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The contemporary migration scenario in the Caribbean with emphasis on the contributions of international migration in Jamaica

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Workshop: Contributions of international migration to sustainable development, 1st and 2nd June 2022

Workshop:

Contributions of
international
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1st-2nd June 2023



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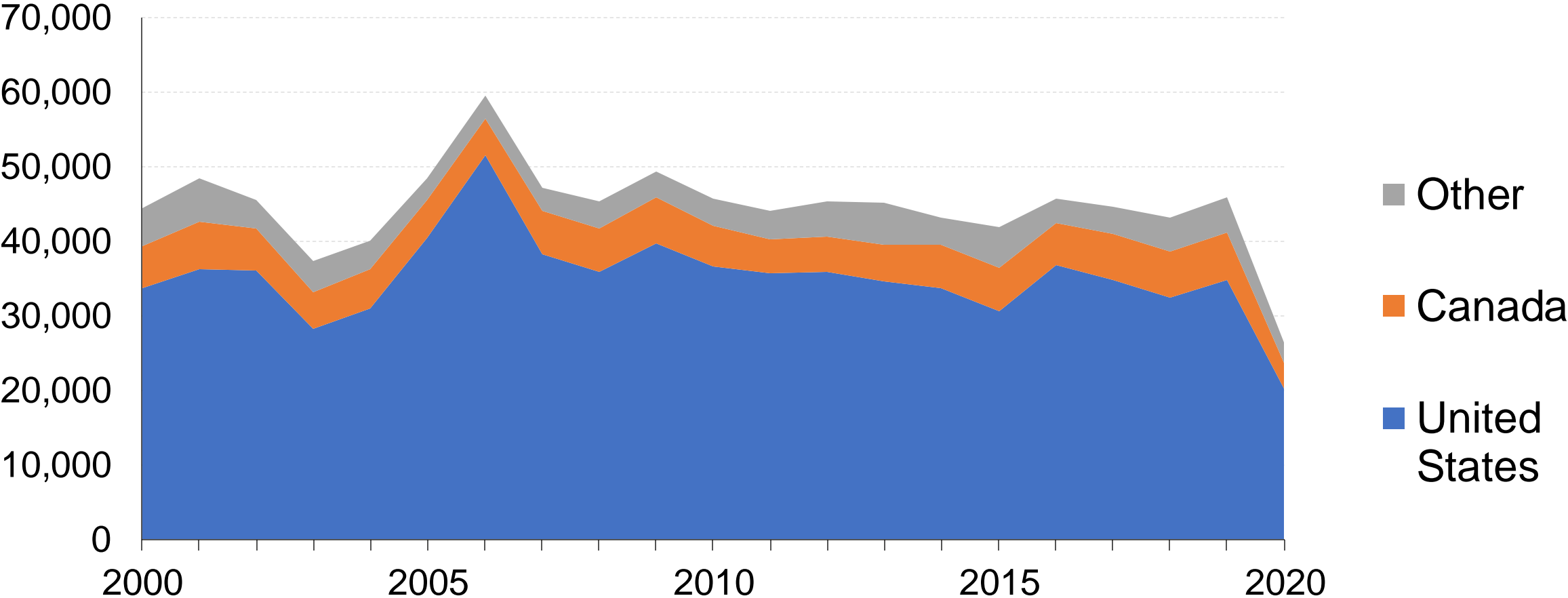
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Migration from/to/within the Caribbean: principal dynamics

- Migration from the Caribbean to long-established destination countries: United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands, France (and returns)
- Migration into the Caribbean from Latin America, North America and Europe (and returns)
- Migration within the Caribbean most commonly from lower income to higher income countries; among neighbouring countries; and among countries sharing common languages (and returns)

An average of 45,000 migrants left the Caribbean every year between 2000 and 2020 to go OECD countries

