

MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION IN VIET NAM

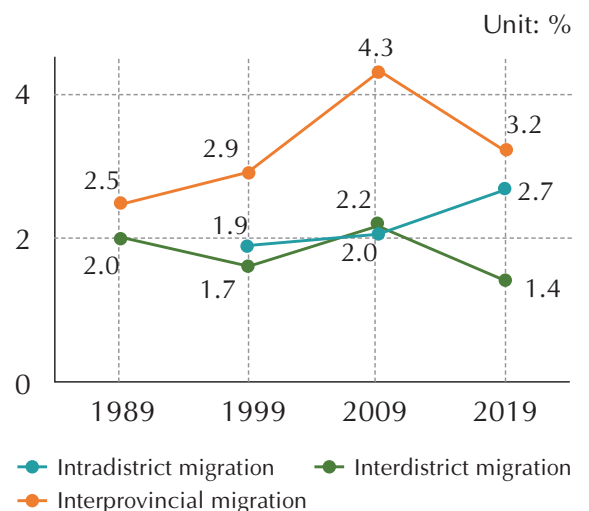
This factsheet provides key findings on internal migration in Viet Nam based on the data analysis from the Population and Housing Census 2019. The factsheet also provides some policy recommendations that aim to take advantage of the benefits of migration for socioeconomic development in Viet Nam, as well as ensuring migrants' rights to access basic social services in destination areas.

KEY FINDINGS

1 Nationally, there are 6.4 million migrants aged 5 and over, accounting for 7.3% of the total population

Although the population has constantly increased, migration has shown signs of decreasing in both quantity and proportion. All three types of migration (intradistrict, interdistrict and interprovincial migrants) recorded an upward trend in the period from 1989 to 2009, but in 2019, the interdistrict and interprovincial migration decreased both in number and in proportion, while intradistrict migration remained an increasing trend. Thus, it can be seen that in the context of narrowing migration, migrants also tend to choose their destinations within their range and familiarity.

Figure 1: Rate of migrants by types of migration, 1989 - 2019

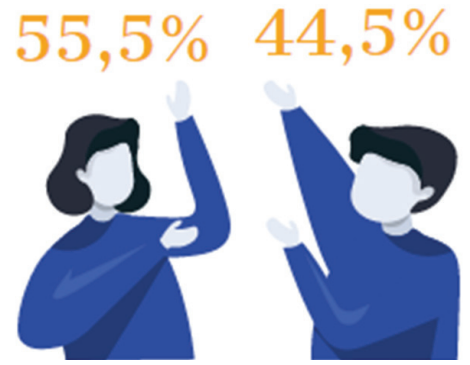


2 Central Highlands shifted from in-migration to out-migration; Red River Delta and South East have the highest in-migration rate

In the 1999 and 2009 Censuses, the Central Highlands and South East were two in-migration regions. However, in 2019, the Central Highlands shifted to become an out-migration region; the Red River Delta and the South East have the highest in-migration rate. The South East continues to be the most attractive destination for migrants with 1.3 million persons. Twelve out of 63 provinces and centrally-run cities recorded positive net migration rates. Binh Duong is the province with the highest positive net migration rate (200.4%) while Soc Trang is the province with the highest negative net migration rate (-75.0%).

3 Females account for a higher share than males in the total migrant population

Females still account for a higher share than males in the total migrant population, but this difference is gradually adjusted for equilibrium. While the proportion of female migrants increased gradually in the period 1999 to 2009, this rate in 2019 witnessed a downward trend as the proportion of male migrants increased. According to the 2019 Census, women accounted for 55.5% out of the total migrant population and men made up 44.5%.

