

MIGRATION AND POPULATION AGEING



Hania Zlotnik

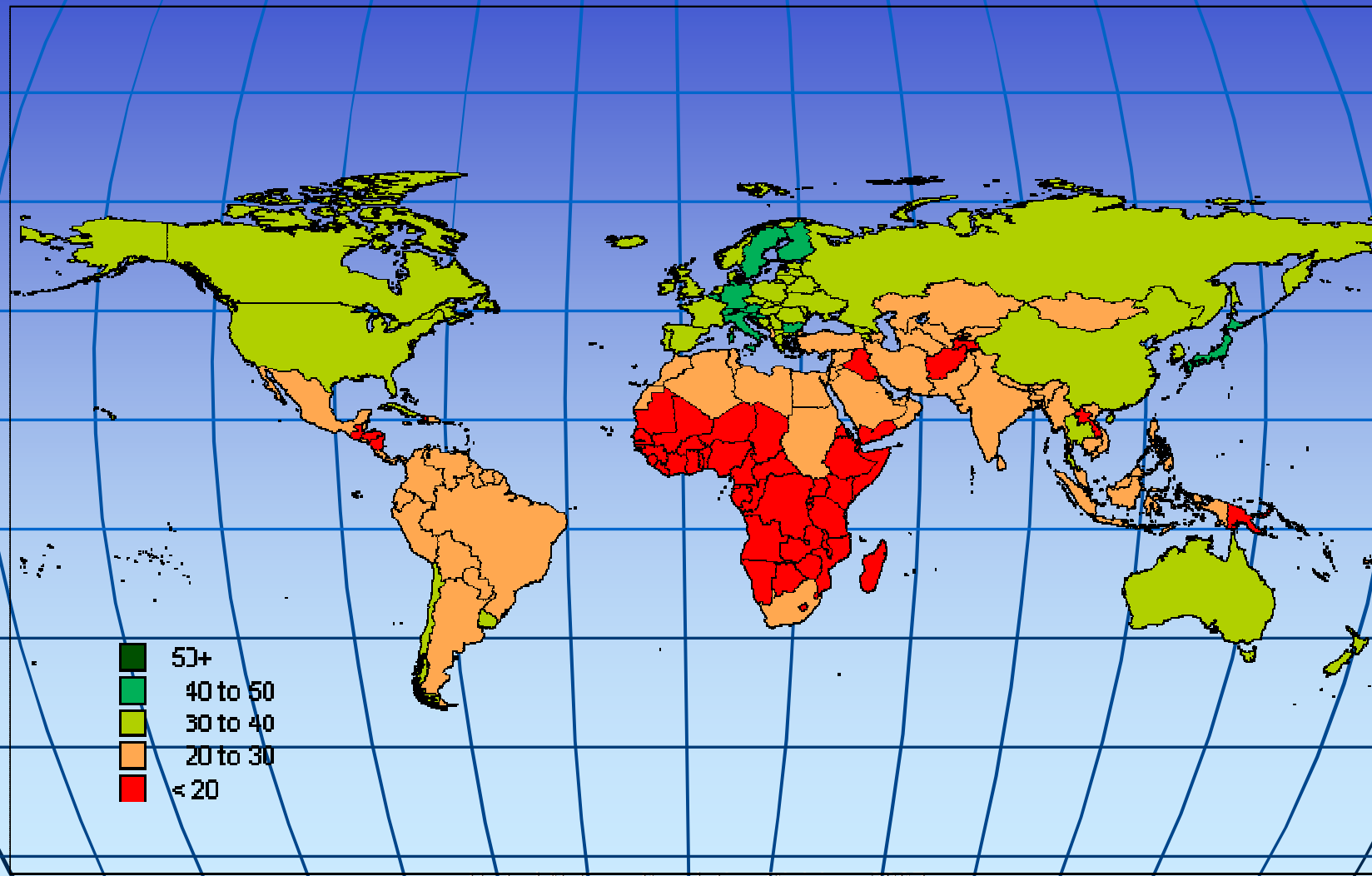
**POPULATION DIVISION
United Nations**

United Nations Population Division, 2007

Population ageing

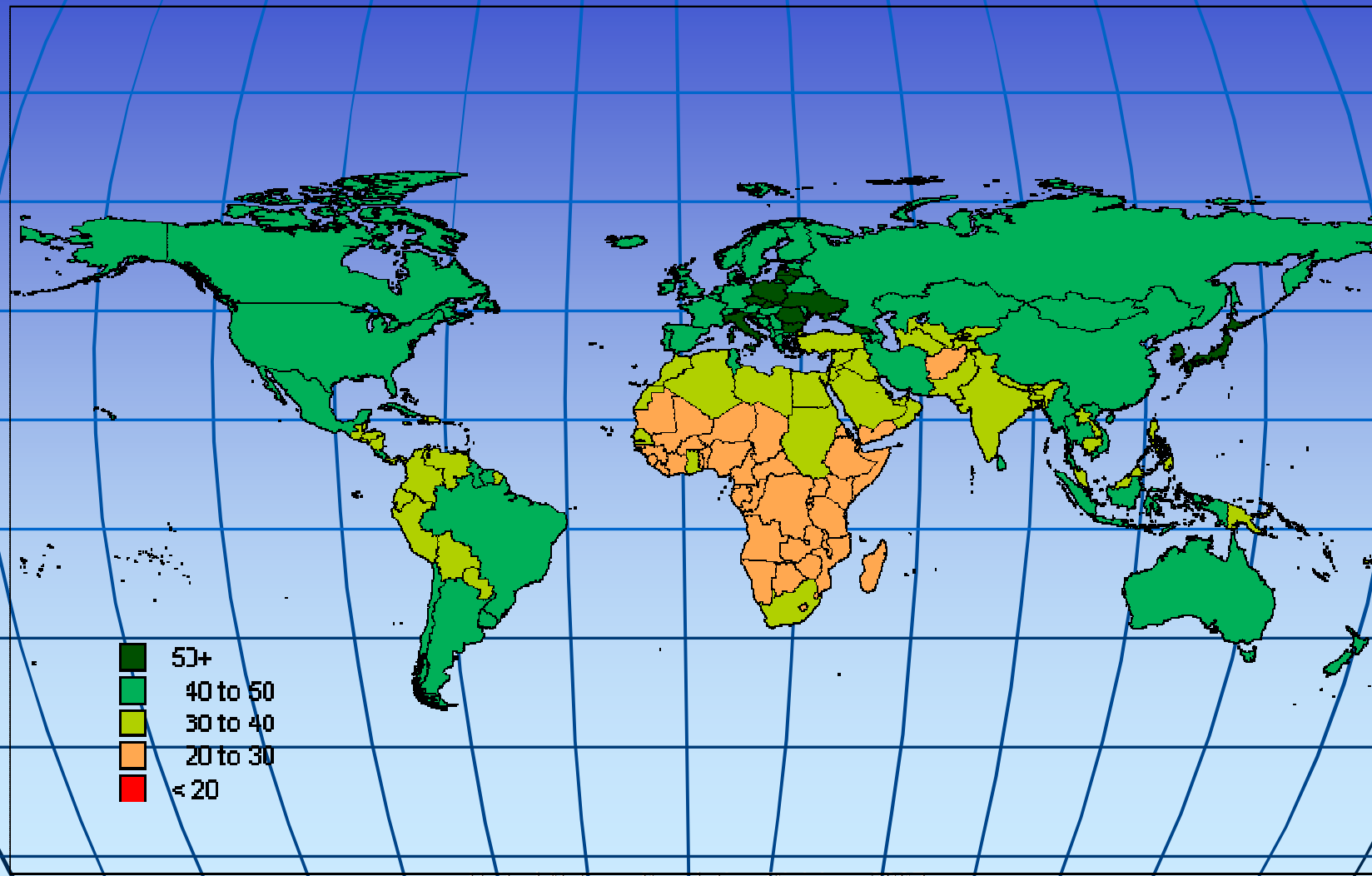
- **Population ageing is primarily the consequence of fertility decline**
- **The population of virtually every country is ageing**
- **Developed countries are more advanced in the path to population ageing**

Median age 2005



United Nations Population Division, 2007

Median age 2050 (medium variant)