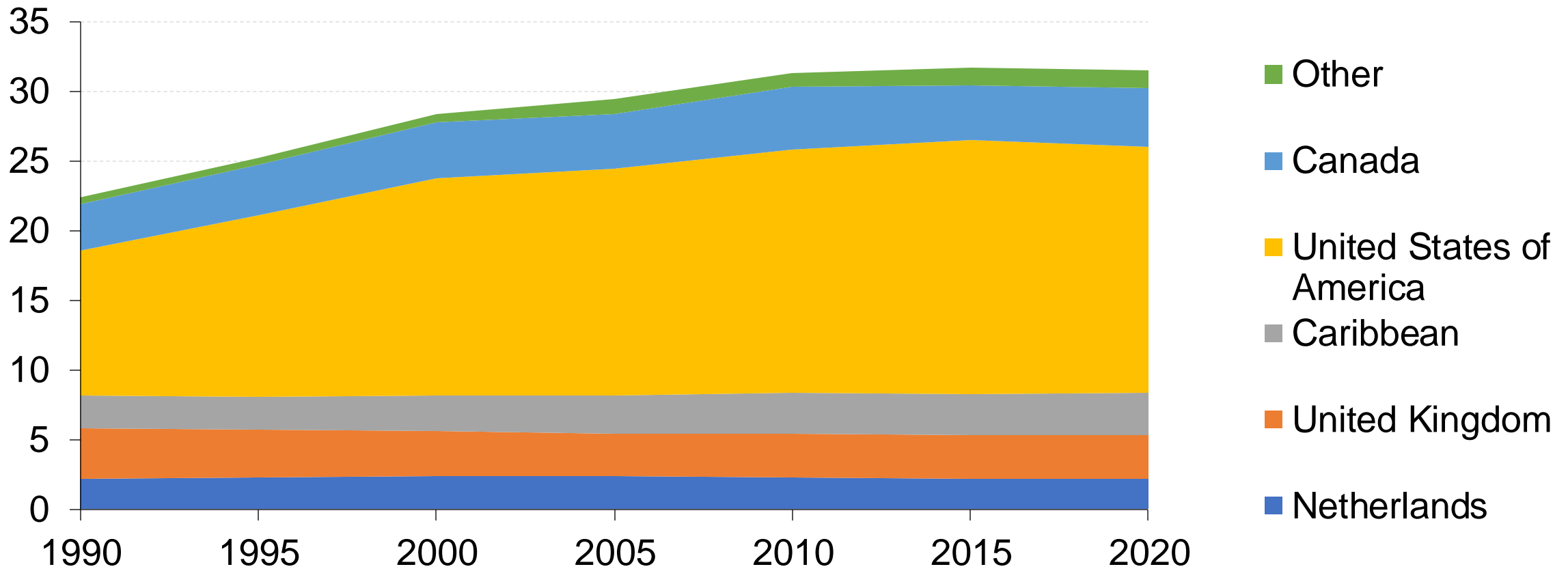
Annual migrant flows from Caribbean to OECD countries



Source: OECD International Migration Database

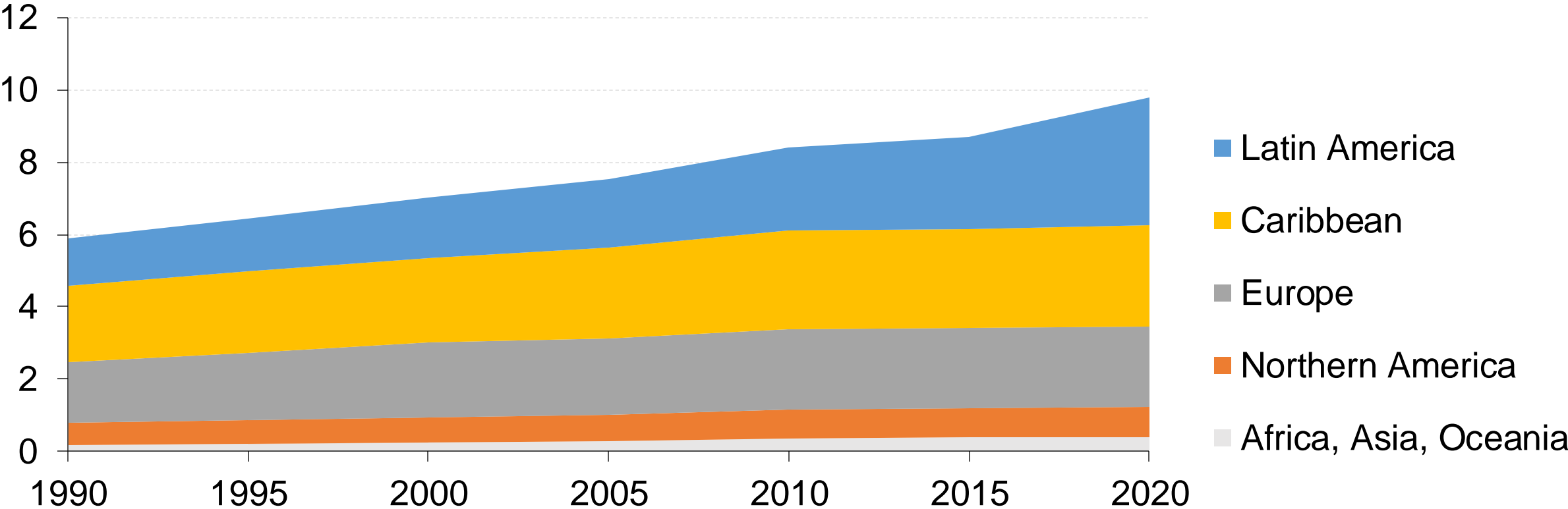
The Caribbean diaspora was growing more quickly than the resident population, but now they are roughly in “equilibrium”

