



THE 2015 NATIONAL INTERNAL MIGRATION SURVEY

@ UN Viet Nam/Aidan Dockery

Fact sheet 1: Key findings

This factsheet provides some key information on internal migration in Viet Nam based on the data analysis from the National Internal Migration Survey conducted in 2015. The factsheet also provides some policy recommendations that aim to take advantage of the benefits of migration for socio-economic development in Viet Nam, as well as ensuring migrants' rights to access basic social services in destination areas.

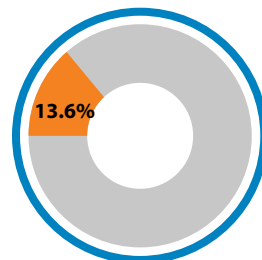
Migration is indispensable to the development process. It creates better economic and educational opportunities for migrants that contribute to improvement in the quality of life for them and their families. It contributes not only to economic growth of the destination location but also sets challenges for the development of appropriate, evidence-based policies to make sure migration contributes to the development of individuals, community and the entire society.

The 2015 National Internal Migration Survey was conducted to provide information on the current situation of migration in Viet Nam, including trends and differentials by socio-economic characteristics. Information collected in this survey is an important source for policymakers and managers as they formulate socio-economic development policies that take into account migration in general, and policies for migrants in particular.

MAJOR FINDINGS

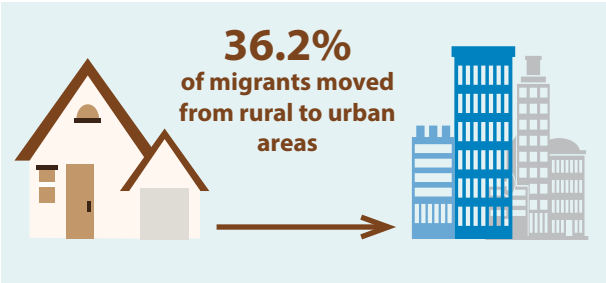
1. Internal migration accounts for a considerable percentage of total population

13.6% of the population are migrants



The survey results show that 13.6 per cent of the total population (around 12.4 million out of total 91 million people) had migrated in the last five years (2010-2015). Of those aged 15 to 59, migrants¹ account for 17.3 per cent nationally. That percentage can be further distilled to show that 19.7 per cent of the urban population and 13.4 per cent of the rural population are migrants, respectively.

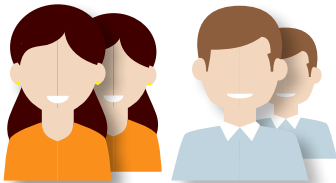
2. Migration from rural to urban areas contributes considerably to urbanization



Among four migration flows (rural-urban, urban-rural, rural-rural, and urban-urban), the rural-urban flow accounts for the largest proportion (36.2 per cent), which is three times as high as the flow from urban to rural (12.6 per cent). Particularly in the North Central and South Central Coast Areas and the Mekong River Delta, the rural-urban flow is five times as high as the urban-rural flow. Obviously, internal migration is an important demographic factor leading to change in population structure in both urban and rural areas, as well as in promoting the development of urban areas.

3. Migrants are mainly young people

The majority of migrants are between the ages of 15-39 (accounting for 83.9 per cent of total migrants in the age group 15-59). A relatively large number of young migrant laborers increases the percentage of young people in the workforce of big cities. Migrants are mainly young people who are either students or those seeking jobs and tend to delay marriage until later ages, thereby reducing the percentage of married migrants (56 per cent) as compared with that of non-migrants (71 per cent).



83.9% of migrants are aged between 15 and 39

4. The trend of “feminization of migration”

The percentage of female migrants among all migrants aged 15 - 59 is 52.4 per cent. Male migrants make up 47.6 per cent, which confirms an ongoing trend of the “feminization of migration”, as noted in previous studies on migration.

The feminization of migration are also reflected in sex ratio of migrants aged 15-39 and 40-

44, with sex ratio less than 100, meaning that the number of male migrants is fewer than the number of female migrants.



Male migrants: 47.6%



Female migrants: 52.4%

5. Employment/economy are the most important reasons leading to migration

Job seeking and economic improvement are the most important determinants that make people decide to move, accounting for the largest share of around 34.7 per cent. The same pattern is observed in both male and female migrants as well as in all regions (with the exception of the less economically developed regions -- North Central and South Central Coast areas and the Central Highlands). The percentage of men becoming migrants for employment and economic reasons (38.4 per cent) is 7 percentage points higher than the rate for female migrants. Other reasons associated with education or family account for a lower rate of around 25 per cent.

“Currently, in my home town, my daily wage for construction work ranges from VND 170,000 to VND 180,000. So, I can earn VND three million per month if I work 20 days. If I work in another place, I can easily earn VND five million. Therefore, I have to move. Of course, I have to accept being away from my wife and kids. I think everyone wants to live near his wife and kids”.

