

Making Migrants Visible

A Review of Information on Migrants in
Censuses and Household Surveys in Latin
America and the Caribbean

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Migration Unit

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Making Migrants Visible

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Series on Migration Statistics





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**By Juan Camilo Perdomo Rico,
Migration Unit Consultant
of the Inter-American Development Bank.**

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Foreword

Latin America and the Caribbean is facing a historic challenge: the exodus from Venezuela¹, the numbers of migrants returning to the Northern Triangle,² and the movement of Haitians³ are among the factors that have plunged the region's countries into an unprecedented situation. Access to reliable, up-to-date information on migrants and their characteristics is essential if we are to address these migration-related challenges and make the most of the opportunities that they bring.

Despite the efforts of governments, United Nations agencies, development banks, academia, and NGOs, **some countries in the region do not have systematic data sources to help them understand the scale and specific features of these new migration processes.** The data that is currently available does not allow countries to describe and categorize the migrant population and its movement patterns, profiles, location, and integration metrics, among other things.

Indeed, the fact that many migrants have irregular migration statuses means that they are invisible in the available data sources: this is true of nearly half of the Venezuelans who have migrated within the region.

The available data sources include those from **administrative bodies**, whose records have improved substantially in recent years. These provide valuable information but also have limitations: the fact that many migrants are constantly in movement

makes them hard to trace. Other gaps and shortfalls also impact the process of surveying and counting people without a regular migration status.

Another source of data are **the United Nations agencies or civil society organizations** that conduct one-off calculations of migrant numbers in specific geographic areas or among certain segments of the population. **These data sources are useful for assessing challenges and needs and responding to humanitarian situations but are not always complete enough to be used to plan comprehensive, long-term public policies.**

Censuses are another way that information can be gathered. The region has also made headway in this area. However, as this study reveals, the long intervals between censuses often prevent intercensal migration movements from being recorded precisely, especially given the massive migration flows that have taken place in Latin America and the Caribbean in recent years.

One final data source are **household surveys**. The results of these vary and, in some cases, use sampling frameworks that are not yet representative of the migrant population. Extrapolating these results to the general population presents statistical robustness-related challenges. These circumstances have been compounded by mobility and data capture restrictions that derive from COVID-19.

¹ Some 6.8 million Venezuelans have left their country since 2015, 5.7 million of whom have moved to other countries in the region. Source: R4V, <https://www.r4v.info/es/refugiadosymigrantes>.

² Between 2018 and 2020, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua received numbers of returning emigrants that were equal to between 0.7% and 0.9% of their total population. Source: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/news/library/reports/annual-report/eroReportFY2020.pdf>.

³ Nearly 300,000 Haitians have moved to Brazil and Chile. Calculations based on data from UNDESA. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock>.

The IDB is **fully aware of this challenge** and has set out to tackle it through its newly created Migration Unit. This has led to the [first studies on migrant profiles from an economic integration perspective and on the impact of migration on Latin America and the Caribbean](#). We are also supporting governments in the region in their responses to various of these challenges and in the strengthening of statistical authorities, among other things.

As part of this work, we have designed a plan in which we have identified **five key challenges, underpinned by a crosscutting data and information criterion that we deem fundamental** to progress on managing migration appropriately. These challenges are:

- 1. Strengthen states' capacities** for gathering, analyzing, and systematizing data from the available sources and foster the inclusion of the migrant population.
- 2. Make greater use of alternative data sources.** The use of big data from social media platforms, cell phone records, and other sources is opening up more and more opportunities for guiding policies and designing interventions.
- 3. Systematize the mechanisms and indicators for monitoring and following up** on the impact of migration- and integration-related public policies, programs, and projects.
- 4. Raise the profile of data and research results** on the specific contributions of the migrant population in Latin America and the Caribbean and the local effects of migration.

- 5. Focus on vulnerable sectors of the migrant population** by creating and publishing information and resources targeting women, the LGBTIQ+ population, children, and indigenous peoples, among others.

These areas should be approached under the crosscutting criterion of data protection and the ethical use of information, ensuring guidelines are in place on data availability and access to data. The Migration Unit, which is part of the IDB's Social Sector, has included [fAIr LAC](#) among these projects—the largest regional alliance for the ethical, responsible use of technology.

This study is part of a series on Migration Statistics that seeks to address these challenges. The first publication in the series was our study [Migration Flows in Latin America and the Caribbean: Statistics on Permits for Migrants](#). We will be publishing other studies on integration rates and remittances, among other topics.

The migrant population is diverse. Some migrants experience specific vulnerabilities, but they also have enormous potential. To help Latin America and the Caribbean make the most of these opportunities, we at the IDB want to help *make them visible*.

Felipe Muñoz Gómez
Migration Unit Chief



I. Introduction

The constant variations in economic and demographic dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have prompted each country's national statistical offices (NSOs) to need to step up their efforts to periodically collect and publish a set of indicators on the socioeconomic status and well-being of their inhabitants. The main methods for collecting this data include longstanding tools such as censuses and household surveys, which are the most significant data sources for monitoring living conditions, making policy decisions, and designing and implementing such policies.

The data currently being collected includes the identification and description of foreign-born individuals who have settled in the country where the census or survey is being conducted (in other words, migrants). This responds to a need to understand the main features of this population and monitor their location, among other things. Traditional data sources have become an indispensable source of knowledge on migration in LAC and have come to contain basic standardized information on the issue (ECLAC, 2011).

The NSO of each country is responsible for designing and implementing these polls and surveys (Migration Data Portal, 2021). Among other things, these measure migrant stocks and create indicators that describe the main features of these and, in some cases, of migration flows, which are calculated using administrative records,⁴ although as

these are normally generated by national migration offices at border crossings, they will not be analyzed in this document.

In this sense, Blyde, Cortés, Morales, and Pierola (2020) explain the fundamental advantages of these two main data sources as follows: population censuses are usually seen as the most significant source of statistics because although they are only carried out every 10 years, their main advantage lies in their universal coverage of the population. Because they are more representative, they are a more reliable way of identifying migrants than other statistical methods.

Although the main limitation of household surveys is their sample size, which affects their statistical and regional representativeness, their strength lies in the frequency with which they are conducted—often once or more per year. Furthermore, the questionnaires used sometimes contain sections that focus on migrants through specific questions such as their place of residence at a certain time, their reasons for leaving their country of origin, or how long they have been living in the destination country (Blyde et al., 2020).

In this regard, **in recent years the IDB has been developing an exercise to compile and standardize these records**—including censuses, household surveys, and other databases—with the aim of developing an open-access website that functions as

⁴ These three instruments—censuses, household surveys, and administrative records—are based on questionnaires designed to collect different types of data. The main difference between censuses and surveys is that the former cover the entire population and surveys only cover a sample. Likewise, administrative records contain data on natural or legal persons or goods in relation to various issues. They are gathered by government institutions as part of their legal obligations (ECLAC, 2018). They differ from surveys and censuses in terms of the information that is gathered and the frequency and manner in which this is done. They are primarily used in relation to strictly statistical information that is not covered by other such tools or when access to this is prevented. In relation to migration, administrative records are forms that are intended to be completed by people who cross the border between two countries and are used to ascertain their planned length of stay and collect other information about them. The information from such forms does not enable comparative, parallel analyses to be conducted over time with regard to certain socioeconomic variables that relate to the labor market, household income and expenditures, and other factors, like censuses and surveys do.

a repository of different standardized, historical indicators to be gauged and published, along with others that monitor socioeconomic issues and the well-being of the inhabitants of these countries.

This work has revealed that despite the positive aspects of the sources described above, they are not without problems. Some countries do not publish microdata frequently, so access to this becomes restricted. Furthermore, some surveys are not carried out frequently enough or do not use the right sampling frame. As a result, they do not enable access to individual-level variables as frequently as is desired, thus preventing the location of certain interest groups from being pinpointed.

In particular, censuses or surveys covering migration in LAC are among the most limited of these exercises. First, only 5 of the 26 IDB member countries⁵ have conducted a census since 2017 that makes it possible to identify migrants, although it should be noted that 17 countries are currently doing so. Although in 16 of these territories it is possible to identify foreign-born respondents through household surveys, only 9 have a representative sample that makes it possible to identify and describe the profiles of migrants in the aforementioned period.

Given the above, this document seeks to provide a possible answer to the question of what information coverage on migrants currently exists in these two sources of statistics in the region. To answer this question, it will review the records that have been collected by the IDB and those published on the website of each NSO. This will reveal which countries it is possible to identify migrants in, how representative the surveys are, and the year in which they were conducted (looking at sources from 2010 onward).

This paper seeks to **contribute to one of the objectives of the IDB's Migration Unit, namely gathering, publishing, and generating better data and estimates on migration in LAC.** The Migration Unit has also worked on other projects that have sought to make verified, evidence-based data on migrants in LAC available to the public. This data is published on the unit's webpage.⁶

The [second section](#) of the document focuses on explaining data collection and harmonization processes at the IDB. The [third section](#) analyses the frequency with which censuses and surveys⁷ are conducted in LAC. The [fourth](#) and [fifth](#) sections review the data in question, its coverage, how representative it is, and possible ways of disaggregating migrants. The [final section](#) contains the main conclusions and some recommendations for countries and NSOs in the region.

⁵ Only the 26 IDB borrowing member countries in LAC were included. These are listed here: <https://www.iadb.org/en/about-us/borrowing-member-countries>

⁶ <https://migraciones.iadb.org/>

⁷ Although in some countries a distinction is made between the household survey and the labor force survey, for practical purposes of this document, a household survey or survey will generally be understood as any of the surveys carried out by the countries and that allow access to sample data that allow characterizing the population.

II. Database Compilation and Harmonization Exercises at the IDB

In the late 1990s, the IDB's Social Sector began working with the World Bank and ECLAC to collect the results of household surveys based on the Program for the Improvement of Surveys and the Measurement of Living Conditions (MECOVI) in LAC.⁸ The aim of this exercise was to support countries in the task of capturing and generating high-quality, up-to-date, politically relevant data on inhabitants' living conditions whose content, scope, and reliability were appropriate (MECOVI, 2002).