United Nations Population Division, 2007

International migrants are concentrated in high-income countries

- **Worldwide: 191 million migrants in 2005**

Of which

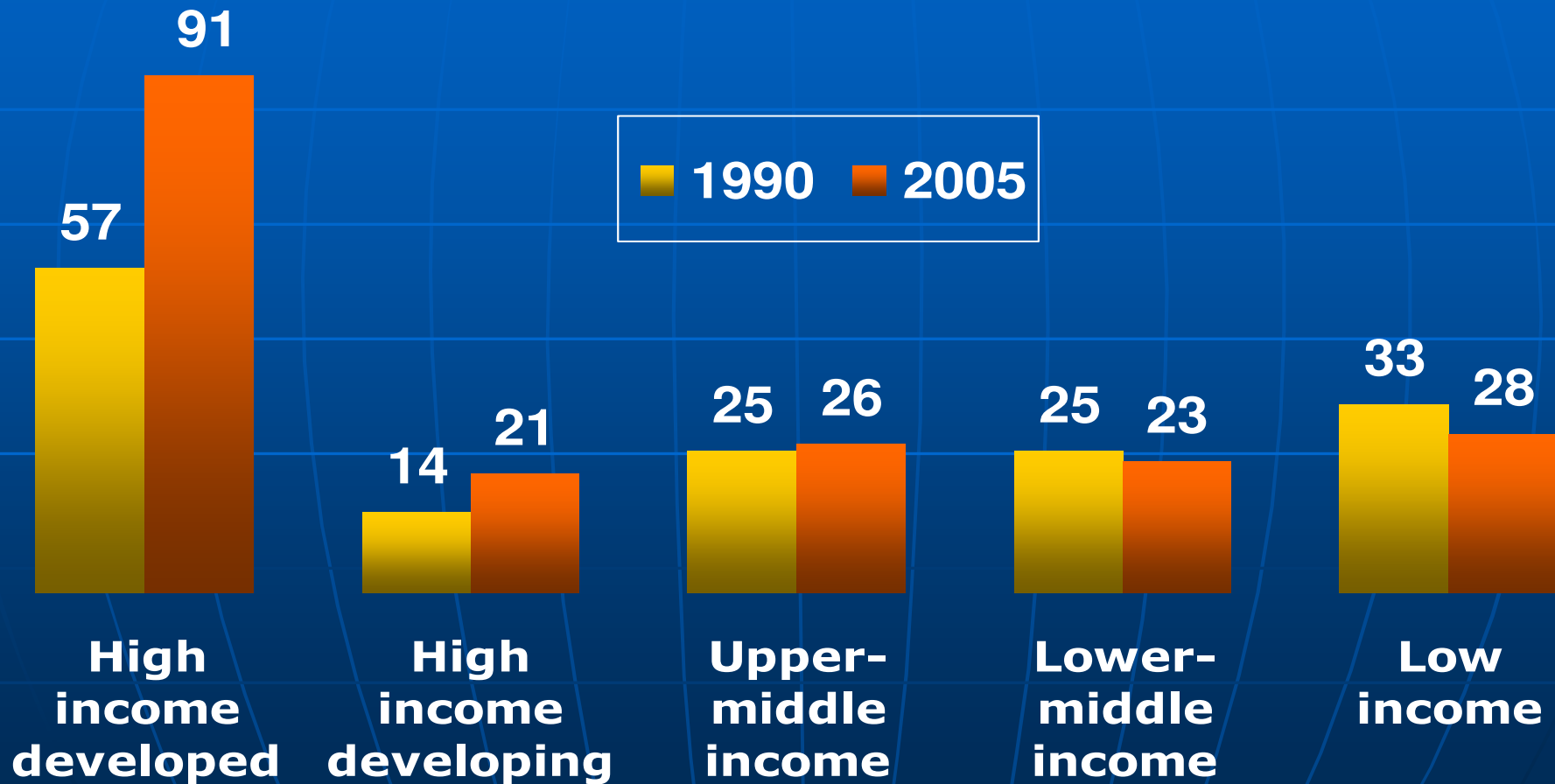
- **In high-income developed: 91 million**
- **In high-income developing: 21 million**

Consequently:

59 per cent are in high-income countries

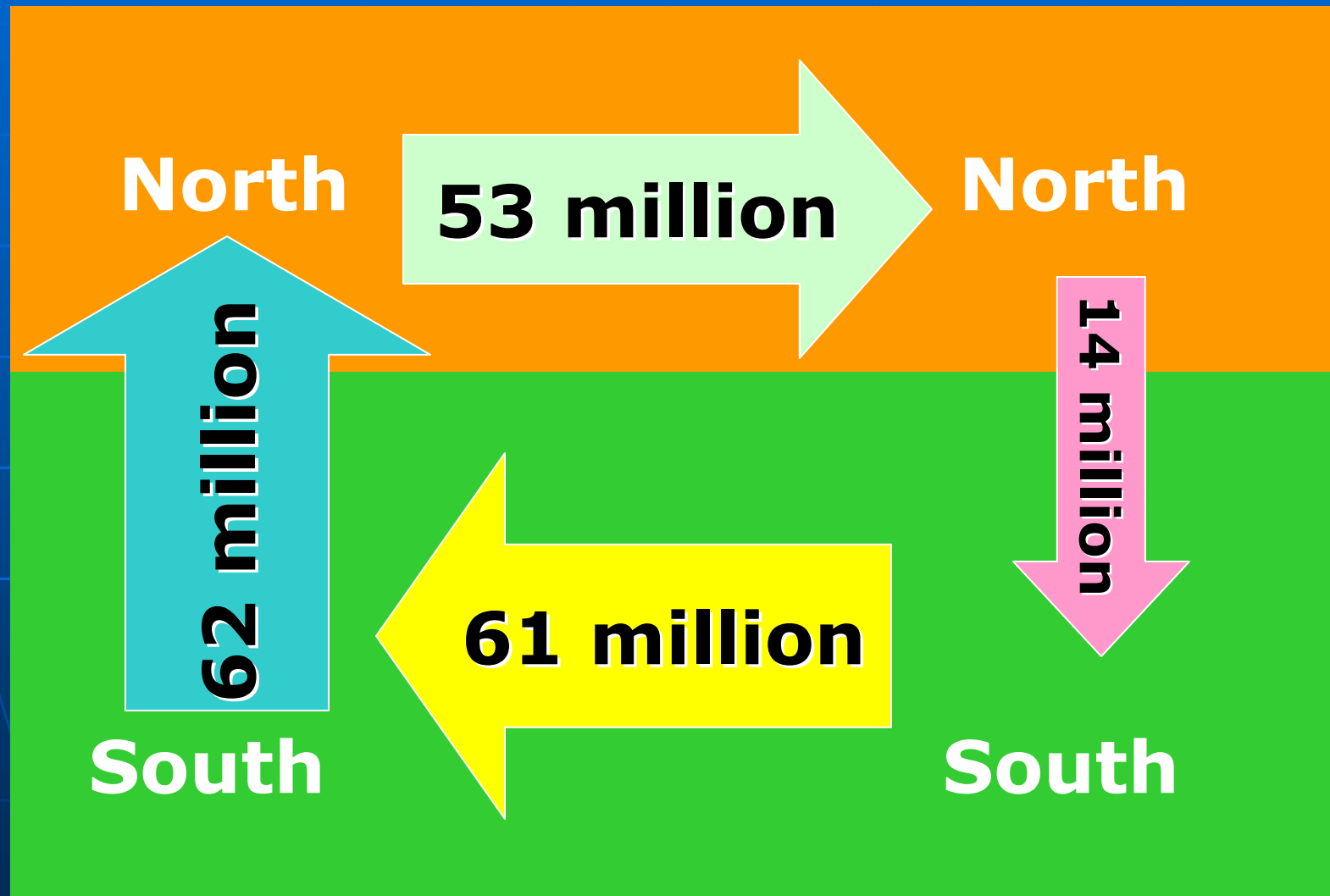
Increase of number of migrants by income group

