

# Measuring international migration from population censuses: Global perspectives

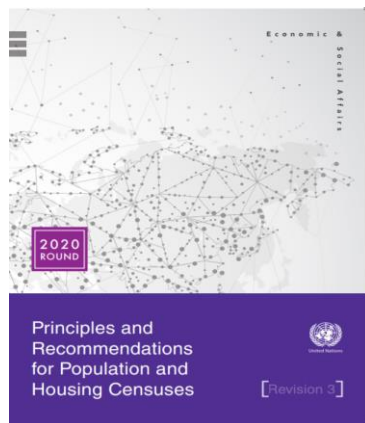
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# Overview of international recommendations for population censuses

## Measuring STOCKS

- Foreign-born population (Core)
- Foreign-citizen population (Core)



## Measuring FLOWS

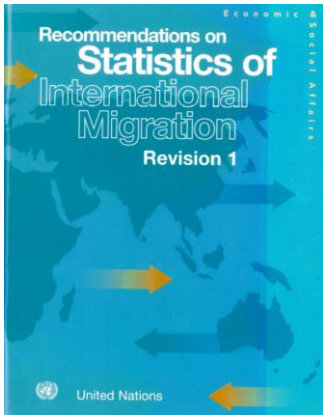
(estimation of recent immigrants)

- Place of usual residence at a specified time in the past
  - one year prior to the census (or five years) (Core)
- Year or period of arrival (Core)

## Additional topics recommended by the UN

- Acquisition of citizenship
- Ever-resided abroad
- Country of birth of parents

## The Expert Group on Migration Statistics established by UN Statistical Commission in 2018



The revised conceptual framework and accompanying definitions were discussed and endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission at its 52nd session in 2021

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/task-forces/TF2-ConceptualFramework-Final.pdf>

Technical reports - ongoing

- a. Indicators for international migration and temporary mobility
- b. Data integration methods (macro and microdata)
- c. Operationalization of the revised conceptual framework and data sources

# Key features of conceptual framework on international migration

## I. Clear distinction between international migration and temporary mobility

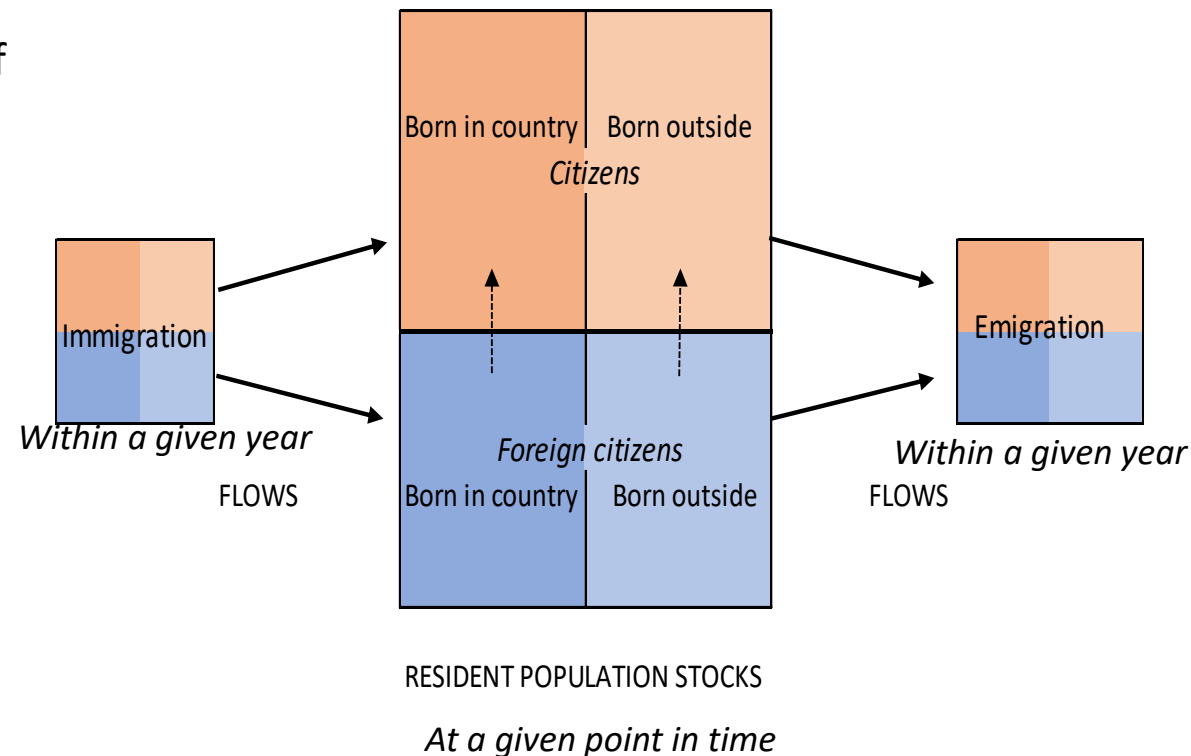
- **International migration** results in a change in the country of residence
- **International temporary mobility** are movements that do not result in a change in the country of residence

