



International
Labour
Organization

► ASSESSMENT OF LABOUR MIGRATION STATISTICS

SYRIA

Country Profile

To be read with Tables 1, 2a, 2b and 3
28 February 2022

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It was estimated in mid-2014 that Syria was hosting about 627,000 non-Syrian international migrants.¹ However, since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict in 2011, international and Syrian organisations’ focus is more on the 6.7 million internally displaced persons and 6.6 million refugees from Syria worldwide, of whom 5.7 million registered with UNHCR.² Before the war in 2010, Syria was already perceiving itself as a country of origin for nationals migrating for employment abroad, not as a destination country, due to the limited job opportunities available and the high levels of unemployment affecting the country.³ Syria, nonetheless, was hosting about 1.2 million refugees before the war, mostly from Palestine⁴ and Iraq, as well as 75,000 to 100,000 African and Asian domestic workers.⁵

I. Syria’s statistical apparatus and major sources of immigration data

The statistical history of Syria dates to the 1960s. Population censuses were conducted in 1960, 1970, 1981, 1994 and 2004. The civil registration system was also consolidated since its first inception under Ottoman rule and put under the responsibility of the Civil Registration Office of the Ministry of Interior. In 2009, the coverage of births registration was estimated at 98 per cent (75 per cent only for deaths).⁶ However, since the outbreak of the war, no survey operations covering the whole of the territory could be conducted.

The **Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)** is the statistical agency responsible for the gathering of "information relating to economic, social and general activities and conditions" in Syria. The CBS is answerable to the office of the Prime Minister and is administered by an administrative council headed by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs.

Censuses were conducted on a decennial basis between 1960 and 2004, which supplied basic information on international migration to Syria. Census 2004 de facto excluded most Iraqi refugees.⁷ A special processing of the data collected during 1994 and 2004 censuses tackled non-Syrian residents’ basic socio-demographic and employment characteristics, as well as place of residence and ownership of agricultural land (Table 1, lines 10-11). However, regarding migration, the focus of the census was mostly on Syrian expatriates abroad, who could be mobilised to send remittances and invest in the country’s development process. Data was collected from household members left behind (no indication of interviewee’s kinship or other ties with Syrian expatriates).

The CBS has been conducting Labour Force Surveys since the 1960s, on an annual basis during the 2000s (Table 1), as well as other household surveys since the 1990s.⁸ A Rapid Assessment of the situation of Iraqi refugees was allegedly conducted in the framework of a Family Income and Expenditure Survey in 2003-2004 (no information available), and basic demographic data on Iraqis were also collected during Syria’s Family Health Survey of 2009-2010. However, no data is systematically collected on foreign households’ characteristics in the framework of the CBS’s survey programme. Although household surveys’ samplings claim to be nationally and sub-nationally representative of the total resident population and do not mention an exclusion of non-nationals from the sample, the Labour Force and other Household Surveys do not break down their sample according to the nationality of the head of household or household members. No questions tackle international migrant workers (Table 1). Labour Force Surveys collected information on Syrian emigrants abroad from household members left behind, as well as on return migrants (year of departure, country of emigration, number of months spent in emigration, occupation before last emigration). However, no results were published on return migrants, which suggests that their numbers were too small to offer consistent estimates.

During the 2010s, the CBS reprocessed some administrative data from the Ministry of Interior on border crossings, but data on labour and residency permits remained unavailable to the public.

The CBS conducted a “Population status survey” in 2014 with the **Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR)**, an “independent, non-governmental, and non-profit think tank, which undertakes public policy-oriented research to bridge the gap between research and [the] policy making process” in Syria.⁹ Due to the war context, the survey could not be conducted through direct interviews, but had to rely on key-informants in each of the 698 “areas of interest” comprising

1 Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR). Forced Dispersion: A Demographic Report on Human Status in Syria, SCPR, 2016, p. 54.

2 <https://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html>.

3 Maldaon, I. “The Role of Labour Administration in Labour Migration in Syria”, Proceedings of the ILO Conference: Labour Administration and Labour Migration, May 2007. (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/230823411_Labour_Administration_and_Labour_Migration_in_Syria).

4 Most of whom were born in Syria and consequently, not migrants,

5 Mehchy, Z. and Doko, A. M. “General Overview of Migration into, through and from Syria”, CARIM Analytic and Synthetic Notes, 2011/41, 2011.

