

Regional workshop on strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

5 – 8 February 2019; Bangkok, Thailand

Session 7

Administrative data sources to measure migration: an introduction

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Administrative data indispensable for migration statistics?

- Diverse sources
- Standards set: existing tools to perform statutory govt. procedures
- Available/accessible
- Updated regularly with new events
- Recording could be easier with use of electronic formats

- If complete, could provide full coverage
- Wide range of information
- Potential for disaggregated information (multiple characteristics)
- Potential for linking registers using unique IDs

- Verifiable, often document-supported
- Reuse of information, minimal/no additional costs

However...

- Not always designed for statistical purposes
- Data quality adjustment/caution to meet statistical needs
 - ✓ Under /multiple-counting and reporting
 - ✓ Limited comparability
 - ✓ Data influenced by change in legislation
 - ✓
- Data sharing agreements
 - ✓ Legal framework (e.g. Statistical Act)
 - ✓ Mechanism/protocol
 - ✓ Level: micro-data, aggregates...
- Limited official collection/ reporting in developing countries

Types of administrative data sources

FLOWS & STOCKS



LONG-TERM
MIGRANTS

1. Administrative registers e.g.

- Population registers at current place of residence
- Registers of foreigners

2. Specialized registration systems

- Specific categories of migrants and associated events: entry/exit visas, work permits, residence permits, health insurance, taxation systems, asylum applications, students...

FLOWS & STOCKS



SHORT & LONG-TERM
MIGRANTS

FLOWS



SHORT & LONG-TERM
MIGRANTS

3. Collection of information at the border

- Passport control
- Landing/arrival/departure cards
- Surveys of international passengers



ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Statistics Division

<http://www.unescap.org/our-work/statistics>



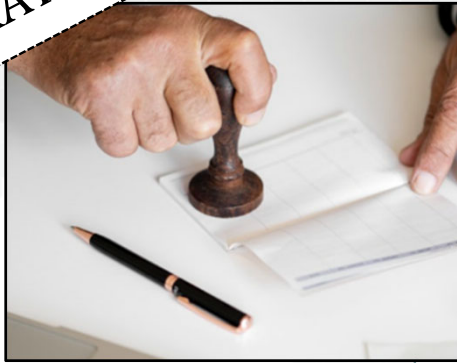
**To what extent are they fit for
statistical purposes?**

1. ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTERS



- Different levels of decentralized data
- Range of information: (parental place of birth, immigrant background, stock of foreigners, demographic events...)
- Linking between registers using unique ID
- Info on some population groups not included in aggregate figures
- Time lag: time of move vs. time of registration