The Caribbean diaspora by destination
(As a percentage of the total resident Caribbean population)



Migrants account for an increasing share of the Caribbean population with recent growth due to migration from Venezuela

B. Origin of migrant stock in the Caribbean
(Percentages of total Caribbean population)



Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). International Migrant Stock 2020.

Emigration from the Caribbean: largest emigrant populations by origin and destination (2020) and changes (2010-20)

	Origin	Destination	Number (2020)	Change (2010-20)
1	Jamaica	USA	792,370	+17%
2	Guyana	USA	241,573	-9%
3	Trinidad and Tobago	USA	208,075	-13%
4	Suriname	Netherlands	182,922	-2%
5	Jamaica	Canada	148,982	18%
6	Jamaica	United Kingdom	128,772	-13%
7	Guyana	Canada	94,421	+7%
8	Trinidad and Tobago	Canada	70,035	+4%
9	Barbados	USA	51,738	-7%
10	Bahamas	USA	46,921	+55%
11	Antigua and Barbuda	USA	46,037	+71%

	Origin	Destination	Number (2020)	Change (2010-20)
12	Belize	USA	42,970	-12%
13	Dominica	USA	36,016	+1%
14	Saint Lucia	USA	33,973	+71%
15	Trinidad and Tobago	United Kingdom	29,508	+35%
16	Guyana	United Kingdom	28,074	+35%
17	Suriname	France	27,892	+22%
18	Saint Kitts and Nevis	USA	27,765	+71%
19	Barbados	United Kingdom	26,622	+35%
20	Grenada	USA	25,303	-23%
21	Suriname	USA	21,498	+48%
22	Barbados	Canada	15,177	-2%

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). International Migrant Stock 2020.

Immigration to the Caribbean: largest immigrant populations by origin and destination (2020) and changes (2010-20)

	Origin	Destination	Number (2020)	Change (2010-20)
1	France	Martinique	52,350	+15%
2	France	Guadeloupe	50,960	-5%
3	Haiti	Bahamas	29,629	+16%
4	Guatemala	Belize	26,767	+34%
5	Brazil	French Guiana	25,759	+60%
6	Venezuela	Trinidad and Tobago	24,001	+1,335%
7	France	French Guiana	23,526	+13%
8	Venezuela	Guyana	23,326	+1,990%
9	Haiti	French Guiana	22,084	+40%
10	Venezuela	Aruba	17,000	+426%
11	USA	United States Virgin Islands	16,886	0%

	Origin	Destination	Number (2020)	Change (2010-20)
12	Venezuela	Curaçao	16,500	+902%
13	Haiti	Turks and Caicos Islands	15,787	+62%
14	Haiti	Guadeloupe	13,973	-5%
15	Colombia	Aruba	10,926	+18%
16	Netherlands	Curaçao	10,562	+21%
17	USA	Bahamas	10,359	+16%
18	El Salvador	Belize	10,016	+34%
19	Honduras	Belize	9,784	+34%
20	Dominican Republic	Curaçao	6,665	+27%
21	USA	Trinidad and Tobago	6,439	+15%
22	USA	Jamaica	6,349	0%

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). International Migrant Stock 2020.