6 United Nations Statistics Division, Demographic Statistics. Status of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics: ESCWA region, CRVS Technical Report Series, Vol. 1, March 2009, pp. 56-58.

7 In view of the numbers of the aggregated category of “non-Palestinian Arabs” (88,000 individuals) recorded during census 2004, which is nowhere near the estimated 500,000 to 1.4 million Iraqi refugees at the time in Syria.

8 https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Country_Dashboard/SYR.html#GoTo1.

9 <https://www.scpr-syria.org/who-we-are/>.

the sample, distributed throughout the country. Migration-related questions included geographical distribution and migration status of population inside Syria (internally displaced persons (IDPs), foreign residents); key population demographic characteristics; and economic status and employment opportunities, economic activities, and main sources of income (Table 1, line 18). The results of the Population Status survey are not available to the public. However, the SCPR conducted its own processing of the common fieldwork’s collected data. The SCPR’s report “Forced Dispersion: A Demographic Report on Human Status in Syria” is the only available source on Syria’s demographic features since the onset of the conflict. Expectedly, the report’s focus was on refugees abroad and on IDPs, but an estimate of the number of non-nationals in Syria could be drawn from the survey (see introduction).

Other available sources of information on migration in Syria include the **General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR)**, in charge of registering Palestinian refugees residing in Syria.¹⁰ The large majority of Palestinian refugees in Syria are not migrants (born-abroad).¹¹ Unlike Jordan or Lebanon, where Palestinian refugees are the responsibility of security-oriented Ministries of Interior, Syria’s GAPAR operates under the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The Palestinian refugees registered as residents in Syria are exempted from the mandatory residence permit, issued to foreign residents by the **Immigration and Passport Directorate** of the **Ministry of Interior**. Palestinians registered in Syria are equally exempted from a work permit to work in Syria. The work permits are issued to foreign nationals by the **Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA)**. The delivery of the work permit is conditional on the registration of foreign workers employed in the private and domestic sectors with the **Insurance Fund of the General Association of Social Affairs (GASA)**, which covers against employment injuries. The registration with GASA is mandatory and applies similar conditions and protection to Syrian and foreign employees.

Tables 1, 2a, and 2b indicate the paucity, and even absence, of data available on international, labour migration and return migration to Syria. Migration-related core indicators¹² on stocks and flows are not available either (Table 3). The lack of data on migration is not a consequence of the Syrian conflict and the subsequent impossibility for the CBS to conduct field surveys. Most items of data collection on migrants’ stocks, defined as minimal by the ICLS 2018 Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration,¹³ are not collected and have not been made available since census 2004. Administrative sources on residence and work permits are not processed for public use in Syria.

II. Methodologies, classifications, and definitions: compliance with ICLS Guidelines, and limitations

Methodologies

The underrepresentation of Iraqi residents in the census of 2004 suggests that field surveys, even before the war, suffered sampling issues. As observed in the previous section, administrative data are not used in Syria, in parallel to field surveys, for mutual adjustment of the two types of sources.

The onset of the Syrian conflict surely disorganised the collection of administrative and civil registration data. However, experts’ analyses on the characteristics of labour migration regulations in Syria were emphasizing the large gap between the numbers of work permit holders and actual foreign workers during the 2000s in Syria. This was due to Ministry of Labour’s lack of means to enforce labour laws, as well as to a lenient law enforcement during inspections.¹⁴ Syria did (does) not have a defined migration policy either.¹⁵ Moreover, Syria’s Arabist stance granted Arab countries’ citizens visa-free entry to Syria and opened the way to large inflows of de facto refugees from Lebanon, Iraq and other countries since the 1970s. This explains Syrian authorities’ relative tolerance vis-à-vis the insertion of foreign, and especially, Arab workers in the informal labour market. Similarly, no attempts were made, to regulate the scale of cross-border labour circulation between Syria and Lebanon, and between Syria and Jordan.¹⁶

10 Palestinian refugees in Syria are also registered by the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), a UN body dedicated to Palestinian refugees that operates in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria.

11 Tiltne A.A. (ed.). Palestinian Refugees in Syria: Human Capital, Economic Resources and Living Conditions, Fafo Report 514, 2007.

12 ILO, 2018, §40 and 41.

13 ILO. Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration, 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva, 10-19 October 2018, ICLS/20/2018/Guidelines, §46.

