

Migration Data from Vietnam to Popular Destinations

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Abstract

This article provides specific and consistent data of Vietnamese migration to the seven most popular destinations. These sets of data cover various types of migration from Vietnam which include labor export, skilled, marriage, family reunion, and international student mobility. They also compare differences in migration between genders, age groups, and other features related to migrants' initiation and relocation. The purpose of this article is to sketch an overall picture of migration forms from Vietnam which remains inconsistent among reporting agencies. This overall Vietnamese migration landscape is hoped to enrich studies on migration statistics and allow researchers to advance their investigations into particular topics that need secondary sources to back up their studies.

Key words: migration data from Vietnam, skilled migration, traditional immigration destinations, emerging immigration countries, international student mobility, marriage migration

1. Introduction

Migration is generally affected by economic, political, and diplomatic development policies and processes. In the global race for talent, skilled migration from Vietnam is affected by the government's multilateral foreign policies that speed up its global integration. At the same time, skilled and unskilled migration from Vietnam, like any other countries, is shaped by the global market and talent attraction policies and expansion of international education in Australia, the United States, Canada, and New Zealand.

Vietnam has experienced several forms of short-term and permanent migration through labor export programs, self-initiated skilled flows, transnational marriages, family reunion, two-step migration, state-sponsored for talent migration, and even undocumented migration. This paper aims to sketch an overall picture of these types of migration to the 8 most popular destinations. Within the current lack of comprehensive sets of statistics of Vietnamese migration, it is hoped to provide consistent and comprehensive data (which the author has collected across reporting agencies) for further research on migration and policy planning.

2. The United States

The United States currently receives the largest number of immigrants from Vietnam. It should be noted that some U.S. immigration programs for Vietnamese people are no longer available. For example, the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) initiated in 1979 in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees allowed Vietnamese refugees to enter the United States.

The name of this program was later changed to the Humanitarian Resettlement Program (HR). The HR program had three sub-programs: Humanitarian Operation (HO) that allowed former prisoners from re-education camps in Vietnam to settle in the United States, U11 for former US Government employees, and V11 for former employees of former U.S. companies. The ODP program helped more than 623,509 Vietnamese people settle in the United States, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Norway, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, and several other countries. Under this program, the US hosted 500,000 Vietnamese in the United States. This program ended in 1994. From 2005 to 2008, the two governments signed an agreement to allow ODP candidates who had previously submitted late to have their immigration applications reviewed.

Currently, the US offers various types of visas. Within the skilled migration stream, the H-1B visa program allows U.S. companies to sponsor skilled workers from abroad to migrate to the US for work. These workers are expected to work in technical or theoretical professions such as engineering, law, and programming. Employers must demonstrate that these foreign jobs will not deprive U.S. citizens of employment opportunities. Applicants must have at least a university degree in the same field and professional certifications. Spouses and their children under the age of 21 can apply for an H-4 visa to accompany them. If applicants change jobs with another employer, they must reapply for this visa.

The H-1B visa category is valid for three years and can be renewed for the next three years. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has proposed a limit of 65,000 H-1B applications. This type of visa may allow the candidate to apply for another kind of visa when coming to work in the United States. H-1 B's competition rate was 58% in 2019. Many international students can apply for this type of visa to find a way to settle later, or their family will help financially to get there. They apply for an EB-5 business investment visa to immigrate. Up to 2017, the United States has received 1.3 million Vietnamese immigrants, accounting for 3% of the total 44.5 million immigrants nationwide, ranking 6th in countries with the most immigrants. The majority of Vietnamese migrants are concentrated in California (39%), Texas (13%), Washington State (4%), and Florida (4%) (Alperin & Batalova, 2018). Table 1 below describes the number of Vietnamese who settled in the United States in the period 1980-2018.

