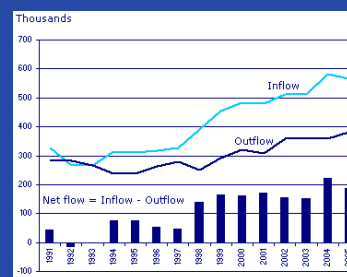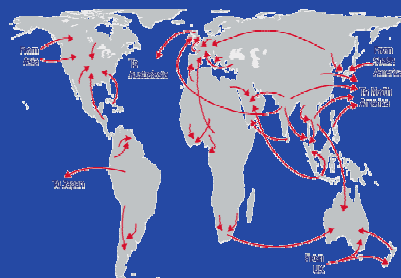# Use of administrative sources for international migration statistics
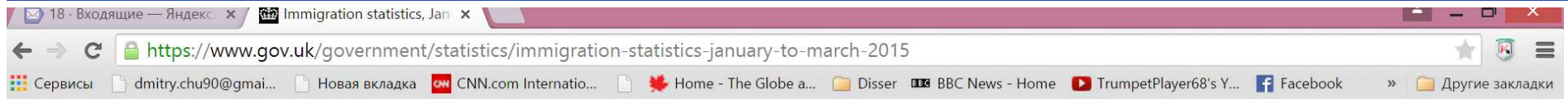

United Nations Statistics Division

Regional workshop on *Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,* 31 Janury-3 February 2017, Bangkok

Administrative sources

- ✓ Labour permits (entry, exit)
- ✓ Residence permits (labour, asylum, settlement, regularization, etc.)
- ✓ Registers (foreigners, refugees (a/s), citizens abroad, etc.)
- ✓ Deportation, repatriation, …
- ✓ Pension, social security, …

Use of administrative data - example

Detail

Immigration Statistics, January to March 2015: data tables.

Tables previously listed under 'Before entry' are now included in files for 'Sponsorship', 'Visas' and 'Admissions' ('Passengers initially refused entry by country of nationality').
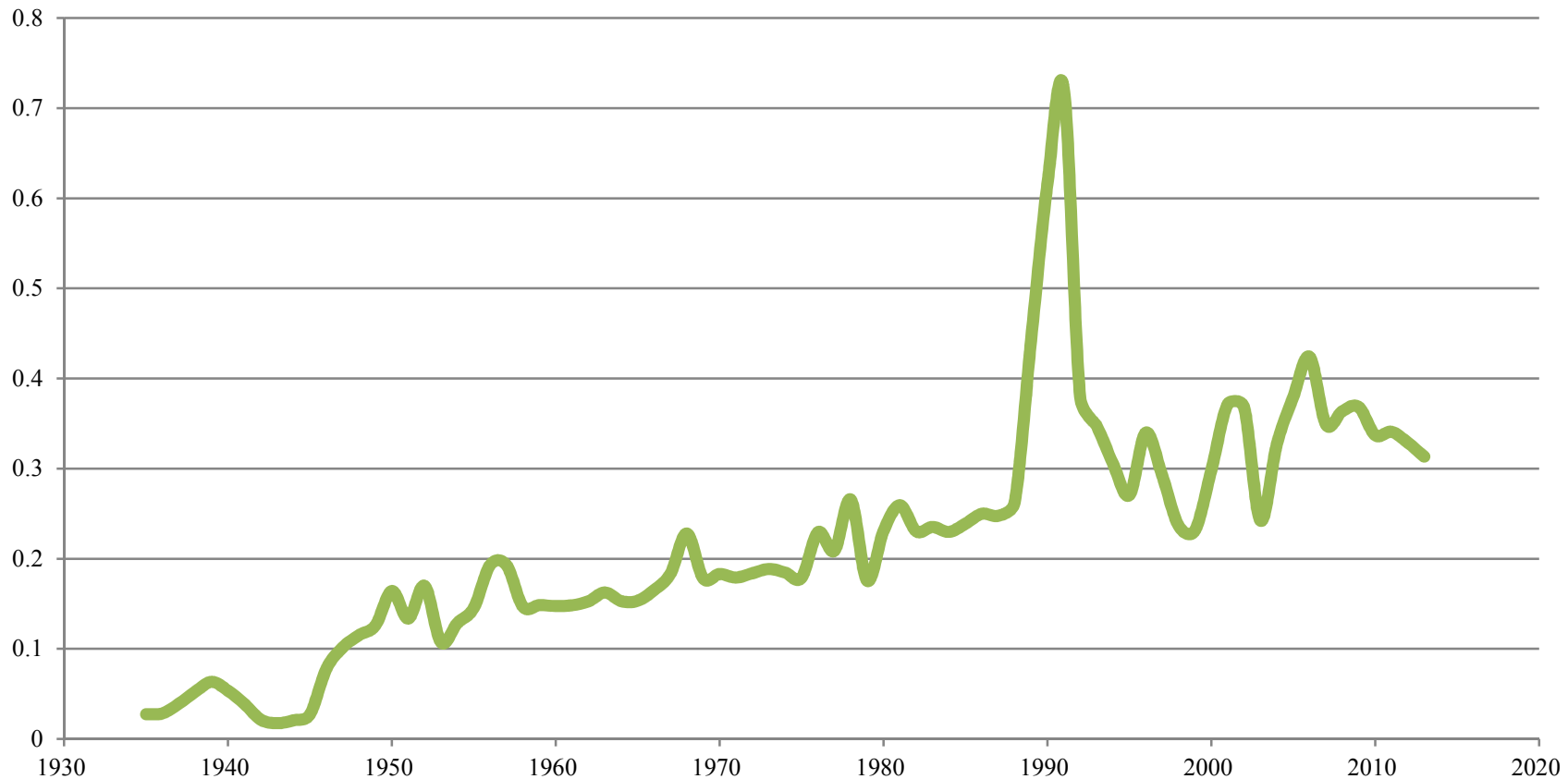
This release presents immigration statistics from Home Office administrative sources, covering the period up to the end of March 2015. It includes data and analysis on the topics of:

- work
- study
- family
- visas
- admissions
- asylum
- extensions of stay
- settlement
- citizenship
- detention
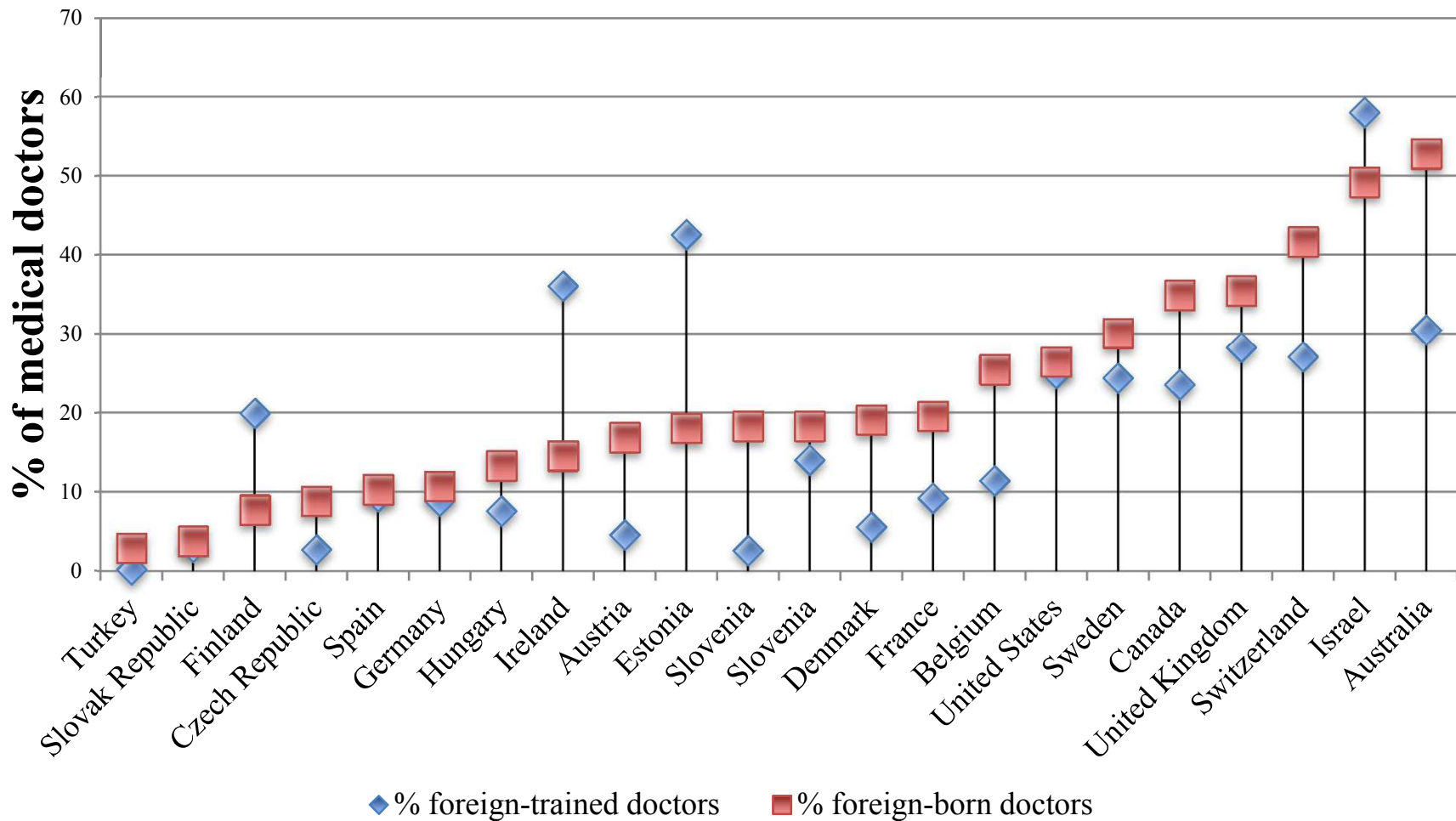- removals and voluntary departures