The microdata generated since then has been taken directly from NSO websites, when they publish this, or was otherwise requested from these bodies for review and analysis. As time passed and these records were collected, the project's initial purposes were deemed complete and it was transformed into what is currently known at the IDB as the Harmonized Household Surveys program, which produces standardized surveys for IDB member countries. To do so, a data ecosystem was created within the IDB's Social Sector to store, process, and generate statistics, among other things.

This "harmonization" work consists of uploading and opening the original data and identifying the questions that allow standard measurements to be established, based on common approaches and structures and comparable names, definitions, and disaggregation across countries and years. In other words, the same package of variables is generated for all countries in the available years. This process reduces the time needed to identify issues and indicators and process and produce analytical

information at the regional and subregional levels with uniform criteria and in different periods (IDB, 2021).

Subsequently, the IDB began compiling census databases and creating further standardized measurements (as explained above), but in this specific case, using the sample selection and standardization method developed by the Integrated Public Use of Microdata (IPUMS)⁹, a project run by the University of Minnesota in collaboration with other international organizations. IPUMS's mission is to "collect and distribute census microdata from all over the world, to preserve calculations and documentation, harmonize them, and disseminate them free of charge." The decision to use IPUMS as a source rather than gathering population data directly was based on the fact that access to this data is often restricted and that storing it may imply high costs.

In addition, **the advantage of this online repository is that it contains massive publication samples that are created based on exacting statistical requirements, making it an effective representation of total records and thus cutting storage costs.** This data has been standardized using similar criteria to those described above, which thus facilitates standardization within the IDB. In other words, these bases are used to create the indicators defined by the IDB data group. This enables the IDB to compare measures between censuses and surveys across countries and over time, which is useful for this type of research process and others concerning population subgroups.

⁸ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/10339?locale-attribute=es>

⁹ <https://international.ipums.org/international/index.shtml>

Once the data has been harmonized, the databases are stored again with the indicators that have been generated so that these can subsequently be used to review follow-up calculations and for future analysis and comparison exercises. For this purpose, the Data Ecosystem is in the process of creating the SCL Data website,¹⁰ which will function as a repository and is expected to make the indicators that derive from the original data publicly available, along with certain other measurements.¹¹ The objective of this initiative is to ensure that these statistics are not only used internally within the IDB but can also be accessed by outside researchers.

This exercise was initially carried out for the Education, Labor, Gender and Diversity, and Health and Social Protection divisions, which previously made up the Social Sector. Since the creation of the Migration Unit, however, migration has also been included among the variables generated. Specifically, three indicators have been generated on this topic: first, identifying migrants by inquiring about their place of birth or nationality/ies; second, ascertaining their region of origin, with an emphasis on whether they are migrants from within LAC (the 26 IDB countries); and third, their length of stay, specifically whether the individual has been living in the survey country for more than five consecutive years.

The advantages of these processes include **being able to carry out parallel analyses between countries, constructs indexes and indicators that allow studies to be carried out over time, and conduct diagnostic exercises, strategy formulation, and research on social issues**, with calculations based on consistent methodologies (IDB, 2021). However, there are also disadvantages: the samples used are sometimes insufficient, as is true for comparisons between migrants and the native-born population, for which the available amounts of data are often smaller than is needed for profiling and disaggregation purposes.

The data used and analyzed in this document and for reviewing calculations regarding migration in LAC is that which is currently compiled in the SCL Data repository, together with that published on the websites of each NSO.¹² Standardized records from household surveys and censuses will be used for the purposes of this paper, based on the migrant identification variable described above. This variable was created through the IDB's data harmonization work and consists of checking whether the individual is a migrant or not. To review calculations regarding migration in LAC, the written reports published on NSOs' websites will be used since access to microdata from these two data sources is not available.

¹⁰ <https://scldata.iadb.org/app>

¹¹ Due to the way the data is obtained, and certain restrictions imposed by NSOs, not all data can be published and/or shared.

¹² The cut-off date for this document's data is April 30, 2022.

III. Frequency of Data Collection

This section reviews the frequency with which surveys and censuses are conducted in each of the countries in the region. It is divided into two parts: the first analyzes the collection and publication of census data and the second covers the various multipurpose household surveys¹³. This review is based on the data published on each NSO website but did not require access to the microdata uploaded to these websites, as a results report or any other report noting the date of the census was sufficient for this analysis.

As was mentioned above, **censuses are expected to be conducted every 10 years**, as surveying the entire population of a country more often tends to be costly. This facilitates age-group comparisons between one country's census and another, given that censuses tend to be conducted at similar times in almost the entire region. Ideally, **household surveys should be carried out at least once a year**: since their samples are representative, this allows the entire population to be profiled and decisions to be made at a lower cost than that of conducting a census.

IIIa. Censuses

Table 1 summarizes the data obtained from the censuses carried out to date in LAC and indicates when the next censuses will be conducted based

on the data observed in each country from different sources. It also notes whether the respective microdata can be obtained.

In most cases, **it was found that population censuses were conducted at the expected times**. No more than ten years elapsed between the latest census and the one proceeding it in all countries except Chile (which conducted a census in 2012 but repeated the exercise in 2017 as the former was not validated¹⁴), Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Haiti. In addition, among countries where the planned date for the next census has been published, it can be seen that most censuses will be updated at the same time: indeed, 17 of the 26 countries have recently conducted a census. In some cases, the census has not been conducted as planned due to the restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was also found that censuses are carried out at the beginning of every decade in 18 of the 26 countries, which means that **more up-to-date information is needed** for the purposes of this paper. Specifically, eight were performed in 2010, five in 2011, four in 2012, and one in 2013. This means that today a high percentage of LAC census data is out of date: 21 of these exercises were conducted 10 or more years ago.

¹³ Some countries carry out additional surveys on top of the traditional multipurpose household survey. These may include or even target migrants—for example, Peru carries out the Survey Aimed at the Venezuelan Population (ENPOVE); Colombia conducts the Migration Pulse Survey (EPM), and migrants are also taken into account in the quality-of-life survey (ECV), which is used to measure multidimensional poverty; and in the Dominican Republic, the National Immigrant Survey (ENI) provides data on migrant populations. There are other examples of applications of this type in the region. It should be noted that these surveys are often conducted on an irregular basis, depending on the need and availability of resources, while multipurpose surveys are part of the regular programming of statistical institutes.

¹⁴ The problems with the 2012 Chile census are explained here: <https://www.ciperchile.cl/2013/08/07/censo-2012-comision-de-expertos-ratifico-errores-y-recomendo-rehacerlo-el-2015/>

TABLE 1: Frequency of Census Publication in Latin America and the Caribbean

		Last three censuses published	Data in IPUMS/SCL data	Microdata on the NSO web ^a	Census being carried out ^c
ANDEAN	Bolivia	<u>1992, 2001, 2012</u>	Yes	Yes	<u>2022</u>
	Colombia	<u>1993, 2005, 2018</u>	Yes	Yes ^b	2020 compl. ^d
	Ecuador	<u>1990, 2001, 2010</u>	Yes	Yes	<u>2023</u>
	Peru	<u>1993, 2007, 2017</u>	Until 2007	Yes ^b	2020 compl. ^d
	Venezuela	<u>1990, 2001, 2011</u>	Until 2001	No	<u>2022</u>
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas	<u>1990, 2000, 2010</u>	No	No	<u>2021</u>
	Barbados	<u>1990, 2000, 2010</u>	Only 2010	No	<u>2021</u>
	Belize	<u>1991, 2000, 2010</u>	No	No	<u>2022</u>
	Guyana	<u>1991, 2002, 2012</u>	Only 2012	No	<u>2022</u>
	Haiti	<u>1971, 1982, 2003</u>	Yes	No	No data
	Jamaica	<u>1991, 2001, 2011</u>	Yes	No	<u>2021</u>
	Suriname	<u>2004, 2012</u>	Yes	No	No data
	Trinidad & Tobago	<u>1990, 2000, 2011</u>	Yes	No	No data
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina	<u>1991, 2001, 2010</u>	Yes	Yes	<u>2022</u>
	Brazil	<u>1991, 2000, 2010</u>	Yes	Yes	<u>2022</u>
	Chile	<u>1992, 2002, 2017</u>	Yes	Yes	<u>2024</u>
	Paraguay	<u>1992, 2002, 2012</u>	Until 2002	No	<u>2022</u>
	Uruguay	<u>1996, 2004, 2011</u>	Yes	Yes	<u>2023</u>
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica	<u>1984, 2000, 2011</u>	Yes	Yes	<u>2022</u>
	El Salvador	<u>1992, 2007</u>	Yes	No	No data
	Guatemala	<u>1994, 2002, 2018</u>	Yes	Yes ^b	2020 compl. ^d
	Honduras	<u>1988, 2001, 2013</u>	Until 2001	No	No data
	Mexico+	<u>2010, 2015, 2020</u>	Yes	Yes ^b	2020 compl. ^d
	Nicaragua	<u>1971, 1995, 2005</u>	Yes	No	No data
	Panama	<u>1990, 2000, 2010</u>	Yes	No	<u>2022</u>
	Dom. Rep.	<u>1993, 2002, 2010</u>	Yes	No	<u>2022</u>

Source: Compiled by the author based on census data from each country.

^a Refers to the availability of microdata for direct download on the NSO website.

^b Microdata from the last census is not available in IPUMS but can be downloaded from the NSO website.

^c The year listed refers to the date when the census began to be conducted and not to the expected publication date.

⁺ Years ending in a 5 in Mexico's censuses are intercensal surveys that do not take the total population into account. Instead, approximately 6.1 million of the country's 35 million households are surveyed.

^d 2020 round complete: the census rounds begin in year 5 of the respective decade and end in year 4 of the following decade. For example, the 2020 census round began in 2015 and will end in 2024.