(Male migrant to urban, Hai Duong province)



@ UN Viet Nam/Aidan Dockery

6. A higher percentage of migrants compared to non-migrants have educational attainment and professional or technical qualifications

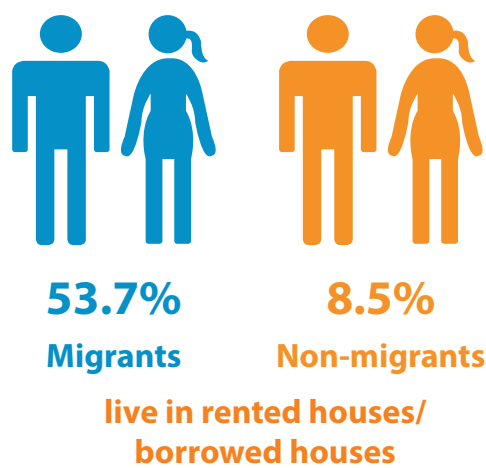
Migrants	31.7% have professional or technical qualifications
Non-migrants	24.5% have professional or technical qualifications

The percentage of migrants who have an education at a high school or a college/university level or higher is relatively high at 27 per cent and 23.1 per cent, respectively while the same figure for non-migrants stands at 18.2 per cent and 17.4 per cent respectively.

The percentage of migrants who have professional or technical qualifications is 7.2 percentage points higher than the rate of non-migrants. There is an insignificant difference in the percentage having professional or technical qualifications between male and female migrants.

7. Living conditions of migrants are likely limited compared to non-migrants

The majority of migrants report that they are satisfied with their lives after migration. The living condition of migrants is similar to non-migrants in terms of using clean water, having access to the grid power for lighting and having hygienic toilets. However, in comparison with non-migrants, dwelling and household facilities of migrants are likely limited.

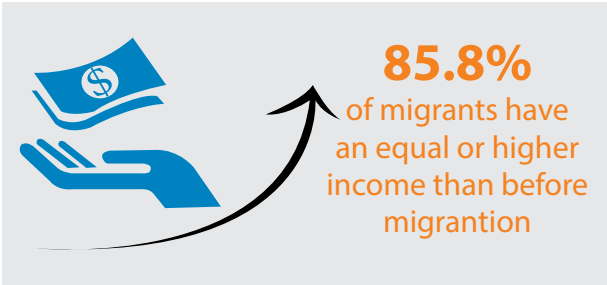


The percentage of migrants living in rented/ borrowed houses is 53.7 per cent, which is six times as high as the rate of non-migrants (8.5 per cent). The highest percentage observed is in the

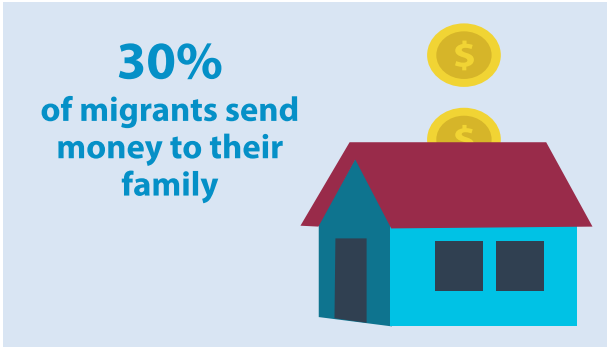
Southeast (81.5 per cent), which attracts a large number of migrant workers to industrial zones.

Approximately 18.4 per cent of migrants have, on average, a very small living area that is less than six square meters. This percentage is over three times higher than that of non-migrants (5 per cent).

8. Income of migrants is improved after migration



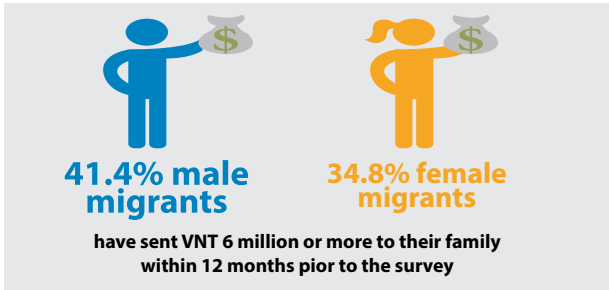
Generally, the average monthly income of migrants is slightly lower than that of non-migrants (VND five million versus VND 5.4 million). Male migrants have higher income (VND 5.5 million) than female migrants (VND 4.5 million). All migrants to urban areas have higher income than those who migrate to rural areas (VND 5.3 million per month versus VND 4.6 million per month).



The survey results show that nearly 30 per cent of migrants sent earnings back to their families within 12 months prior to the survey. Accordingly, the average remittances from one migrant to his or her family household are VND 8.3 million per year. The remittances sent by male migrants are more than that of female migrants (VND 9.4 million versus VND 7.5 million). Additionally, the percentage of male migrants sending an amount of remittances of VND six million and above is higher than that of female migrants (41.4 per cent versus 34.8 per cent). Most remittances sent by migrants are spent on the daily living expenses of their families rather than on production or business expansion.



@ UN Viet Nam/Aidan Dockery



“I can earn more than VND 5 million a month, and I give my mother VND 4 million. My younger brother earns VND 4 million, half of which he gives our mother. In total, we give her VND six million a month”.

