


Trends in International Migration in OECD countries: overview and challenges

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Migration regimes in OECD countries : Contrasts

- « Green card » permanent residence systems vs temporary permit systems
- Selection by national administrations vs selection by employers
- Free movement vs controlled movement
- Main focus of entry policies => an aside 
 - Work (Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom)
 - Family (United States, France, Netherlands)
 - Humanitarian (Sweden)
 - « Ethnic » (Germany, Hungary, Poland, Czech and Slovak Republics)



« Non-discretionary » immigration

- Immigration that countries have to accept because of international conventions or treaties or recognised human rights
 - The right to marry or adopt persons from other countries
 - The right to live with one's spouse and children
 - The right to seek refuge from persecution (Geneva Convention)
 - The right to free movement (European Union treaty)
- Excluding free movement => about 0.1 to 0.2 % of total population

What percentage of migrants do receiving countries choose to admit?

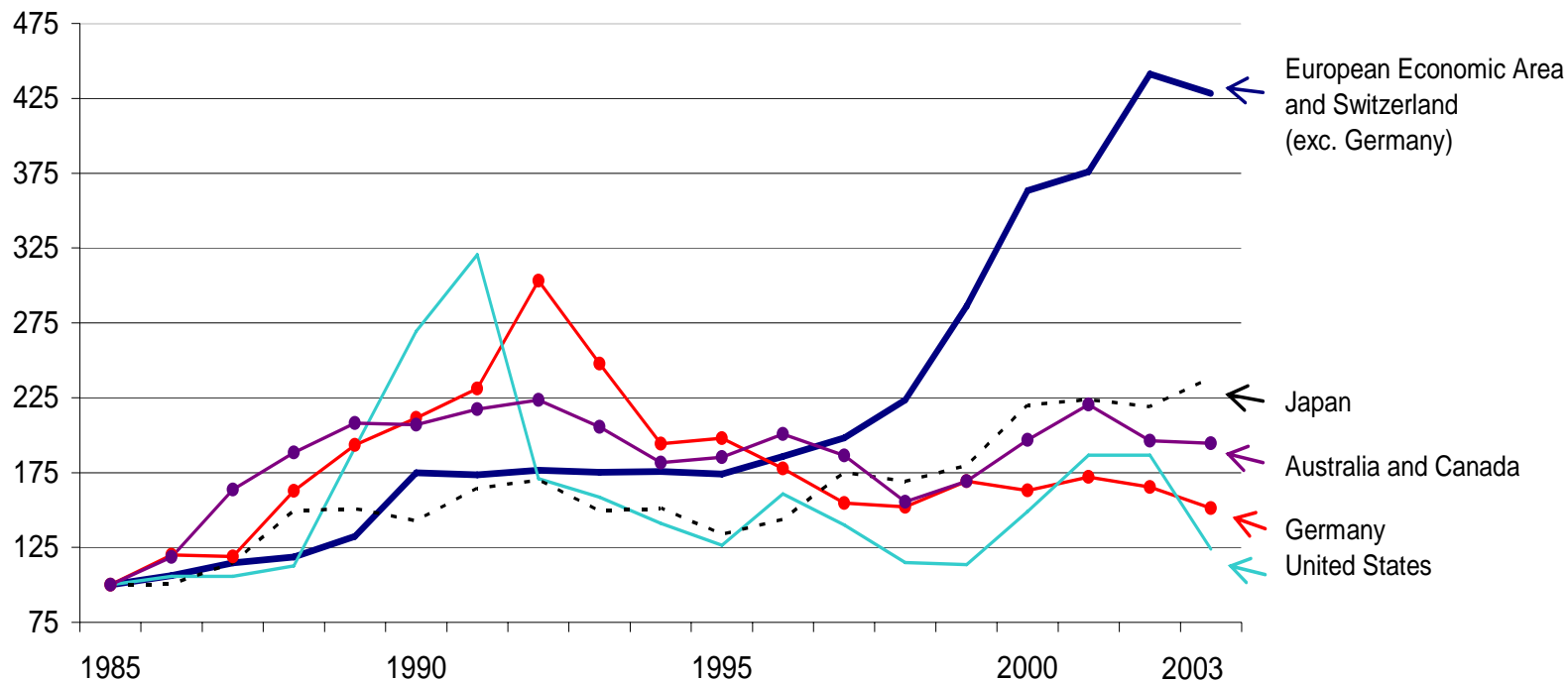
2003 data	Total	Of which:	
		Work or settlement and accompanying family	Family migration (non immediate family)
Canada	72	55	10
France (2002)	17	5	5
Sweden	5	1	0
Switzerland	65	55	0
United Kingdom	45	38	3
United States	61	12	32



Background

The past two decades have witnessed some ups and downs with respect to migration flows in many OECD countries/regions.