However, although censuses were found to be updated regularly in LAC, the rate of publication of this data and access to it are low. Few NSOs allow access to census data directly through their websites. None of the Caribbean countries allow access to their data, while the 12 countries that do include the four Andean countries other than Venezuela and all countries in the Southern Cone except Paraguay. In Mesoamerica, only Costa Rica, Mexico, and Guatemala allow direct downloads from their websites. The other countries only publish reports on their findings, as well as presentations and other file types. **However, while these reports were useful for this initial screening exercise, they do not contain sufficient data for other analyses and profiling exercises.**

To conduct this same analysis using IPUMS data, as explained in the previous section, no information was available for four countries in the Caribbean (although these are covered by SCL data). Furthermore, no records from the last census were available for Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela, due to the time it takes to compile and standardize the data in question. All the same, the microdata for Colombia (2018), Guatemala (2018), Mexico (2020), and Peru (2017) can be downloaded directly from the websites of the respective NSOs. **Finally, the IDB's online repository contains data for Barbados, Jamaica, and Guyana, which were obtained from each country's NSO.**

IIIb. Household Surveys

Table 2 summarizes the information on household surveys that are conducted in the region, the focus of this second subsection. It covers the frequency of these and access to the resulting databases and records.

By way of an introduction to these surveys, **it should be noted that the ENCOVI survey in Venezuela has been carried out by the Andrés Bello Catholic University since 2017 as this data is no longer generated officially in the country.** Haiti does not conduct a household survey per se—the one included in the table is the Health and Demographic survey financed with resources from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is used by the IDB to generate socioeconomic data. Strictly speaking, Suriname does not conduct a household survey either: the one reported in the table was the most recent one conducted. Finally, COVID-related restrictions meant that in Panama the usual survey was replaced by the Telephone Labor Market Survey (EMLT) in 2020 and 2021, but preparations are under way to resume the EPM in 2022.

As with the censuses, **it was found that most countries tend to gather this data regularly:** as can be seen in [Table 2](#), only Chile and Mexico (ENIGH)¹⁵ conduct surveys less frequently than once a year. In 22 of the 26 countries, the most recent surveys were conducted in 2020 or 2021. Only in the Bahamas, Guatemala, Haiti, and Suriname were the most recent surveys published before 2020.

The frequency indicated in [Table 2](#) is based on the last year reported on the website of each country's NSO. Thus, for example, although a survey frequency is reported for the Bahamas, Barbados, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, and Venezuela, there have been significant variations in the actual frequency in recent years, and there are even years in which no information was reported:

¹⁵ Mexico also has a quarterly National Occupation and Employment Survey (ENOE), which identifies migrants and the data from which can be found here: <https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/enoe/15ymas/#Microdatos>

- » **The Bahamas** published just a single survey between 2016 and 2017 and two in 2018 and 2019.
- » **Barbados** did not report any surveys between 2015 and 2020.
- » **Guyana** published two surveys in 2018 and 2019 but issued quarterly reports in 2020 and 2021.
- » A single report for **Haiti** can be found for 2016 and 2017.

The IDB was found to have surveys for all countries; however, it only has data up to 2020 for 13 of them (**including Mexico’s ENOE survey, which is publicly available on the NSO website and which will be analyzed in this paper as it allows migrants to be identified**), and up to 2019 for 5 more

countries. It was not possible to obtain more recent microdata for the remaining countries—Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. In other words, complete information is only available for 11 countries; the remaining 15 only have partial data.

Finally, **14 countries allow access to data through their NSO websites, most of which are in Mesoamerica, including Mexico.** This is also the case for the Andean countries, except Venezuela, and all the Southern Cone countries, while in the Caribbean only Guyana does so. On the other occasions, as in the previous subsection on censuses, the data reported in the table was found in reports, presentations, or other file types that contain aggregate or general information regarding the survey in question.



TABLE 2: Frequency of Reporting of Household Surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean

		Frequency of reported data	Last survey published	Data in SCL Data	Data on NSO website
ANDEAN	Bolivia (ECH)	<u>Annual</u>	2020	Yes	Yes
	Colombia (GEIH)	<u>Monthly</u>	2021	Yes	Yes
	Ecuador (ENEMDU)	<u>Quarterly or monthly</u>	2021	Yes	Yes
	Peru (ENAHO)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2021	Until 2020	Until 2020
	Venezuela (ENCOVI)	<u>Annual*</u>	2021	Yes	No
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas (LFS)	<u>Six-monthly</u>	2019	Until 2014	No
	Barbados (LFS)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2021	Until 2016	No
	Belize (LFS)	<u>Six-monthly</u>	2021	Until 2007	No
	Guyana (GLFS)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2021	Yes	Yes
	Haiti (DHS)	Not carried out*	2017	Yes	No
	Jamaica (LFS)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2021	Until 2018	No
	Suriname (SLC)	<u>Not carried out*</u>	2017	Yes	No
	Trinidad & Tobago (CSSP)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2020	Until 2015	No
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina (EPH)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2021	Yes	Yes
	Brazil (PNADC)	<u>Monthly</u>	2021	Yes	Yes
	Chile (CASEN)**	<u>Every 2 or 3 years</u>	2020	Yes	Yes
	Paraguay (EPHC)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2021	Until 2020	Yes
	Uruguay (ECH)	<u>Annual</u>	2021	Yes	Yes
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica (ENAHO)	<u>Annual</u>	2021	Yes	Yes
	El Salvador (EHPM)	<u>Annual</u>	2020	Yes	No
	Guatemala (ENEI)	<u>Six-monthly</u>	2021	Yes	Yes
	Honduras (EHPM)	<u>Annual</u>	2021	Until 2019	Until 2019
	Mexico (ENOE)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2021	Yes	Yes
	Nicaragua (ECH)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2021	Until 2014	No
	Panama (EPM)	<u>Six-monthly</u>	2020	Until 2019	No
	Dom. Rep. (ENCFT)	<u>Quarterly</u>	2021	Until 2020	No

Source: Compiled by the author based on data from each country's household surveys.

* In Haiti, Suriname, and Venezuela, the surveys used in this document were financed or carried out by outside organizations.

** In Chile there is also the National Employment Survey (ENE) that reports quarterly data on the country's labor market.

IV. Coverage of Migrants in the Databases

Once the frequency with which censuses and surveys are conducted and published had been reviewed, **the next step was to analyze how useful these two data sources are when it comes to identifying and describing migrants in each country.** Each of the survey questionnaires and census questions was reviewed to see if there are any variables in the database that migrants to be distinguished from the native-born population. [Tables 3](#) and [4](#) show whether it is possible to identify the migrant populations of each country using the available data over time.

IVa. Censuses

[Table 3](#) covers censuses from the 1990s to the 2020s and **shows whether migrants could be identified in the region in these different periods.** Like [Table 1](#), it uses ten-year ranges, as not all countries conduct their censuses in the same year or with the same frequency. The symbol “I” is used to indicate that no census was conducted during the decade; “II” if a census was conducted but there is no information that allows migrants to be identified (there is no database or related reports); and “III” when migrants can be identified. When no microdata is available but there is a report providing information on migrants, the link to the related source is included (and the symbol “III” is a green hyperlink).

Although data is available for 1990 onward that provides some insight into movements over time,

recent changes in demographic and migration dynamics in LAC mean that the focus of this exercise is almost exclusively on the last five or ten years. For example, **the exodus of Venezuelan citizens began between 2017 and 2018, so data from after that point is needed to explore and identify the effects generated by these migrants** in the territories where they have decided to settle.

In this regard, [Table 3](#) shows that **there are databases for the last ten years that are available for download in 14 of the 26 countries;** however, as 9 of these censuses were conducted before 2012, they do not comply with the required timeframe. Similarly, there are eight cases in which there is a related report (green hyperlinked “III”—there is no access to the data but the link to the document is included), but the census in question was carried out before 2017, meaning that they are not especially useful for this analysis either.

In contrast, the 2017 Chile census is included in IP-UMS, and the data for those of Peru (2017), Colombia (2018), Guatemala (2018), and Mexico (2020) are publicly available through the website of each NSO. These censuses allow migrants to be identified and their main characteristics to be disaggregated. The fact that migration movements can only be identified in 5 of the 26 countries confirms the previous finding regarding the lack of up-to-date censuses in LAC. For this reason, it is to be hoped and recommended that the planned censuses listed in [Table 1](#) are conducted as soon as possible, so that these records can be updated and population changes in the region can be analyzed.

TABLE 3: Possibility of Identifying Migrants in Censuses, by Decades

	 (latest census)	1990s***	2000s***	2010s***	2020s***
ANDEAN	Bolivia (92, 01, 12)	III	III	III	I**
	Colombia (93, 05, 18)	III	I	III	III*
	Ecuador (90, 01, 10)	III	III	III	I**
	Peru (93, 07, 17)	III	I	III	III*
	Venezuela (90, 01, 11)	III	III	III	I**
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas (90, 00, 10)	II	II	III	I**
	Barbados (90, 00, 10)	II	II	III	I**
	Belize (91, 00, 10)	II	III	III	I**
	Guyana (91, 02, 12)	II	III	III	I**
	Haiti (03)	I	III	I	I
	Jamaica (91, 01, 11)	III	III	III	I**
	Suriname (04, 12)	I	II	II	I
	T&T (90, 00, 11)	III	III	III	I
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina (91, 01, 10)	III	III	III	I*
	Brazil (91, 00, 10)	III	III	III	I**
	Chile (92, 02, 17)	III	III	I	III**
	Paraguay (92, 02, 12)	III	III	III	I**
	Uruguay (96, 04, 11)	I	III	III	I**
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica (00, 11)	I	III	III	I**
	El Salvador (92, 07)	III	I	III	I
	Guatemala (94, 02, 18)	III	III	I	III*
	Honduras (02, 13)	I	III	III	I
	Mexico (10, 15, 20)	III	III	III	III*
	Nicaragua (95, 05)	I	III	III	I
	Panama (90, 00, 10)	III	III	III	I**
	Dom. Rep. (93, 02, 10)	III	III	III	I**

Source: Compiled by the author based on census data from each country.

The census rounds begin in year 5 of the last decade and end in year 4 of the respective decade; For example, the 2020 census round started in 2015 and ends in 2024.

I = No census was carried out in the decade.

II = A census was carried out, but the data does not distinguish between migrants and the native-born population.

III = A census was carried out and it was possible to distinguish between migrants and the native-born population.

* The data from the last census is not available from IPUMS but can be downloaded from the INE website.

** Information was found on censuses that are being carried out and are expected to be completed before 2023.

*** Census round: the census rounds begin in year 5 of the respective decade and end in year 4 of the following decade. For example, the 2020 census round began in 2015 and will end in 2024.

