

International migration and sustainable development in the Caribbean

An analysis of data trends from 2000 to 2020

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

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Outline of the presentation

- Context of study
- Scope and methods of the study
- International migration trends in the Caribbean: The trends in immigration and emigration, within and outside the subregion
- The impacts of international migration trends on sustainable development: remittances, population, and labour
- Strengths and gaps in statistical capacity of international migration in the Caribbean

Context of the study

- The Caribbean is going through a **demographic transition**
- The resulting population dynamics have implications for the sustainable development of the subregion
- International migration plays a **causal and intervening role**
- The **Global Compact on Migration** highlights the central role of data in international migration
- However, official statistics on international migration is insufficiently developed in the Caribbean

Scope and methods of the study

28 member States and associate member countries of the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (CDCC) were included in the analysis

2000 to 2020 is the time-frame of the study

50+ tables and figures provide proportional and absolute figures on different dimensions of international migration trends in the Caribbean and how these impacted **sustainable development**

Sources included migration data from UN-DESA, Population Division, ILO, ECLAC, UNESCO, and World Bank



International migration trends in the Caribbean

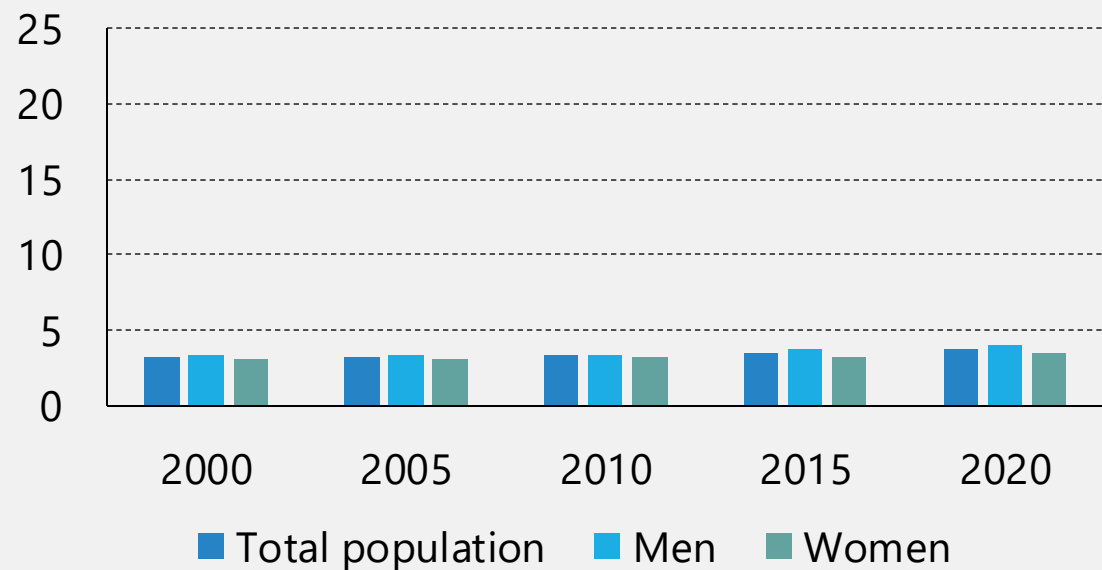
- Immigrant and emigrant stocks
- Intra-Caribbean migration
- Extra-Caribbean migration