Year	Amount
1980	231,120
1990	543,262
2000	988,174
2006	1,117,800
2007	1,100,833
2008	1,138,039
2009	1,152,384
2010	1,240,542
2011	1,259,317
2012	1,258,979
2013	1,281,010
2014	1,291,807
2015	1,300,515
2016	1,352,760
2017	1,342,568
2018	1,345,753

Table 1. The number of Vietnamese immigrated to the US from 1980 to 2018 (Alperin & Batalova, 2018; The US Embassy in Vietnam, 2018)

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Vietnamese people tend to apply for settlement in three main forms: marriage, family reunion, and work (see Table 2 below.)

No.	Form of settlement	Percentage (%)
1	Spouse guarantee	53
2	Relatives guarantee	44
3	Labor guarantee	3
4	Other	0
5	Refugee	0

Table 2. The types of immigration documents of Vietnamese people entering the US in 2016 (Alperin & Botalova, 2018)

According to Alperin and Batalova (2018), 66% of Vietnamese residing in the US over five years old do not have better English skills than immigrants from other countries. Among migrants from Vietnam, only 8% speak Vietnamese at home, compared to 16% of other immigrant groups. The average age of the Vietnamese immigrant group is 50, older than the average age of 45 among other immigrant groups. 26% of Vietnamese migrants in the United States possess undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, compared to 32% of Americans and 31% of other immigrant groups. 65% of Vietnamese over 16 years old participate in the labor market, equivalent to 66% of other immigrant groups in the United States and higher than that of Americans (62%). The personal income of Vietnamese immigrants is US\$63,200/year, higher than other immigrant groups (US\$56,700) and Americans (\$60,800). 11% of Vietnamese in the US live below the poverty line (US\$12,760/year), lower than other immigrant groups accounting for 14%. 8% of Vietnamese migrants in the United States do not have health insurance, lower than the 20% average in other immigrant groups.

According to the US Embassy in Vietnam (The US Embassy in Vietnam, 2018), the number of Vietnamese students in the US has continued to increase for 17 consecutive years. In 2017, this number was 24,325 Vietnamese students out of a total of 1,094,792 international students studying in this country, contributing US\$881 million to the US economy. 69.6% of Vietnamese students study undergraduate programs, 15.2% study graduate programs, 8.6% enroll in internship programs, and 6.6% attend non-university programs. Engineering, business, management, math, law, and computer science are preferred fields.

3. Japan

As shown in the website of Vietnam Trade and Human Resources Development Joint Stock Company (*Vinamex*, 2020), the number of Vietnamese people has increased in Japan since 2015, behind China (786,830) and South Korea (435,459). This number includes:

- 219,510 trainees
- 65,818 international students
- 58,471 people with technical visas - humanities - international professional visas
- 23,528 family reunification visa holders

- 17,791 permanent visa holders
- 15,041 special activity visa holders
- 5,653 permanent visa holders
- 4,758 permanent visa holders under the spouse/child of a Japanese
- 9,851 people with other visas

In 2019, there were 68,737 Vietnamese workers in Japan, of which there were 27,610 women and 41,127 men (ILO, 2019). There are two types of visas for permanent residence in Japan: permanent residency and citizenship. To apply for permanent residence, applicants must have lived continuously for ten years, have a working visa for more than five years in Japan, and prove their financial capacity and assets. If the permanent resident visa applicant is married to a Japanese, the marriage must be over three years, and the applicant must live in Japan for more than one year. Permanent visa holders need to renew their stay every seven years. Applicants can apply for citizenship if they have lived in Japan continuously for more than five years and held a working visa for more than three years. If the applicant is married to a Japanese national, the application conditions are the same as the application for permanent residence. If they have children, the process will be faster.

Year	Amount
1984	2,980
1995	8,880
2000	16,600
2005	27,990
2006	31,530
2007	36,130
2008	40,520
2009	40,490
2010	41,350
2011	44,440
2012	52,370
2013	72,260
2014	99,870
2015	146,960
2016	199,990
2017	262,410
2018	330,840
2020	420,415

Table 3: The number of Vietnamese residing in Japan in the period 1984-2020 (Statista Research Department, 2020; *Vinamex*, 2020)

In 2019, the number of Vietnamese students in Japan was 73,389, accounting for 23.5% of the total 312,214 international students here and behind the number of Chinese students at 124,436 (*The Japan Times*, 2020).