14 Maldaoun, 2007.

15 Maldaoun, 2007.

16 In 2011, it was estimated that half of the 1.5 million workers making up Lebanon’s labour force were non-Lebanese, of whom 300,000 to 400,000 were Syrian workers (Longuenesse, E. “Travailleurs étrangers, réfugiés syriens et marché du travail au Liban”, Confluence Méditerranée, n°92, mars 2015, <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-01464087/document>).

Classifications

Syria has been using international classifications regarding the labour force's occupation, activity, and education levels (ISCO, ISIC and ISCED). However, Syrian statistical operations usually use outdated versions of these classifications. The Labour Force Surveys, for instance, use ISIC Rev3 to classify activities (Table 1, col. E). Syria also enforces ILO definitions regarding employment and unemployment.

Definitions

- ▶ In Syria, like elsewhere in the region, naturalisations are rare. Moreover, the birth right for citizenship and maternal transmission of citizenship do not apply in Syria, like in most countries in the region. This has a major implication as regards the consistency of concepts and definitions used in Syria with those of the ILO. International migrants are referred to as “non-Syrians”; yet, this category is not consistent with the concept of international migrant as defined in the ICLS Guidelines 2018 (§13), which “include[s] all those residents of a given country who have ever changed their country of usual residence.” Indeed, a share of the foreign residents, born in Syria but not naturalised, are not “migrants” according to the UN definition, which takes as a criterion the change of usual residence. Children of a foreign father and a Syrian or a foreign mother, for instance, are unduly counted as migrants. As we have seen, this is particularly salient in the case of Palestinian refugees. In 2001, only 27,000 first-generation Palestinian refugees were living in Syria.¹⁷
- ▶ Nonetheless, migrants (non-nationals) in Syria are also labelled “residents” (muqimîn), which suggests that Syria does not reject the fact of immigration, like, for instance, the Gulf states. This specifically applies to Arab nationals and has to do with the Arabist/Baathist stance of the country, which theoretically aimed to grant all Arab nationals the right to free circulation, residence, and work in any country in the region.

III. Coherence/ discrepancies between sources of data

No data is available to assess discrepancies between sources.

IV. Suggestions for improvement of the data and indicators

The conflict created an upheaval in the distribution of the Syrian population on the Syrian territory and abroad, as well as in the migration dynamics to and from Syria. The ongoing conflict is an evident obstacle to the conduct of field work in Syria. Some parts of the country are not under the control of the government. Nonetheless, some surveys were conducted in recent years (Labour Force and Multipurpose Demographic and Social Survey, Table 1). One suggestion would be to make the results, documents and metadata of these surveys, and upcoming ones, available to the public, even if assessing their quality and coverage is impossible, in the current conditions.

¹⁷ Tiltne, 2007.

► Table 1: SYRIA. Sources of statistical data on migration and work migration to Syria and their characteristics (as of 30/09/2021)

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Data collection							
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method	Primary source of information (if administrative records)
Stocks	Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)	Housing and Population Census 2004	field survey	Basic characteristics of population, national level: - Population by educational status, marital status, age group, nationality, marital status - Syrian emigrants by sex, age, highest educational achievements, country of current residence, year of departure, reason for leaving Syria - Labour force (10 years and more) by educational status, occupation, work status, activity, sector, type of workplace - Unemployed population by educational status, marital status, age group, nationality, etc.	approx. 10 years (1960; 1970; 1981; 1994; 2004)	interviews with questionnaire	
		Rapid Joint Assessment of the Situation of Iraqi Refugees in some areas of Damascus and its environs: Family Income and Expenditure Survey 2003-2004					
		Non-Syrian resident population and their characteristics	exploitation of censuses 1994 and 2004	demographic and socio-economic characteristics of non-Syrian residents	2007	extraction from Censuses 1994 and 2004	
		Family Health Survey 2009-2010	field survey	Characteristics of individuals and households, migration characteristics of Iraqi households some housing characteristics and environmental	2009-2010		
		Population Report 2010					
		Labour Force Survey	field survey	No question on nationality of head of household or household members. On emigrants from Syria: sex, year of departure, reason for leaving, education level; main occupation before leaving; work status before emigrating/after emigrating	annual (2001-2007; 2011-2012); bi-annual (2008-2010); annual? (2013-2019?) Multipurpose Social and Demographic Survey used as a source for 2017-2018 LFS.	Direct interviews 65%; telephone interviews: 35%	
		Multipurpose Demographic and Social Survey	field survey	Household questionnaire INCLUDES NON-SYRIANS?	2017	Interviews?	