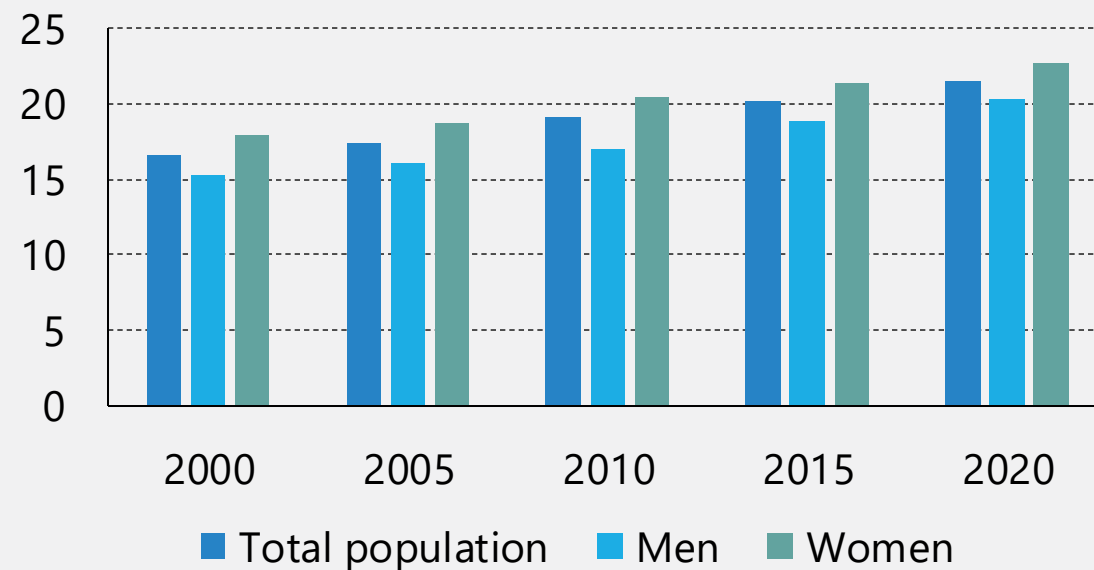
Immigration and emigration trends in the Caribbean

Proportion of migrants as a share of the Caribbean population, 2000-2020

Immigrant stock (%)



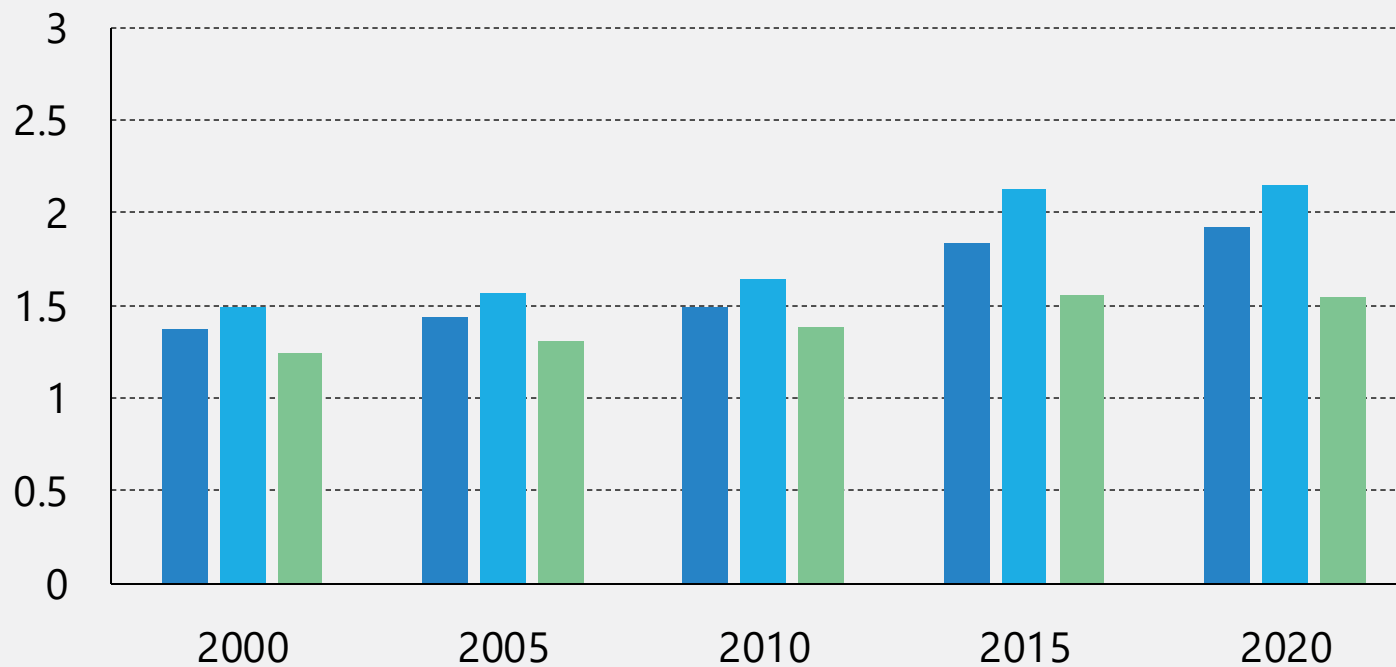
Emigrant stock (%)