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4. Canada

According to Dorais (2004), many Vietnamese in the South have come to Canada to study. In In 1974, about 1,500 Vietnamese people migrated to Canada on a permanent basis. This number increased to 7,800 between 1975-1978, and the majority lived in Quebec. From 1983 to 1991, there were about 75,000 Vietnamese political refugees in Canada. Hou’s study (2020) shows that three-quarters of Vietnamese immigrants in this period do not speak English or French fluently. More than half of these refugees do not complete high school. However, 75% of them got a job right after relocation.

Year	Amount
From before 2001	148,400 (total immigrant population)
2006	3,152
2007	2,574
2008	1,784
2009	2,171
2010	1,942
2001-2011	165,125 (total immigrant population)
2011	1,723
2012	1,732
2013	2,112
2014	2,494
2015	2,595
2011-2016	169,250 (total immigrant population)
2016	2,450
2017	2,505
2018	3,050
2019	4,220
2020	192,000 (total immigrant population)

Table 4: The number of Vietnamese residing in Canada over the years, before 2001-2020 (*The Canadian Magazine of Migration*, 2020)

The Canadian passport is always attractive to migrants because they can get visa-free access to 183 countries and territories. Currently, migration to Canada includes general skilled programs, Canadian province/territory nominated programs; pioneering Atlantic settlement programs in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Labrador, start-up/investment, pioneer settlement program in the north and rural areas, family reunion, skilled migration program in Quebec, health and medical programs, self-employment in cultural and sports activities, pioneer immigration program working in agriculture and food, medical staff, and refugees.

From 2016 to 2018, Canada continued to expand the Canada Express Study (CES) program. Conditions to study in Canada and financial affidavit becomes easy. Applicants should have an

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) of 5.0, with no sub-band score below 4.5, be admitted to one of the 55 participating institutions, purchase a guaranteed investment certificate from Scotiabank with a value of 10,000 Canadian dollars to pay for their living expenses in the first year. According to Ashwill (2019), the number of Vietnamese students is continuously increasing:

- 2015: 4,850
- 2016: 7,450
- 2017: 13,960
- 2018: 20,330

In 2017, the number of Vietnamese students ranked fifth in Canada, after the following countries:

- China: 140,530
- India: 123,340
- Korea: 23,050
- France: 21,925

In 2018, Canada replaced the CES program with SDS (Study Direct Stream) in India, China, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Accordingly, almost all the criteria have not changed much compared to CES, except that students need to have IELTS 6.0 and no sub-band score below 6.0. Students can choose from elementary, middle, and upper secondary schools instead of just 55 institutions as designated by the CES program.

5. Korea

There are four migration trends to Korea: skilled, marriage, work, and studying. For skilled immigration, applicants must apply for an F-5 visa. Accordingly, applicants must have a Ph.D. in Korea and have stayed there for more than one year upon receipt of the degree. Or they must have a master's degree in Korea and have stayed for more than three years. Applicants who do not study in Korea must have graduated from a university or higher in IT, technology management, nano-engineering, biology, transportation, mechanical engineering, new materials, environment, and energy. They must stay in Korea for at least three years under an E-1 to E-7 or F-2 visa. They must also be working officially in Korea for at least one year and have an income higher than the average income of Koreans.

