72.2% of immigrants had lived in the U.S. for over 10 years, up from 56.2% in 1990 (but similar to the share in 1970). An increase in this figure correlates with an increase in the share of children born by migrants in the general population of the country, which is now 12% (according to the forecast, it will be 18% in 2050). The level of English proficiency of migrants at a level sufficient for professional communication remains at the level of 1990th (only every second migrant is fluent in English), and 43% of immigrants in the US are Spanish. At the same time, the increase in the education level of migrants is a positive trend. About 17.8% of immigrants over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree (compared to 13.7% in 2000), and 13.4% have a master's and doctoral degree.

¹³ Radford Jynnah. Key findings about U.S. immigrants. Pew Research Center. URL: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/17/key-findings-about-u-s-immigrants/>

Though there is almost no detailed statistics available on the reasons why people are migrating to the US, the enquiries show that the improvement of financial situation remains the main reason for moving to the USA for 55% of respondents, while for 24% of them reunification with family is the goal¹⁴.

Canada, the second largest economic development in America after the United States, and is unique in terms of migration trends and migration policy. With the number of immigrants per capita being more than three times higher than in the USA, the country is much more loyal in the attitude of citizens to migrants, and the population growth which is reached mostly due to migrants, is not considered by the government as a negative trend. Canada's population grew by 168,687 in the second quarter of 2018, of which 82 %, or 138,978, was attributed to international migration. As can be seen from Figure 3, migration growth has far exceeded Canada's natural population growth since 1998.

The Government of Canada is considering immigration as a mayor driver of economic growth. Inbound migrations is seen as a way to tackle the problem of aging of population. Through governmental migration assistance programs, Canada intends to increase the worker-to-retiree ratio. The government creates favorable conditions for the arrival and employment of migrants in those professions whose shortcomings are most obvious (in the fields of health care, trade, science and maintenance). Canada has the highest migrant naturalization rate in the world – more than 86% of those applying for citizenship receive a positive response. In addition, effective policy migration has resulted ensuring the uniformity of migrant displacement. While in 1997 most (90%) of economic migrants were concentrated in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, currently the share of other regions as centers of migrant residence reached 40 %¹⁵.

At the same time, Canada has a much lower level of illegal border crossings. Undoubtedly, the absence of a direct land border with Latin American countries and the the US serving as a “filter” to illegal border crossings are the obstacles to illegal migration.

Since Canada has less vulnerable borders, it has not had anywhere near the difficulties with irregular migrants. It is only recently, because of Trump's intention to send illegal immigrants home, that Canada is now seeing more than 50,000 asylum seekers illicitly crossing into Canada each year, mostly via a rural road in Quebec¹⁶.

¹⁴ Radford Jynnah. Key findings about U.S. immigrants. Pew Research Center. URL: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/17/key-findings-about-u-s-immigrants/>

¹⁵ Annual report to Parliament on Immigration 2018. URL: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/annual-report-2018.pdf>.

¹⁶ Smith, Stephen. International migration to Canada reached record levels in second quarter of 2018. *Canada immigration newsletter*. September 27, 2018. URL: <https://www.cicnews.com/>

Among the reasons why Canada has no significant problems with illegal migrants compared to the US are the particularities of regulating inward migration. Unlike the United States, where the President is unable to address the major issues of migration restriction alone without the consent of parliament, the prime minister of Canada has “virtually unimpeded in ruling on immigration totals and student and worker visas... Canadian immigration policy is unusual because it’s dominated by the government and civil servants. The public is rarely engaged in meaningful ways”¹⁷ help create jobs in all countries of the Union, will reduce the level of illegal migration from Mexico to the United States.

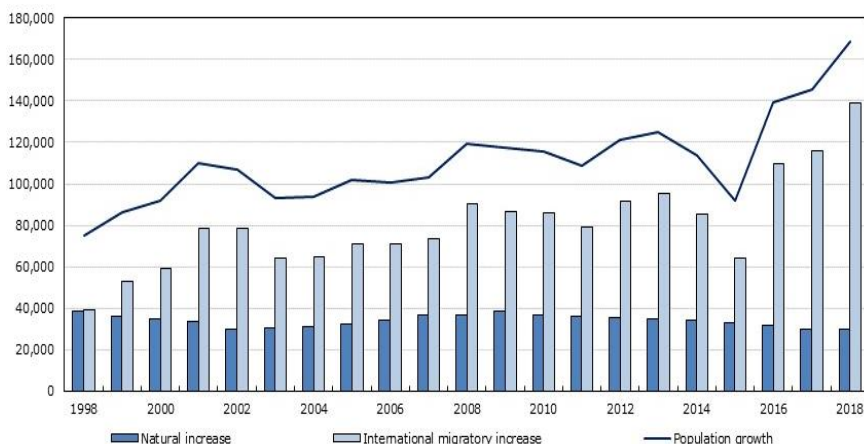


Figure 3. Factors of population growth in Canada, 1998-2018¹⁸

The assessment of migration processes in America should take into account the impact of the conditions created by the NAFTA agreement. Yes, the purpose of the union was to abolish tariffs on mutual trade between the US, Canada and Mexico, liberalize trade in agricultural products, textiles and cars, protect intellectual property rights, introduce labor and environmental