Millions



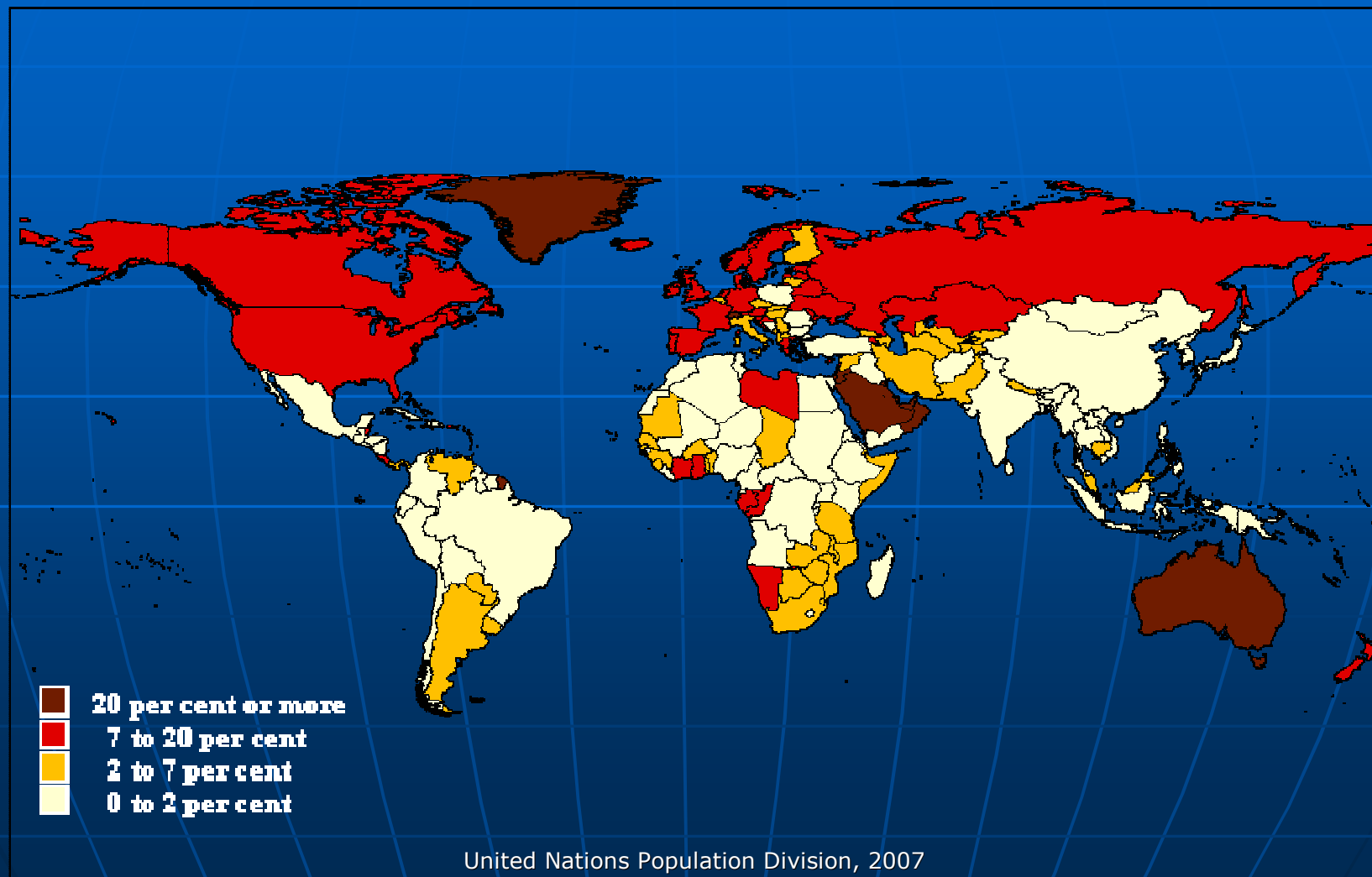
United Nations Population Division, 2007

Migrants are almost equally distributed among three types



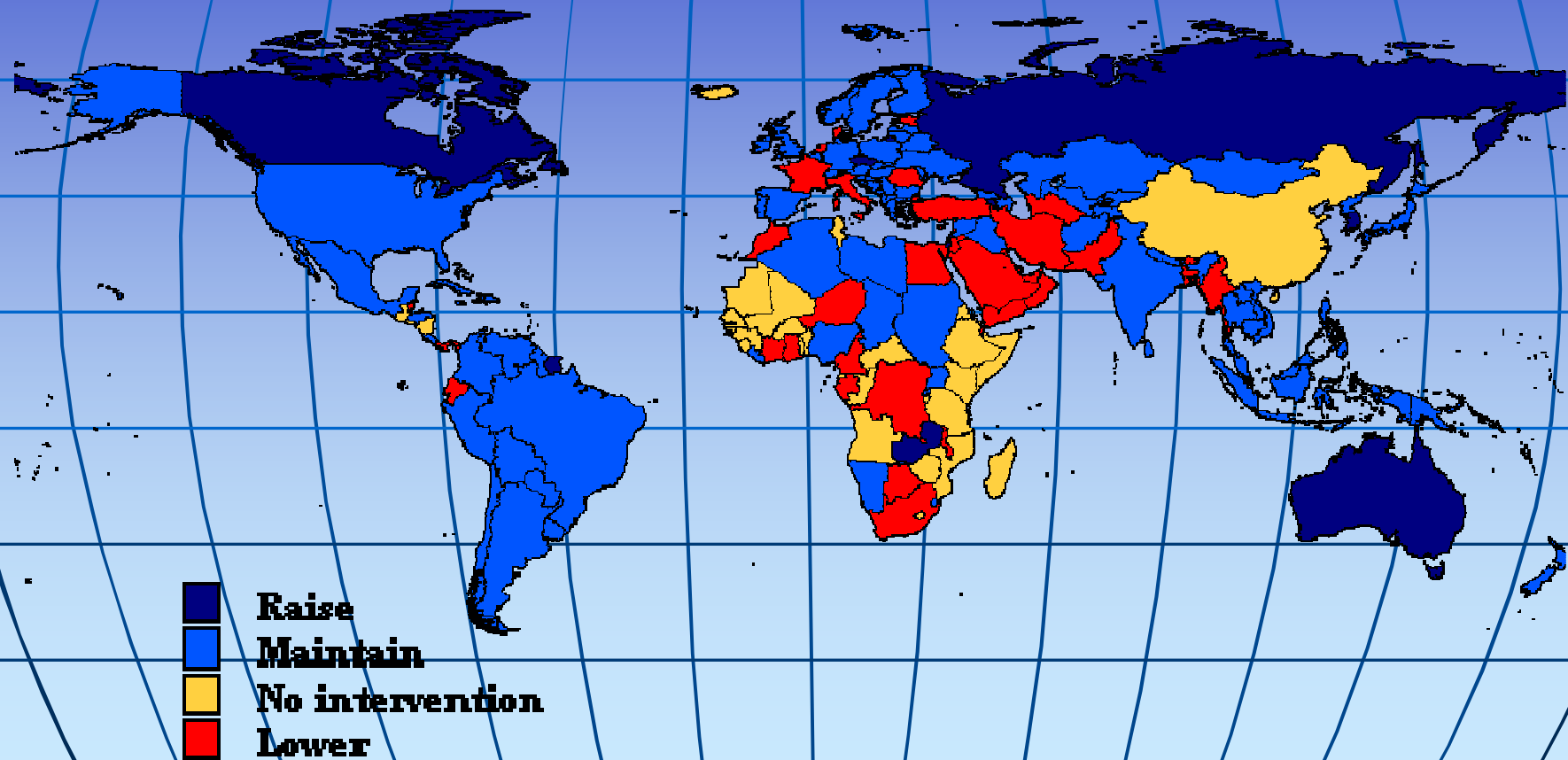
MIGRANTS CONSTITUTE HIGH PROPORTIONS OF THE POPULATION IN FEW COUNTRIES

(MIGRANTS AS PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION, 2005)