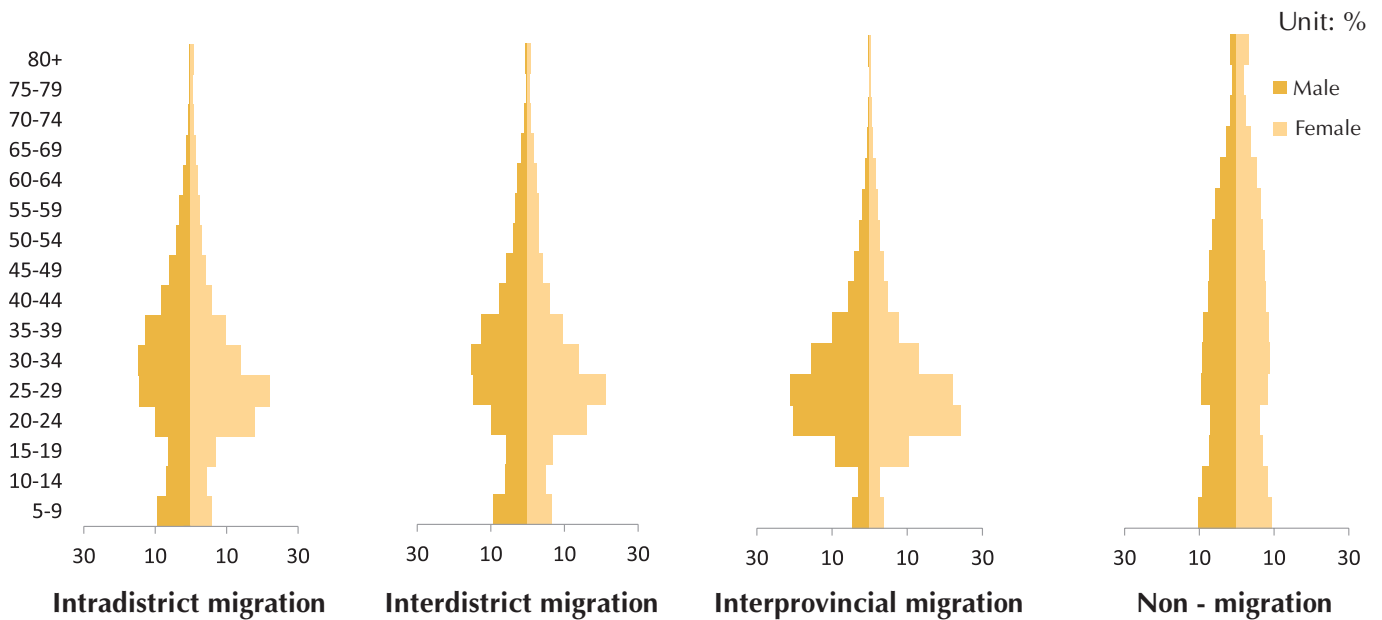


The majority of migrants were concentrated in younger age groups

About 61.8% of total migrants were in younger age groups (aged 20-39 years old). This is nearly double the rate of non-migrants in the same age group (33.2%). The median age of migrants is 28 years old, which means half of the migrant population is less than 28 years old, while the median age of the non-migrants is 31 years old. Compared with 2009, the median age of both migrants and non-migrants has increased.

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Figure 2: Population pyramids by types of migration and non-migration



5 Migrant children are more disadvantaged than non-migrant children in accessing lower secondary and upper secondary education

The proportion of migrants aged 11-18 years old attending school in 2019 is higher than that in 2009 for all types of migration. This finding indicates improvements in access to education of this young migrant group. The proportion of the migrant population aged 11-18 attending school (for all types of migration) in 2019 is lower than that of the non-migrant group. While 83.9% of the total number of non-migrant children aged 11-18 attended school, only 55.7% of inter-provincial migrant children in this age group attended school.

Figure 3: Percentage of migrant and non-migrant children aged 11-18 attending school, 2009-2019

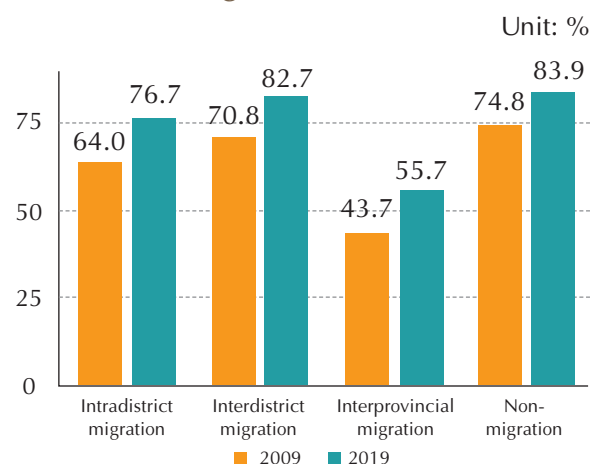
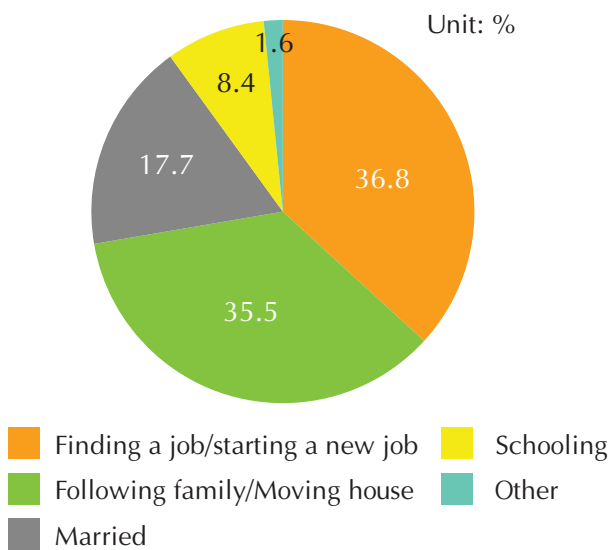