Intra-Caribbean migration is on the rise

Immigration within the Caribbean increased by about a third from 2000 to 2015

Intra-Caribbean immigrant stocks (%)



Some Caribbean countries have high statistical capacity

Number of immigrants to Antigua and Barbuda from Caribbean countries

Country of origin	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	Country of origin	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Bahamas	2	2	2	2	1	Martinique*	4	5	5	5	4
Barbados	248	266	284	302	315	Montserrat*	935	1003	1070	1138	1189
Bermuda*	11	12	13	14	13	Curaçao*	16	17	18	19	18
Belize	11	12	13	14	13	Aruba*	4	5	5	5	4
British Virgin Islands*	80	86	92	98	100	Puerto Rico*	44	47	50	53	54
Cuba	17	18	19	20	19	Saint Kitts and Nevis	391	420	448	476	497
Dominica	3898	4180	4462	4745	4963	Anguilla*	32	35	37	39	39
Dominican Republic	1466	1572	1678	1784	1865	Saint Lucia	556	596	636	676	706
Grenada	158	170	181	192	199	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	754	809	863	918	959
Guadeloupe*	62	67	71	76	78	Suriname	37	40	42	45	45
Guyana	5317	5702	6086	6472	6811	Trinidad and Tobago	591	634	677	720	752
Haiti	27	29	31	33	33	Turks and Caicos Islands*	5	6	6	6	5
Jamaica	3278	3515	3752	3990	4173	United States Virgin Islands*	584	627	669	711	743

Half of Caribbean countries report only a fraction of Intra-Caribbean nationalities

Number of immigrants to Belize from Caribbean countries

Country of origin	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Haiti	38	42	46	54	60
Jamaica	403	412	421	496	561

Number of immigrants to Trinidad and Tobago from Caribbean countries

Country of origin	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Barbados	1573	1688	1029	1066	1184
Cuba	40	42	74	157	2412
Grenada	11148	11973	7748	8026	8913
Guyana	5264	5649	9490	9830	10923
Jamaica	798	856	1445	1497	1661
Saint Lucia	976	1047	850	880	977
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	8384	8998	6207	6430	7141