**Governments are relaxing
somewhat policies on the
admission of international
migrants....**

Immigration policies, 2005



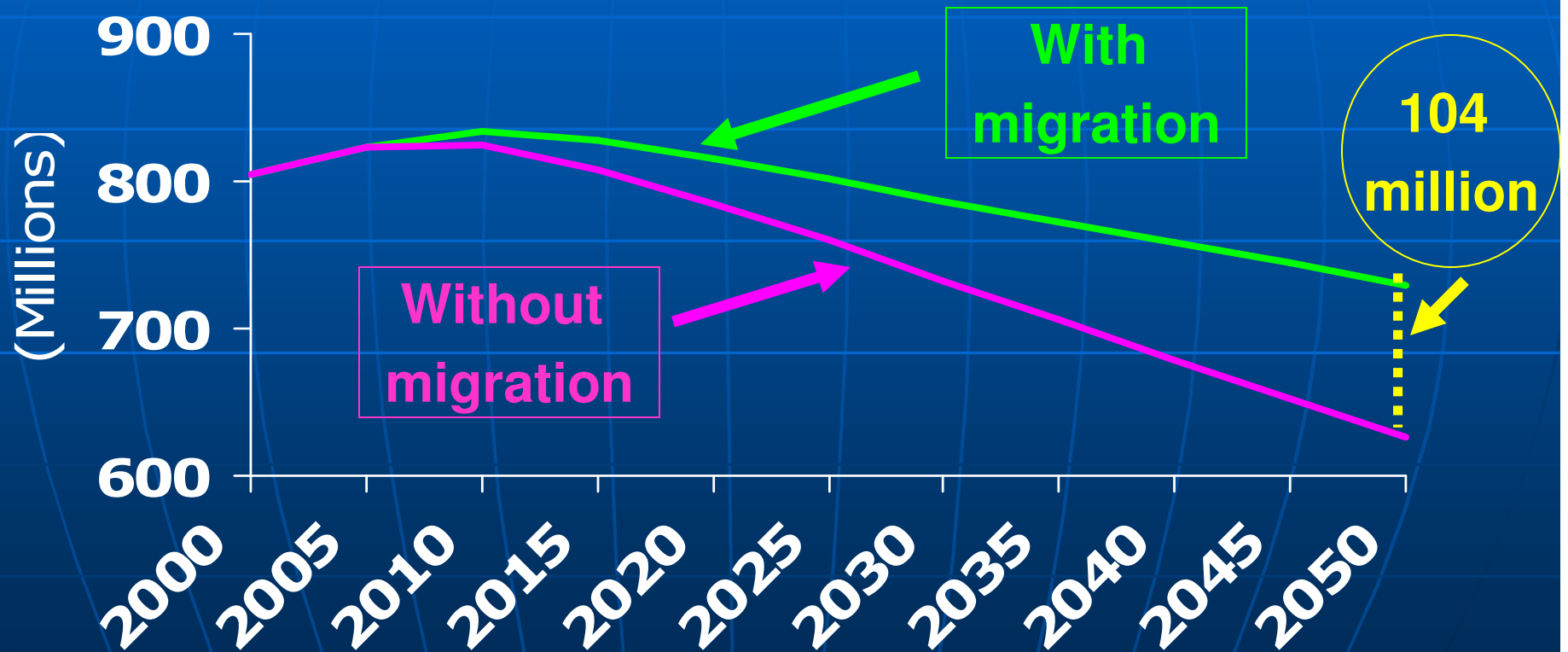
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Developed countries need migrants

United Nations Population Division, 2007

Labour force projection for developed countries with and without migration

Projected population aged 15-64
(medium variant)



United Nations Population Division, 2007

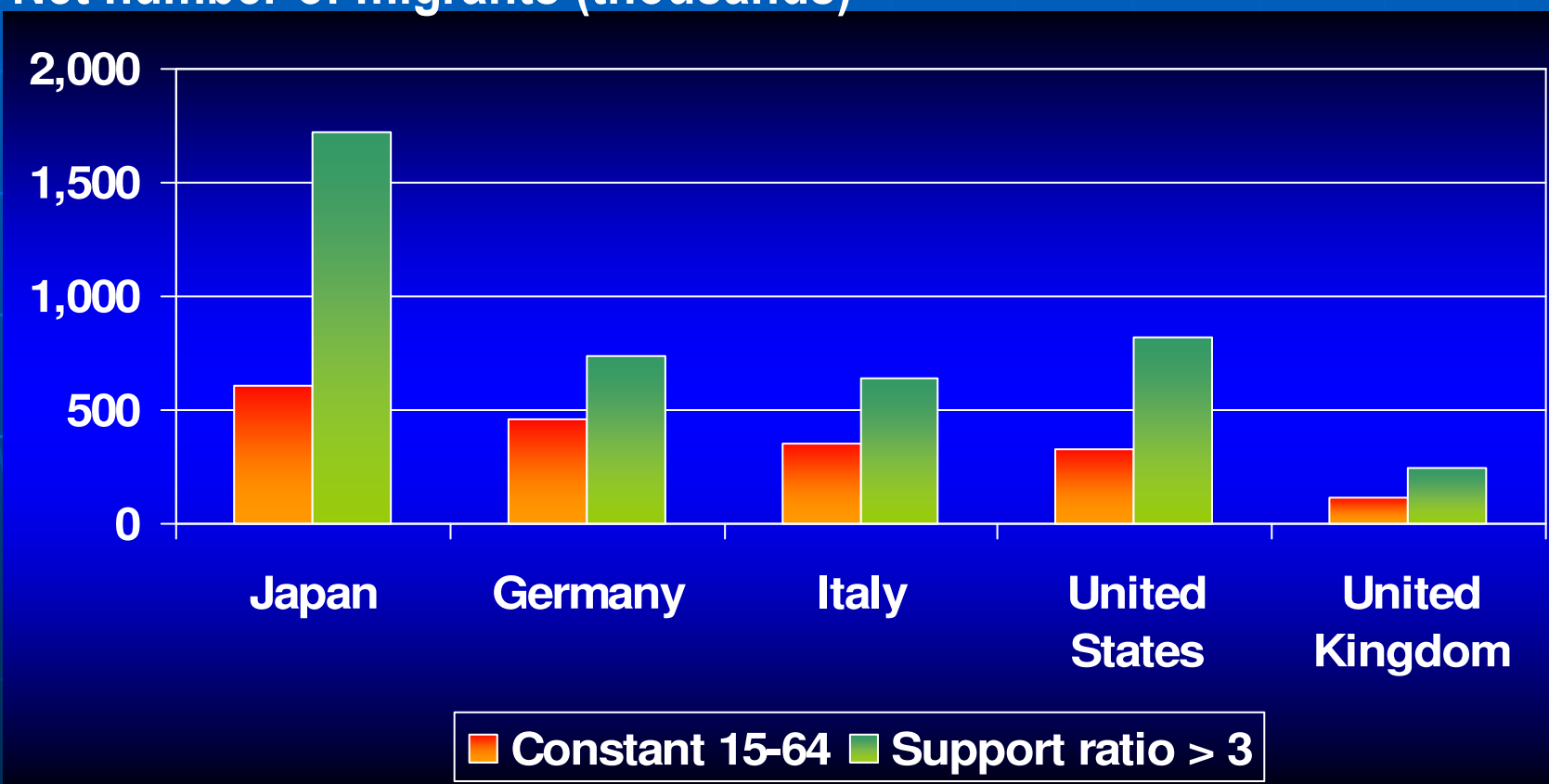
Migrants get red carpet treatment....



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Two migration scenarios to reduce the impact of population ageing

Net number of migrants (thousands)