Inflows of foreigners in selected OECD countries,
1985-2003, 1985=100



Many OECD countries have immigrant populations as large as (relatively) if not larger than that in the United States

(2000 round of censuses)	Foreign persons	Foreign-born persons
Switzerland	20.5	22.4
Canada	5.3	19.3
Germany	8.9	12.5
United States	6.6	12.3
Sweden	5.3	12.0
France	5.6	10.0
United Kingdom	4.5	8.3



Some developments in OECD countries

- Little worker migration into continental Europe
- High (irregular) migration into southern Europe
- High overall migration levels in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland
- Fall in asylum seekers
- Increase in international students

The United States is not among the countries admitting the most people (in percentage terms)

2003 (« Permanent » immigration)	Number of persons (thousands)	As a percent of total population
United States	706	0.24
Canada	221	0.70
United Kingdom	218	0.37
France (2002)	152	0.26
Australia	148	0.74
Switzerland	80	1.09
Sweden	41	0.46

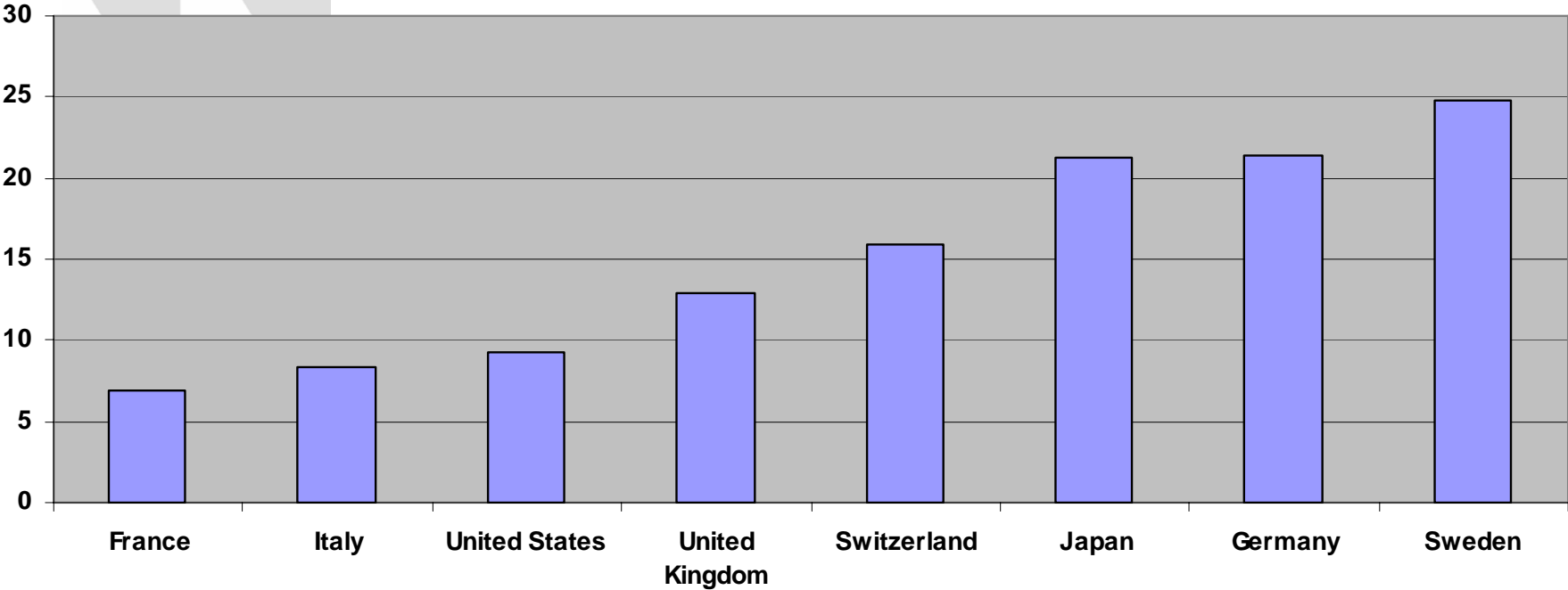
Broader developments in OECD countries

- Demographic imbalance
 - Low fertility rates in OECD countries
 - Heavy « pressure » from developing countries
 - High contribution of immigration to population growth
- Strong demand from employers for workers (?) 
- Integration not going as well as it used to
 - For the migrants themselves 
 - For their children : big problems in many European countries
 - Greater tendency to « recruit from inside »