Source: UN-DESA

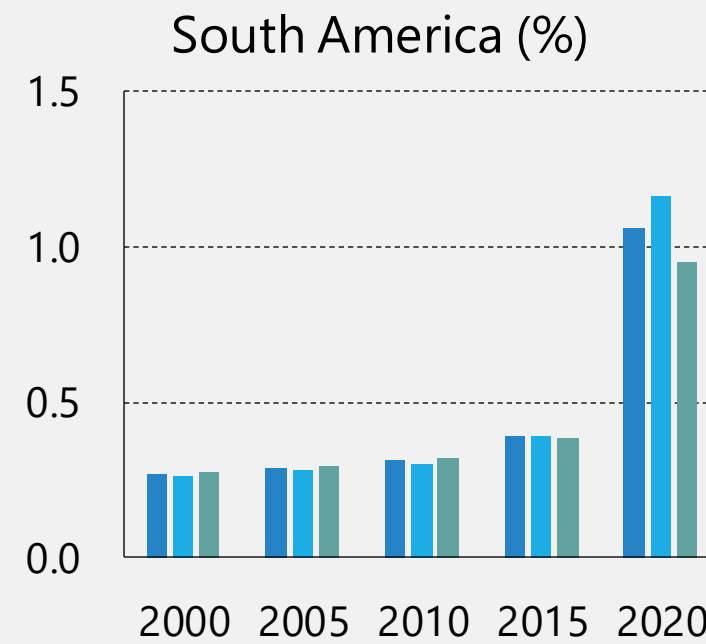
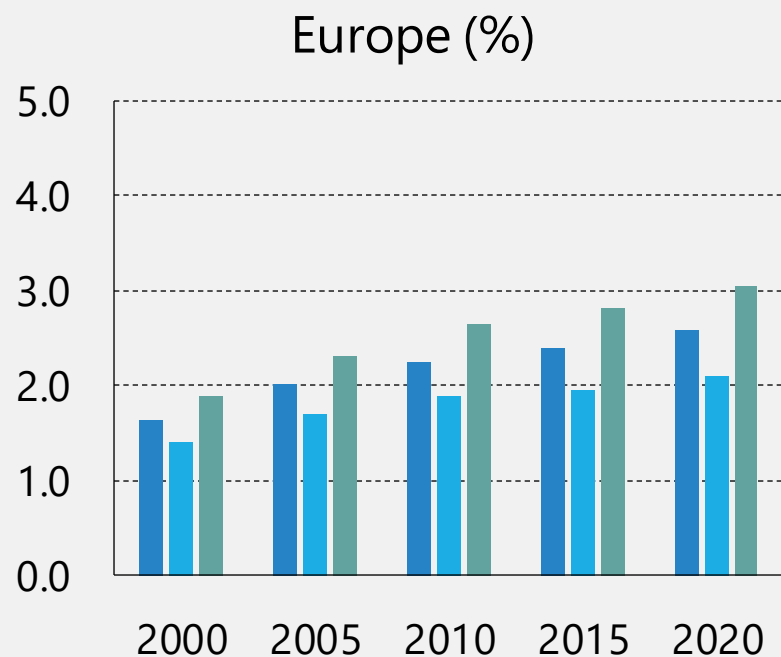
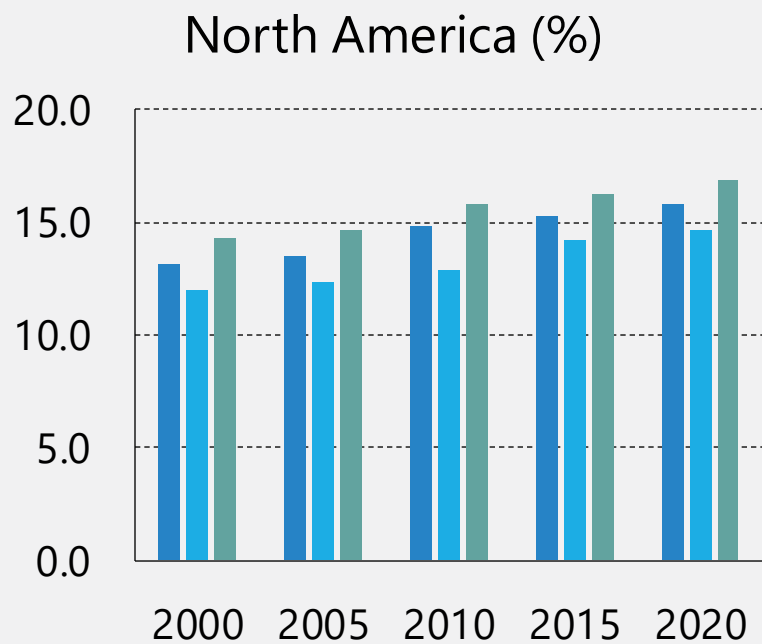
Half of Caribbean countries report only a fraction of Intra-Caribbean nationalities

Number of immigrants to Jamaica from Caribbean countries

Country of origin	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	Country of origin	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Antigua and Barbuda	165	161	156	153	154	Grenada	222	216	210	205	207
Bahamas	713	695	677	662	674	Saint Kitts and Nevis	103	101	98	96	97
Barbados	575	560	545	533	541	Saint Lucia	353	344	335	328	334
Belize	7	7	7	7	7	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	242	236	229	224	226
Cuba	1928	1879	1830	1791	1825	Trinidad and Tobago	2476	2413	2349	2299	2343
Dominica	148	144	140	137	138						