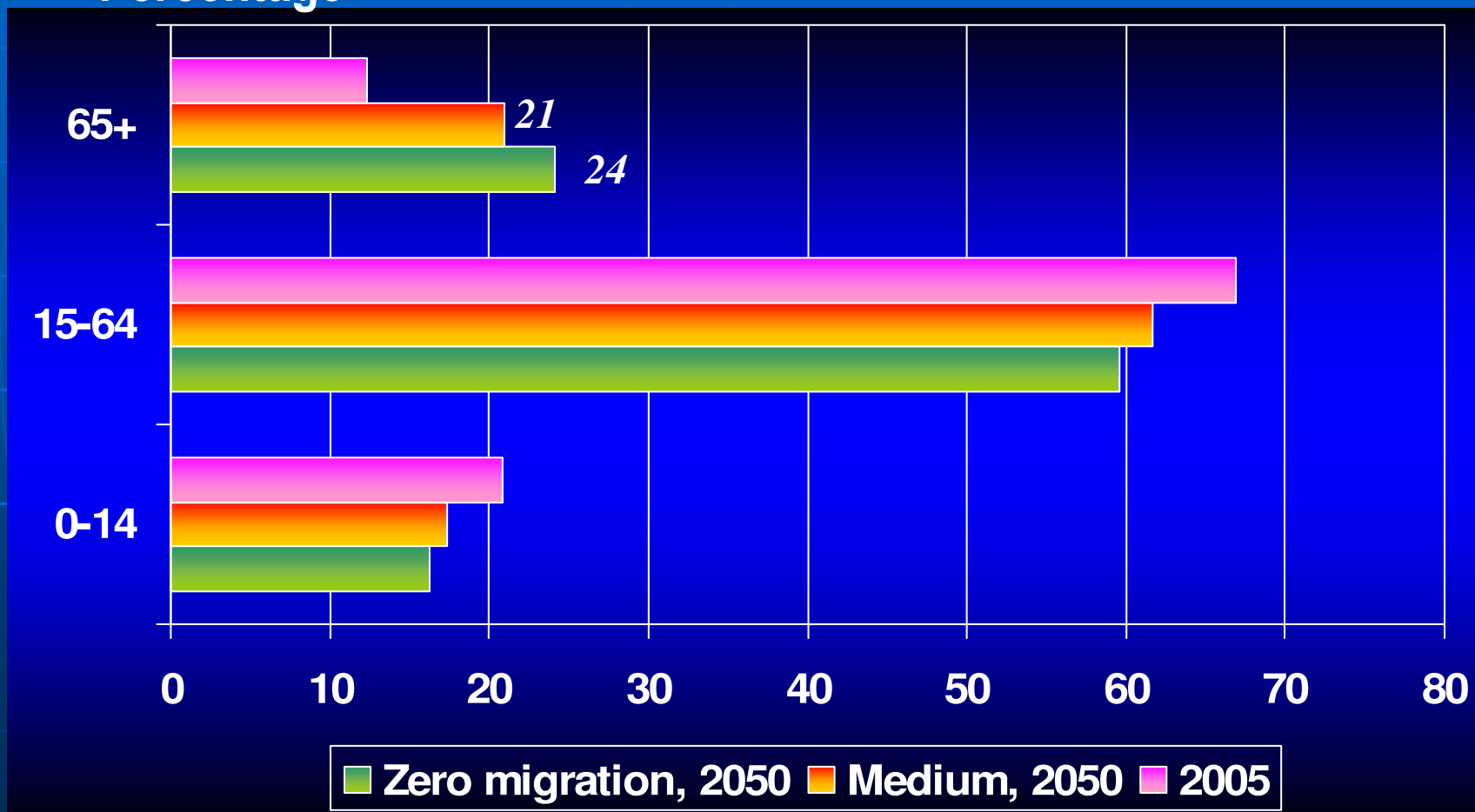


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**Sustained levels of positive
net international migration
result in slower population
ageing**

United States: Two projection scenarios

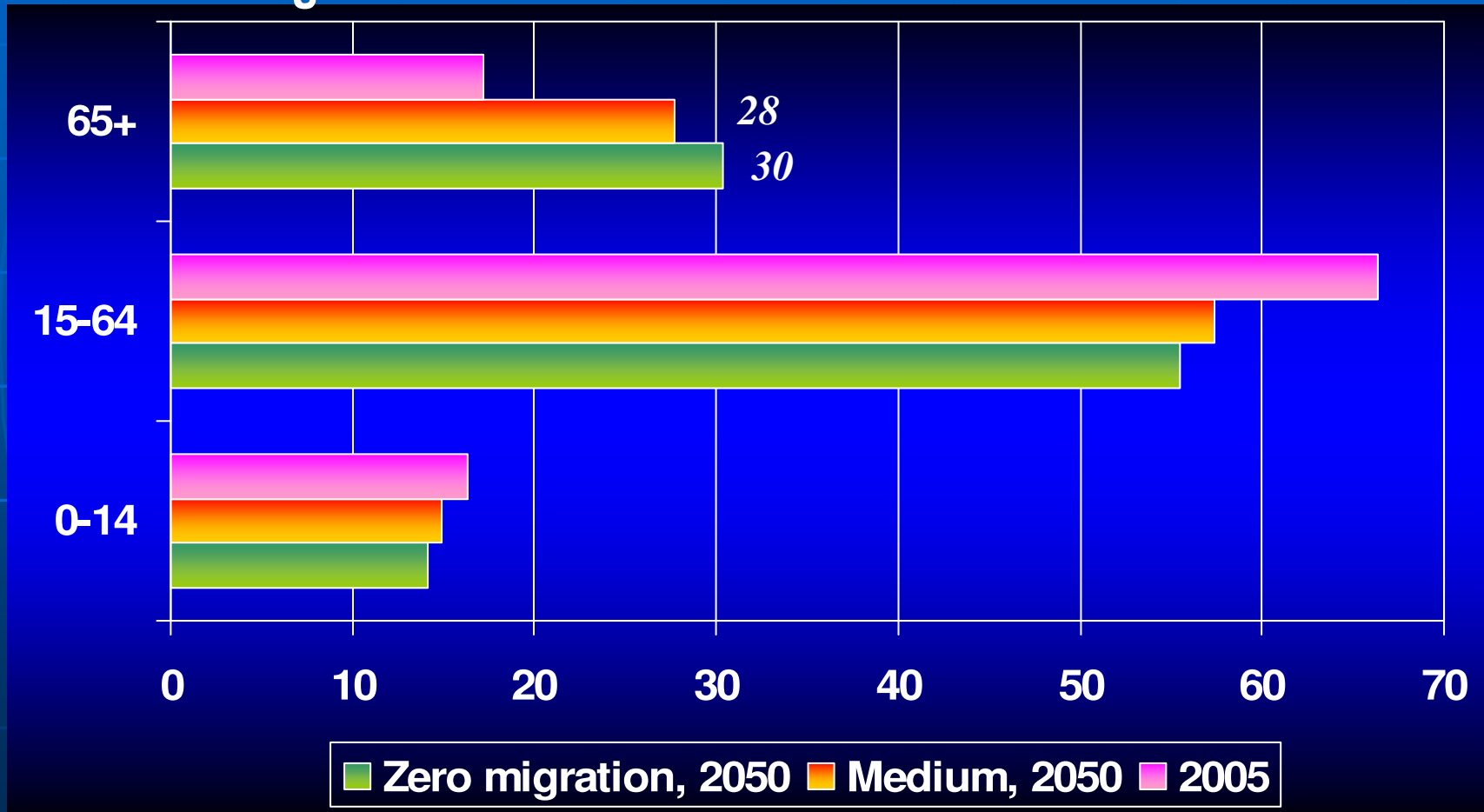
Percentage



United Nations Population Division, 2007

Western Europe: Two projection scenarios

Percentage



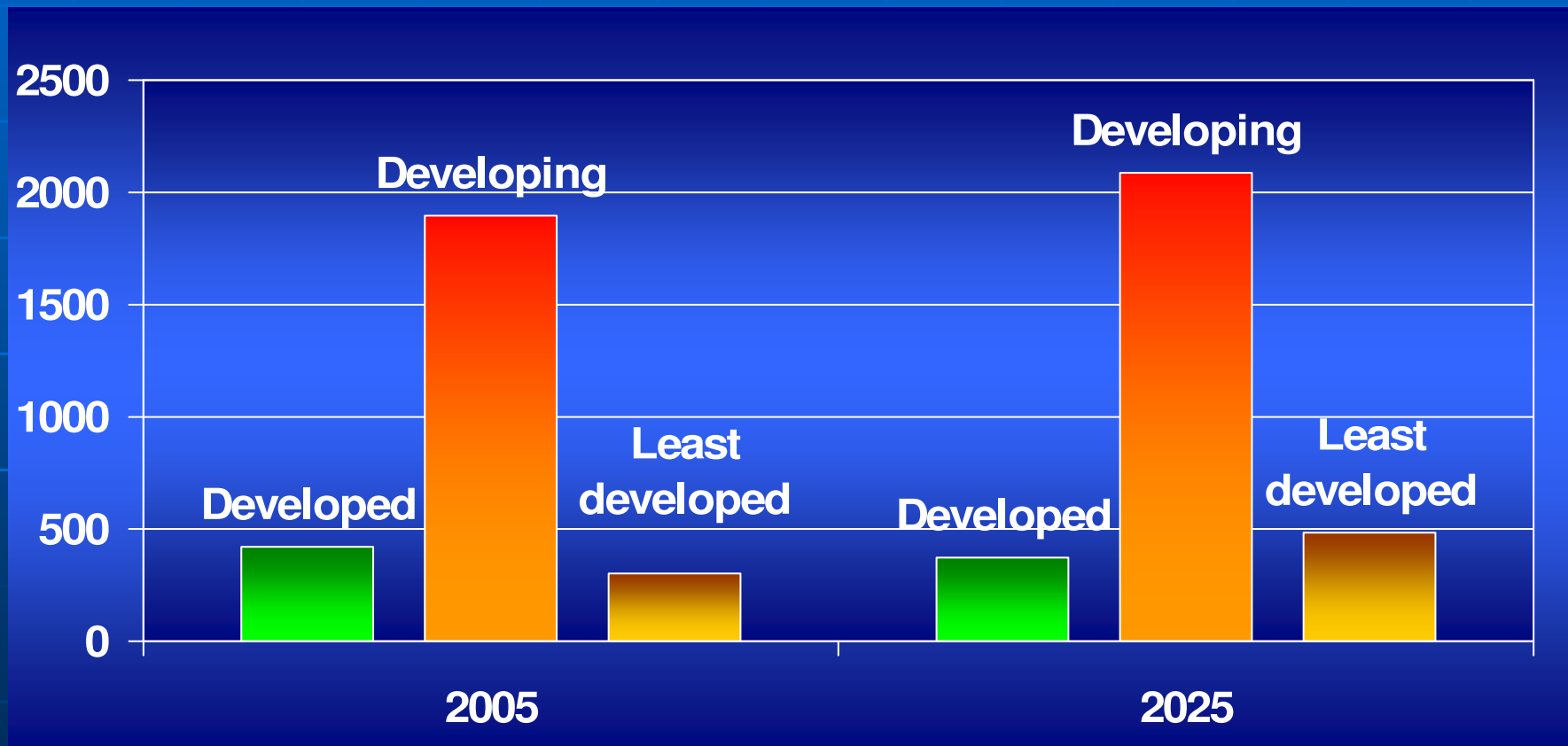
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DILEMMA:

Developed countries may need migrants but not an unlimited number

Developing countries have too many “excess” workers

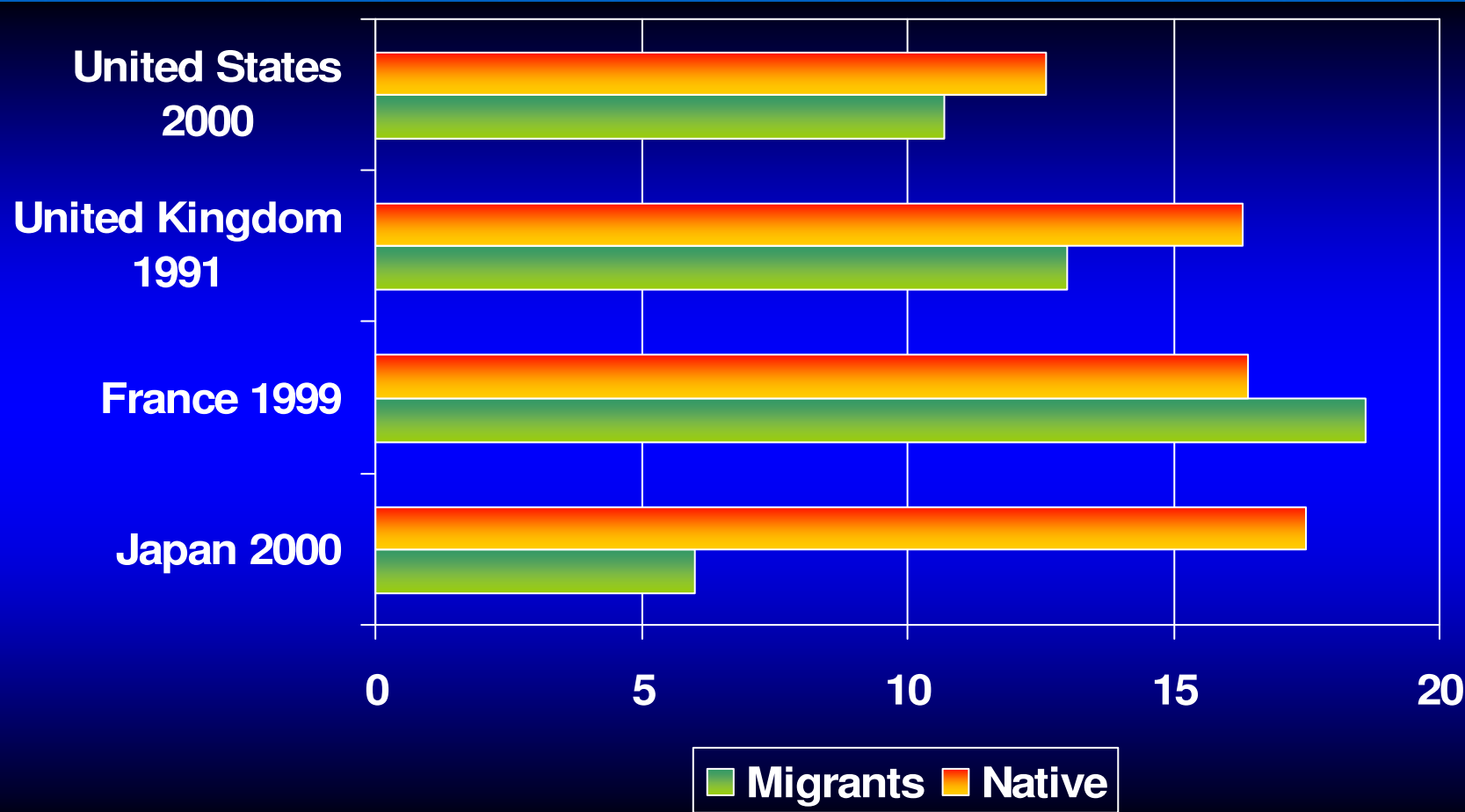
Number of persons aged 15 to 39 (millions)



Empirical question:

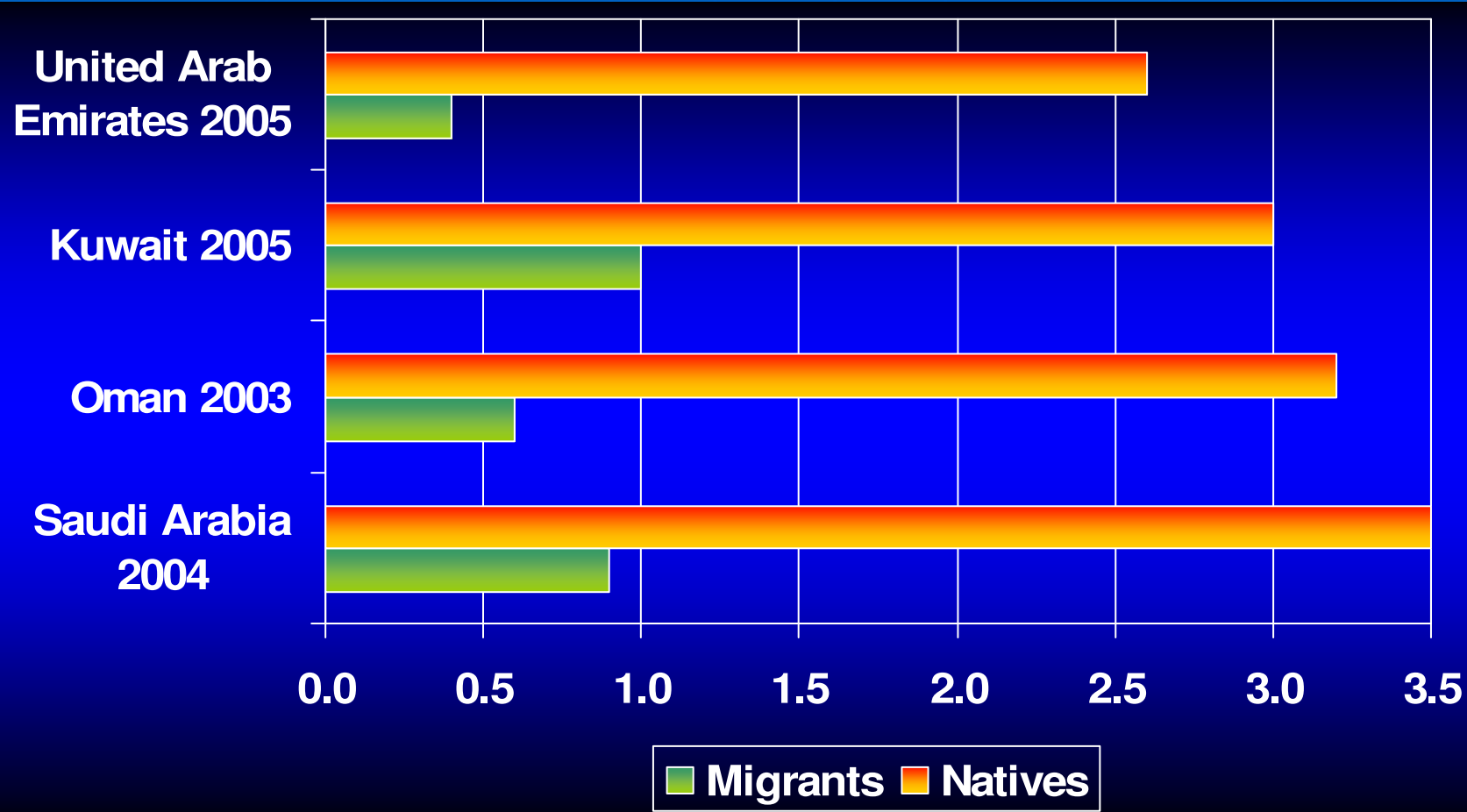
**Are migrant populations younger
than natives?**