2. SPECIALIZED REGISTRATION SYSTEMS



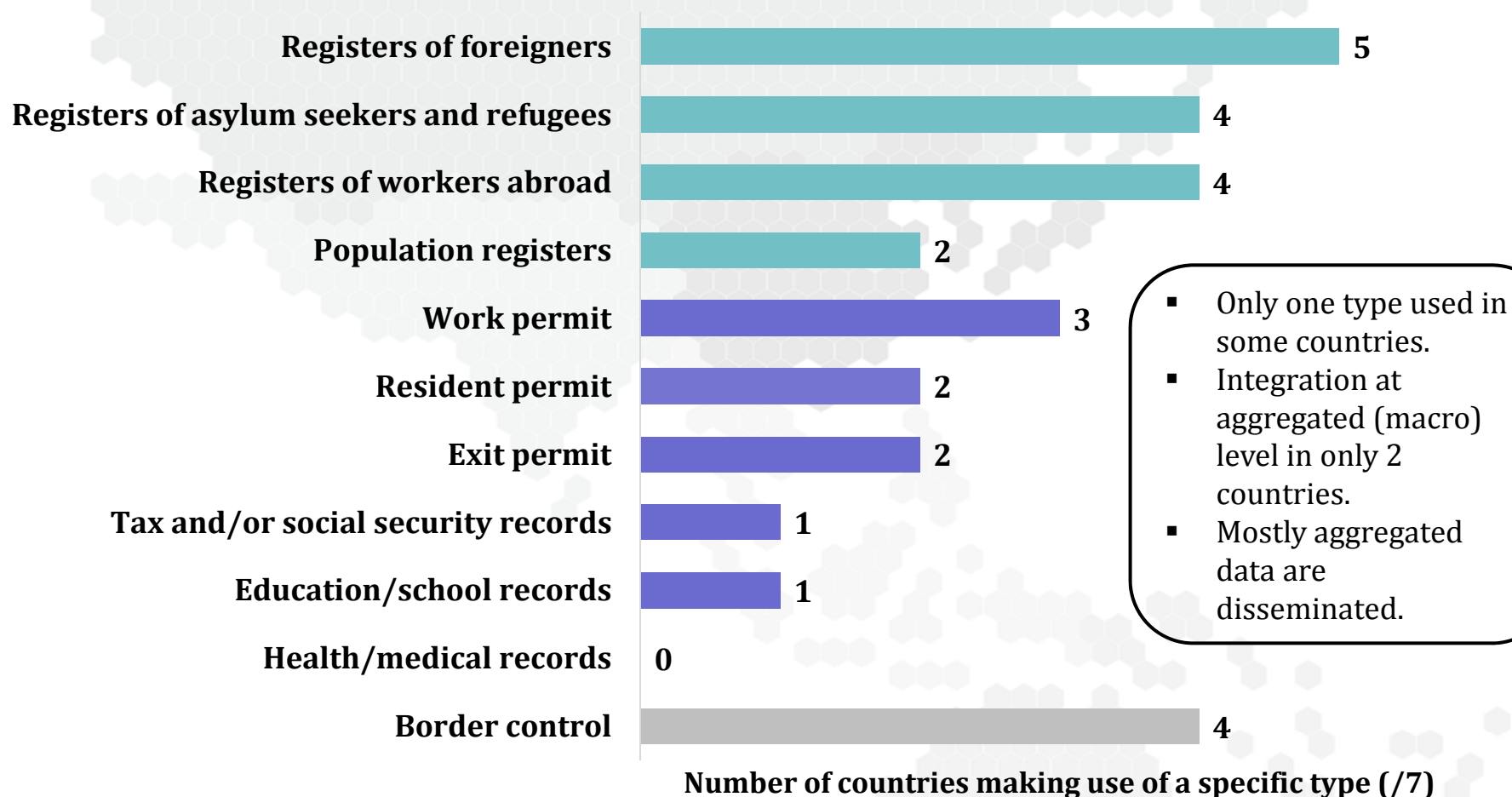
- Wide-coverage of migrants of different types/events
- Multiple counting/under-counting
- Relative reliability of visa statistics?
- Incomplete/incorrect data entries & omission of variables
- Largely based on “reported” migration events (e.g. under-estimation of labour emigration)

3. BORDER DATA COLLECTION



- Can reflect actual movement with higher level of accuracy (timing, mode of transport, port of entry/departure..)
- Large volume of movement can affect reliability of information
- Accuracy of data inputs relies on border officers
- Flows do not necessarily reflect “true” migrants
- Data largely tracks passenger traffic & detected violations related to entry/exit legislation

Types of administrative sources commonly used for migration statistics in Asia-Pacific*



Findings of the "Toolkit to assess National Migration Data Capacity" (responses from 8 ESCAP member States + Jordan)

Off-setting limitations of administrative sources (1)

- **Unique IDs :**
 - ✓ Link registers
 - ✓ Distinguish individuals from movement events

- **Quality checks** (input, admin to statistical data, output):
 - ✓ Readability, consistency checks, completeness, timeliness, interoperability...
 - ✓ E.g. Built-in classifiers/dictionaries; Logical checks

- **In-country collaboration/data exchange:** b/w NSO and agencies responsible for collecting data on population movements:
 - ✓ Statistical Act to support
 - ✓ Variables, parties involved, frequency, format, and means of exchange?
 - ✓ Confidentiality concerns