IVb. Household Surveys

[Table 4](#) shows the availability of the second data source used in this document, namely the household surveys conducted in each country since 2010, a cut-off date that was chosen in response to the recent migration patterns mentioned above. The table also lists whether migrants could be identified in the variables or questions included. In this case, annual periods are shown as these surveys are expected to be conducted more frequently. The symbol “I” is used when no database is available; “II” when microdata is available but it is not possible to identify migrants; and “III” when records exist and migrants can be identified.

It was found that there are 16 countries in which a survey of some sort was conducted and in which it is possible to identify and disaggregate migrants from 2017 onward—Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

In five countries (Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Nicaragua, and Trinidad and Tobago) there is no information from surveys conducted after 2017, while in a further five (Brazil, Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Jamaica) there are databases for the period in question, but there are no variables that allow migrants to be identified. As a result, the countries with affirmative answers are the Andean countries, the Southern Cone (except Brazil), and some countries in Mesoamerica, including Mexico.

Only two of the eight countries in the Caribbean have information available after 2017: Guyana and Suriname.

Finally, a detailed examination of the questionnaires and other survey information revealed that there are some countries where questions or variables that allowed migrants to be identified have been removed: this was the case in Brazil, when it switched from the PNAD survey to the PNADC in 2016; Paraguay did not use the indicator in 2015 and 2018; in Honduras, due to the variable coding in 2019, it is not possible to use it; and Uruguay removed it in 2020 due to changes in the surveys in response to COVID.

Having analyzed this information, **the way that migrants are identified in each country can now be reviewed.** To this end, [Table 5](#) indicates the variable used in each of the countries in the last year of the survey.

It was found that of the 23 countries in which migrants could be identified in some year between 2010 and 2021, **13 base the identification process on place or country of birth**, namely the Andean countries, half of the Caribbean countries in which this information was available, two in the Southern Cone, and three in Central America. **Five use nationality to define whether respondents are migrants or native-born**, which include countries in the Caribbean, the Southern Cone, and Mesoamerica, including Mexico. **The remaining five remaining countries (from these same regions) inquire about the mother’s place of residence at the time of the respondent’s birth.**



TABLE 4: Possibility of Identifying Migrants in Household Surveys

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ANDEAN	Bolivia (ECH)	I	II	III	I								
	Colombia (GEIH)	II	II	II	II	II	III						
	Ecuador (ENEMDU)	II	I	III									
	Peru (ENAHO)	III	I*										
	Venezuela (EHM/ENCOVI)	II	III	III									
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas (LFS)	I	III	II	III	III	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Barbados (LFS)	III	I	I	I	I	I						
	Belize (LFS)	I	I	I	I	I	I	I*	I*	I*	I*	I*	I*
	Guyana (GLFS)	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	III	III	III	III	III
	Haiti (ECVMAS/DHS)	I	I	III	I	I	I	I	II	II	I	I	I
	Jamaica (SLC/LFS)	II	I	II	I*	I*	I*						
	Suriname (SLC)	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	III	I	I	I	I
	Trinidad & Tobago (CSSP)	III	I	III	III	III	III	I*	I*	I*	I*	I*	I*
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina (EPH)	III											
	Brazil (PNAD/PNADC)	I	III	III	III	III	III	II	II	II	II	II	II
	Chile (CASEN)	I	III	I	III	I	III	I	III	I	I	III	I
	Paraguay (EPH/EPHC)	III	III	III	III	III	II	III	III	II	III	III	I*
	Uruguay (ECH)	III	II	I*									
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica (ENAHO)	III											
	El Salvador (EHPM)	II	I										
	Guatemala (ENEI)	II	II	II	II	III	II	II	II	II	II	I	I
	Honduras (EHPM)	III	I*	I*									
	Mexico (ENOE)	III											
	Nicaragua (ECH/EMNV)	II	II	II	I	III	I*						
	Panama (EH/ECHPM)	II	II	II	II	II	III	II	III	III	III	I*	I*
	Dom. Rep. (ENFT/ENCFT)	III	I*										

Source: Compiled by the author based on data from each country's household surveys.

* Data is available from a survey that has been conducted, but there is no downloadable database.

I: There is no database or other information to indicate whether a survey was conducted that year.

II: A database exists for the year, but it does not include a variable that allows migrants to be identified.

III: Microdata is available and there is a variable that allows migrants to be identified.

TABLE 5: Ways of Identifying Migrants by Country

		Place of birth	Nationality/ Country of origin	Mother's place of residence at the time of birth
ANDEAN	Bolivia (ECH 2020)	Yes	No	No
	Colombia (GEIH 2021)	Yes	No	No
	Ecuador (ENEMDU 2021)	Yes	No	No
	Peru (ENAHO 2020)	Yes	No	No
	Venezuela (ENCOVI 2019)	Yes	No	No
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas (LFS 2014)	Yes	No	No
	Barbados (LFS 2016)	No	Yes	No
	Belize (LFS)	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Guyana (GLFS 2021)	No	No	Yes
	Haiti (DHS 2012)	No	No	Yes
	Jamaica (LFS)	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Suriname (SLC 2017)	Yes	No	No
	Trinidad & Tobago (CSSP 2015)	Yes	No	No
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina (EPH 2021)	Yes	No	No
	Brazil (PNADC 2015)	Yes	No	No
	Chile (CASEN 2020)	No	Yes	Yes
	Paraguay (EPHC 2020)	No	Yes	No
	Uruguay (ECH 2019)	No	No	Yes
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica (ENAHO 2021)	No	No	Yes
	El Salvador (EHPM)	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Guatemala (ENEI 2014)	Yes	No	No
	Honduras (EHPM 2019)	Yes	No	No
	Mexico (ENOE 2021)	No	Yes	No
	Nicaragua (ECH 2014)	No	No	Yes
	Panama (ECHPM 2019)	No	Yes	No
Dom. Rep. (ENCFT 2020)	Yes	No	No	

Source: Compiled by the author based on data from each country's household surveys.

V. Representativeness of Migrants in Sampling Frames

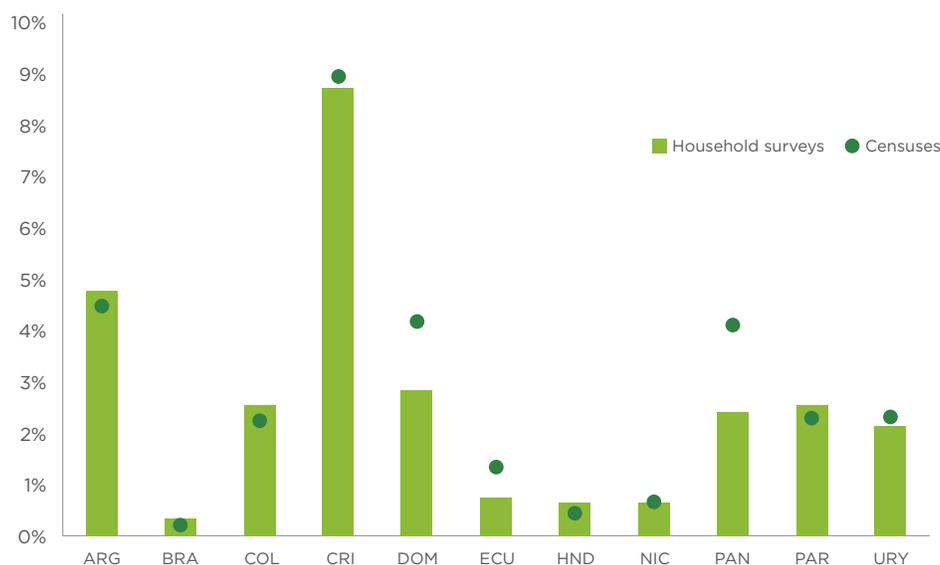
In view of the above, **it should be reiterated that household surveys are carried out to complement censuses**, due to the constant need for up-to-date data to enable monitoring and decision-making on issues that change in the short and medium term, such as labor market participation rate, unemployment, and household income and expenditure, among others. However, **the sample must be statistically representative of the entire population so that all the country's inhabitants are contemplated in the profile, including migrants.**

Using this approach, Blyde et al. (2020) compared censuses (which are expected to have global coverage of migrants) and household surveys to see how accurate the latter are in capturing the share of migrants in the total population.

These comparative exercises were carried out by opening the databases and reviewing the percentages of migrants indicated by each of the sources used. These findings are shown in [figure 1](#).

The household survey from the year closest to the most recent census available in each country was used. The household survey years (first term) and population census years (second term) used were: Argentina (2010; 2010), Brazil (2010; 2010), Colombia (2018; 2018), Costa Rica (2011; 2011), Dominican Republic (2010; 2010), Ecuador (2012; 2010), Honduras (2013; 2013), Nicaragua (2005; 2005), Panama (2011; 2010), Paraguay (2017; 2017), and Uruguay (2011; 2011), **as can be seen in the following figure:**

FIGURE 1: Difference in Shares of Migrants According to Household Surveys and Censuses



Source: Blyde et al. (2020).

We found that household surveys complement censuses effectively, at least in the years in which the latter were conducted. Among the countries used for this analysis, only in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Panama do the differences between survey estimates of the share of migrants in the population and actual census estimates range between 0.5% and 1%. This difference is smaller in other countries, such that household surveys can be said to accurately reflect the migrant population.

However, **there are other surveys that are not designed to representatively capture specific groups of individuals or population and migration dynamics by country over time** (Gutiérrez, Mancero, Fuentes, López, and Molina, 2020). In other words, in some cases, the methodologies used in these surveys are not updated as often as necessary, so they may not pick up recent changes in countries' demographic composition. The same might be true of IPUMS: although it includes census samples that seek to reflect population records accurately, identifying migrants in all countries is not the main focus of its methodology.

As a result, **the specific circumstances of each country in the region need to be reviewed over different periods**, as there are instances of both surveys and censuses in which the share of the foreign-born population is less than 1%, which may fall short of accurately representing all migrants in the country. For this reason, this section seeks to analyze the data contained in each of the databases and evaluate how representative the share of migrants is in the surveys and censuses for each country.