Migrants' salary in Korea is quite high, about 25-30 million VND/month (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012) (at the time of this paper writing, one USD is equal to 23,000 VND). In 1994, 20,493 Vietnamese workers came to Korea for internship, and this number increased to 22,325 in 1997. Most of the workers were male and did not have any skills or qualifications. They worked in fishing and manufacture. In 2004, Korea introduced the Employment Permit System (EPS). After that, the two governments signed a labor export agreement to reduce the exit costs for workers (about 700 USD). Approximately 85% of the submissions were then accepted for EPS. In 2010, 43,326 Vietnamese workers came to Korea under the EPS program. In the same year, the total number of Vietnamese

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workers in Korea was 51,785, of which 50,526 were unskilled workers with E-9 visas and 1,259 illegal residents. The Korean Government requires workers to score at least 80 points/200 points in the Korean Language Proficiency Test Employment Permit System (TOPIK) and deposit at least 100 million VND. This new regulation aims to limit workers working in the wrong industry registered. The Korean Government also wants to reduce migrants' difficulties in social integration or breaking the labor contracts. Since 2010, 87% of Vietnamese workers have worked in factories, with the rest in agriculture, construction, and seafood. In 2019, Vietnamese workers were 6,538 people (736 women and 5,802 men) (ILO, 2019). 35% of Vietnamese workers tend to change jobs due to dissatisfaction with employers, personal interests, and the desire to find work in other countries. Some workers were arrested for drug trafficking and use gambling and prostitution. Others violate labor contracts and reside illegally. Accordingly, Decision 1684/LDTBXH-QLLDNN signed on May 4, 2019, provides a list of prohibited localities from participating in labor export to Korea.

During the war in the South of Vietnam before 1975, Korea sent about 300,000 troops to fight with its allies. Some had children with Vietnamese women. These children and women later migrated to Korea as dependent spouses and children. Marriage migration flourished in the late 1990s when within the Korean population, the number of males was 8% higher than females in Korea, and they sought to get married abroad. It is estimated that 1 out of every ten men will marry a foreign wife, especially in rural areas. In 2006, there were about 5,000 brides from the countryside of Vietnam. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012), as of 2012, there were 40,000 Vietnamese women married to Korean men. In 2009, 47% of foreign brides were from Vietnam, 26% were from China, 10% from Cambodia, and 17% from other countries (Ngo, 2009). Vietnamese brides often face language barriers and understanding of Korean culture. Some are forbidden by their marital families to return to Vietnam. About 30% of them were reported to feel happy, 40% feel normal, and 30% feel unhappy (Ngo, 2009). Some suffered from domestic violence, and some committed suicide. The two governments have established more than 170 marriage counseling centers in 19 provinces and cities in Korea to support families with foreign wives.

In 2018, there were about 15,000 Vietnamese international students in Korea, three times bigger than that in 2015. The total number of Vietnamese students as of 2018 was 27,061 out of 142,205 international students (accounting for 19%), behind the number of Chinese students (68,257, accounting for 48.2%). However, the number of students taking non-degree courses, such as Korean language classes, reached 19,260 students (Quy, 2018). According to BMI (2019), since March 2019, the Korean Ministry of Justice has tightened visa processing for Vietnamese students. Accordingly, students must deposit at least \$10,000 in a Korean commercial bank account with a branch in Vietnam to prove their finances when studying abroad. Students can only withdraw up to \$4,443 every six months. Before that, students only needed to have at least \$9,000 in an account in their parent's name. However, many students withdraw all their money after they receive their student visas.

6. Taiwan

In 2016, there were 4,774 Vietnamese students in Taiwan. In 2019, this number increased by 17,421 people, an increase of 330% after three years and behind China with 25,000 students (Chen & Evelyn, 2020). Taiwan also attracts many foreign workers. In 2009, there were 341,943 foreign workers in Taiwan, of which Indonesia was 134,147 domestic workers and 77,289 Vietnamese people working