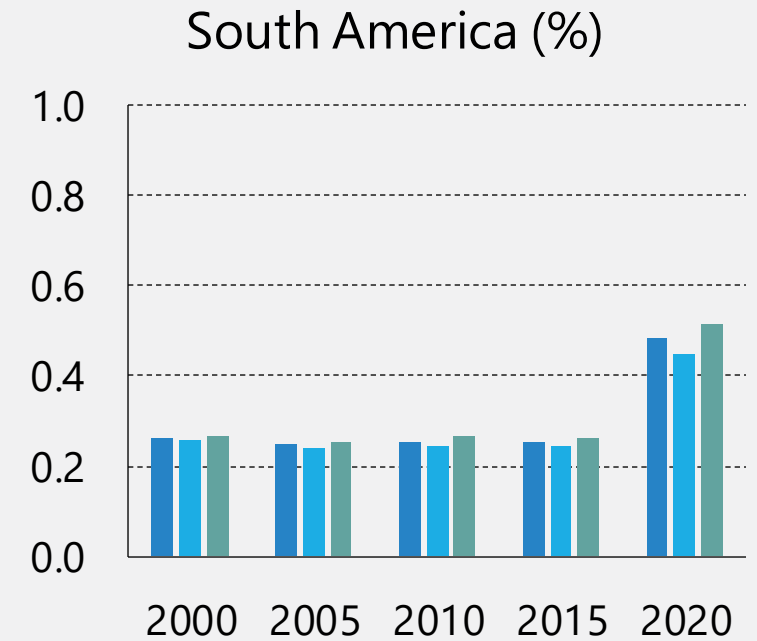
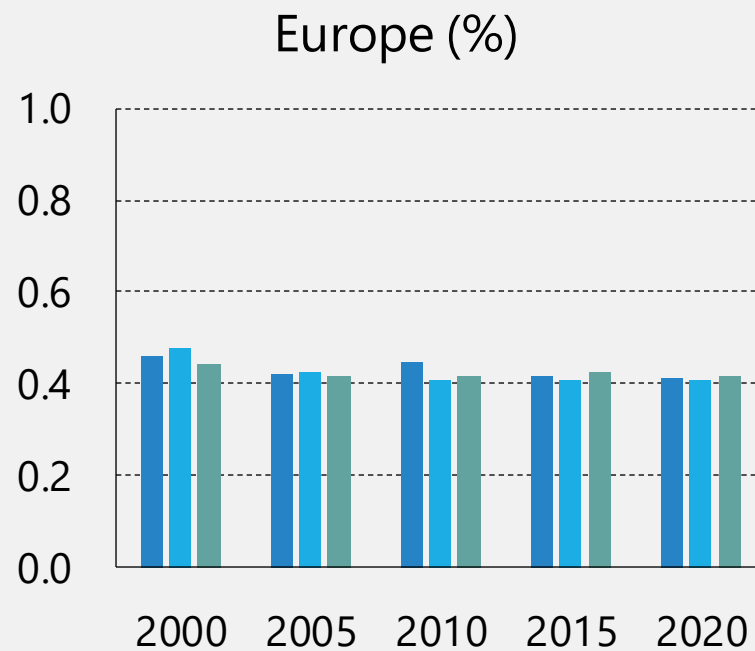
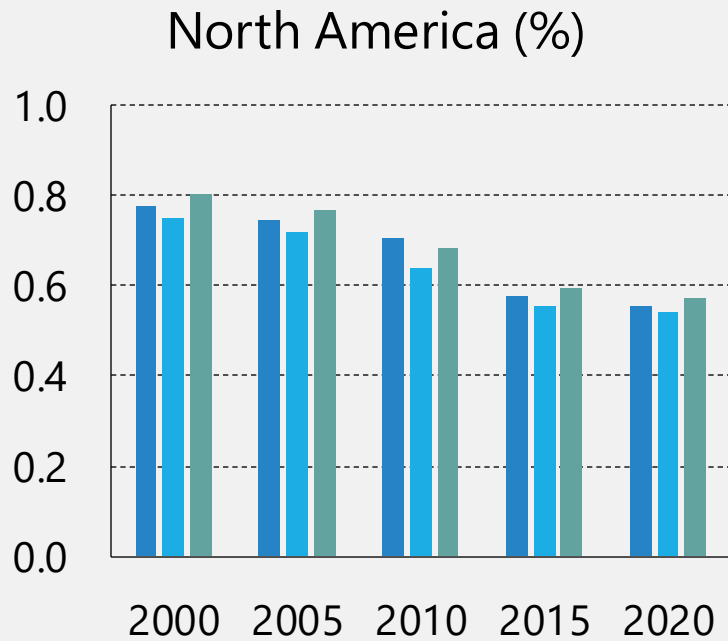
Source: UN-DESA

Caribbean emigration trends to the main destination regions 2000-2020



■ Total population ■ Men ■ Women

Immigration trends to the Caribbean from the main regions of origin 2000-2020



■ Total population ■ Men ■ Women

The impacts of international migration on sustainable development

- International financial flows: Remittances
- Demographic impacts
- Effects on labour productivity