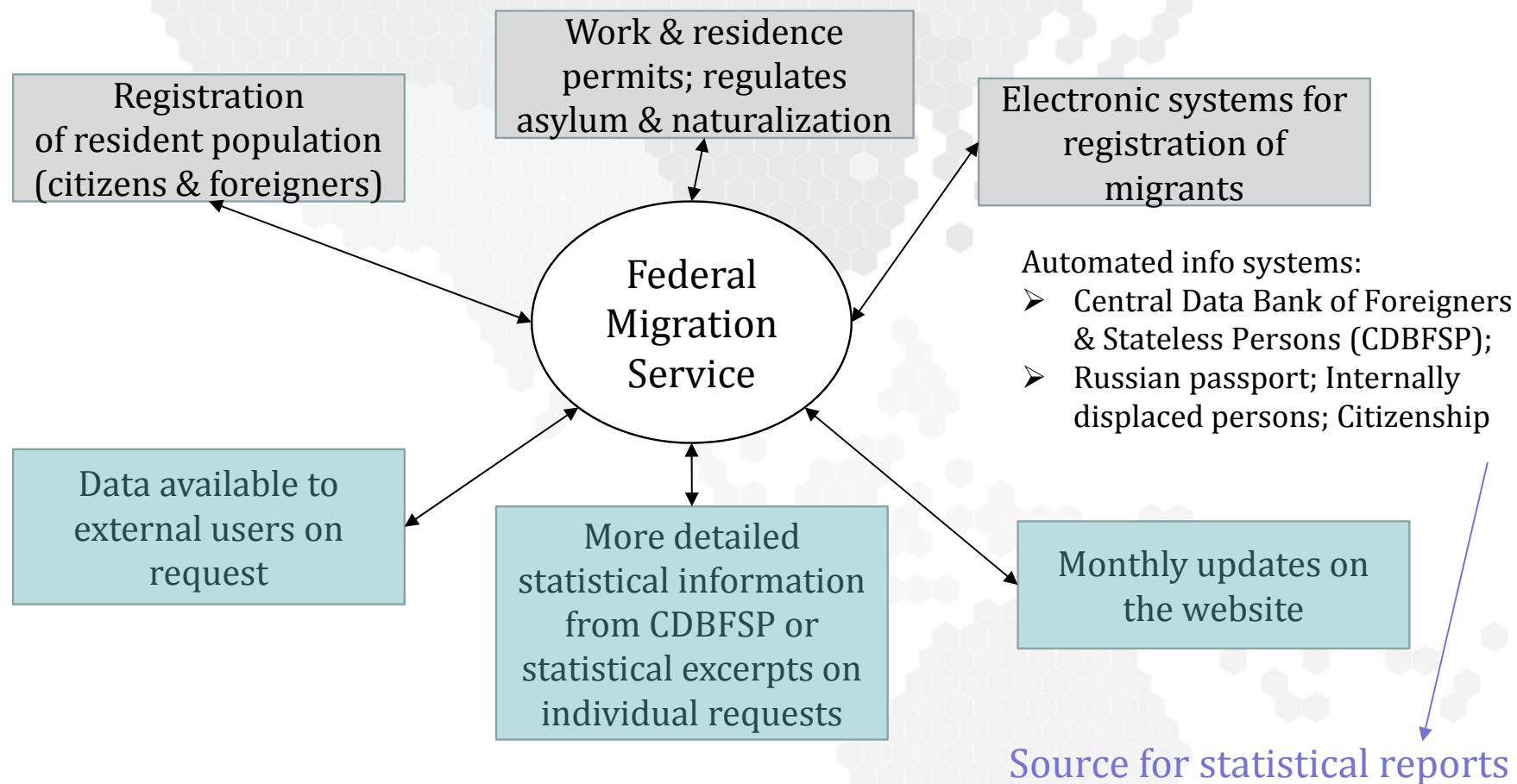
Off-setting limitations of administrative sources (2)

- **Cross-country checks:**
 - ✓ Comparison of immigration data (e.g. work permits issued) with emmigration data (e.g. individuals who left for work purposes)
 - ✓ Irregular migration; legalize and protect rights
- **Data integration:** combination/compilation of data
 - ✓ Non-reported events: coverage and accuracy of migration stock and flow data
 - ✓ Describe additional dimensions



Good practice examples in compilation, dissemination and use of administrative data for migration

Russian Federation one-stop-shop on migration data (using multiple admin sources)



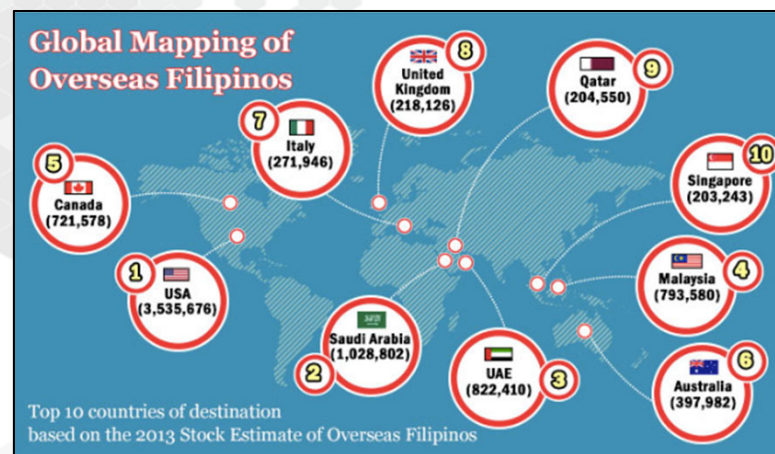
Philippines: compilation of statistics on overseas workers (using registration data of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas)(1)