in factories, helping with housework and care for the elderly (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012). At the end of 2004, the number of Vietnamese workers increased to 90,241, of which 80% helped with domestic work. But this number dropped to 84,185 in 2005 and 77,289 in 2009 after Taiwan stopped accepting domestic workers. In 2019, the number of Vietnamese workers accounted for 22.6% of the total number of foreign workers and ranked second among the top six countries that sent the most workers to Taiwan. Of these 77,289 workers, 31,706 people did domestic work and gave care services to the elderly (accounting for 41%), 44,594 people working in factories (accounting for 57.7%), and 435 people fishing (0.56%). There were also 554 people working in construction works (accounting for 0.72%). Their average salary was 700 USD/month. As of 2012, about 12,448 Vietnamese workers broke their contracts, accounting for 45% of 27,619 foreign workers illegally residing in Taiwan. Among 12,448 illegal workers from Vietnam, there were 8,195 female workers, accounting for 66%. In 2018, the total number of Vietnamese workers in Taiwan was 60,639 people (19,237 women and 41,096 men) (ILO, 2019).

In 2003, 11,358 Vietnamese brides married Taiwanese men, of which 7,285 (64.14%) were from Can Tho, Hau Giang, An Giang, Vinh Long, Tien Giang, and Dong Thap provinces in the Mekong Delta. In 2005, there were 9,200 people, and this number continued to increase to 6,000 in 2006, 11,398 in 2007, and 4,200 in 2008. In 2006 alone, the number of Vietnamese brides accounted for 80% of 11,973 foreign residents in Taiwan. By 2013, this number had increased to 120.00, with 90% coming from rural areas of Vietnam (Tran, Nguyen, & Tran, 2013). Many brides were stateless because of divorce, the death of their husband, and overdue residence permits.

7. Malaysia

In 2019, there were 1,102 Vietnamese workers in Malaysia, including 634 women and 468 men (ILO, 2019). Malaysia is a country that receives a large number of foreign workers, mainly with low qualifications (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012). The Governments of Malaysia and Vietnam signed a bilateral agreement on labor cooperation on December 1st, 2003, creating a legal basis for Malaysia to receive more Vietnamese workers with incomes from 3.5 to 5 million VND/month. Malaysia is considered an “easy market” because it does not require highly qualified and skilled labor. In addition, the cost before departure is low and suitable for workers from rural areas of Vietnam. Since April 2004, 200,000 Vietnamese workers have been sent to Malaysia (MOLISA, 2012). However, the labor market in Malaysia has always been volatile, especially during 2004-2005, due to changes in the national policy regarding the shift of investment in infrastructure construction from urban to countryside areas. Many large construction projects have been cut, reducing demands for foreign workers, including workers from Vietnam. Since 2007, a part of the Vietnamese workforce in Malaysia has had to return home before completing the labor contract due to the global economic crisis. From 2008 to 2009, the number of migrant workers working in Malaysia decreased sharply compared to tens of thousands of workers in the previous years. However, since the second half of 2009, the Malaysian market has been recovered. About 88,000 Vietnamese workers are working in 11-13 states of Malaysia, including those who have broken their work contracts illegally and lacked identity documents and passports (usually kept by their former employers).

Demands for labor in Malaysia have constantly been soaring. To meet the requirements of small and medium enterprises, Malaysia has loosened regulations on recruiting foreign workers. Enterprises can

recruit new foreign workers equivalent to the number of foreign workers who have completed the contracts. In 2010, the number of Vietnamese workers coming to work in Malaysia was 11,741 people, an increase of 320.5% compared to 2,792 workers in 2009. They mainly work in the fields of electricity, electronics, textiles, plastics, chemicals, carpentry, agriculture, and construction. Vietnam is also considering sending workers from Libya back to Malaysia to work in construction and agricultural sectors. Vietnamese migrant workers often face difficulties and obstacles in the workplace, such as slow (or no) pay and harsh working conditions. As a result, many disputes and conflicts arise between employees and employers, leading to employees quitting their jobs illegally. Faced with that situation, these workers become illegal workers and can be chased by Malaysian police. Malaysia's laws for foreign workers are very strict. Foreign workers must hold a valid work permit, cannot bring their family and relatives, cannot become pregnant, and cannot join trade unions and associations. Periodically, local authorities carry out campaigns to suppress and deport illegal and undocumented migrant workers to their countries of origin. From 2003-2008, the number of employees who violated labor contracts and had to return home before contract termination accounted for 12.12% of the total number of employees (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012). Early repatriation of migrant workers creates several difficulties for workers, their families, sending agencies, and society, making these migrants unemployed and poor again.