Intra-Caribbean migration: largest intra-Caribbean migrant pops. by origin and destination (2020) and changes (2010-20)

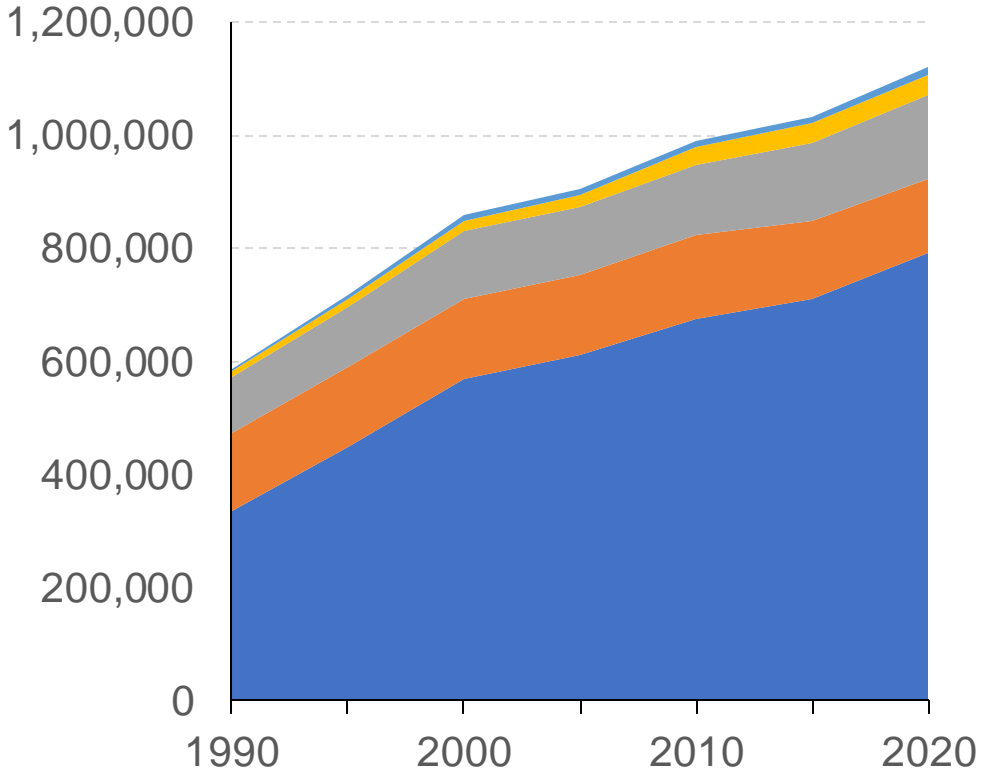
	Origin	Destination	Number (2020)	Change (2010-20)
1	Suriname	French Guiana	26,064	+2%
2	Guyana	Suriname	13,557	+20%
3	Jamaica	Cayman Islands	11,540	+22%
4	Guyana	Trinidad and Tobago	10,923	+15%
5	Grenada	Trinidad and Tobago	8,913	+15%
6	Martinique	Guadeloupe	8,635	-5%
7	Jamaica	Bahamas	8,042	+16%
8	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	Trinidad and Tobago	7,141	+15%
9	Saint Kitts and Nevis	US Virgin Islands	7,103	0%
10	Guyana	Antigua & Barb.	6,811	+12%
11	Guyana	Barbados	6,667	+6%

	Origin	Destination	Number (2020)	Change (2010-20)
12	Guadeloupe	Martinique	6,070	+15%
13	Dominica	US Virgin Islands	5,510	0%
14	Dominica	Antigua and Barbuda	4,963	+11%
15	Antigua and Barbuda	US Virgin Islands	4,588	0%
16	Jamaica	Antigua and Barbuda	4,173	+11%
17	Dominica	Guadeloupe	3,997	-5%
18	Guyana	French Guiana	3,958	+30%
19	Saint Lucia	US Virgin Islands	3,425	0%
20	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	Barbados	3,148	+6%
21	Martinique	French Guiana	2,982	-32%
22	Curaçao	Aruba	2,745	+18%

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). International Migrant Stock 2020.