Data collection						
	Data-producing body	Source	Survey unit	Statistical population/ data coverage	Classifications used	Definitions (compliance with ILO concepts)
Stocks	Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)	Housing and Population Census 2004	Individuals, households	All population inside Syria+expatriate Syrians	ISCO, ISIC, ISCED	Employment: compliance with ILO concepts
		Rapid Joint Assessment of the Situation of Iraqi Refugees in some areas of Damascus and its environs: Family Income and Expenditure Survey 2003-2004				
		Non-Syrian resident population and their characteristics	Individuals	Non-Syrian residents inside Syria	ISCO, ISIC, ISCED	Employment: compliance with ILO concepts
		Family Health Survey 2009-2010	individuals, households			
		Population Report 2010				
		Labour Force Survey	Households	2011: Nationally and sub-nationally representative sample (8,223 households)	ISIC Rev. 3	Employment: compliance with ILO definitions
		Multipurpose Demographic and Social Survey	individuals, households	28,080 households in 11 governor-ates (Idleb, Raqqa, Rural Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor non included). Students above 15 and those employed in the military are not counted. INCLUDES NON-SYRIANS?		

	Data collection						
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method	Primary source of information (if administrative records)
Stocks	Central Bureau of Statistics, Syrian Center for Policy Research, Commission for Family Affairs and Population,	Population Status Survey	Field survey	Of interest for migration and labour migration issues: geographical distribution, migration status of population inside Syria (IDPs, Foreign residents); key population demographic characteristics; economic status and employment opportunities, economic activities, and main sources of income.	2014	Secondary data+key informers filling questionnaires. Direct interviews by informers (95%), telephone and electronic survey (5%).	
	Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR)	Forced Dispersion: A Demographic Report on Human Status in Syria	field survey	Displacement, Migration and Asylum module	2014	Key informers filling questionnaires. Direct interviews by informers (95%), telephone and electronic survey (5%).	
	General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees	Palestinian Refugees in Syria Statistics	administrative records	Socio-demographic characteristics of Palestinian refugees registered with GAPAR	continuous	administrative records	GAPAR/ Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs records

Data collection						
	Data-producing body	Source	Survey unit	Statistical population/ data coverage	Classifications used	Definitions (compliance with ILO concepts)
Stocks	Central Bureau of Statistics, Syrian Center for Policy Research, Commission for Family Affairs and Population,	Population Status Survey	individuals, households	698 areas of interest, distributed among all the governor-ates. Three key Informants from each area studied. Total: 2,762 questionnaires.	broad classifications of activities	
	Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR)	Forced Dispersion: A Demographic Report on Human Status in Syria	individuals, households	698 areas of interest, distributed among all the governor-ates. Three key Informants from each area studied. Total: 2,762 questionnaires.		
	General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees	Palestinian Refugees in Syria Statistics	individuals	Palestinian refugees registered with GAPAR (most Palestinian refugees in Syria are registered with GAPAR and with UNRWA)		

		Data dissemination							
		Name of publication/ dataset	Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemination/update	Last issue(s) published as of 30/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path
Stocks	1	Census results	Population in Syria	age, sex, group of nationalities (Syrians; Palestinian Arabs, Other Arabs, non-Arabs, no nationality)	after census	2004	Arabic/English	CBS	http://cbssyr.sy/index.htm ; https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/quest/SYR2004ar.pdf
			Syrian emigrants aged 15 and above	sex, age group, education level, marital status,					
			Economically active Syrian emigrants aged 15 and above	sex, age group, education level, occupation, activity, employment status					
	1	Report on non-Syrian residents in Syria	Numbers of Palestinians, Iraqis, Lebanese	nationality (groups of countries of origin+Palestinians), sex, age group, governorate of residence, ownership of agricultural land	after survey	2007	Arabic	CBS	http://cbssyr.sy/studies/st9.pdf
			Non-Syrian population	nationality (groups of countries of origin+Palestinians), sex, age group, education level, governorate of residence, ownership of agricultural land, relation to labour force, work status, type of employment (permanent, seasonal, ...), place of work, sector, occupation, activity.					
	1	Survey results (CBS website)	Distribution of Iraqi individuals	gender and age					http://cbssyr.sy/index-EN.htm
			Distribution of Iraqi individuals aged 15 years and above	Marital Status and gender					
			Distribution of households	governorate of origin in Iraq; year of arrival to Syria					
	No publication of results on emigrants								
									http://cbssyr.sy/Demographic/Demographic_2017_2018.pdf
No publication of results on emigrants									
								http://cbssyr.sy/population_stature.html	
	Report (p.54)	Non-Syrian population (mid-2014)		ad hoc	2016	English/Arabic	SCPR	https://www.scpr-syria.org/	
	Statistics on the number of Palestinian refugees	Palestinian refugees registered with GAPAR	sex	Annual?	1/5/21	Arabic	GAPAR	http://www.gapar.sy/en/aboutus.html	