Malaysia is not yet a popular destination for Vietnamese students. The country has 20 public universities, 36 colleges of practice, 94 community colleges, 467 private university training institutes, and ten foreign campuses. Since 2013, Malaysian universities have expanded the internationalization of higher education to Southeast Asia. One of Malaysia's National Higher Education Strategic Plan 2007-2020 is to expand international cooperation through international education. Currently, many institutions enroll students in 2 + 2 (in the first two years, students study at a Vietnamese university and in the last two years they will go to a Malaysian university to study for a degree) or offer some Malaysian Government scholarship programs for international students. Some foreign universities (such as the Universities of Nottingham and Monash) have also set up campuses in Malaysia to reduce the cost of living and tuition fees. However, Vietnam is not on the list of 15 countries sending international students to Malaysia. According to Nguyen's statistics (2013, pp. 134), in 2005, 449 Vietnamese students studied at universities in Malaysia. Before the mid-1990s, international students made up less than 1% of the country's total university population. According to Luo (2017), in 2015, the Malaysian Government has announced plans to attract 250,000 international students by 2025 (up from the previous target of 200,000 in 2020). The country entered the list of top 20 destination countries for international students for the first time in a UNESCO survey in 2014, ranking 12th. In 2015, Malaysia ranked 9th with 151,979 international students. As of 2016, the country received 172,886 international students, including 132,710 university students. This country is Muslim, and it is a top attraction for overseas Muslim students. Malaysia hosts many students from Bangladesh and Nigeria, which have large Muslim populations. Among international students, Muslim students make up 43% of the total enrollment.

8. Australia

Immigration in Australia has a long history associated with the development of the country. Before the pre-federation era, there were different ethnic groups in Australia. Between 1788 and 1868, the UK sent 160,000 prisoners to Australian prisons, forming the basis of the first emigration from Europe to

Australia. Also, between 1793 and 1850, about 200,000 free migrants, farmers, and domestic workers of English, Irish and Scottish descent arrived in Australia. During the 1850s, many Chinese flocked to Australia in search for gold, creating a flourishing service economy with restaurants and laundromats. However, as anger from Chinese miners led to violence in Victoria and New South Wales, Australian authorities restricted the number of Chinese immigrants. Northern Queensland faced a similar problem as factory Australian workers opposed all forms of immigration from non-whites. In 1901, the Federal Government enacted the Immigration Restriction Act 1901, known as the White Australia Policy, banning immigration for those deemed mentally and physically ill and were found to commit to prostitution or crime. This policy only selected British or European ethnicities to make a white Australia. Migrant applicants had to pass a spelling test that was no more than fifty words long but very difficult. The purpose of the test was simply to exclude people of another race or color than white. However, this spelling test was abolished in the Migration Amendment Act 1958. The new act began favoring qualified non-European migrants who could integrate easily and have a positive, useful qualification for Australia. The White Australia Policy was officially abolished in March 1966 when the Government decided to increase the number of immigrants. In addition, the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 did not allow Australian citizens to acquire foreign citizenship, and this means that migrants had to renounce their former citizenship once they were admitted as Australian citizens. However, since 1986, the Government has adopted a multicultural approach to immigration. Accordingly, new citizens are not required to renounce their previous citizenship if their former country allows them to maintain that right.

