

According to the International Organization for Migration, 2.9 percent of the world's population consists of people living away from the country in which they were born – double the percentage of four decades earlier.

Is that good news or bad news? Depends on how you look at it. Most of the movement was almost certainly motivated by economic push and pull. But the welcome the migrants get plainly varies – consider the difference between Canada or Australia on the one hand, and Saudi Arabia and Germany on the other.



What is clear, though, is that the money they send home has made a world of difference for families and communities. Think Jordan, El Salvador or the Dominican Republic. And in some cases, it has fundamentally altered the prospects for economic development. Think India or Mexico.

FOREIGN-BORN, YEAR 2000

COUNTRY	NUMBERS (MILLIONS)	% POPULATION
USA	35.0	12
Russia	13.3	9
Germany	7.3	9
Ukraine	6.9	14
France	6.3	11
India	6.3	1
Canada	5.8	19
Saudi Arabia	5.3	26
Australia	4.7	24
Pakistan	4.2	3

RECORDED MIGRANT REMITTANCES, YEAR 2000

COUNTRY	REMIT. (\$ BILLIONS)	% GDP
Jordan	1.9	22
Yemen	1.4	14
El Salvador	1.8	13
Jamaica	0.8	11
Dominican Republic	1.8	9
Ecuador	1.1	8
Sri Lanka	1	7
Morocco	2.1	7
Bangladesh	2	4
Egypt	3.8	4