Based on Gutiérrez et al. (2020), three criteria were established to ascertain whether the estimates made using these two data sources can be considered reliable. We begin by reviewing the sample size. According to Barnett-Walker, Chromy, Davis, Emrich, Odom, and Packer (2003), cited in Gutiérrez et al. (2020), "any estimate based on a sample size of fewer than 10 units should be suppressed or marked as unreliable."

However, based on the methodological explanations for some of the surveys and taking other possible approaches to disaggregation into account (such as disaggregation by age group), High quality estimates will be considered those that have more than 500 observations, with a standard error less than 0.5, and a coefficient of variation that is less than 20%¹⁶. Those estimates that meet two of these criteria will be considered as medium quality, and those that only meet one or none of these criteria will be considered as low quality.

For this purpose, [Tables 6](#) and [7](#) show the last year that censuses (IPUMS) and surveys were conducted, respectively, the number of migrants included in the samples, the total number of observations or people, and the percentage that they represented in the total respondents. The standard error and coefficient of variation were calculated for the analyses mentioned above. Later, at the end of this section, these findings are compared with another data source that also performs calculations and estimates regarding the share of migrants in these statistics.

Although the IPUMS data is comprised of census samples that are representative of the population according to the established criteria, it does not function properly as a source of the data needed to provide an up-to-date representation of migrant populations. The first reason for this is time-related: the only census on the IPUMS website that was conducted after 2015 is the 2017 Chile census. Furthermore, there is no data available for four Caribbean countries, and data from the most recent censuses is not yet available for four countries as it is still being compiled and standardized.

However, as mentioned above, the original microdata from the latest censuses of Barbados (2010), Colombia (2018), Jamaica (2011), Guyana (2012), Guatemala (2018), and Mexico (2020) are already in the IDB's online repository and are currently being processed, and indicators are being calculated for subsequent publication.

¹⁶ According to (Gutierrez et al., 2020), the precision of a statistic is based on the confidence interval generated by the probability measure associated with the sample design of the survey. However, all the estimates fall within narrow confidence interval, that is, are considered reliable, and we therefore proceed in the application of other quality criteria. The coefficient of variation provides another approach to the sampling error and indicates whether an inference is valid. If the CV is greater than 20%, we can assume that the regional value is a useful reference, and any figure estimated whose coefficient of variation is greater than this threshold is suppressed or marked as unreliable. In the article cited, the authors suggest a minimum of 100 observations. However, contrasted with other methodological documents and with the intention of allowing for further disaggregation of statistics, we conclude that a minimum of 500 observations provides greater certainty.

TABLE 6: Migrant Participation in IPUMS Samples (Censuses)

		Year	Number of migrants	Number of observations	Migrants as a % of the sample
ANDEAN	Bolivia	2012	12,808	1,003,516	1.28%
	Colombia	2005	7,595	4,006,168	0.19%
	Ecuador	2010	19,520	1,448,233	1.35%
	Peru*	2007	7,835	2,745,895	0.29%
	Venezuela	2001	99,152	2,306,489	4.3%
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	Barbados	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	Belize	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	Guyana	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	Haiti	2003	1,676	838,045	0.20%
	Jamaica	2001	1,919	205,179	0.94%
	Suriname	2012	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	Trinidad & Tobago	2011	4,420	116,917	3.78%
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina	2010	175,470	3,966,245	4.42%
	Brazil	2010	46,196	20,635,472	0.22%
	Chile	2017	78,229	1,756,889	4.45%
	Paraguay	2002	17,281	516,083	3.35%
	Uruguay	2011	7,658	328,425	2.33%
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica	2011	38,996	430,082	9.07%
	El Salvador	2007	3,771	574,364	0.66%
	Guatemala*	2002	5,061	1,121,946	0.45%
	Honduras	2001	2,742	608,620	0.45%
	Mexico	2015	82,162	11,344,365	0.72%
	Nicaragua	2005	3,391	515,485	0.66%
	Panama	2010	14,350	341,118	4.21%
	Dom. Rep.	2010	39,548	943,784	4.19%

Source: Compiled by the author based on IPUMS data from each country.

* The data from the census of Peru 2017 and Guatemala 2018 are published on the CELADE website and no calculations are made regarding a sample, since they are the total microdata of the census.

TABLE 7: Migrant Participation in the Household Survey Sample

	 *	Year	Number of migrants	Number of observations	Migrants as a % of the sample	Standard error	Coeff. of variation
ANDEAN	Bolivia (ECH - A)	2020	84~	37,092	0.23%	0.04	15.1
	Colombia (GEIH - A)	2020	33,892	746,705	4.54%	0.09	1.81
	Ecuador (ENEMDU - A)	2021	10,217	361,790	2.82%	0.16	10.1
	Peru (ENAHO - A)	2020	415~	59,732	0.69%	0.06	7.0
	Venezuela (ENCOVI - A)	2019	342~	33,170	1.03%	0.08	7.3
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas (LFS - A)	2014	817	6,017	13.58%	0.51^	3.9
	Barbados (LFS - S1)	2016	529	6,901	8.88%	0.01	0.5
	Belize (LFS)	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D
	Guyana (GLFS - A)	2021	481~	36,935	1.30%	0.11	11.1
	Haiti (DHS - A)	2012	21~	18,182	0.12%	0.9^	12.8
	Jamaica (LFS)	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D
	Suriname (SLC - M9, 10)	2017	376~	6,837	5.50%	0.53^	9.9
	T & T (CSSP - A)	2015	1,148	33,297	3.45%	0.17	4.8
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina (EPH - A)	2020	4,837	174,534	2.77%	0.82^	17.9
	Brazil (PNADC - A)	2015	1,198	355,935	0.34%	0.00	0.0
	Chile (CASEN - A)	2020	25,548	916,469	2.79%	0.16	2.6
	Paraguay (EPHC - Q4)	2020	465~	17,565	2.65%	0.20	7.9
	Uruguay (ECH - A)	2019	2,809	107,871	2.60%	0.05	1.9
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica (ENAHO - A)	2020	6,606	89,077	7.42%	0.19	2.3
	El Salvador (EHPM)	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D
	Guatemala (ENEI)	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D	N.D
	Honduras (EHPM - A)	2019	508	88,632	0.57%	0.06	8.2
	Mexico (ENOE - A)	2020	10,296	1,143,062	0.90%	0.03	0.4
	Nicaragua (EMNV M9)	2014	247~	29,381	0.84%	0.46	5.4
	Panama (ECHPM - A)	2019	1,390	42,642	3.26%	0.32	6.7
	Dom. Rep. (ENCFT - Q4)	2020	3,181	71,379	4.5%	0.26	8.0

Source: Compiled by the author based on data from each country's household surveys.

* The country column contains the acronyms for the survey names in parentheses, followed by a letter and sometimes a number that indicate when the data included in the table was gathered. M stands for month; Q for quarter; S for semester; and A for annual. For example, data from the 9th month was used for Nicaragua, and data for the whole year are used for Argentina.

^ Standard error greater than 0.5

~ Less than 500 observations

This confirms the result observed above: **based on the year the data was gathered, only the censuses conducted in Chile and Peru (2017), Colombia and Guatemala (2018), and Mexico (2020) could be used to distinguish and disaggregate migrant populations in recent years.** All the same, as noted above, of these five censuses, only Chile's is available on the IPUMS website, so the others must be downloaded from each NSO's website. As these censuses cover the entire population, they may provide a complete, accurate representation of the migrant populations in these countries.

For this reason, and **due to the need for data that is updated regularly** (i.e., more than once a year), multipurpose household surveys are expected to be able to serve as a valid alternative for analyses of this sort. [Table 7](#) shows when household surveys were last conducted in each country and the number of migrant individuals included in each sample. As the records and measurements are partial in this case, the criteria set out above in relation to standard error, the coefficient of variation, and sample size will be used to assess whether the sample is representative or not.

Looking at the sample size criterion (more than 500 observations), only Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay have a representative sample of migrants in the period in question (after 2017). In contrast, the calculations for Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Guyana, Haiti, Suriname, Paraguay, and Nicaragua are not reliable. However, it is important to note that this analysis drew on the periods of data to which access was available. For example, in Paraguay, data that identifies migrants is only available for the fourth quarter of the year—if such data existed for the entire year, the result might be different. In the remaining ten countries, the data is insufficient or from before the established cut-off point.

Turning to the standard error criterion, Bahamas, Haiti, Suriname, and Argentina are above the expected value of 0.5, which would suggest that their calculations are not accurate. **For the final**

criterion, the coefficient of variation, all countries are below the established limit of 20%. The result is that, following the standards defined above, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and the Dominican Republic meet the three established requirements, providing high-quality measurements. On the other hand, in Argentina, Bolivia, Guyana, Peru, Paraguay, and Venezuela, two of the three requirements are met, so their estimates are considered to be of medium quality. Lastly, Suriname would be established as the only case that does not meet two of the three criteria, for which its estimates would be considered of low quality. In the other cases, the timeliness criterion considers them to be out of date. As mentioned, their data are not taken into account in these results, since they do not comply with the desired temporality, which allows immigrant citizens to be identified in a period after 2017.

By way of comparison, [Tables 8 and 9](#) contain a column showing the share of migrants in the total population calculated using the IPUMS expansion factors and each country's latest household survey, and another column with expansion factor provided by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)¹⁷ for the closest year available. The aim of this exercise was to explore whether there are significant differences between these two data sources and attempt to understand the reasons for any such gaps.

According to the UNDESA website, the data it uses to estimate the stock of international migrants **is obtained from population censuses, population records, and nationally representative surveys that provide information on the number and composition of international migrants in the local population.** To perform this calculation, international migrants are taken as those born outside the country. When no data was available on respondents' place of birth, their country of citizenship was used, such that foreign citizens were taken as being synonymous with international migrants (UNDESA, 2020).

¹⁷ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock>

The procedures for estimating the stock of migrants for the seven benchmark years from 1990 to 2020 varied according to the quality and availability of data. For countries or areas for which no data source was available, another country or group of countries was used as a model. The “model” countries were selected based on several characteristics, including their numbers of international migrants and geographic proximity.