In 1975, there were about 1,000 Vietnamese living in Australia, of which 335 were Colombo Plan students, 130 were self-financing students. More than 500 orphans were adopted in the same period. Australia sent its troops to fight in Vietnam in 1965. Many of these soldiers and other Australians in Vietnam married Vietnamese women and brought them back to Australia. This is considered the first migration wave of Vietnamese people to Australia. After 1975, Australia began to receive four waves of Vietnamese refugees. The first group that arrived in 1975 included Vietnamese, Chinese, and Catholic businesspeople. The second group came from 1976 to 1978, consisting of boat refugees from refugee camps outside Vietnam. The third wave in 1978 include private business owners of private businesses and entrepreneurs. The fourth one consisted of small traders, rural and urban workers, and unemployed people who had crossed the border to refugee camps in Indonesia and Hong Kong after 1978. By 1981, Australia had received 2,059 boats from Vietnam, although between 20% and 32% of Australian people did not want these refugees to stay. They often equated these Asian boat refugees with “yellow peril” and require immigration authorities to “medically treat these people and disinfect every shirt and slippers they bring in” (Viviani, 1984, p. 79).

In 1976, there were 2,427 people of Vietnamese descent in Australia with 194 Vietnamese refugees, but in 1981 this number had increased to 41,096 (Viviani, 1984, p. 277). By the end of 1982, Australia had received about 50,000 Vietnamese, including 2,000 boat people, as refugees (Viviani, 1984, p. 51). In 1982, Australia began accepting the first Vietnamese immigrants under the ODP Program. With this migration program, Vietnamese citizens with relatives residing in Australia were allowed to migrate to Australia. From 1975 to 1981, 49,616 people followed this program. This number dropped to 44,984 people between 1986 and 1991. The number of people born in Vietnam in 2010 was estimated at 203,850 people, and Australia became the second most popular destination for Vietnamese

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migrants after the US (DIAC, 2010, p. 1). However, the unemployment rate among Vietnamese migrants is high, with only 19% being employed. There are 16% of the Vietnamese population in Australia being unskilled workers, 14% working in machinery and driving (DIAC, 2010, p. 1). Most are reported to have a low level of English. From 2009 to 2010, there were 4,080 immigrants born in Vietnam, of which skilled migration accounted for 16%, and family reunification accounted for 80%. By the end of 2010, skilled migration increased by 17%, with 107,868 people and 2,192 people in 2018. As of June 2018, there are 256,310 Vietnamese people with an average age of 46.1 living in Australia (Department of Home Affairs, 2019).

In 1998, the Howard Government announced a \$21 million package for Australian Education International's (AEI) international marketing campaigns to promote vocational education and training services in traditional markets including Asia, China, India, Europe, North and South America. The evolution of immigration policy has fostered the nexus between international education and skilled migration. This government package had been highly profitable in increasing skilled migrants from 29% in 1995-1996 to 50% in 2000. In July 1999, permanent residency (PR) bonus points were added to assess skilled migrants for the skilled migration program. Applicants were given an additional five bonus points if they receive a university degree from an Australian onshore university. This change is a strategy for Australia to increase its global competitiveness in attracting skilled human resources. Since July 2001, international students have been able to apply for PR in their home country through the Skilled Independent Program within six months of the completion of their studies in Australia. This transition has seen an increasing number of foreign student visas from 2001 to 2003 due to PR demands from former students.

To limit PR inflation, the Australian Government decided to increase the pool score for the skilled migration programs, from 110 to 115 points. In addition, from July 2003, students applying for PR needed to complete a minimum of 2 years of study in Australia to be eligible for the bonus points. By December 2003, the Government was more flexible in financial requirements and canceling the Pre-Visa Assessment for students from some high-risk countries, including Vietnam. Non-English speaking international students only need a minimum IELTS score of 5.5 to be admitted to an Australian university. Still, they must take English language courses and are then required to achieve a satisfactory IELTS score as required by Australian institutions. These changes combined with the skilled migration schemes have made Australian international education a strategic export industry.