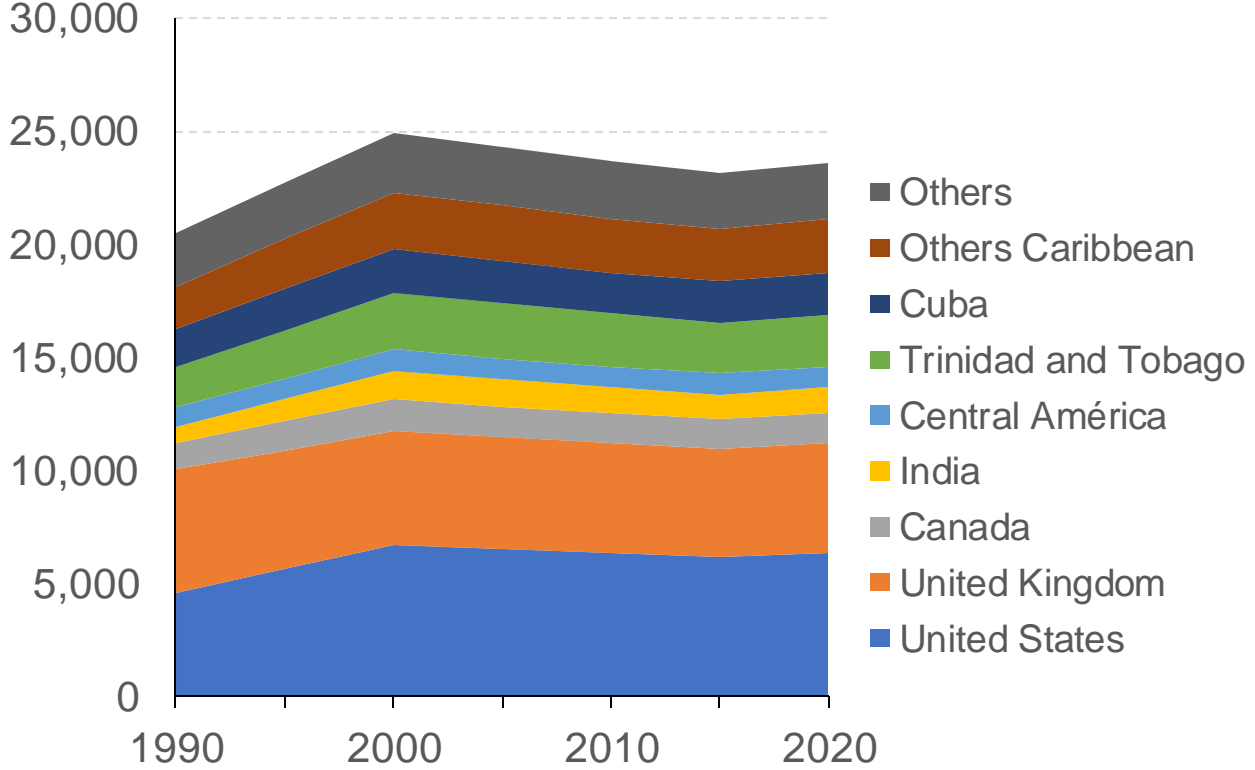
Compared to the Caribbean as a whole, Jamaica has a larger diaspora and a smaller immigrant population