Statistics profile of Registered Filipino Emigrants

- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Major Country of Destination: 1981-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Age Group: 1981-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Educational Attainment Prior to Migration: 1988-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Sex: 1981-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Civil Status: 1988-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Occupation Prior to Migration: 1981-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Country of Destination: 1981-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Emigrants by Place of Origin in the Philippines: 1988-2016 ([click here](#))

The screenshot shows the website of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO). The header includes the logo and name of the Commission, along with the tagline "Responding to the Challenges of Migration and Development". The navigation menu includes "News and Events", "Photos and Videos", "Downloads", "Publications", "Links", "FAQs", and "Freedom of Information (FOI)". The breadcrumb trail indicates the user is in "HOME / DOWNLOADS / STATISTICS". The main content area features a sidebar with "STATISTICS", "PUBLICATIONS", and "VIDEOS" sections. The "STATISTICS" section lists several titles, with "Global Mapping of Overseas Filipinos" and "Statistical Profile of Registered Filipino Au Pairs" highlighted by arrows pointing to their respective external links.

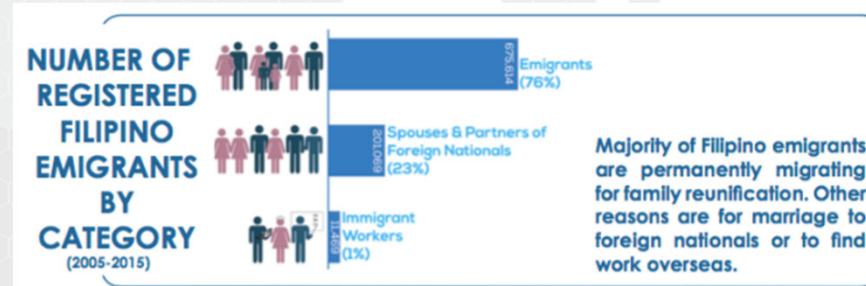
Mapping of Overseas Filipinos by destination country



Statistics profile of Filipino Au Pairs

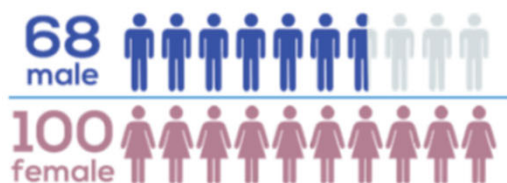
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Country of Destination: 2012-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Age Group: 2012-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Educational Attainment: 2012-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Sex: 2012-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Civil Status: 2012-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Occupational Group Prior to Migration: 2012-2016 ([click here](#))
- Number of Registered Filipino Au Pairs by Mode of Introduction to the Host Family: 2012-2016 ([click here](#))

Philippines: compilation of statistics on overseas workers (using registration data of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas)(2)



SEX RATIO OF REGISTERED FILIPINO EMIGRANTS (2005-2015)

Majority of Filipino emigrants are female (60%).

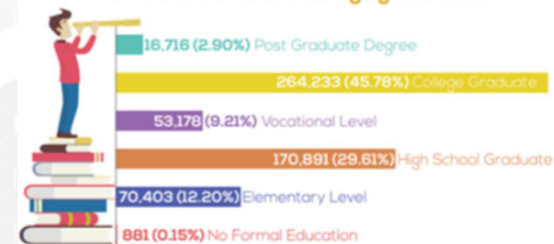


OCCUPATION OF REGISTERED FILIPINO EMIGRANTS PRIOR TO MIGRATION (2005-2015)



NUMBER OF REGISTERED FILIPINO EMIGRANTS AGES 21 AND ABOVE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (2005-2015)