(Male migrant, urban, Hai Duong province)

9. Challenges of migration

31.1% migrants report that they face difficulties in destination areas and 42.6 per cent of those state that they have housing problems. The percentage of migrants to the Central Highlands who face difficulties account for 60.6 per cent. When facing these situations, migrants seek assistance from their families rather than from local government.

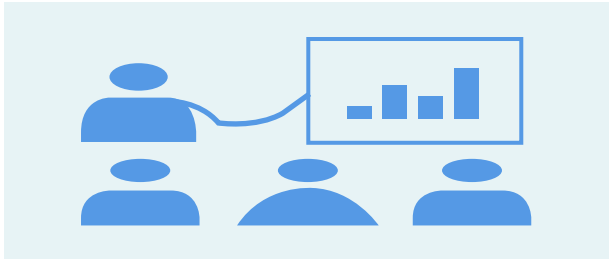
Over 40%

migrants live in less than ten square meters of living space per person, whereas only 16 per cent of non-migrants do so.



13.5%

migrants do not have temporary residence/absence registration. The most frequent reason provided for not registering is that the task is deemed “not necessary”.



13.4% migrants have school-aged children (aged 5 -18) who do not attend school. This percentage among non-migrants is only 5.5 per cent. Economic difficulties are key reasons causing migrants’ children not to attend school.

67.6% migrants have health insurance. This percentage is equivalent to that among non-migrants. The percentage of female migrants with health insurance (69.8 per cent) is higher than that of male migrants (64.8 per cent). Thus, one third of migrants who do not have health insurance face a serious challenge when paying a substantial portion of their budget for health services due to illness.



@ UN Viet Nam/Aidan Dockery

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 **Integrate migration into socio-economic development policies and plans at the national and sub-national levels**

Migration is indispensable for the development process. Therefore, as socio-economic policies and development plans are being formulated for each region and locality, it is necessary to take migrant populations into account to ensure that optimal use is made of migration for development and that there is an appropriate response to migration status in localities that ensures the right to equality in access by migrants to basic social services (housing, education, health, loan, etc.). Moreover, budget allocations for localities need to account for all migrants, including those with temporary residence, rather than concentrating only on residents with permanent household registration.

2 **Enhance sustainable development programmes, infrastructure investment, job creation; improvement of people's living conditions and the environment, especially in rural areas.**

- These activities contribute to reduce gaps between rich and poor, and the living

conditions between urban and rural areas. This will contribute to lessen pressure on the migration flow from rural to urban areas and, at the same time, redirect migration patterns (instead of migration from rural to cities, there can increase migration from rural to towns and small urban centers).

- Although migration is important to the development process, it also puts increasing pressure on infrastructure and services in big cities. Therefore, besides making urban planning and management policies appropriate with the trend and pace of the development of each locality, the capacity of local government needs to be improved to support to overcome initial difficulties in their destinations.

3 **Strengthen communication and advocacy activities to raise awareness among society and authorities at all levels to have a positive view of migration and to reap the benefits offered by migrants**

- It is necessary to continuously raise the awareness of decision makers on policy and development plans regarding impacts of migration, so as to reach a consensus and engender a positive view of migration that will better inform the development of evidence-based, migration-related policies.

4 Continue to provide updated information and evidences on internal migration as basis for the formulation of socio-economic development policies and other relevant policies

- Further migration-related information should be added in national surveys (such as the Population and Housing Census, Labour Force Survey, and Household Living Standard Survey) to enable in-depth analysis on migration status in Viet Nam, types of migration, including short-term and temporary migration, and impact factors.
- It is necessary to conduct in-depth analyses on migration, especially the impact of environmental change on the movement of populations and issues related to the disadvantaged situation of migrants as a basis for policy making in relevant fields. These fields include social policies, employment opportunities, housing status and health care of migrants.
- It is also necessary to integrate the internal migration survey into the list of national surveys, so that an information source on migration is always updated and available to inform the work of management and policymaking.

REFERENCE

1. General Statistics Office and United Nations Population Fund (2016). "The 2015 National Internal Migration Survey: Major Findings". News Agency Publishing House.
2. General Statistics Office and United Nations Population Fund (2016). "The 2015 National Internal Migration Survey: Key Indicators".

Note:

In this survey migrants are defined as people who have moved from one district to another district in the five years prior to the survey and who meet one of the following three conditions:

- a. *Have resided in their current place of residence one month or more;*
- b. *Have resided in their current place of residence for less than one month but intend to stay for one month or more;*
- c. *Have resided in the current place for less than one month but within the past one year have moved from their usual place of residence to another district with the accumulated period of time of one month or more to earn a living.*

The survey focuses on migrants and non-migrants aged 15-59



General Statistics Office

54 Nguyen Chi Thanh, Dong Da, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Tel: 84-24-7304 6666 - Fax: 84-24-7307 7997
Website: <https://www.gso.gov.vn>
Email: dansolaodong@gso.gov.vn



United Nations Population Fund

304 Kim Ma, Ba Dinh, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Tel.: 84-24-3850 0100
Fax: 84-24-3726 5520
Website: <http://www.vietnam.unfpa.org>