Jamaica: number of emigrants by destination, 1990 - 2020



- United States
- United Kingdom
- Canada
- Caribbean
- Others

Jamaica: number of immigrants by origin, 1990-2020

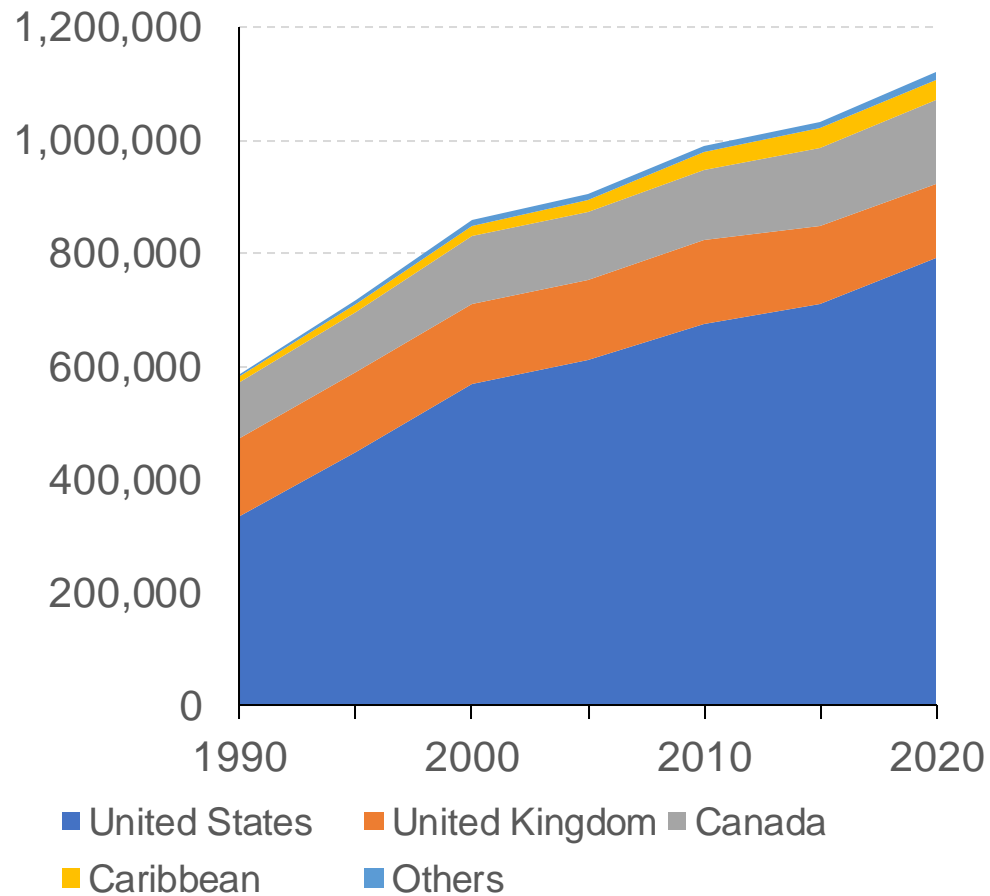


- Others
- Others Caribbean
- Cuba
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Central America
- India
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- United States

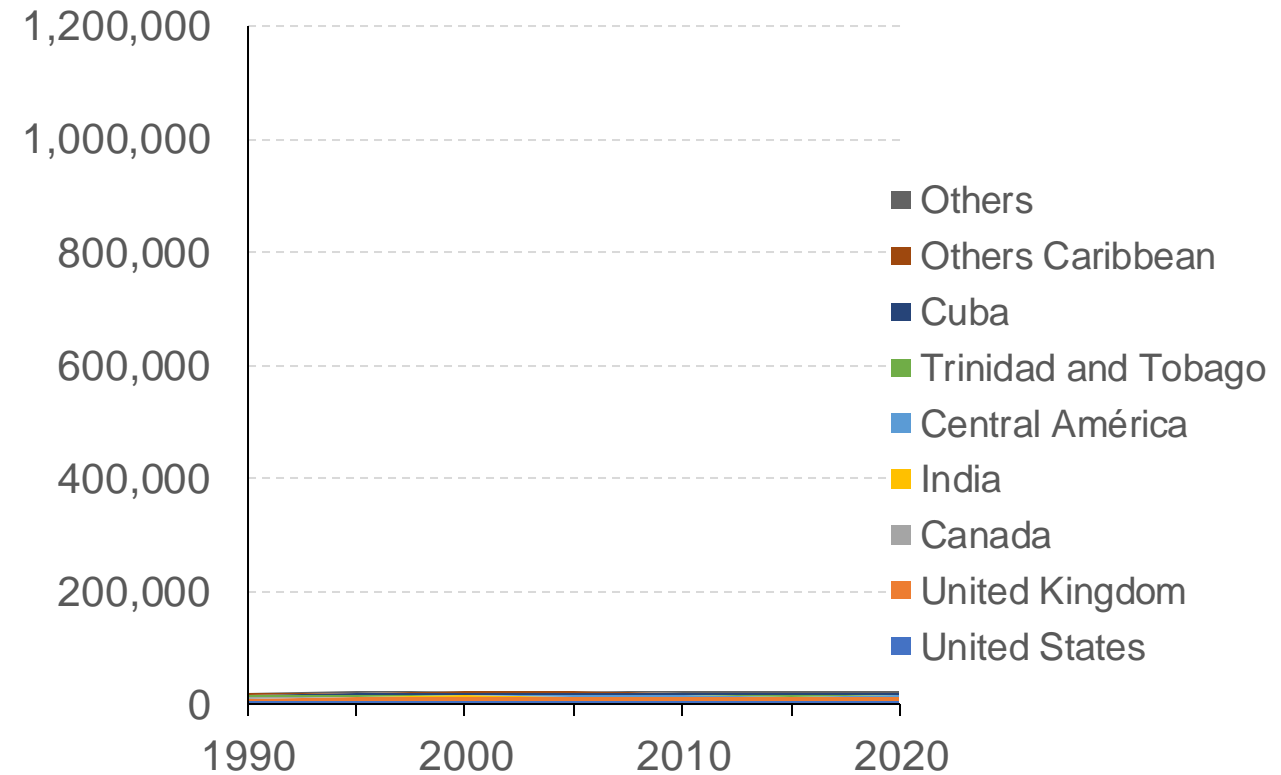
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). International Migrant Stock 2020.