	Data collection										
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method	Primary source of information (if administrative records)	Survey unit	Statistical population/ data coverage	Classifications used	Definitions (compliance with ILO concepts)
FLOWS	Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)	Arrivals and Departures statistics	Synthesis from administrative records		Continuous	Administrative registration	Immigration & Passport Directorate, Ministry of Interior records.	Individuals	All border crossers		
		Arrivals and Departures Survey	Sample survey	Country of residence, nationality, age, activity and occupation, educational attainment, expenditure in Syria, reasons for coming	Biannual	interviews at border posts		Individuals	Border crossers at border posts+Damascus and Aleppo airports		
				Sex, age, country of destination, activity, expenditure outside Syria				Individuals and their dependents			
				Country of residence, nationality, age, activity and occupation, educational attainment, expenditure in Syria, reasons for coming				Individuals			
				Sex, age, country of destination, activity, expenditure outside Syria				Individuals and their dependents			
RETURNS	Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)	Labour Force Survey	Field Survey	on returnees: year of departure, country of emigration, number of months spent in emigration, occupation before last emigration	annual (2006-2007; 2011-2012); bi-annual (2008-2010); annual? (2013-2019?)	Direct interviews 65%; telephone interviews: 35%		Households	2011: Nationally and sub-nationally representative sample (8,223 households). After 2013: ?	ISIC Rev. 3	Employment: compliance with ILO definitions

		Data dissemination							
		Name of publication/ dataset	Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemina- tion/update	Last issue(s) published as of 30/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path
FLOWS	1	Statistical Yearbooks (Chapter "Transport and Communications"	Aircraft movements at Syrian airports		Annual	2020 (2018-2019 data)	Arabic (2018-); (Arabic/ English until 2017)	CBS	http://cbssyr.sy/yearbook/2020/ Chapter_7.rar
	1	Statistical Yearbooks (Chapter "Tourism and culture")	Arrivals of Arabs	Country of nationality					
			Arrivals of foreigners (non- Arabs)	Country of nationality					
			Arrivals (Arab and foreigners (non-Arab)	Port of entry and month					
				Departures of Syrians	Port of departure and month				
	2	Time series	Arrivals of Arabs and Foreigners (non-Arabs)	1970-2011	discontinued	2011	English/ Arabic	http://cbssyr.sy/	
Departures of Syrians by country of destination			1970-2006	2006		Arabic only			
RETURNS	1	No publication of results on returnees							http://cbssyr.sy/

► Table 2a: SYRIA. International migrants' characteristics by source and availability (last available date for each source)