2018/09/international-migration-to-canada-reached-record-levels-in-second-quarter-of-2018-0911230.html#gs.6eau54

¹⁷ Douglas Todd: Canada vs U.S. on immigration: Five differences, five similarities. URL: <https://vancouver.sun.com/opinion/columnists/douglas-todd-whats-different-and-similar-in-canada-and-u-s-immigration-policy>

¹⁸ Smith, Stephen. International migration to Canada reached record levels in second quarter of 2018. *Canada immigration newsletter*. September 27, 2018. URL: <https://www.cicnews.com/2018/09/international-migration-to-canada-reached-record-levels-in-second-quarter-of-2018-0911230.html#gs.6eau54>

standards. It was expected that the intensification of investment activities, expansion of production facilities will US government concludes significant losses to the US labor market through the action of the agreement and initiates the revision of the agreement. To confirm such a negative impact the US government shows that trade deficits with Mexico had eliminated 682,900 good U.S. jobs, most (60.8%) in manufacturing, as jobs making cars, electronics, apparel and other goods moved to Mexico, and job losses piled up in the United States, especially in the Midwest where those products used to be made. Moreover, despite the expected decrease in immigration, the situation went opposite: while in 1990 only 4.5 million Mexican migrants were living in the U.S, by 2008 the number reached 12.67 million, which is roughly 9% of Mexico's total population. This was due, inter alia, to the introduction of a wide variety of types of work visas in the United States¹⁹. Other reasons for the increased migration from Mexico to the United States include the bankruptcy of more than 2 million Mexican farmers due to their inability to compete with highly efficient and heavily subsidized U.S. agriculture²⁰.

With regard to Canada, the agreement had no significant impact on migration processes in the country, as trade liberalization facilitated the expansion of Canadian exports to the United States and job creation.

On April 18, 2017, President Trump signed the Buy American and Hire American Executive Order, which seeks to create higher wages and employment rates for U.S. workers and to protect their economic interests by rigorously enforcing and administering our immigration laws. However although the terms of the agreement were revised under the “Buy American and Hire American” idea, the Article 16 of the USMCA (NAFTA 2.0) concerning the granting of temporary work permits to migrants in the Union countries (TN Visa) remained unchanged. At the same time, the United States has taken a number of measures aimed at stabilizing the job cuts and encouraging US companies to hire Americans and expand production without moving it to Mexico. Thus 40% to 45% of car and truck parts have to be made by workers earning at least \$16 an hour. The goal is to level the playing field between American and Mexican autoworkers and to incentivize manufacturers to build more in the United States. The deal also mandates that 75% of a vehicle's parts must be made in North America, up from the current 62.5% rule. Trump's administration argues that this will help incentivize billions in new auto sector production in the USA²¹.

¹⁹ NAFTA, the Cross-Border Disaster. URL: <https://prospect.org/article/nafta-cross-border-disaster>

²⁰ McBride J., Sergie M.A. NAFTA's Economic Impact. *Council on Foreign Relations*. October 1, 2018. URL: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/naftas-economic-impact>

²¹ What's new in the US, Canada and Mexico trade deal? URL: <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/10/01/politics/nafta-usmca-differences/index.html>.

3. The threats of migration crisis in Latin America

The problem of migration from Central and South America is another aspect of migration processes in the Americas. It is one of the most discussed topics in the circle of national governments and international organizations. Experts say that the growth of migration processes within the region and the reduction of migration to the main recipients of migrants from Latin America – the US and Spain, occurred against the backdrop of the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, when these developed countries somewhat lost their “attractiveness” for immigrants. The crisis drove increases in intraregional flows and in these conditions, the more developed and stable countries in the region have improved their economic situation due to the influx of migrants from neighboring countries. In the case of Central America, poverty is a major factor in emigration, especially in Honduras and Guatemala, whose poverty rates stand at 74% and 68%, respectively. The extreme vulnerability – particularly in rural areas – to climate events such as hurricanes, earthquakes and droughts, relatives residing and in other countries of the region are also contributing factors to intraregional migrations in America. Nearly 82% of migrants from NCA countries (“Northern Central America (NCA)” refers to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) have family members in the United States, providing networks that support migration)²².

