

# A World on the Move

According to the United Nations there were 191 million migrants in 2005—around three percent of the world's population. 55 percent of them went to 10 countries:

- the United States
- Russia
- Germany
- Ukraine
- France
- Saudi Arabia
- Canada
- India
- United Kingdom
- Spain

Migrants can be divided into five main categories: settlers, contract workers, professionals, unauthorized workers and asylum seekers and refugees.

**Settlers** - These are people who intend to live permanently in their new country. Most head for the main countries of settlement, notably the United States, Canada and Australia. The majority are joining close family members.

**Contract workers** – These migrants typically stay only for a specific period: the length of their contract. Some are seasonal workers. Others will be on longer-term contracts, of a year or more. Most are to be found in the Gulf countries [like the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Kuwait].

**Professionals** - These include employees of transnational corporations who are moved around from one country to another. They represent only a small number of the total migrants.

**Unauthorized workers** - Sometimes called undocumented or illegal immigrants. There are significant numbers in most immigration countries. Some have been smuggled in, others are overstaying their visas, or are working on tourist visas.

**Asylum seekers and refugees** - Asylum seekers have left their homes to escape danger; if their claims for asylum have been accepted they are then classified as 'refugees'. In some cases of mass flight, however, when thousands of people escape across a border they are accepted as refugees without going through this individual process.

---

Adapted by permission of Peter Stalker.  
<[www.pstalker.com/migration/](http://www.pstalker.com/migration/)>

---

### Immigration Quiz Answers continued from page 7

#### 10. ANSWER: Jennifer Lopez

With parents hailing from the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, J. Lo was born in the Bronx, New York. All of the others are first-generation immigrants to the United States: Madeleine Albright from Czechoslovakia, Andrew Grove from Hungary, Gene Simmons from Israel and Patrick Ewing from Jamaica.

#### 11. ANSWER: 7 million

The INS revised its estimates of how many undocumented immigrants enter the United States each year in 2003. Their new figures show approximately 350,000 illegal immigrants entering per year from 1990 to

2000. The total number is derived from a complicated formula that takes into account not only arriving immigrants, but also those who return to their native countries. They estimate that approximately seven million undocumented immigrants were living in the U.S. in 2000.

#### 12. ANSWER: 6

Perhaps a common misperception that there is a high volume of immigrants entering the U.S. today rests in the fact that nearly three-quarters (68 percent) of all immigrants settle in just six states: California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey and Illinois.

---

The Immigration Myths & Realities Quiz reprinted courtesy of ITVS <[www.itvs.org](http://www.itvs.org)>.