Remittances received by individuals as a share of GDP

Country	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Antigua and Barbuda	2.1	1.8	1.8	2.3	2.7
Barbados	3.7	2.5	1.8	4.2	2.3
Belize	2.2	3.1	4.5	3.8	5.8
Dominica	4.1	6.0	4.6	10.3	13.5
Dominican Republic	7.6	7.6	7.2	7.3	10.6
Grenada	4.7	3.9	3.7	4.3	6.8
Guyana	3.8	24.4	10.7	7.1	8.0
Haiti	8.5	13.7	12.4	14.8	23.8
Jamaica	9.7	15.7	15.3	16.6	22.2
St. Kitts and Nevis	5.8	5.5	6.0	2.5	3.6
St. Lucia	2.6	2.4	2.0	2.2	3.9
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	4.5	3.9	4.0	5.3	7.0
Suriname	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	4.3
Trinidad and Tobago	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.9

Source: World Bank

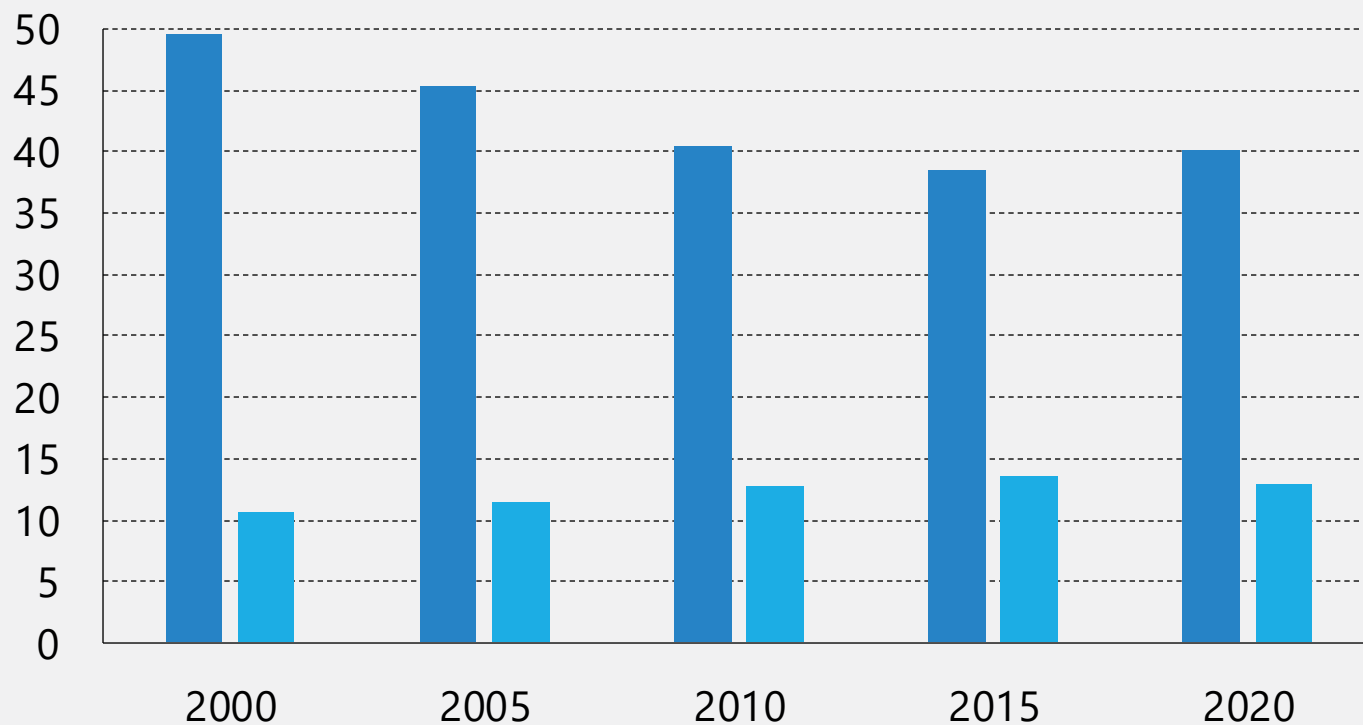
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Grenada	4.7	3.9	3.7	4.3	6.8
Guyana	3.8	24.4	10.7	7.1	8.0
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St. Vincent and the Grenadines	4.5	3.9	4.0	5.3	7.0
Suriname	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	4.3
Trinidad and Tobago	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.9