There is migration toward countries with better economic development like Argentina, Chile, and to a lesser extent towards Brazil, because of the language. In the Colombian case, migration has slowed down, at least theoretically, due to the recent peace agreements, which are somewhat being undermined. Moreover, there is still a robust internal migration flow within the region, particularly involving countries like Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. In 2017, 16% of emigrants lived in other Latin American-Caribbean countries, down from 26% in 1990. Argentina was the top destination country for this group of emigrants, with 1.8 million people from other Latin American countries living there in 2017, up from 830,000 in 1990²³.

Since 2015, migration processes in Latin America have become threatening, and the current stage of these processes is defined as a crisis. Central American countries are among the poorest in the world, while the United States is one of the richest countries with the largest economy in the world. Thus, according to the World Bank data, over 60% of Honduras's

²² Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). *Atlas of migration in Northern Central America (LC/PUB.2018/23)*. Santiago, 2018. URL: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44288/1/S1801071_en.pdf

²³ Latin America, Caribbean no longer world's fastest growing source of international migrants. *Pew Research Center*. JANUARY 25, 2019. URL: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/01/25/latin-america-caribbean-no-longer-worlds-fastest-growing-source-of-international-migrants/>.

population lives below the poverty line. One in five lives in poverty for about \$ 1.90 a day. Poverty levels are also rising in the other two countries – Mexico and El Salvador. They are also the main sources of migration to the United States, but in these countries this index is much lower – approximately 40% of people live below the poverty line²⁴.

Thus, the largest number of migrants (legal and illegal) go to the United States. Although, according to the US Border Patrol, the overall number of detained migrants entering the country annually has dropped significantly (from 1,600,000 people in 2000 to 400,000 in 2018, see figure 4), illegal migration through the South from Mexico and Central America is considered to be the greatest threat for the country’s security. The lowest level of illegal migration was recorded in 2017 after the presidential election was won by D. Trump, known for his anti-migration rhetoric.

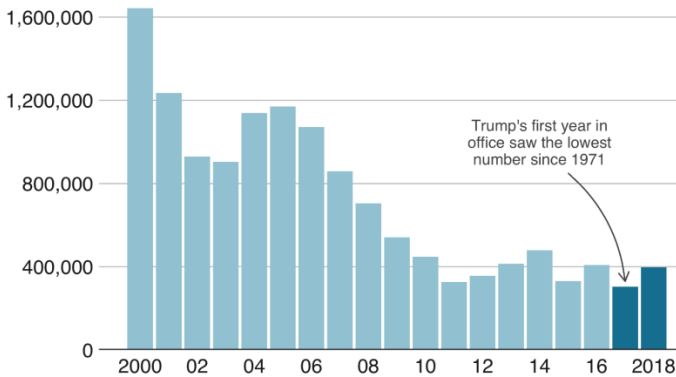


Figure 4. Apprehensions on US-Mexico border (2000 -2018), number of migrants²⁵

According to US Border Patrol data, it has made 593,507 southwest border apprehensions from October 2018 to June 2019, which is almost twice more than in the previous US fiscal year (303,916). The number fell dramatically in President Trump's first year but rose again last year. The number of migrants apprehended at the border surged in May to the highest level since 2006, with 132,887 detained – including 11,507 unaccompanied children. It was the first time that detentions had exceeded 100,000 since April 2007.

²⁴ Міграційна криза в США: пояснюємо, що відбувається. URL: <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/features-44572475>.

²⁵ Is there a crisis on the US-Mexico border? URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-44319094>

The migration in Venezuelan case is the most urgent problem in America and world as well. Venezuela is suffering from an acute socio-economic crisis. According to the Central Bank of Venezuela, hyperinflation in 2018 amounted to 130,000%, while GDP decline was 23%. Most people (64.3%) had lost weight in 2017 – 11.4kg on average, with the poorest losing most²⁶.

The economic crisis that began in 2012, deepened after the election of President Nicolas Maduro, and was also connected with the fall of in oil prices, which is a major part of the country's exports. The short-sighted position of the country's leaders in public finances, including the increase in government spending on social goals, together with declining export earnings, has worsened all macroeconomic indicators.

Between 10 and 12 % of Venezuelans currently live abroad in more than 90 countries. Traditionally, the majority were in Colombia, the United States and Spain – but Peru has seen the biggest influx since 2015²⁷. Figure 5 shows the mayor migration flows from Venezuela.