Compared to the Caribbean as a whole, Jamaica has a larger diaspora and a smaller immigrant population

Jamaica: number of emigrants by destination, 1990 - 2020



Jamaica: number of immigrants by origin, 1990-2020



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Contributions of migration to development in Jamaica: contributions of remittances

- In 2010, remittances contributed around 2.03 billion USD annually to the Jamaican economy (15% of GDP)
- By 2021, this had increased to 3.71 billion USD (25% of GDP), decreasing somewhat to 3.42 billion in 2022
- Several times greater than foreign direct investment and official development assistance combined
- Remittances help stabilize the foreign exchange market and the wider economy, contribute to higher levels of productivity through facilitation of technology transfer and entrepreneurship, enable saving, and reduce poverty and social inequality

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Contributions of migration to development in Jamaica: food security and health

- Most households spend income from remittances in the same way as income from other sources
- They are used to cover basic basic living expenses such as food, utility bills, education and housing
- Many recipients have one or more persons who depend on the money they collected
- Research has shown that remittances positively impact calorie consumption (McFarlane et al., 2022)
- Remittances may also be used to invested in agricultural production (Thomas-Hope, 2017)

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Contributions of migration to development in Jamaica: quality education

- In 2010, 14 per cent of all remittances entering Jamaica were spent on education (Bank of Jamaica, 2011)
- Of Jamaican emigrants, around one third study abroad
- They gain knowledge, skills, experiences through studying in different cultural environments
- Of immigrants to Jamaica, about 10 per cent are students
- These students contribute to the Jamaican economy either through tuition fees and/or consumption of good and services

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Contributions of migration to development in Jamaica: gender equality

- Migrants from Jamaica to the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom are more likely to be women than men.
- In the USA and Canada there are about 30% more female than male migrants from Jamaica and in the United Kingdom the figure is 70%
- Higher female participation in tertiary education and migration of health sector workers are both factors behind this trend
- Migration can therefore be seen as a route to economic empowerment for women

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Contributions of migration to development in Jamaica: decent work and economic growth

- There are approximately 10,000 migrants working as part of the Jamaican labour force
- These workers contribute around 100 million USD to the Jamaican economy each year.
- Jamaica's working age population (20-64) is projected to decline from 2028, while its old age population continues to increase
- Immigration increases the size of the working age population relative to the old age population and therefore counteracts population ageing

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The Jamaican diaspora will remain important to the country's future development

- Jamaica's National Diaspora Policy was approved last year
- It will address:
 - Human capital transfer
 - Philanthropy
 - Trade
 - Investment
 - Remittances
 - Diaspora tourism
 - Global Outreach on behalf of the Diaspora
- A National Diaspora Policy Action Plan is being prepared

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The contribution of immigrants is less appreciated; ageing and population decline could change this

- Migrants make up just 0.8% of Jamaica's population and a similar proportion of the labour force
- There were just 23,629 migrants in Jamaica vs 1.12 million Jamaicans in the Diaspora in 2020
- However, as the working population starts to decline (from 2028), immigration (and return migration) could become more important
- In Barbados, where the working age population has been declining since 2017, and through its Population Commission, the Government is actively considering the role that migration can play in replenishing the declining labour force
- Active consideration is being given to the establishment of a Population Commission to address these issues for the Caribbean Community

Thank you