Source	STOCKS			
	Census 2004 (report "Non-Syrian resident population and their characteristics")		Population status Survey 2014	
	collected	published	collected	published
(a) main socio-demographic characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM and non-migrant foreign residents (Palestinians)			
sex	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
age in single years or date of birth	Yes	Yes	-	-
age group	Yes	Yes	-	-
relation to head of household			-	-
marital status (15 and above)	Yes	Yes	-	-
level of education attained (? years and above) (ISCED or other classification specified)	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
place of residence (administrative region, municipality, ..)	Yes	Yes	-	-
type of living quarters (private household, collective or institutional reason household, other type of living quarters, non-residential accommodation)	-	-	-	-
nationality (national/ non-national)	Yes	Yes	-	-
group of countries of origin (Arab states, non-Arab Asian countries, etc...)	Yes	Yes	-	-
country of birth and country of birth of parent(s)	-	-	-	-
country of citizenship	Yes	Yes	?	-
country of usual residence	residents in Syria (6 months and more)			
(b) main migration characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM			
purpose of migration (declared or documented reason for first entry into the country, specifically the country of actual or intended labour attachment)	-	-	-	-
type of visa, residence permit, work permit	-	-	-	-
permanent, temporary or circular nature of migration	-	-	-	-
duration of stay: date of first entry into the country of labour attachment	-	-	-	-
(c) main work characteristics (resident and non-resident international migrant workers - IMW) (15 years and above)			IM and IMW aged ?	
labour force status (employed, unemployed, outside the labour force)	Yes	Yes	-	-
sector of activity (governmental, private, domestic, other)	Yes	Yes	-	-
branch of economic activity	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
current occupation	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
previous occupation	-	-	-	-
reasons for leaving previous employment	-	-	-	-
reasons for unemployment	-	-	-	-
status in employment	Yes	Yes	-	-
stability of employment (permanent/ temporary/part-time/seasonal)	Yes	Yes	-	-
working time, including hours usually worked, contractual hours of work	-	-	-	-
duration of employment in months or years	-	-	-	-
duration of unemployment/ job search	-	-		
employment-related income	-	-		

Source	FLOWS		
	Records of residence permits; ID cards	Records of work permits	
	collected/deduced	collected	published
(a) main socio-demographic characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM and non-migrant foreign residents (Palestinians)		
sex	Yes	Yes	-
age in single years or date of birth	Yes	Yes	-
age group	-	-	-
relation to head of household	-	Yes	-
marital status (15 and above)	Yes	Yes	-
level of education attained (? years and above) (ISCED or other classification specified)	Yes	Yes	-
place of residence (administrative region, municipality, ..)	Yes	Yes	-
type of living quarters (private household, collective or institutional reason household, other type of living quarters, non-residential accommodation)	-	-	-
nationality (national/ non-national)	-	-	-
group of countries of origin (Arab states, non-Arab Asian countries, etc...)	-	-	-
country of birth and country of birth of parent(s)	Yes	Yes	-
country of citizenship	Yes	Yes	-
country of usual residence			
(b) main migration characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM (excluding Palestinians)		
purpose of migration (declared or documented reason for first entry into the country, specifically the country of actual or intended labour attachment)	Yes	Yes	-
type of visa, residence permit, work permit	according to permit		
permanent, temporary or circular nature of migration	Yes	Yes	-
duration of stay: date of first entry into the country of labour attachment	deduced from duration of permit?	application: question on duration of residency permit+details of last work permit	-
(c) main work characteristics (resident and non-resident international migrant workers - IMW) (15 years and above)	IM and IMW aged 15 and above (excluding Palestinians)		
labour force status (employed, unemployed, outside the labour force)	Yes	work permit: employed or has become unemployed	
sector of activity (governmental, private, domestic, other)	-	Yes	-
branch of economic activity	-	Yes	-
current occupation	Yes	Yes	-
previous occupation	-	-	-
reasons for leaving previous employment	-	-	-
reasons for unemployment	-	-	-
status in employment	-	Yes	-
stability of employment (permanent/ temporary/part-time/seasonal)	-	-	-
working time, including hours usually worked, contractual hours of work	-	Yes	-
duration of employment in months or years	-	application: question on last work permit	-
duration of unemployment/ job search	-	-	-
employment-related income	-	Yes	-

Yes: collected/ published
-: Not collected/Not published
Suggested additions to list of items in ICLS 2018

► Table 2b: SYRIA. Return International migrants' characteristics by source and availability (last available date for each source)