## II. Alignment of migration flows with resident population change

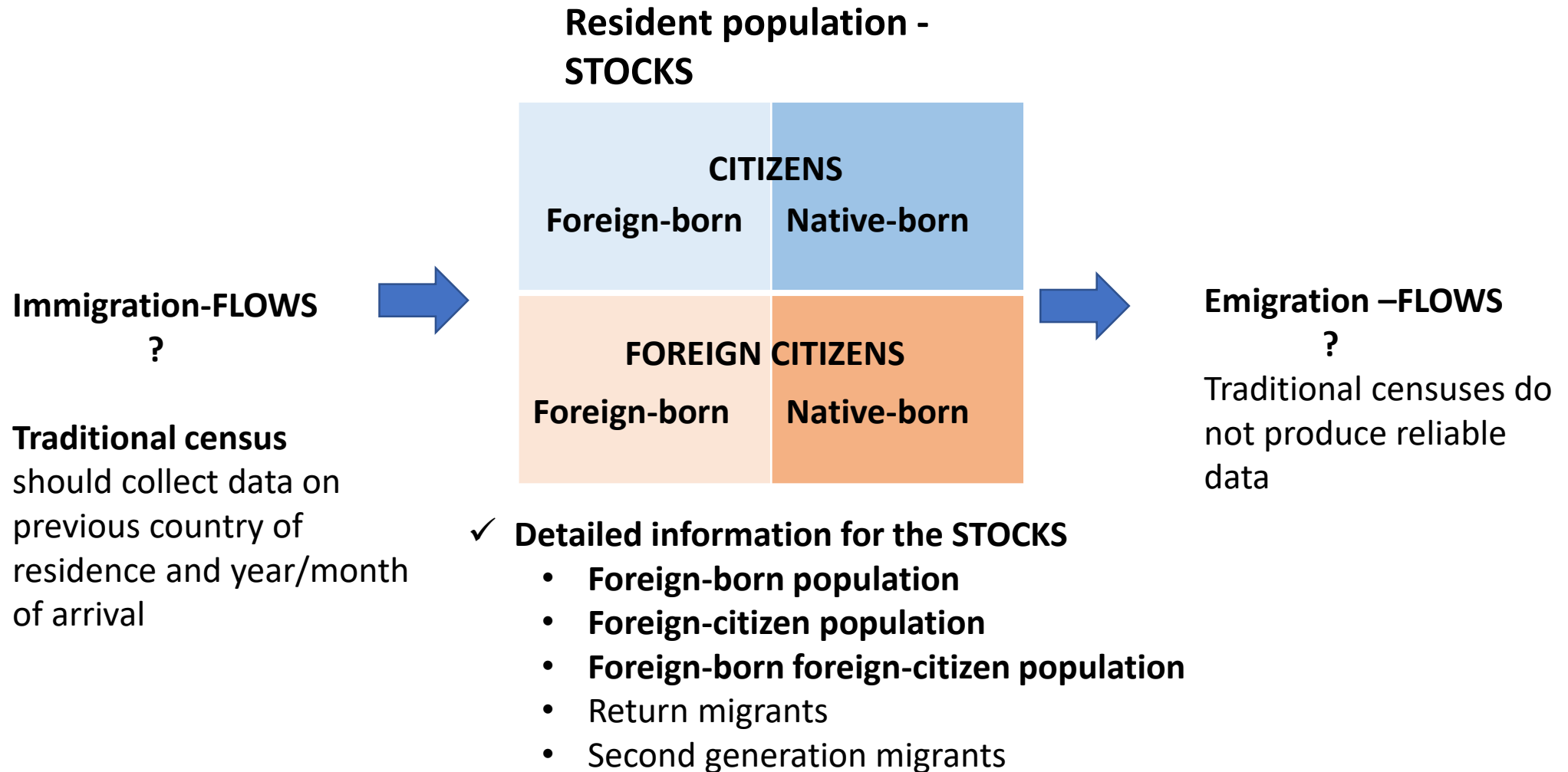
Definition of resident population based on minimum duration of stay-the P&R on censuses rev 3 suggests two options:

- 6 months +1 day or 12 months
- **Same criteria for defining resident population and flows**