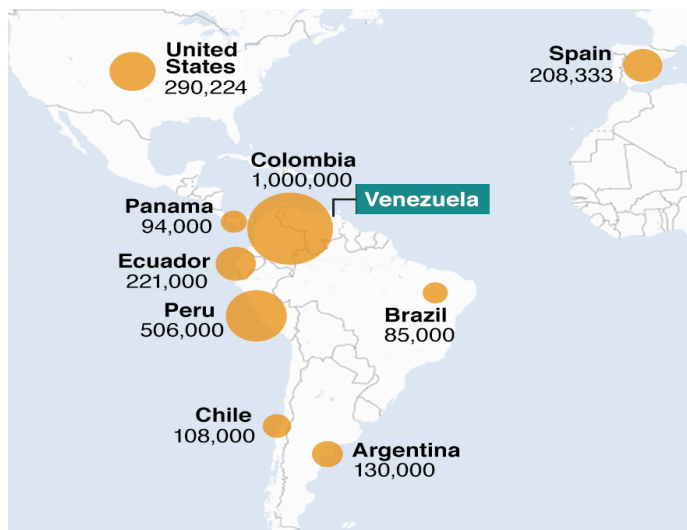


Figure 5. Main destinations for Venezuelan migrants in 2018²⁸

²⁶ Venezuela: All you need to know about the crisis in nine charts. URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46999668>.

²⁷ How the Venezuelan migration crisis affects South America. URL: <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/americas/how-the-venezuelan-migration-crisis-affects-south-america>

²⁸ Venezuela: All you need to know about the crisis in nine charts. URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46999668>.

Thus, as of August 2018, 2.3 million Venezuelan people resided abroad, and by June 2019, this number had already increased to 4 million. Colombia hosted 1 million Venezuelans at the end of 2018, 221,000 persons were temporarily staying in Ecuador, 506,000 in Peru²⁹.

No more than 40% of Venezuelans outside the country have legal status or are registered as refugees, the rest are staying at the territories of other countries illegally. Until recently, neighboring Peru, Ecuador and Colombia favored refugees and allowed them into the country by internal passports. However in the summer of 2019, the governments of the country imposed stricter requirements for migrants to cross their borders.

In the context of relatively stable migration movements within Latin American countries, the influx of skilled workers into their countries contributes to their economic growth. On the contrary, in case the spontaneous flow of migrants who are now leaving Venezuela, the socio-economic tensions in the host countries are increasing and there is a real threat to their stability and safety. The negative impact of the Venezuelan migration crisis on Colombia is estimated at \$1.5 billion, which is 0.5% of the country's GDP. According to the World Bank report, the cost of additional education, health, water, early childhood, humanitarian, employment, and institution building services resulting from migration from Venezuela is estimated at between 0.2% and 0.4% of Colombia's GDP. This data will certainly increase given the growing number of persons leaving Venezuela³⁰. Similarly, the government of Bolivia predicts that properly addressing the Venezuelan migrant situation will take about \$550 million, or 0.5 percent of the countries annual GDP from 2019 to 2021³¹.

The influx of refugees from Venezuela to other Latin American countries may have negative effect on the economic growth of hosting countries in the future. Therefore, the countries targeted by the major refugee flows from Venezuela are taking an active position in resolving the crisis and expressing support at the level of governments and international organizations. In this regard, the consequences of the migration crisis are considered in the short and long term and the solution of problems should be sought in two ways. On the one hand, the internal economic, social and demographic situation in countries with a threatened state of emigration should be stabilized in order to slow it

²⁹ Rocio Cara Labrador. The Venezuelan Exodus. July 8, 2019. URL: <https://www.cfr.org/article/venezuelan-exodus>

³⁰ Axel van Trotsenburg. Facing an Unprecedented Migration Crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean. URL: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2019/03/29/america-latina-y-el-caribe-frente-a-una-crisis-migratoria-sin-precedentes>

³¹ Estevadeordal A. Latin America: The opportunity of migration. June 14, 2019. URL: <https://theglobalamericans.org/2019/06/latin-america-the-opportunity-of-migration/>

down. On the other hand, the prevention of the negative impact of immigration on host countries and the integration of refugees into national social systems should be addressed.

Migration risks in the region are also exacerbated by the fact that the region is one of the most unsustainable in environmental terms. In the close time of 20-30 years, according to the UN estimates, Latin America may face environmental migration. By 2050 in the face of overall increase in environmental migration, the displacement of the population due to unfavorable environmental conditions in the place of permanent residence may reach the volumes of labor migration. Thus eight countries in the region, seven in Central America and the Caribbean (Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic) and one in South America (Guyana), are amongst the 25 countries most at risk of natural disasters. It is predicted, that changes in demographic trends will continue to incentivize migration from countries with higher fertility rates and a growing workforce, to countries with relatively older populations and labor market deficits³².