Filipino emigrants are highly educated. 49% are college graduates.¹

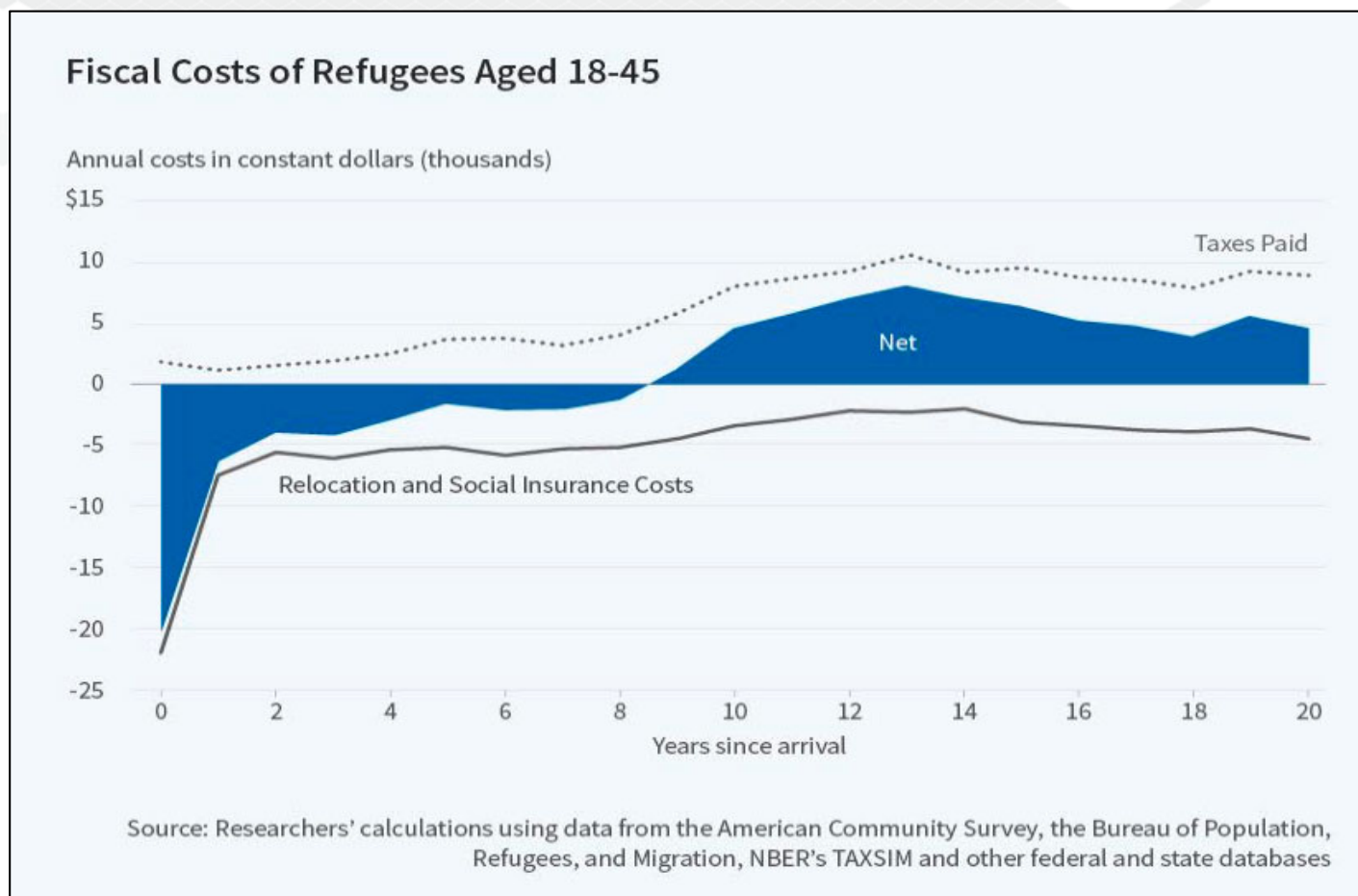


<https://www.cfo.gov.ph/images/pdf/2017/2015compendiumstats-insidepages-2017-06-29.pdf>