For countries or areas for which empirical data was only available for a single point in time, the relevant regional or subregional growth rates of the stock of international migrants from the destination country or area by sex were used. For countries or areas with data for two or more points in time, interpolation or extrapolation was used to estimate the stock of migrants for the seven benchmark years. **The growth rate between the two consecutive data points was calculated as follows:**

$$r = \ln \frac{\left(\frac{m_1}{m_0}\right)}{(t_1 - t_0)}$$

where m_1 refers to the migrant stock in year 1 (t_1) and m_0 to the migrant stock in year 0 (t_0).

In the absence of empirical data for a specific period, growth rates were held constant to those of the nearest available periods. Other methods were also used. In some cases, regression models

were used when annual empirical data was available. In others, estimates of the total migrant population were adjusted by the estimated size of the destination country population by sex (UNDESA, 2020).

Given that UNDESA performs its own calculations to estimate migrant numbers and the share of migrants in the total population, **it is used as a source for comparisons with the data analyzed in this paper.** For the household surveys, the methodological explanations of each NSO and the number of migrants included in each sample were reviewed to establish a group of average percentages (margin of error), as these allow the percentages of migrants calculated using the IPUMS expansion factor to be compared with each survey and UNDESA’s values. A difference of less than 0.5% was deemed low, one of 1.5% or less was deemed medium, and one of more than 1.5% was deemed high.

Although in terms of timeliness **IPUMS was not found to be a reliable option for identification and profiling of migrants**, when compared with another census-related data sources like UNDESA, the differences between the percentages when using IPUMS (including expansion factors) were small enough as to not be statistically significant.

As noted above, household surveys are another of the data sources used by UNDESA to generate the percentages of migrants in the total population. **This means that comparisons can be made between the closest two years for these two data sources.** [Table 9](#) shows these comparisons.

TABLE 8: Comparison Between Shares According to IPUMS and UNDESA

		Last census year	% of migrants according to census	UNDESA comparison year	% of migrants according to UNDESA	Difference survey-UNDESA
ANDEAN	Bolivia	2012	1.3%	2010	1.2%	0.1%
	Colombia	2005	0.3%	2005	0.3%	0%
	Ecuador	2010	1.4%	2010	2.2%	-0.8%
	Peru**	2007	0.3%	2005	0.3%	0%
	Venezuela	2001	4.3%	2000	4.1%	0.2%
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	Barbados	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	Belize	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	Guyana	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	Haiti	2003	0.2%	2000	0.3%	-0.1%
	Jamaica	2001	1%	2000	1%	0%
	Suriname	2012	N.D.	2010	7.7%	N.D.
	Trinidad & Tobago	2011	3.8%	2010	3.6%	0.2%
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina	2010	4.4%	2010	4.4%	0%
	Brazil	2010	0.3%	2010	0.3%	0%
	Chile	2017	4.4%	2015	3.6%	0.8%
	Paraguay	2002	3.4%	2000	3.3%	0.1%
	Uruguay	2011	2.3%	2010	2.3%	0%
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica	2011	9%	2010	8.9%	0.1%
	El Salvador	2007	0.7%	2005	0.6%	0.1%
	Guatemala**	2002	0.5%	2000	0.4%	0.1%
	Honduras	2001	0.5%	2000	0.5%	0%
	Mexico	2015	0.8%	2015	0.9%	-0.1%
	Nicaragua	2005	0.7%	2005	0.6%	0.1%
	Panama	2010	4.2%	2010	4.3%	-0.1%
	Dom. Rep.	2010	4.1%	2010	4%	0.1%

Source: Compiled by the author based on data from each country's census and UNDESA.

** The data from the census of Peru 2017 and Guatemala 2018 are published on the CELADE website and no calculations are made regarding a sample, since they are the total microdata of the census.

* In blue, the countries whose census is prior to the year 2017, since they do not allow analysis of the most recent demographic changes. Chile is in yellow, because it has a difference greater than 0.8 between IPUMS and UNDESA, which is probably explained by the significant flows of migrants between 2015 and 2017 to Chile.

TABLE 9: Comparison Between Shares of Migrants According to Household Surveys and UNDESA

		Last survey year	% of migrants in the survey	UNDESA comparison year	% of migrants according to UNDESA	Difference survey-UNDESA
ANDEAN	Bolivia	2020	0.2%	2020	1.4%	-1.2%
	Colombia	2020	5.0%	2020	3.7%	1.2%
	Ecuador	2021	2.3%	2020	4.4%	-2.1%
	Peru	2020	0.8%	2020	3.7%	-2.9%
	Venezuela	2019	1.7%	2019	4.8%	-3.1%
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas	2014	12.8%	2015	15.8%	-3%
	Barbados	2016	8.8%	2015	12.1%	-3.7%
	Belize	N.D.	N.D.	2020	15.6%	-
	Guyana	2021	1.4%	2020	4.0%	-2.6%
	Haiti	2012	0.1%	2010	0.2%	-0.1%
	Jamaica	N.D.	N.D.	2020	0.8%	-
	Suriname	2017	5.4%	2017	8.5%	-3.1%
	Trinidad & Tobago	2015	3.4%	2015	3.7%	-0.3%
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina	2020	4.6%	2020	5.0%	-0.4%
	Brazil	2015	0.4%	2015	0.3%	0.1%
	Chile	2020	7.5%	2020	8.6%	-1.1%
	Paraguay	2020	2.5%	2020	2.4%	0.1%
	Uruguay	2019	2.7%	2019	3.1%	-0.4%
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica	2020	8.4%	2020	10.2%	-1.8%
	El Salvador	N.D.	N.D.	2020	0.7%	-
	Guatemala	N.D.	N.D.	2020	0.5%	-
	Honduras	2019	0.7%	2019	0.4%	0.3%
	Mexico	2020	0.9%	2020	0.9%	0%
	Nicaragua	2014	0.8%	2015	0.6%	0.2%
	Panama	2019	4.6%	2019	4.4%	0.2%
	Dom. Rep.	2020	4.2%	2020	5.6%	-1.4%

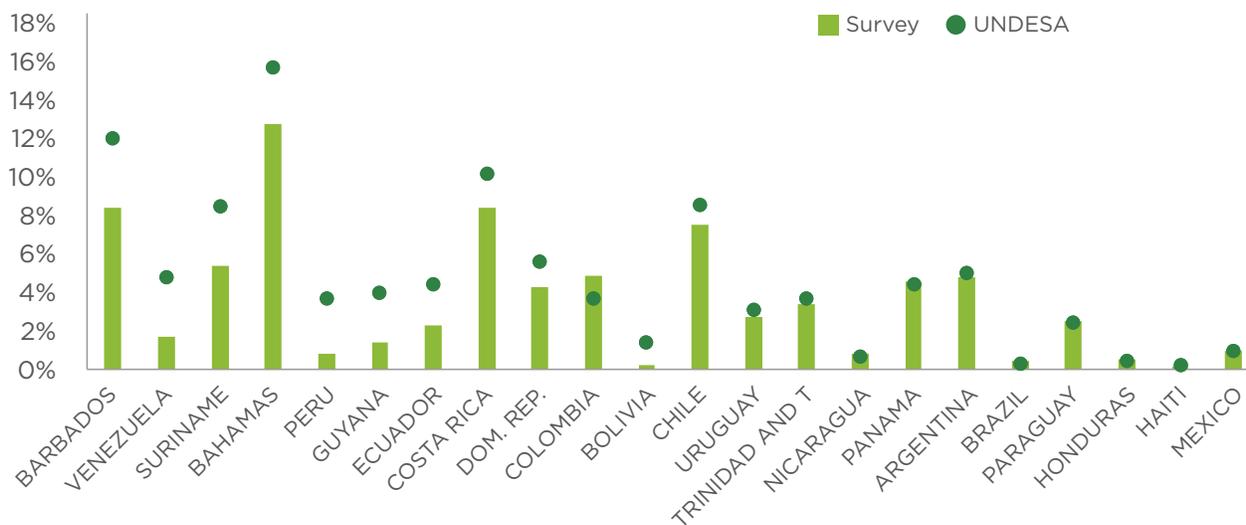
Source: Compiled by the author based on data from each country's household surveys and UNDESA.

* Cases in which the difference between the country's survey and UNDESA values is greater than 1.5%, or where survey data are not available to perform these calculations, are marked blue; those that differ by between 0.5 and 1.5% are shown in yellow; and differences of less than 0.5% are shown in green.

An average difference of -1.14% was found, which means that the household surveys tend to underestimate the share of migrants in the total population in comparison with UNDESA's calculations (although it is not clear whether one of the two sources underestimates this share or the other overestimates it). Leaving aside the four countries for which no data was available, it was found that the difference was high in eight of the countries, most of which were in the Andean and Caribbean regions. In contrast, most of the countries where the difference between these two sources is lower than the cut-off point for the lower band are in the Southern Cone and Mesoamerica, including Mexico. [Figure 2](#) shows the scale of the differences mentioned above.

The figure displays the percentage differences found in the previous table. It shows that the values calculated by UNDESA tend to be higher than those found through household surveys. The largest gaps are in the Andean and Caribbean subregions. The smallest differences are in the Southern Cone and Central America, where the only exception is Costa Rica, as the difference between the two data sources falls into the high band (-1.8%).

FIGURE 2: Difference in Shares of Migrants According to Household Surveys and UNDESA



*Sorted from greatest to least difference between sources.

Source: Compiled by the author based on data from each country's household surveys and UNDESA.

Note: In the countries that are missing: Belize, Jamaica, El Salvador, and Guatemala, it was not possible to make calculations regarding the migrant population since 2010, due to the lack of information.

VI. Possibility of Conducting Further Analyses on Migrant Numbers

Access to data on whether migrant populations can be identified and described **enables us to determine the other forms of analyses that can be conducted using these data sources.** A sample of migrants may be sufficient to quantify and describe this population according to certain criteria. However, if a more in-depth analysis is required across several dimensions (e.g., employment by gender and education level—three variables), smaller samples mean that the number of people in each resulting subcategory is too small to allow us to be confident that the results are representative of the actual situation. [Table 10](#) contains information to this effect.

Even though the IPUMS samples met the criteria established for the analyses conducted in this paper, **the databases obtained are not entirely useful.** This owes largely to timing, namely the absence of data for the last five years. In contrast, although household surveys do not always contain sufficient numbers of migrants among their respondents, the data they contain allows other analytical exercises to be carried out.