Source	STOCKS	
	Labour Force Survey 2011	
	collected	published
(a) main socio-demographic characteristics (return international migrants (IM), return international migrant workers (IMW)) *	IM	
sex	Yes	-
age or date of birth	Yes	-
age group	-	-
relation to head of household	Yes	-
marital status (15 and above)	Yes	-
level of education attained (12 years and above) (ISCED or other classification specified)	Yes	-
detailed specialisation, if any (10 years and above)	-	-
type of living quarters (private household, collective or institutional reason household, other type of living quarters, non-residential accommodation)	-	-
nationality (national/ non-national)	-	-
country of birth and country of birth of parent(s)	-	-
country of citizenship	No mention of citizenship	
current place of residence (administrative region, municipality, ..)	Yes	-
current country of usual residence	Returnees from abroad and residents residing in Syria	
country of last usual residence (or country of previous labour attachment for return international migrant workers)	Yes	-
(b) main migration characteristics (return international migrants (IM), return international migrant workers (IMW))	return IM, aged 15 and above	
for return international migrant workers, the main reason for last departure from the country of previous labour attachment	-	-
permanent, temporary or circular nature of return migration	-	-
duration of stay: for return international migrant workers, date of last departure from the country	Yes	-
(c) main work characteristics (return international migrant workers - IMW) (15 years and above)	IM and IMW aged 12 and above	
current labour force status (employed, unemployed, outside the labour force)	Yes	-
sector of activity (governmental, private, domestic, other)	Yes	-
branch of economic activity	Yes	-
occupation	Yes	-
status in employment	Yes	-
stability of employment (permanent/ temporary/part-time/seasonal)	Yes	-
working time, including hours usually worked, contractual hours of work	-	-
employment-related income	Yes	-
duration of employment in months or years	-	-
duration of unemployment/ job search	-	-
reasons for unemployment	Yes	-
previous labour force status (before last departure from Syria)	-	-
previous occupation (before last departure from Syria)	Yes	-
reasons for leaving last employment in Syria before departure	-	-
previous labour force status (before departure from previous country of labour attachment	-	-
previous occupation (before departure from previous country of labour attachment	-	-
reasons for leaving employment in previous country of labour attachment	-	-

* return international migrant workers are defined as all current residents of the country who were previously international migrant workers in another country or countries.

Yes: collected/ published. Yes (): reference (number) of publication in Table 1. -: Not collected/Not published. Suggested additions to list of items in ICLS 2018

► Table 3. SYRIA. Core statistics of stocks and flows and indicators pertaining to international migrant workers available in Syria published sources (most recent relevant/comparable source as of 15/10/2021)

	statistics and indicators	indicator items and calculation	Remarks	Number/ rate by source
				Population status survey
				2014
A	stock of international migrants at mid point of the reference period (13b)	Observed (survey), or stock of residency permit holders	Number of non-Syrians-includes non-migrant Palestinian refugees	627 000
A'	Stock of international migrants of working age (16a)	Observed (survey), or stock of residency permit holders		
B	stock of international migrant workers (labour force) (14) (16b)	Observed (survey), or stock of holders of residency permits for the purpose of working; or stocks of work permits holders		
	usual residents (14a)			
	non-residents (14b)	observed (survey), or holders of temporary work permits for non-residents		
C	inflow of international migrants	Observed (survey), or new residency permits issued to newcomers		
D	inflow of for-work international migrants	new residency permits issued to newcomers for the purpose of working		
E	inflow of international migrant workers	(a) number of international migrants already present in the country of measurement before the beginning of the specified reference period, who were outside the labour force at the beginning of the reference period but entered the labour force of the country of measurement during the reference period;		
		(b) inflow of international migrants who entered the country of measurement during the reference period – whether as for-work international migrants or for whatever other reason – and entered the labour force of the country of measurement during the reference period;		
		(c) non-residents of the country of measurement who became non-resident international migrant workers in the country during the reference period.		
		(a+b+c)		
F	outflow of international migrant workers	(a) number of international migrant workers who left the country of measurement (or died) during the specified reference period; and non-resident international migrant workers in the country of measurement whose labour attachment in that country terminated during the reference period, for whatever reason		
		-		
		(c) non-resident international migrant workers in the country of measurement whose labour attachment in that country terminated during the reference period, for whatever reason		
		-		

	statistics and indicators	indicator items and calculation	Remarks	Number/ rate by source
				Population status survey
				2014
G	change in the stock of international migrant workers	(E-F)		
H	labour force participation (activity) rate	-		
		-		
		-		
I	employment-to-population ratio	(a) Employed IMW 14a, 16c		
		-		
		-		
J	Unemployment rate of international migrants	-		
		-		
		-		
K	share of inflow of for-work international migrants in the total inflow of international migrants during the reference period	-		
L	Share of women in migrant labour force	-		
		-		
		-		
M	Migrant youth participation rate (15-29)	-		
		-		
		-		
N	Share of highly-skilled workers in foreign labour force	-		
		-		
		-		

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