Use of administrative data - example

Persons obtaining permanent resident status/total population (%)

Source: Compiled based on data from US Department of Homeland Security, US Census Bureau

Use of Health department data for brain-drain study

Source: OECD, International Migration outlook 2015

Emigration data - example

NUMBER OF EVP PARTICIPANTS BY CATEGORY: 2014-2015

CATEGORY	2014	2015	TOTAL
Student/ Masters	71	109	**180**
Trainee	331	520	**851**
Teacher	122	210	**332**
Professor	0	0	**0**
International Visitor	64	83	**147**
Alien Physician	28	16	**44**
Government Visitor	0	0	**0**
Research Scholar	33	54	**87**
Short-term Scholar	23	56	**79**
Religious Worker	0	0	**0**
Others	3	0	**3**
Au Pair	17	36	**53**
Camp Counselor	2	2	**4**
Intern	1,070	1,340	**2,410**
Secondary School Student	30	34	**64**
Summer Work and Travel	2,491	3,787	**6,278**
Specialist	9	20	**29**
No Response / Not Reported	48	20	**68**
Total	**4,342**	**6,287**	**10,629**

Source: Commission on Filipinos overseas

Administrative sources: advantages

✓Detail (sex, age, reasons, duration, origin, etc.)
✓Timeliness
✓Minimal costs
✓Short-term migration

Administrative sources: challenges

✓Limited comparison (legal / administrative basis)

✓Coverage (legal movements – "de jure")

✓Events, not persons (status changes, renewals)

✓"Inflation" (disincentive to deregister)

✓Free movement of labour/informal employment (no records)