Percentage aged 65 or over

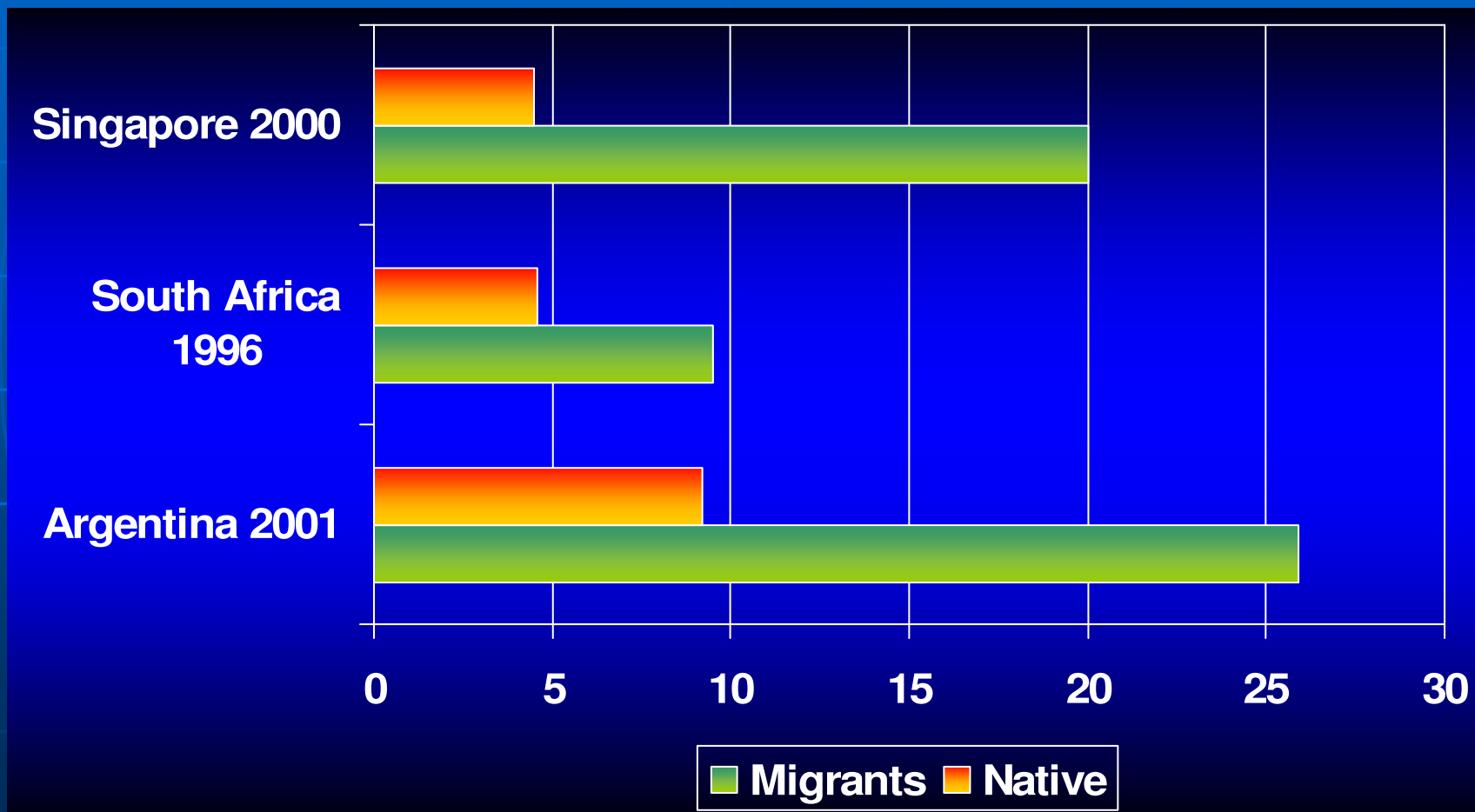


United Nations Population Division, 2007

Percentage aged 65 or over



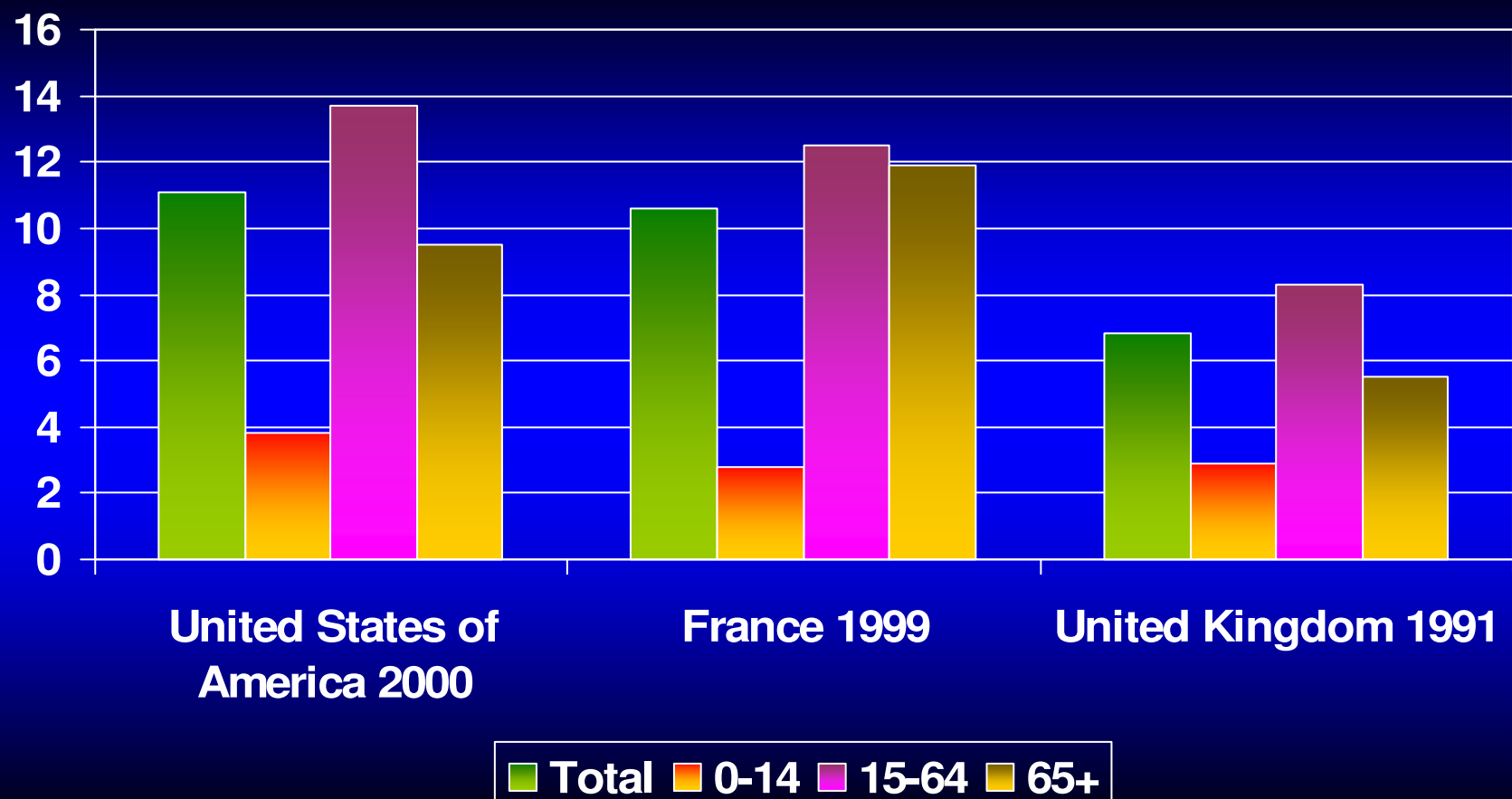
Percentage aged 65 or over



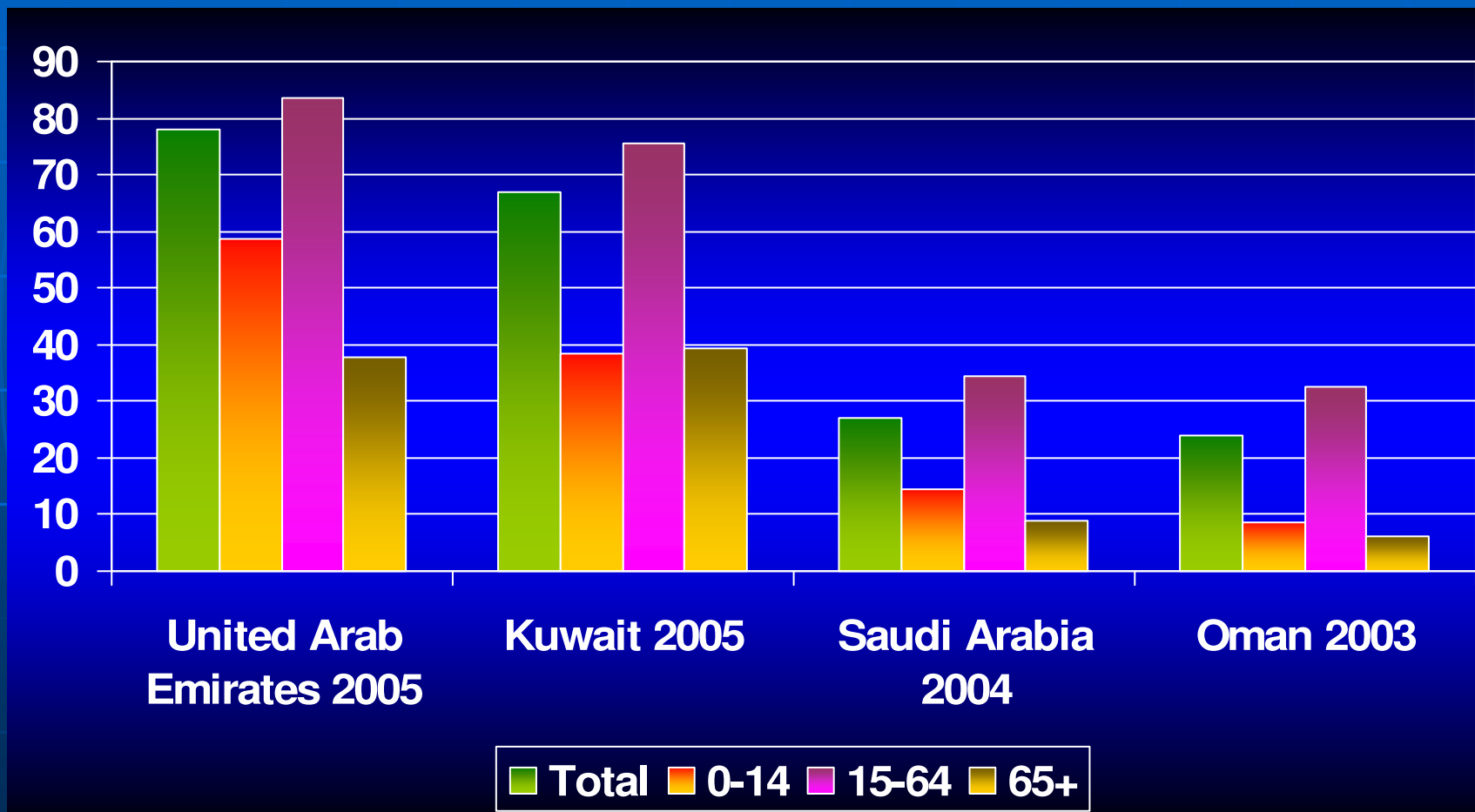
Are older migrants a high proportion of all older persons?

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Percentage of migrants by age group

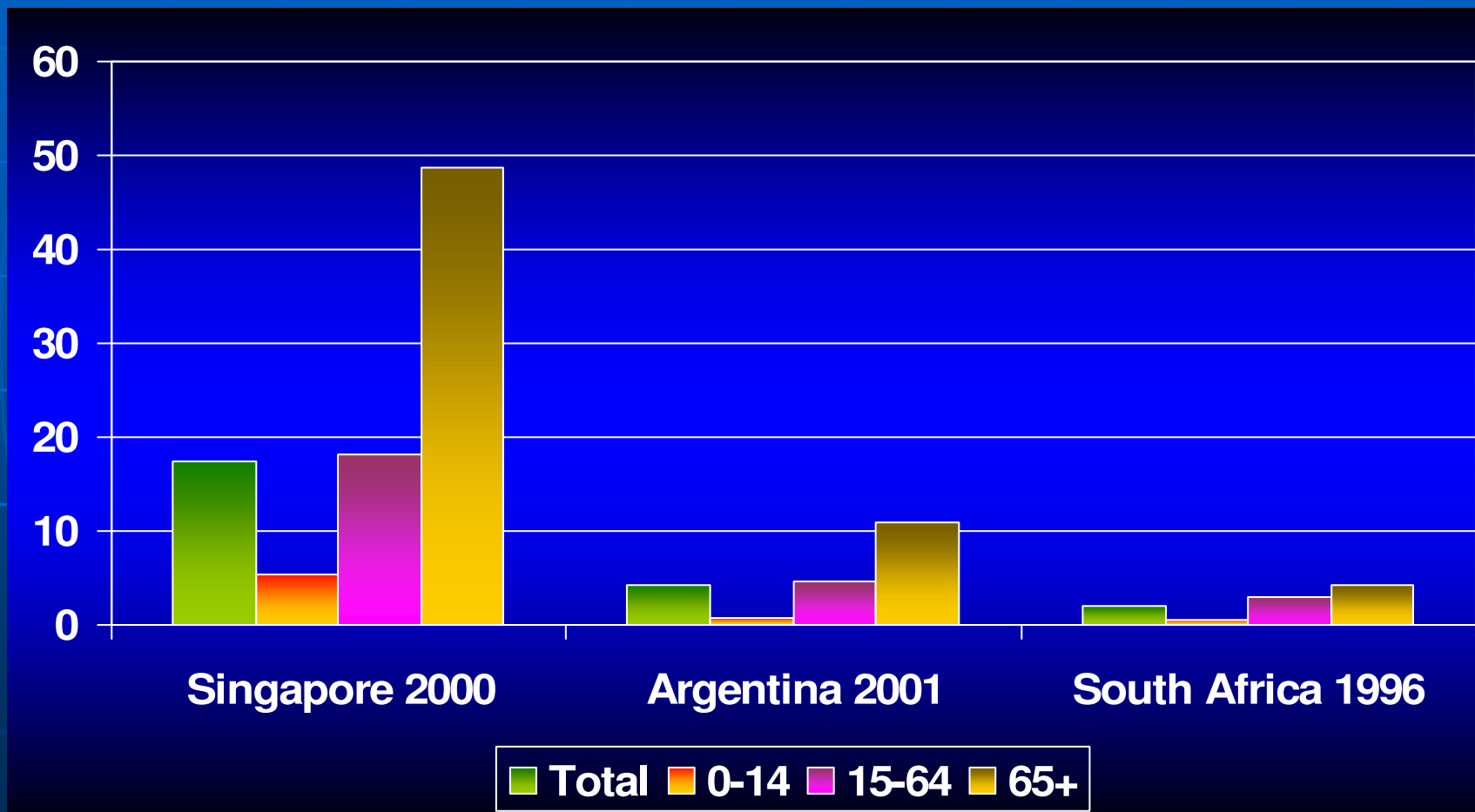


Percentage of migrants by age group



United Nations Population Division, 2007

Percentage of migrants by age group



United Nations Population Division, 2007

Take home messages

- **Developed countries are at an advanced stage of population ageing**
- **Migration flows to developed countries have been substantial**
- **Without migration gains, the population of working age in developed countries is expected to decline**
- **Migration can slow the effects of population ageing, but is unlikely to stop or reverse it**

Take home messages

- **The populations of most developing countries are about to enter an era of rapid population ageing**
- **Some may become, if they have not done so already, net receivers of migrants**

Population Division United Nations

www.unpopulation.org

*For information relating to the
High-level Dialogue*

www.unmigration.org

United Nations Population Division, 2007