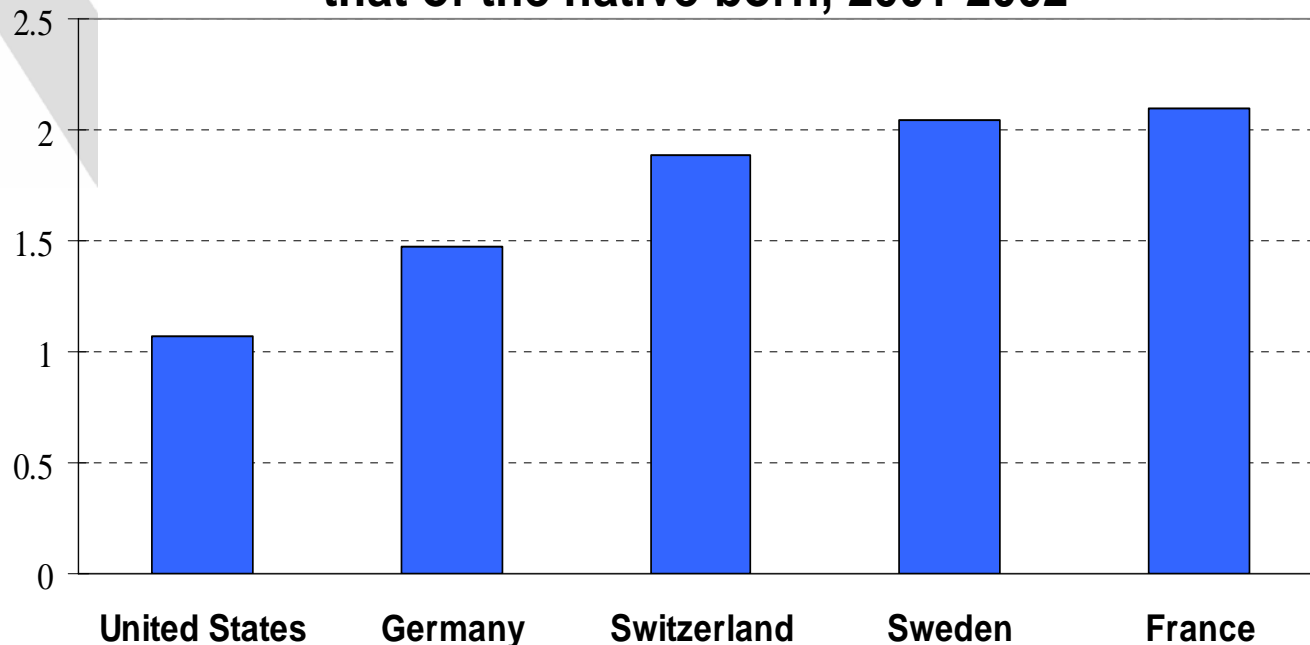
Retiring baby-boom workers are going to be more numerous than young people entering the work-force.

Per cent by which the labour force 45-54 exceeds the potential labour force 15-24, 2002.







In most OECD countries, particularly so in Europe, immigrants are more subject to unemployment than the native-born

Unemployment rate of foreign-born relative to that of the native-born, 2001-2002



Broader developments in OECD countries

- Everyone wants high-skilled immigrants
 - Brain drain issues 
 - Medical personnel
- But reluctance to admit low-skilled
 - Long-term employment prospects problematic
 - Upward mobility of second generation not good in many countries
 - But undocumented migration common and largely for low-skilled jobs 
- Nature of intake varies across countries 
- Question: Does a national consensus exist over increased immigration levels? 

Expatriation rates

2000 round of censuses Country of birth	Percent of all native-born tertiary graduates living in (other) OECD countries
Jamaica	72.6
Haiti	68.0
Mozambique	52.3
Ghana	31.4
India	3.4
China	2.6
United States	0.4



Undocumented migration – some indications of numbers across countries

- Japan – double-card system => 220K
- Netherlands (capture re-capture method) => 120K-180K
- Italy – 2002 legalisation => 635K (4 years)
- Spain – 2005 legalisation => 700K (4 years)
- United States – INS estimate => 7M in 2000
 - Also double-card system but ineffective



Percent of migrants and non-migrants with tertiary qualifications

	Native-born resident population	Foreign-born population	Native-born expatriates
Canada	32	38	41
France	17	18	36
Germany	20	16	30
Korea	27	32	44
Sweden	23	24	40
Switzerland	18	24	37
United States	27	25	51

Migration towards OECD countries

2000 round of censuses	Percent of expatriates with tertiary qualifications
Nigeria	57
India	54
Egypt	53
Malaysia	53
South Africa	51
United States	51



For more information

– Trends in International Migration 2004

– <http://www.oecd.org/els/migration>