✓Date of issuance & expiration ≠ actual move

✓Individual data protection

Need collaboration mechanisms
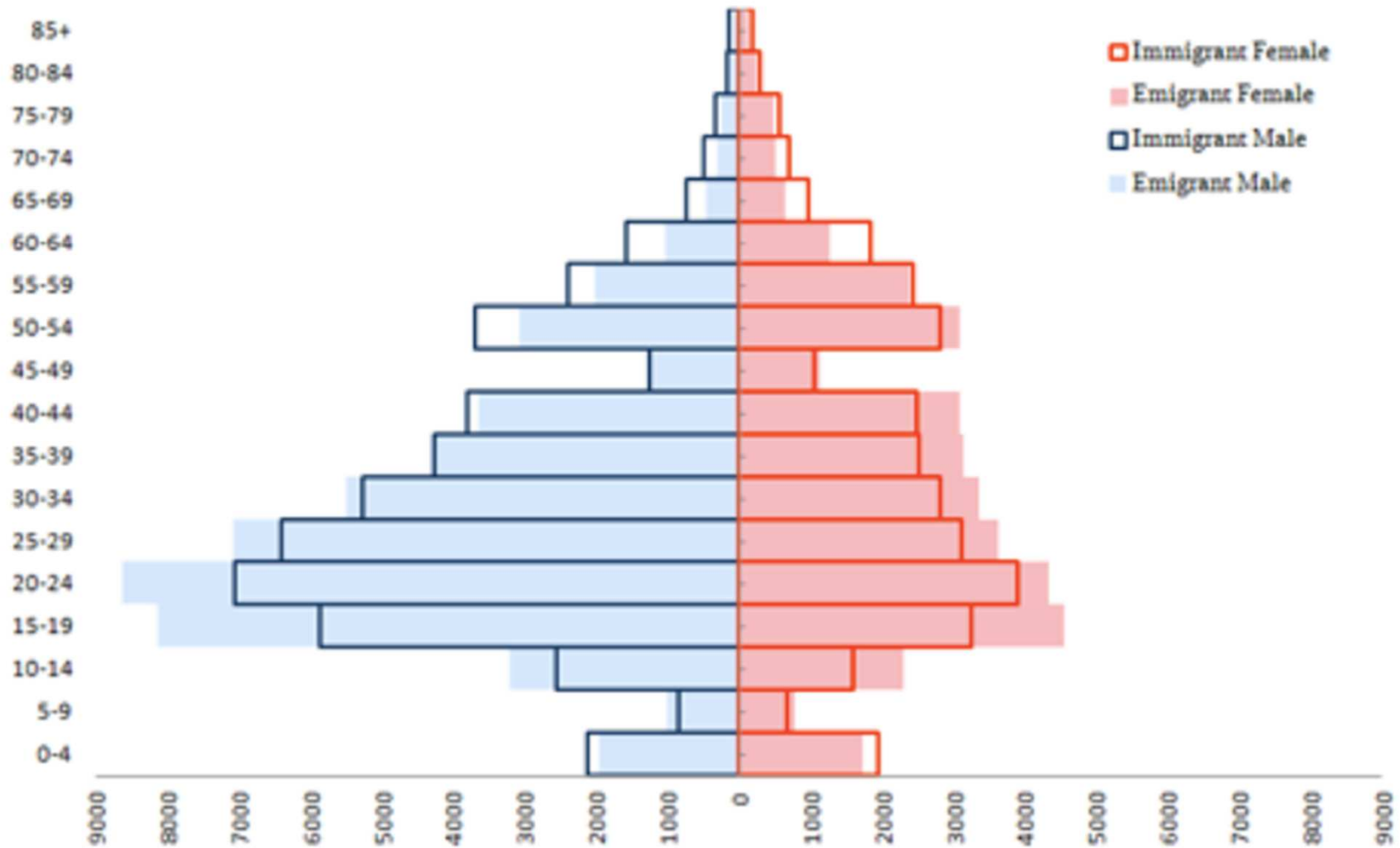
Border systems