Figure 4: Reasons for migration



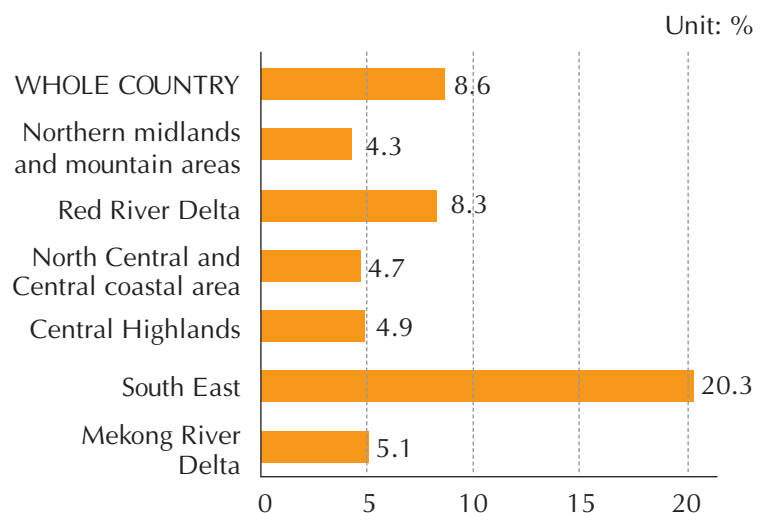
6 Employment or moving to a new place/family are the main reasons for migration

Employment (seeking a job/starting a new job) or moving to a new place/family are the main reasons for migration, according to 36.8% and 35.5% of respondents, respectively. The South East region attracts more migrants for employment-related reasons (50.3%) than any other among the country's six socioeconomic regions, showing that job opportunities here remain a great attraction, consistent with past findings.

7 Migrants make up 8.6% of the total labour force in the country

The South East records the highest proportion of the migrant workforce in the country (20.3%), while the lowest share is in the Northern midlands and mountain areas (4.3%). Although the proportion of males in the labour force in Viet Nam is higher than that of females (52.7% compared with 47.3%), the proportion of female migrants in the labour force is much higher than that of male migrants (53.4% compared with 46.6%).

Figure 5: Rate of migrants in the labour force by socio-economic region



8 Nearly half of migrants must rent and/or borrow houses for living

In general, housing conditions are better for migrants than non-migrants because the majority of migrants go to urban areas. The proportion of migrants living in non-permanent or simple houses is only 2.8%, while this rate among non-migrants is 7.3%. However, the per capita housing area of the migrants is lower than that of the non-migrants (21.9m² per person and 25.4m² per person, respectively). Nearly half of migrants must rent and/or borrow houses for living and most do so from the private sector.

9 Nationwide, there are 39.4 million persons living in urban areas, equivalent to about 40.9% of the country's population



There is a strong relationship between migration and urbanization. Migration (only immigrants) accounts for 12.3% of the urban population or 4.9 million persons. Administrative factors also contribute to urbanization and account for 26.4% of the urban population or 10.4 million persons.

10 Great immigration pressure on the cities

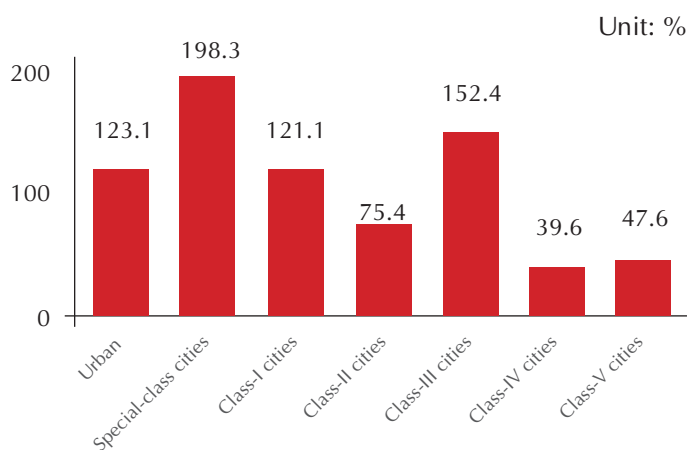
Immigration pressure on jobs, housing and social security is highest in the special-class cities of Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City. There are nearly 200 immigrants per every 1,000 people living in the special-class cities, 2.7 times higher than the national average and 5.3 times higher than that of the rural areas.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Socioeconomic development policies, strategies, regional and local development planning and schemes need to take into account the migrant population in relation to urbanization to promote the best contributions of the migrants to the development of out-migration and in-migration locations as well as ensure interests for migrants and their families. Budget allocation for localities should be linked to the number of inhabitants actually residing in localities, including temporary inhabitants.
- 2 Strengthen provision of advisory services, reproductive and sexual healthcare and life skills appropriate for abundant young migrants in in-migration areas, especially migrant women of reproductive age.
- 3 Social security policies need to support migrants with access to forms of social housing and access to education for their children, especially lower and upper secondary education, to enable migrants to settle down and build their lives. There should be policies to prioritize support for women in job creation and vocational training to gradually reduce the unemployment rate of females and increase the proportion of female workers in skilled jobs.
- 4 In addition to investment in big cities to response to pressure caused by migration on urban infrastructure development and social services, it is necessary to have appropriate investment policies for small cities and rural areas in order to create a balanced development position, and reduce pressure on big cities in solving issues of employment and social security.
- 5 Continue conducting thematic surveys on migration to collect sufficient information about the different migrant population groups, including short-term migrants, in order to serve the need for planning and policy formulation for this population group.

Note: The 2019 Census in particular collected information about usual residence 5 years ago and compared this data with their currently usual residence to determine cases of migration within 5 years from the time of the survey. No information on other short-term migrant groups was collected.

Figure 6: Immigration rate by types of city



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