Since April 2005, the skill-based PR requirement has increased to 120 points. Furthermore, in response to the global economic downturn at the end of 2008, the Government introduced a demand-driven model for long-term skilled migration, which required applicants to obtain employer or state sponsorship. However, as of November 5, 2011, international students have been able to enjoy additional incentives for financial affidavit which is reduced from 60,000-70,000 Australian dollars to 36,000 Australian dollars. In addition, in February 2010, the Australian Department of Immigration introduced the Temporary Graduate Visa (Subclass 485), allowing international students who have studied for at least two years at an Australian institution and have not yet completed their studies and meet the criteria for a PR visa can stay in Australia for up to 18 months to gain work experience and improve their English skills. Holders of this visa can apply for PR at any time if they achieve a passing score on their PR application.

Year	The number of Vietnamese students
2002 - 2003	1,851
2003 - 2004	2,107
2004 - 2005	2,101
2005 - 2006	2,843
2006 - 2007	3,845
2007 - 2008	6,878
2008 -2009	9,389
2010 - 2011	8,376

Table 5: The number of Vietnamese students in Australia (Australian Embassy in Vietnam, 2017)

As of 2010, 16,440 Vietnamese students were studying in Australia (67% of whom studied undergraduate and postgraduate courses), accounting for 4% of the total number of international students in Australia. This increased to 19,708 students in 2017 and 24,000 in 2019, accounting for 4.1% of all international students in Australia (Australian Embassy in Vietnam, 2017; Statista Research Department, 2020).

With the changes in its immigration policies, Australia became one of the first countries to link international education to skilled migration (Ziguras & Law, 2006). Since the mid-1990s, Australian immigration policies have focused on ensuring that immigrants do not become a burden on Australian society. This has been achieved by improving the selection process and restricting migrants' access to social welfare services or public support.

9. General comments

The United States is the largest recipient of immigrants from Vietnam. As of 2017, the United States received more than 1.5 million Vietnamese settlers, followed by Australia (238,000), Canada (192,000), and France (128,000). Vietnamese people tend to immigrate to the US in 3 main forms: family reunion, skilled migration, and marriage. The number of Vietnamese residing in Japan has increased since 2015, behind China and South Korea. Some immigration programs in the host countries are no longer valid. Instead, many new visa policies were introduced, creating opportunities for Vietnamese people to apply for PR. For example, the United States offers at least five types of immigrant visas, some of which emphasize applicants' skills and qualifications. In 2016, overseas Vietnamese sent 14 billion USD to their homeland through official channels, accounting for 6% of Vietnam's GDP. However, in 2020, this number was 15.686 billion USD, accounting for 5.8% of Vietnam's GDP (60% coming from the US), of which Ho Chi Minh City alone received 5.5 billion USD, an increase of 0.82% compared to that in 2019. This may be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Religions are found to influence migration. For example, Islam in Malaysia attracts many Muslim overseas students and workers. Labor export and studying abroad from Vietnam have increased while marriage to foreigners has shown a downward trend. Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia attract many semi-skilled workers from Vietnam. Many semi-skilled workers (mostly females) violate labor contracts and illegally reside in Korea and Taiwan. The Northern, Central Highlands, and Central provinces in Vietnam have a higher number of labor exports than the other regions in the country. The rate of participation in labor export programs in the Mekong Delta provinces is lower

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than that of other regions, but there is a higher tendency among the people in the Mekong Delta to marry foreigners. The percentage of women marrying foreigners is generally higher than that of men. The number of Vietnamese students studying abroad is always on the list of leading countries. Australia, the United States, Japan, China, and Singapore are the most popular destinations for Vietnamese students.

Compliance of research and publication ethics

I, as the Corresponding Author, declare and undertake that in the study titled as “Migration data from Vietnam to popular destinations”, scientific, ethical and citation rules were followed; Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry Journal Editorial Board has no responsibility for all ethical violations to be encountered, that all responsibility belongs to the author/s and that this study has not been sent to any other academic publication platform for evaluation.

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