For example, **it was possible to establish that two or more such exercises could be carried out in four of the Andean countries. This is also true in three of the eight Caribbean countries for two of the topics in question.** None of these countries fall into the green band. **All the Southern Cone countries allow their data to be disaggregated in more than three additional ways.** Five countries in Central America also allow this, albeit only in two ways.

In summary, migrants can be identified in 18 of the 26 countries, their length of stay can be identified in 11 countries and their country of origin in 10, and their location by subnational region (also based on sample size) can be pinpointed in 13 countries. **In other words, profiling migrants in LAC as a whole remains a huge challenge.**

TABLE 10: Possibility of Further Analysis by Household Survey and Country

		Number of migrants in the survey	Location by region*	Disaggregation by other factors**	Time spent in the country	Country of birth identified?
ANDEAN	Bolivia	84	No	No	No	No
	Colombia	33,892	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Ecuador	10,217	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Peru	415	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Venezuela	342	No	No	No	Yes
CARIBBEAN	Bahamas	817	No	Yes	No	No
	Barbados	529	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Belize	N.D	No	No	No	No
	Guyana	481	No	No	Yes	No
	Haiti	21	No	No	No	No
	Jamaica	N.D	No	No	No	No
	Suriname	376	No	No	No	No
	Trinidad & Tobago	1,148	Yes	Yes	No	No
SOUTHERN CONE	Argentina	4,837	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Brazil	1,198	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Chile	25,548	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Paraguay	465	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Uruguay	2,809	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MESOAMERICA AND MEXICO	Costa Rica	6,606	Yes	Yes	No	No
	El Salvador	N.D	No	No	No	No
	Guatemala	N.D	No	No	No	No
	Honduras	508	Yes	No	No	No
	Mexico	10,296	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sí
	Nicaragua	247	No	No	No	No
	Panama	1,390	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Dom. Rep.	3,181	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: Compiled by the author based on data from each country's household surveys.

* Region also includes state, department, federal entity, province, and other such categories.

** After migrants were disaggregated, other forms of disaggregation were checked, e.g. sex.

VII. Conclusions

The information analyzed above points to three conclusions:

1. First, although in LAC there is a culture of conducting and updating censuses and surveys at regular intervals, **there are still some gaps in the publication and availability of data**, such that in some cases the only data that can be accessed is contained in results reports, while in others even such reports do not exist, which limits the scope of this type of research. Access to microdata is important to be able to generate comparable indicators across countries over time, which results in useful comparisons that can be used to inform the design of policies, especially those relating to migration and migrants.
2. Second, focusing specifically on censuses, **the data in the IPUMS repository is not sufficiently up-to-date to be used in studies targeting recent years, although the percentages of migrants as a share of the total population tend to be representative** (and very similar to those calculated by UNDESA). The censuses that are useful in this regard are the ones carried out in Chile in 2017 (the only recent census in the IPUMS repository) along with those conducted in Peru (2017), Colombia (2018), Guatemala (2018), and Mexico (2020), the microdata for which are freely available on the respective NSO websites. Although IPUMS remains a valuable resource, its lag in processing data means that researchers will have to process censuses that will be published in the next few years themselves.
3. Turning to household surveys, these entail **three additional issues besides the lack of access to microdata in several countries**:
 - a. The first relates to **whether surveys from 2017 onward allow migrants to be identified**: this is only the case for the records of 16 countries, including some from the Andean region, the Southern Cone (excluding Brazil), and Mesoamerica, including Mexico. Only two surveys in Caribbean countries enable migrants to be identified.
 - b. Second, **if the restriction relating to survey timeframes were relaxed**, there would be 22 countries for which some data is available from 2010 on, of which only 15 contain a sample of migrants that passes the acceptable threshold for this study (more than 500 migrants). These are: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay (after 2017), and Brazil, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela (up to 2017). However, if the other two evaluation criteria are taken into account, only Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay were deemed to have obtained statistically accurate estimates.
 - c. Finally, **on the matter of the comparison between the percentage of migrations in the total population calculated using the expansion factors for each survey**

and those published by UNDESA, a difference of -1.14% was found, which means that the household survey estimations of the share of migrants in the total population tends to be lower UNDESA's calculations.

These conclusions point to another finding regarding the possibility of carrying out analyses that go beyond merely identifying migrants. [Table 10](#) shows whether other analyses can be carried out using this data, depending on its statistical representativeness and coverage. Although the samples in IPUMS are deemed to be sufficiently representative (with the exception of countries where data are not available) because the timeliness does not meet requirements, household surveys were used for this analysis.

Although these results are not the most encouraging, when making a comparison, through international literature, with other regions of the world, one can observe that Latin America does not present a very large lag in terms of the inclusion of migrants in the databases. For example, according

to Raymer James (2017), international migration data is highly inconsistent and incomplete due to different measurements and collection methods. There is a worldwide problem in the measurement of migratory flows.

As a whole, these results suggest that for many countries in the region, there is significant room for improvement in household survey sampling frames as regards migrant coverage. The changes in regional migration trends since the onset of the Venezuelan migration (and perhaps before this) are raising the need for countries to have a clearer picture of the number of migrants they are hosting and to be able to describe them in sociodemographic terms to inform policy development and investments to foster their integration into their destination countries' economies and societies. **Once these improvements are implemented, the Migration Unit will publish indicators based on them in SCL Data and DataMIG and supporting governments to do so.**



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Annex: Country Profiles

The following pages contain a summary of the data used in this paper for each of the **IDB's 26 borrowing member countries**. Each country profile lists the agency responsible for conducting and publishing censuses and household surveys,

further information about them, and a comparison of the basic statistics available on the migrant population in the country. **Click on the country to access the profile.**

Argentina

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND CENSUSES (INDEC)



<https://www.indec.gob.ar/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1991, 2001, and 2010
Publication date of next census	2020
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2010
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	175,470
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	3,966,475
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	4.4%



ENCUESTA PERMANENTE DE HOGARES (Permanent Household Survey, EPH)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	✓ (for all years)
Number of migrants in last survey (2020)	4,837
Total observations in last survey (2020)	174,534
Share of migrants in last survey (2020)	2.8%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2020)	4.8%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	5%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-0.2%

Bahamas

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS



<https://www.bahamas.gov.bs>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1990, 2000 y 2010
Publication date of next census	2021
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✗
Last year of available data in IPUMS	N/A
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2011 - 2019
How often is it conducted?	Semiannually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2014
Number of migrants in last survey (2014)	817
Total observations in last survey (2014)	6,017
Share of migrants in last survey (2014)	13.58%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2014)	12.8%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	15.8%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-3%

Barbados

BARBADOS STATISTICAL SERVICE



<https://stats.gov.bb>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1990, 2000, and 2010
Publication date of next census	2021
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✗
Last year of available data in IPUMS	N/A
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010-2015 and 2020-2021
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2016
Number of migrants in last survey (2016)	529
Total observations in last survey (2016)	6,901
Share of migrants in last survey (2016)	8.9%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2016)	8.4%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	12.1%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-3.7%



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1991, 2000, and 2010
Publication date of next census	2022
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✗
Last year of available data in IPUMS	N/A
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2012 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Semiannually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	N/A
Access to microdata?	✗
Number of migrants in last survey	N/A
Total observations in last survey	N/A
Share of migrants in the last survey	N/A
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor	N/A
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	15.6%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	N/A

Bolivia

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICAS (National Statistics Institute, INE)



<https://www.ine.gob.bo>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1992, 2001, and 2012
Publication date of next census	2022
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2012
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	12,808
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	1,003,516
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	1.28%



ENCUESTA CONTINUA DE HOGARES (Permanent Household Survey, ECH)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2011-2020
How often is it conducted?	Annually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Until 2020
Number of migrants in last survey (2020)	84
Total observations in last survey (2020)	37,092
Share of migrants in last survey (2020)	0.23%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2020)	0.2%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	1.4%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-1.2%

Brazil

INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DE GEOGRAFIA Y ESTADÍSTICA (BRAZILIAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS)



<https://www.ibge.gov.br/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1991, 2000, and 2010
Publication date of next census	2022
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2010
Number of migrants according to last census in the IPUMS database (2010)	46,196
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database (2010)	20,635,473
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database (2010)	0.22%



PESQUISA NACIONAL POR AMOSTRA DE DOMICÍLIOS CONTÍNUA (National Continuous Household Sample Survey, PNADC)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2011 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Monthly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✗
Access to microdata?	Up to 2021
Number of migrants in last survey (2015)	1,198
Total observations in last survey (2015)	355,935
Share of migrants in last survey (2015)	0.3%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2015)	0.4%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2015)	0.3%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	0.1%

Chile

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA



<https://www.ine.cl/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1992, 2002, and 2017
Publication date of next census	2023
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2017
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database (2017)	78,229
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database (2017)	1,756,889
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database (2017)	4.45%



ENCUESTA DE CARACTERIZACIÓN SOCIOECONÓMICA NACIONAL (NATIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC SURVEY, CASEN)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2020
How often is it conducted?	Every two or three years
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2020
Number of migrants in last survey (2020)	25,548
Total observations in last survey (2020)	916,469
Share of migrants in last survey (2020)	2.8%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2020)	7.5%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2020)	8.6%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-1.1%

Colombia

DEPARTAMENTO ADMINISTRATIVO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA (NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, DANE)



<https://www.dane.gov.co/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted: 1993, 2005, and 2018	1993, 2005, and 2018
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2005
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	7,595
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	4,006,168
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	0.19%



GRAN ENCUESTA INTEGRADA DE HOGARES (MAJOR INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, GEIH)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2021
Number of migrants in last survey (2020)	33,892
Total observations in last survey (2020)	746,705
Share of migrants in last survey (2020)	4.5%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2020)	4.9%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	3.7%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	1.2%

Costa Rica

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA Y CENSOS (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND CENSUSES)



<https://www.inec.go.cr/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1984, 2000, and 2011
Publication date of next census	2021
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2011
Number of migrants according to last census in the IPUMS database (2011)	38,996
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database (2011)	430,082
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database (2011)	9%



ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE HOGARES (NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, ENAHO)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Annually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2020
Number of migrants in last survey (2020)	6,606
Total observations in last survey (2020)	89,077
Share of migrants in last survey (2020)	7.4%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2020)	8.4%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2020)	10.2%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-1.8%

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICAS Y CENSOS (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND CENSUSES, INEC)



<https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1990, 2001, and 2010
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2010
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	19,520
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	1,448,233
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	1.35%



ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE EMPLEO, DESEMPLEO Y SUBEMPLEO (NATIONAL SURVEY ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, ENEMDU)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 and 2012 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2021
Number of migrants in last survey (2021)	10,217
Total observations in last survey (2021)	361,632
Share of migrants in last survey (2021)	2.8%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2021)	2.3%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	4.4%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-2.1%

El Salvador

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ESTADÍSTICA Y CENSOS (DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND CENSUSES)



<http://www.digestyc.gob.sv/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted: 1992 and 2007	1992 and 2007
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2007
Number of migrants according to last census in the IPUMS database (2007)	3,771
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database (2007)	574,364
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database (2007)	0.7%



ENCUESTA DE HOGARES DE PROPÓSITOS MÚLTIPLES (MULTIPURPOSE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, EHPM)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2020
How often is it conducted?	Annually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✗
Access to microdata?	Up to 2020
Number of migrants in last survey	N/A
Total observations in last survey	N/A
Share of migrants in the last survey	N/A
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor	N/A
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2020)	0.7%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	N/A

Guatemala

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS)



<https://www.ine.gob.gt/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1994, 2002, and 2018
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2002
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database (2002)	5,061
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database (2002)	1,121,946
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database (2002)	0.5%



ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE EMPLEO E INGRESOS (NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME SURVEY, ENEI)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2019
How often is it conducted?	Semiannually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✗
Access to microdata?	Up to 2019
Number of migrants in last survey	N/A
Total observations in last survey	N/A
Share of migrants in the last survey	N/A
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor	N/A
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2020)	0.5%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	N/A

Note: Guatemala's census microdata for 2018 is available on the CELADE web page, however calculations are not yet available as they are still in the process of harmonization.



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1991, 2002, and 2012
Publication date of next census	2022
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✗
Last year of available data in IPUMS	N/A
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2017 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2021
Number of migrants in last survey (2021)	481
Total observations in last survey (2021)	36,935
Share of migrants in last survey (2021)	1.3%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2021)	1.4%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	4%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-2.6%

Haiti

HAITIAN INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND INFORMATICS



<http://www.ihsi.ht/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1971, 1982, and 2003
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2003
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	1,676
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	838,045
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	0.2%



DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY (DHS)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2012 and 2016 - 2017
How often is it conducted?	Every four years or more
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✗
Access to microdata?	Up to 2017
Number of migrants in last survey (2012)	21
Total observations in last survey (2012)	18,182
Share of migrants in last survey (2012)	0.1%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2012)	0.1%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	0.2%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	0.1%

Honduras

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICAS (NATIONAL STATISTICS INSTITUTE, INE)



<https://www.ine.gob.hn/V3/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1988, 2001, and 2013
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2002
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	2,742
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	680,620
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	0.5%



ENCUESTA PERMANENTE DE HOGARES DE PROPÓSITO MÚLTIPLE (ENCUESTA PERMANENTE DE HOGARES DE PROPÓSITO MULTIPLE, EPHPM)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Annually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2019
Number of migrants in last survey (2019)	508
Total observations in last survey (2019)	88,632
Share of migrants in last survey (2019)	0.6%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2019)	0.5%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	0.4%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	0.1%

Jamaica

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA



<https://statinja.gov.jm/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1991, 2001, and 2011
Publication date of next census	2021
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2001
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	1,919
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	205,179
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	0.9%



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 and 2012 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✗
Access to microdata?	Up to 2018
Number of migrants in last survey	N/A
Total observations in last survey	N/A
Share of migrants in the last survey	N/A
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor	N/A
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2020)	0.8%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	N/A

Mexico

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA GEOGRAFÍA E INFORMÁTICA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS, GEOGRAPHY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INEGI)



<https://www.inegi.org.mx/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	2010, 2015, and 2020
Publication date of next census	No information available.
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2015
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	82,162
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	11,344,365
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	0.7%



ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE OCUPACIÓN Y EMPLEO (NATIONAL SURVEY OF OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYMENT, ENOE)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Until 2020
Number of migrants in last survey (2020)	10,926
Total observations in last survey (2020)	1,143,062
Share of migrants in last survey (2020)	0.9%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2020)	0.9%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	0.9%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	0%

Nicaragua

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE INFORMACIÓN DE DESARROLLO (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION, INIDE)



<https://www.inide.gob.ni/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1971, 1995, and 2005
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2005
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database:	3,391
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	515,485
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	0.7%



ENCUESTA CONTINUA DE LOS HOGARES (CONTINUOUS HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, ECH)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2014
Number of migrants in last survey (2014)	247
Total observations in last survey (2014)	29,381
Share of migrants in last survey (2014)	0.8%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2014)	0.8%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	0.6%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	0.2%

Panama

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA Y CENSOS (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND CENSUSES, INEC)



<https://www.inec.gob.pa/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1990, 2000, and 2010
Publication date of next census	2021
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2010
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	14,350
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	341,118
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	4.2%



ENCUESTA CONTINUA DE HOGARES DE PROPÓSITOS MÚLTIPLES (MULTIPURPOSE CONTINUOUS HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, ECHPM)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Semiannually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2019
Number of migrants in last survey (2019)	1,390
Total observations in last survey (2019)	42,642
Share of migrants in last survey (2019)	3.3%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2019)	4.6%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	4.4%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	0.2%

Paraguay

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS)



<https://www.ine.gov.py/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1992, 2002, and 2012
Publication date of next census	2022
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2002
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database (2002)	17,281
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database (2002)	516,083
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database (2002)	3.4%



ENCUESTA PERMANENTE DE HOGARES CONTINUA (CONTINUOUS PERMANENT HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, EPHC)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2020
Number of migrants in last survey (2020)	465
Total observations in last survey (2020)	17,565
Share of migrants in last survey (2020)	2.7%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2020)	2.5%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2020)	2.4%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	0.1%

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICAS E INFORMÁTICA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INEI)



<https://www.inei.gob.pe/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1993, 2007, and 2017
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2007
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	7,835
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	2,745,895
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	0.29%



ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE HOGARES (NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, ENAHO)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2020
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Until 2020
Number of migrants in last survey (2020)	415
Total observations in last survey (2020)	59,732
Share of migrants in last survey (2020)	0.7%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2020)	0.8%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	3.7%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-2.9%

Note: Peru's census microdata for 2017 is available on the CELADE web page, however calculations are not yet available as they are still in the process of harmonization.

Dominican Republic

OFICINA NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA (NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE, ONE)



<https://www.one.gob.do/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1993, 2002, and 2010
Publication date of next census	2022
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2010
Number of migrants according to last census in the IPUMS database (2010)	39,548
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database (2010)	943,784
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database (2010)	4.2%



ENCUESTA NACIONAL CONTINUA DE FUERZA DE TRABAJO (CONTINUOUS NATIONAL LABOR FORCE SURVEY, ENCFT)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2020
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Until 2020
Number of migrants in last survey (2020)	808
Total observations in last survey (2020)	17,314
Share of migrants in last survey (2020)	4.7%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2020)	4.3%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	5.6%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-1.3%

Suriname

GENERAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS OF SURINAM



<https://statistics-suriname.org/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	2004 and 2012
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✗
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2012
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	N/A



SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS (SLC)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2017
How often is it conducted?	Every four years or more
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✗
Access to microdata?	2017
Number of migrants in last survey (2017)	376
Total observations in last survey (2017)	6,837
Share of migrants in last survey (2017)	5.5%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2017)	5.4%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2020)	8.5%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-3.1%

Trinidad and Tobago

CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE



<https://cso.gov.tt/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted: 1990, 2000, and 2011	1990, 2000, and 2011
Publication date of next census	No information available
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2011
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	4,420
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	116,917
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	3.8%



CONTINUOUS SAMPLE SURVEY OF POPULATION (CSSP)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 y 2012 - 2020
How often is it conducted?	Quarterly
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✗
Access to microdata?	Up to 2015
Number of migrants in last survey (2015)	1,148
Total observations in last survey (2015)	33,297
Share of migrants in last survey (2015)	3.5%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2015)	3.4%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2015)	3.7%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-0.3%

Uruguay

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS)



<https://www.ine.gub.uy/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1996, 2004, and 2011
Publication date of next census: 2023	2023
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2011
Number of migrants according to last census in the IPUMS database (2011)	7,658
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database (2011)	328,425
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database (2011)	2.3%



ENCUESTA PERMANENTE DE HOGARES CONTINUA (CONTINUOUS PERMANENT HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, EPHC)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2021
How often is it conducted?	Annually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2020 <small>at which point migrants were not identified</small>
Number of migrants in last survey (2019)	2,809
Total observations in last survey (2019)	107,871
Share of migrants in last survey (2019)	2.6%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2019)	2.7%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA (2019)	3.1%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-0.4%

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS, INE)



<http://www.ine.gov.ve/>



CENSUSES

Last conducted	1990, 2001, and 2011
Publication date of next census	2021
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Data in IPUMS	✓
Last year of available data in IPUMS	2001
Number of migrants according to the last census in the IPUMS database	99,152
Total sample size for the last census in the IPUMS database	2,306,489
Share of migrants in the last census in the IPUMS database	4.3%



ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE CONDICIONES DE VIDA (NATIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY, ENCOVI)

Since 2010, which years has the survey been conducted?	2010 - 2011
How often is it conducted?	Annually
Was it possible to identify migrants in the most recent survey?	✓
Access to microdata?	Up to 2019
Number of migrants in last survey (2019)	342
Total observations in last survey (2019)	33,170
Share of migrants in last survey (2019)	1.03%
Percentage of migrants according to survey expansion factor (2019)	1.7%
Percentage of migrants according to UNDESA	4.8%
Difference between survey expansion factor and UNDESA	-3.1%

Series on Migration Statistics