Source: World Bank

Migration can have rejuvenating effects on populations

Average Caribbean dependency rates of children and older persons, 2000-2020



■ Children ■ Older persons

Source: CEPALSTAT/UN-DESA



Dependency rates as a share of the total working population show that the ratio of children is decreasing and ageing increasing

	Children					Older persons				
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Antigua and Barbuda	42.8	38.68	34.4	29.89	26.83	11.18	10.42	10.27	11.39	13.79
Bahamas	45.93	42.22	39.16	33.39	28.18	7.71	8.44	9.19	10.09	11.57
Barbados	32.7	30.7	29.48	27.59	25.75	16.74	16.69	17.28	19.12	22.46
Belize	71.14	65.42	58.53	49.68	43.33	7.03	6.69	6.57	6.68	7.24
Cuba	30.79	27.76	25.49	24.13	23.12	14.36	16.01	18.2	20.45	22.67
Dominican Republic	58.18	53.3	48.05	44.74	42.23	7.88	8.55	8.71	9.37	10.65
Grenada	57.02	44.35	37.35	35.85	36.47	14.34	14.19	13.6	13.75	14.64
Guyana	61.22	58.82	51.16	46.55	44.36	6.36	6.67	7.18	8.17	9.29
Haiti	72.17	65.74	60.03	55.42	51.88	6.62	6.63	6.66	6.67	7.05
Jamaica	55.03	47.01	39.37	33.04	28.89	9.7	8.58	8.6	8.92	9.76
Saint Lucia	52.1	42.84	35.33	29.03	25.61	11.74	11.35	11.46	11.57	12.3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	51.51	45.63	39.1	35.39	33.23	11.47	11.99	12.9	14.26	15.92
Suriname	52.72	47.59	46.6	43.64	40.49	7.76	8.98	9.32	9.6	10.76
Trinidad and Tobago	37.45	30.69	28.74	28.72	27.97	7.71	8.01	9.31	11.89	15.29

Labour productivity levels (GDP 2015 USD/total hours worked) have stagnated or declined from 2015 to 2020 in 9 out of 12 countries with available data, raising questions of brain drain

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bahamas	1560	1540	1507	1518	1529	1360
Barbados	966	947	966	963	979	942
Belize	356	341	326	331	348	328
Cuba	422	423	429	440	440	438
Dominican Republic	423	440	450	468	484	553
Guyana	418	434	450	456	453	729
Haiti	92	92	92	92	89	92
Jamaica	280	271	265	264	257	258
Saint Lucia	567	571	576	580	559	463
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	458	478	487	502	505	526
Suriname	580	543	543	562	562	515
Trinidad and Tobago	1000	948	902	879	873	906

Strengths and gaps in statistical capacity on international migration in the Caribbean

- Progress in the inclusion of migration questions in censuses and national surveys
- Expanding inclusion of migration questions in labour force and household budget surveys
- Leveraging administrative data to overcome gaps in the collection of migration data



Census and national survey questions on international migration are crucial to gather data

United Nations-recommended core questions	Other recommended questions
Country of birth	Immigration status
Country of citizenship	Country of birth of parents
Duration of residence abroad	Reason and duration of residence abroad (over one year)
Place of previous international residence	Previous country of residence
Place of residence at a given time in the past	Members of the household who emigrated
Year of first arrival in the country	Year of permanent return (for nationals)

Source: IOM



Leveraging administrative data helps addressing gaps in statistical capacity

Gaps in migration data collection remain

- Half of Caribbean countries report only a fraction of other Caribbean nationalities in their countries
- Only nine countries reported data on the share of immigrant workers to the ILO
- Reporting of inter-Caribbean student flows to UNESCO is deficient (ex. Little data on student flows between the three UWI countries)

Inter-ministerial/agency and vertical coordination mechanisms are essential to leverage administrative data

- Avoiding gender-blind approaches is important to account for gender differences in migration data
- Leveraging administrative data should not exclude irregular migrants, forced migrants, and trafficked persons from official data, as they often fall under the state's radar

Next steps

- These are preliminary findings on an ongoing study
- ECLAC will invite workshop participants to a virtual Expert Group Meeting (EGM) later in the year to discuss the finalized study



Thank you for your attention!

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