The issue of migration in Latin America is no longer regarded as a regional problem and is becoming the subject of debates, issue for funding programs by specialized organizations and agencies. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), as of February 2019, the country's economic and social crisis had led to the exodus of 3.4 million persons. Therefore, the magnitude of this crisis makes it the second biggest globally after the Syrian crisis³³.

Migration in Latin America is also considered in the context of achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals – infrastructure, justice, poverty, hunger, equality between men and women, water, energy, employment, innovation, and peace. In particular, SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) is very relevant for migrants because cities and communities could develop a more welcoming environment for migrants, open to integration. Also goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and goal 17 (partnerships for the goals) are very important when it comes to migration³⁴.

The deployment of the Syrian and Venezuelan crises has divided the world community into two camps. The result of such polarization were seen at the adoption of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular

³² Estevadeordal A. Latin America: The opportunity of migration. June 14, 2019. URL: <https://theglobalamericans.org/2019/06/latin-america-the-opportunity-of-migration/>

³³ Axel van Trotsenburg. Facing an Unprecedented Migration Crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean. URL: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2019/03/29/america-latina-y-el-caribe-frente-a-una-crisis-migratoria-sin-precedentes>

³⁴ Drivers of migration in Latin America. URL: <https://www.caritas.eu/drivers-of-migration-in-latin-america/>

Migration (GCM), aimed at ensuring the safe, orderly and humane movement of people around the world. At the first stage of its adoption, the United States was the only country that did not agree to develop the text of the Agreement and discuss it. However, at the time of the final adoption of the treaty in December 2018, only 164 countries have endorsed the document at the UN General Assembly. According to the supporters of the Compact, who are basing from existing visions and estimates of the impact of migration on host countries, migration will facilitate the economic development of host countries due to the youth immigration; “rejuvenate” the structure of the hosting population. At the same time, the economies of countries of origin will be “supported” through money transfers made by migrants to their native countries.

Representatives of the countries opposed to the Compact (Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Latvia, Poland, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, Ukraine) expressed fear that the implementation of the measures envisaged treaty may stimulate a new wave of migration, threatening peace and sovereignty of the host countries. Among the countries surveyed in the American macro-region, only the US and the Dominican Republic have declined the pact. It should be noted that both countries are currently facing the flows of illegal migrants from neighboring less developed countries (most migrants to the USA are coming from Mexico, while a great number of people coming to Dominican Republic are the citizens of Haiti).

CONCLUSIONS

The population of America (the America’s) is just over 18% of the world's population, with migrants from the region making up 16% of the total international migrants. At the same time, the United States, belonging to the investigated here part of the world, is the country with the largest migrant population in the world of about 50 million foreigners. The US government, both at the level of internal decision-making and in dealing with the world community, argues that the influx of migrants poses a real threat to the national economy, denying participating in the drafting of a UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. On the contrary, the neighboring Canada sees the international migration as a driver of further economic growth and actively supports immigration at the level of government programs.

The situation with the movement of the population in the poorest Latin American countries differs from the above. If, in relatively developed Mexico, emigration is largely economic in nature, then in the current political and economic crisis of Venezuela, the population movement already has a humanitarian motives – escape from persecution, famine, inhumane living

conditions. The mentioned migration crisis in terms of the level of danger and the attention of the world community to it equates to the Syrian one and threatens the neighboring countries, which have so far freely and voluntarily received refugees from Venezuela, with significant economic losses. Like the Syrian one, it cannot be resolved without eliminating internal economic threats in the country. The flow of refugees will continue unless the economic situation within the country will be stabilized and the consequences will certainly go much further across the borders of the region.

SUMMARY

The paper deals with the problem of intraregional migration in the Americas, including migration within the USA-Canada-Mexico triangle under the influence of NAFTA agreement, upward migration from less developed countries of Latin America to the USA and Canada and horizontal regional migration between the countries of Latin America. Special attention is granted to the study of migration policy of the USA and Canada, as well as to policies of Latin American countries, which are suffering from the flow of refugees of Venezuelan migration crisis.

The study shows that migration processes in the North America and the Latin America have different factors and outcomes. While the USA is struggling against the illegal migration from Mexico, Canada is approving most of the applications regarding the citizenship and is using migration as an instrument of economic growth. It is also found that the regional crisis in Venezuela is influencing the attitude to migrants in the global society.

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