➢ Advantages
  - Actual border crossings

➢ Challenges
  - Volume
  - Distinguishing movements from migration (change of place of usual residence)
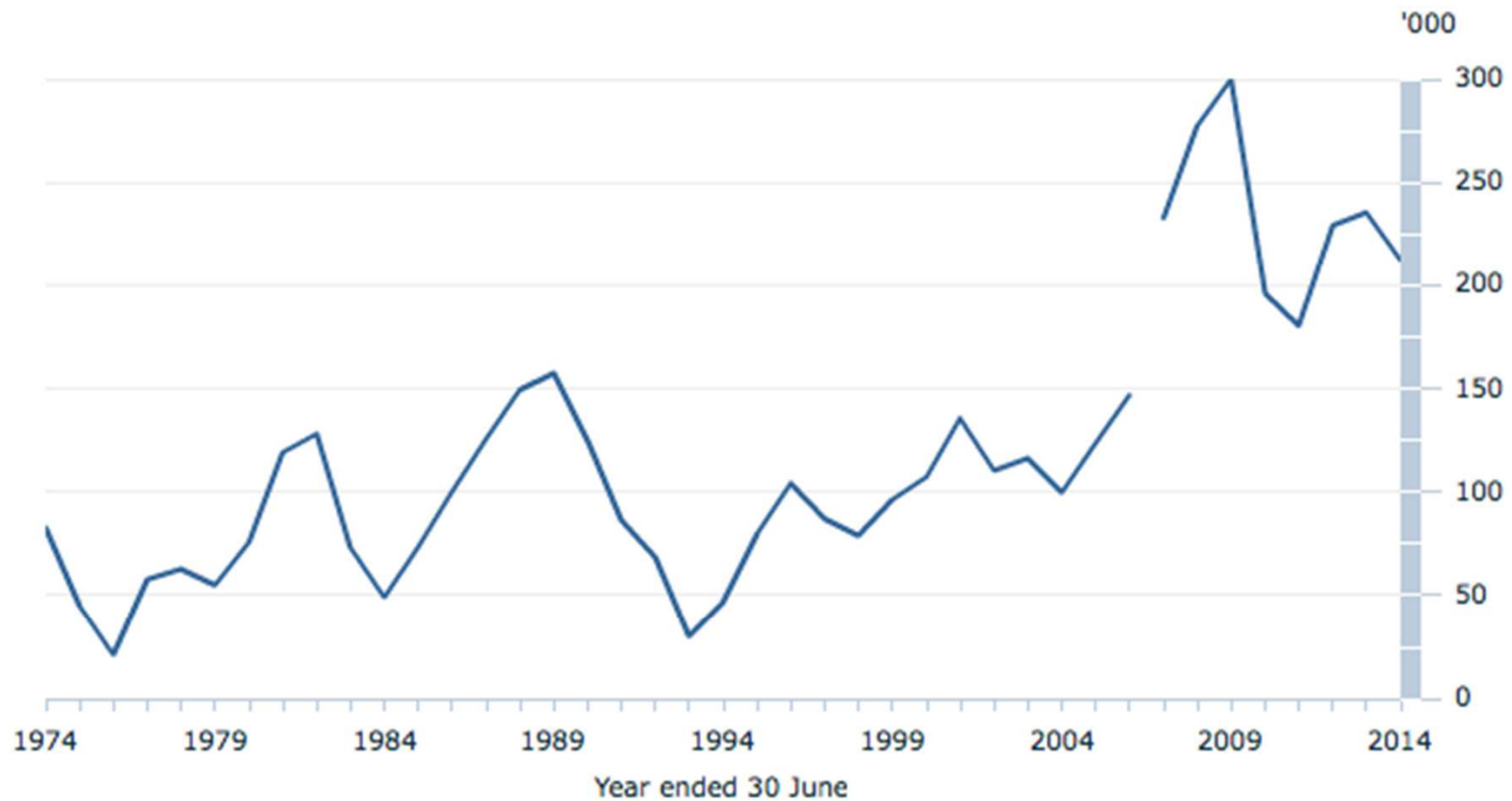 - Automation

Border crossing → statistics

Emigrants and Immigrants by Sex and Age (2014year)

Source: Geostat

Example of using border crossing data - Australia

2.1 Net Overseas Migration (NOM)(a)(b) - Australia

Year ended 30 June

Save Chart Image

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Use of border data - challenges

Source: Statistics South Africa

Conclusion

➢Rich source of information on flows

➢Highly underutilized source

➢Automate, tabulate, disseminate (web)