## III. Coherence between flows and stocks- important for updating the stock of international migration

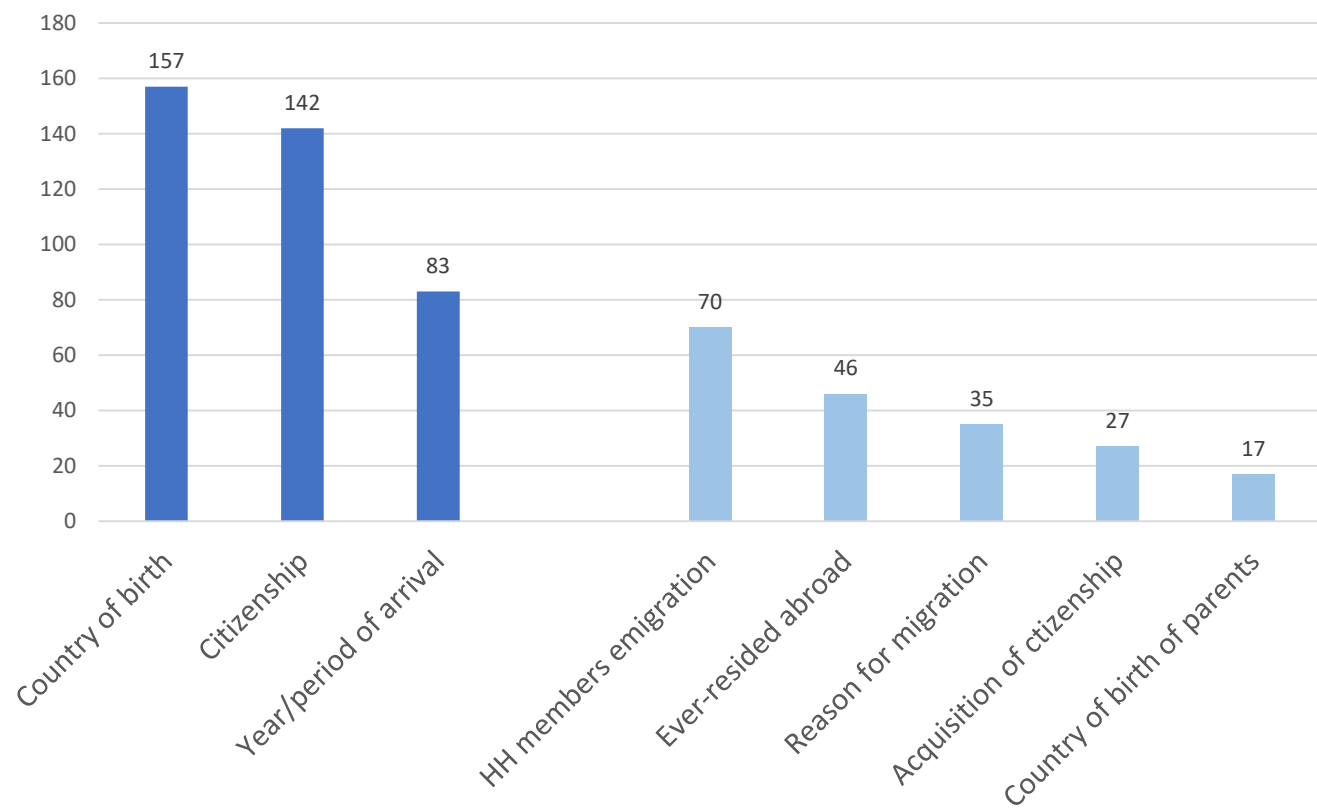


# Adoption of the revised conceptual framework through population census



# Country practices in 2010 round of censuses

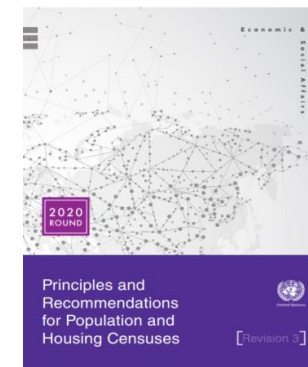
Number of countries collected data on migration topics,  
2010 census round



Population groups having high risk of under-coverage

- Undocumented migrants
- Stateless
- Refugees and displaced people

## Linking population census and housing censuses provides a wide range of data for international migrants



### ❑ Stocks of migrants

### ❑ Characteristics of migrant population

- age, sex, marital status
- fertility, mortality
- Internal migration
- disability
- education
- employment/unemployment
- occupation (ISCO) /Industry (ISIC)


### ❑ Types of housing units in which migrants live


### ❑ Characteristics of those housing units

- construction year and materials, farm building, availability of elevator, etc.
  - availability of electricity, kitchen, toilet, water supply system, fuel used for cooking, sewage system, number of rooms, etc.
  - ICT and availability of washing machine, refrigerator, etc.
- Depending on national circumstances

## Detailed analysis of differences in international migrants and non-migrant population

# Opportunities/challenges

- 
- **Traditional census** — whereby every household/institutional places in the country is approached with a request for information

- 
- **Combined or register-based censuses** — combination of field-based data collection and administrative data sources or fully registers

- **Flexibility in covering all relevant population groups and information about international migrants**
- Not relevant for emigration
- Not possible to produce timely information - conducted every ten-year

- **Annual information for stocks and flows**
- Under-coverage of immigrants –excluding undocumented migrants
- Over-coverage of citizens living abroad



# Few remarks...

- ❑ Lack of use of census data - limited dissemination and analysis of international migration data
  - ❑ Dissemination of international migration data from population and housing censuses should be carefully planned by all countries
    - to better inform evidence-based policies
    - to enhance the exchange of statistical information between countries
  
- ❑ UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses will be revised for 2030 round of censuses
  - in line with upcoming revisions of UN recommendations on Statistics for International Migration