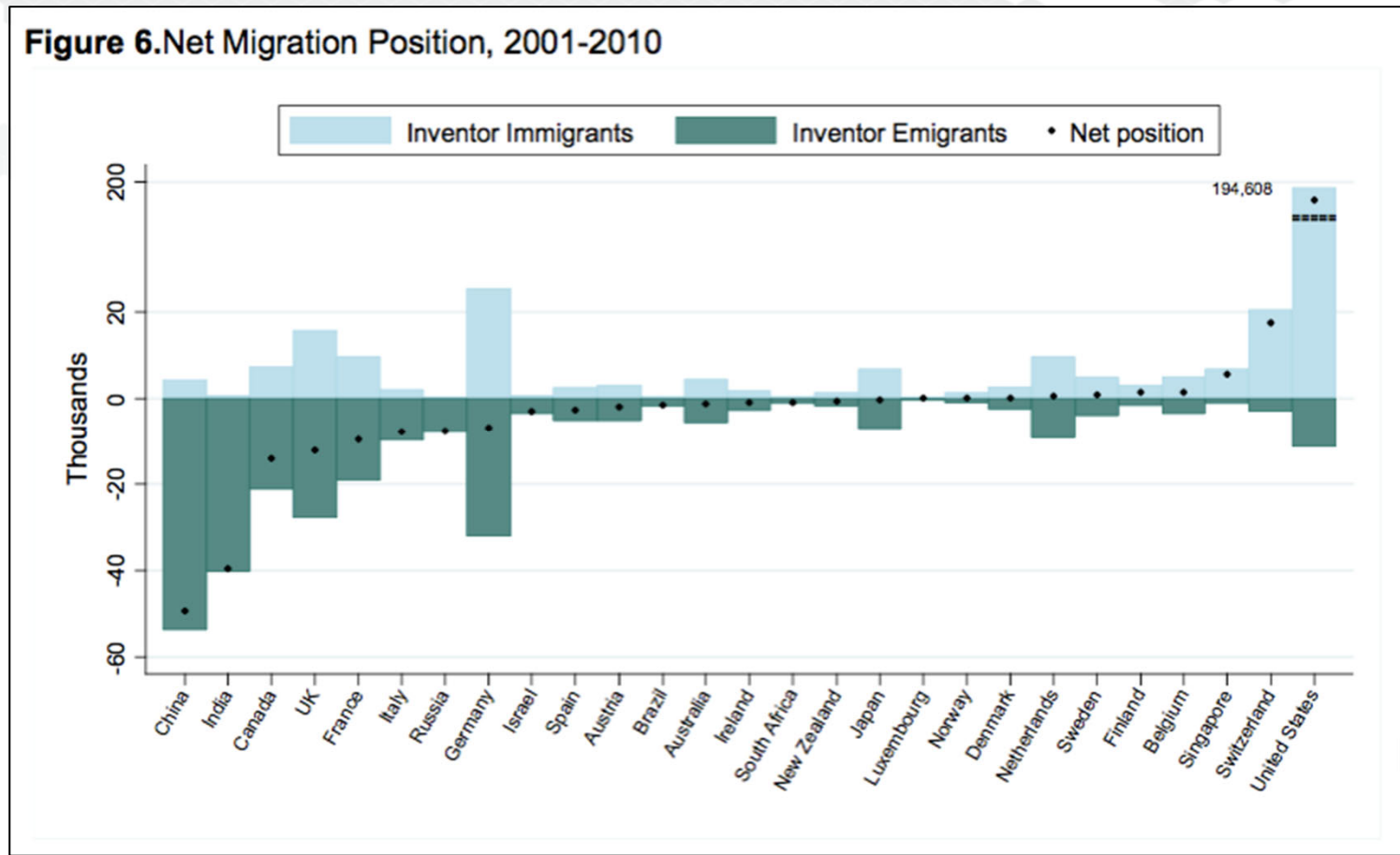
Canada: Educational attainment level and earnings of immigrant children by category of their admission into Canada (using data from Immigrant Landing File and NHS 2011)

Admission class	High-school graduation rate (%)	University completion rate (%)	Earnings among non-trivial earners (2010 constant \$)
Skilled-worker class	96.2	49.7	46,400
Business class	97.8	58.9	46,700
Live-in caregiver class	93.3	19	33,500
Family class	88.3	21.3	39,200
Government-assisted refugees	91	28.7	41,100
Privately sponsored refugees	91.2	31.7	43,900
Refugees landed in Canada	91.4	29.4	35,400
Other refugees and humanitarian class	89.5	25.8	36,400
Others	88.6	34.8	44,000
Class not identified	88	31.2	43,400
Second generation	94.9	40.6	49,600
Third generation or higher	88.8	24.4	46,100

USA: Refugee contribution in taxes vis-à-vis relocation benefits & public assistance (using data from Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration, federal and state databases, and American Community Survey)



Understanding migration trends and brain drain among highly skilled workers -- inventors (using data from international patent applications)



WIPO, 2013.