

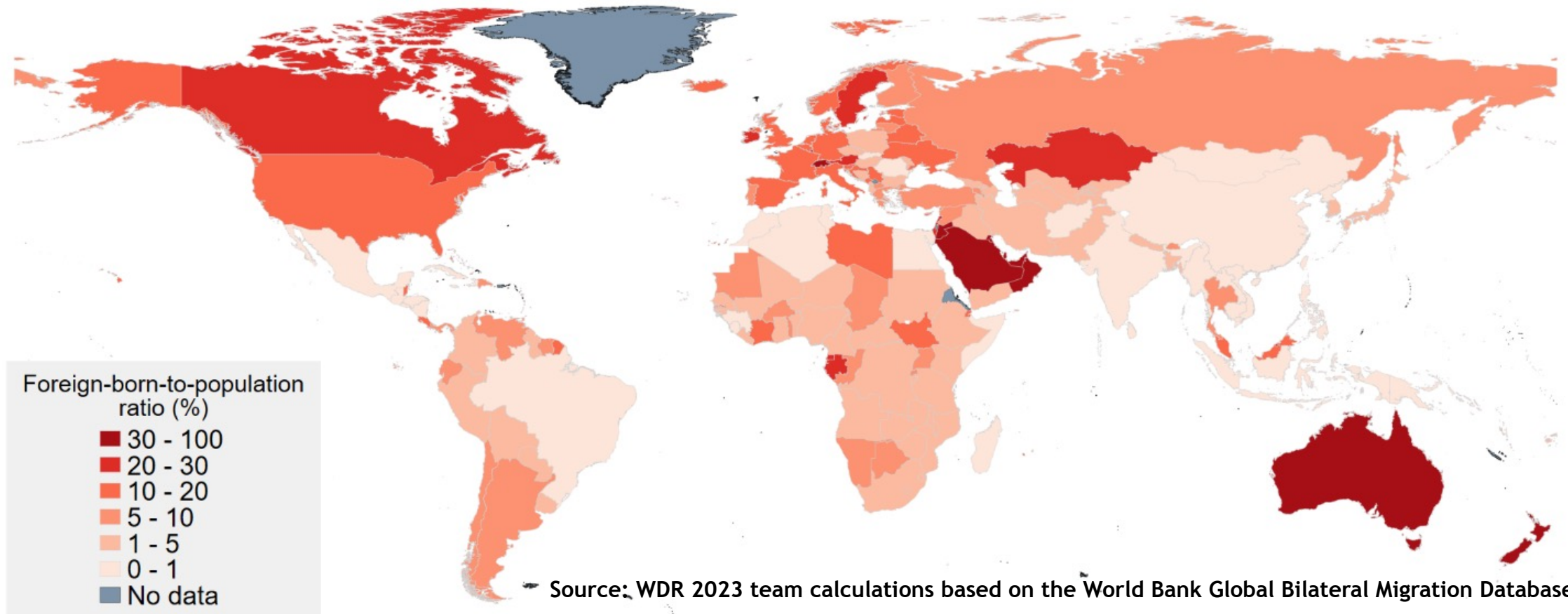


Trends and drivers of migration in East Asia and the Pacific

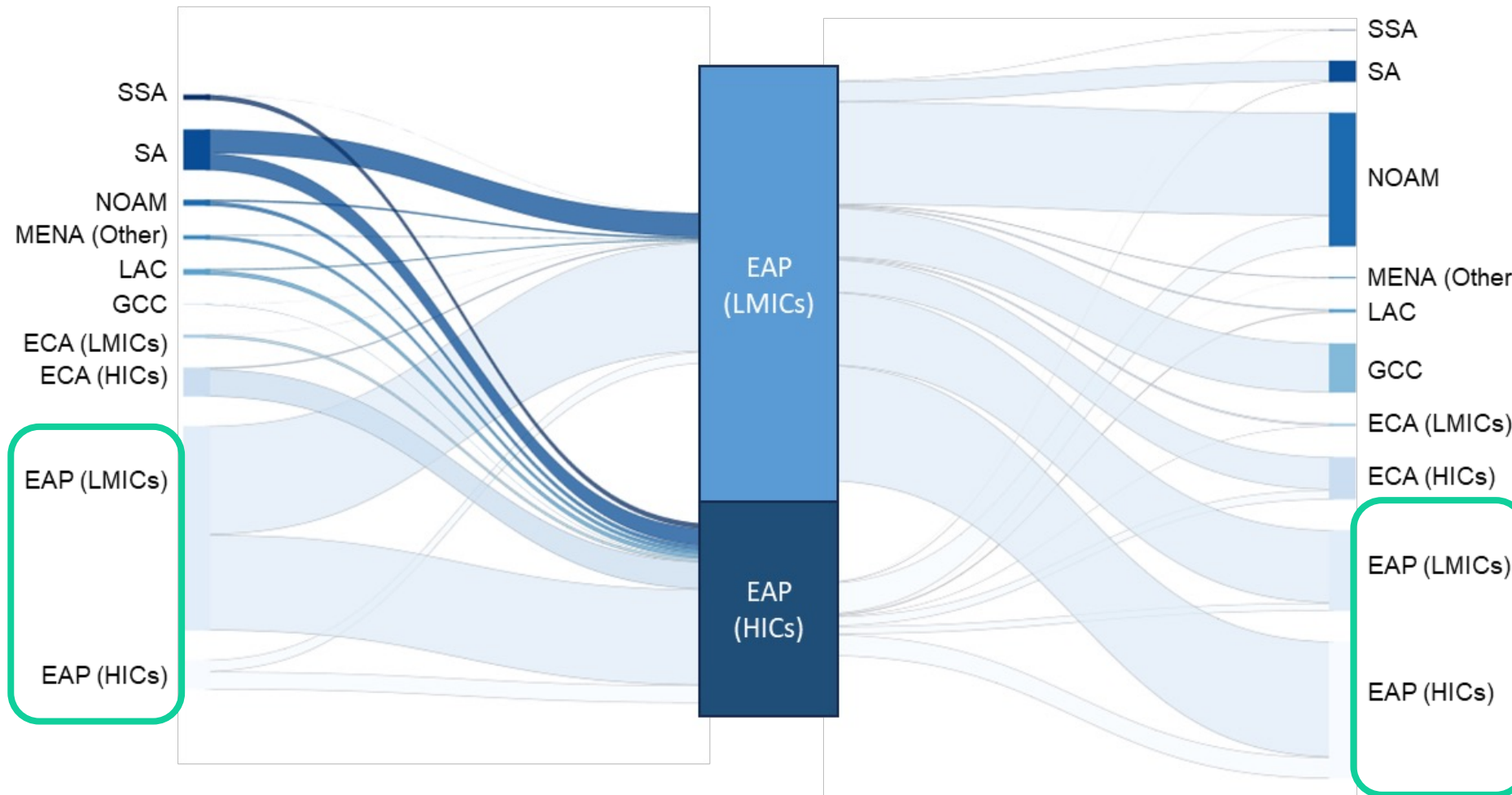
Yasser El-Gammal
The World Bank



Generally low migration rates in EAP with some exceptions



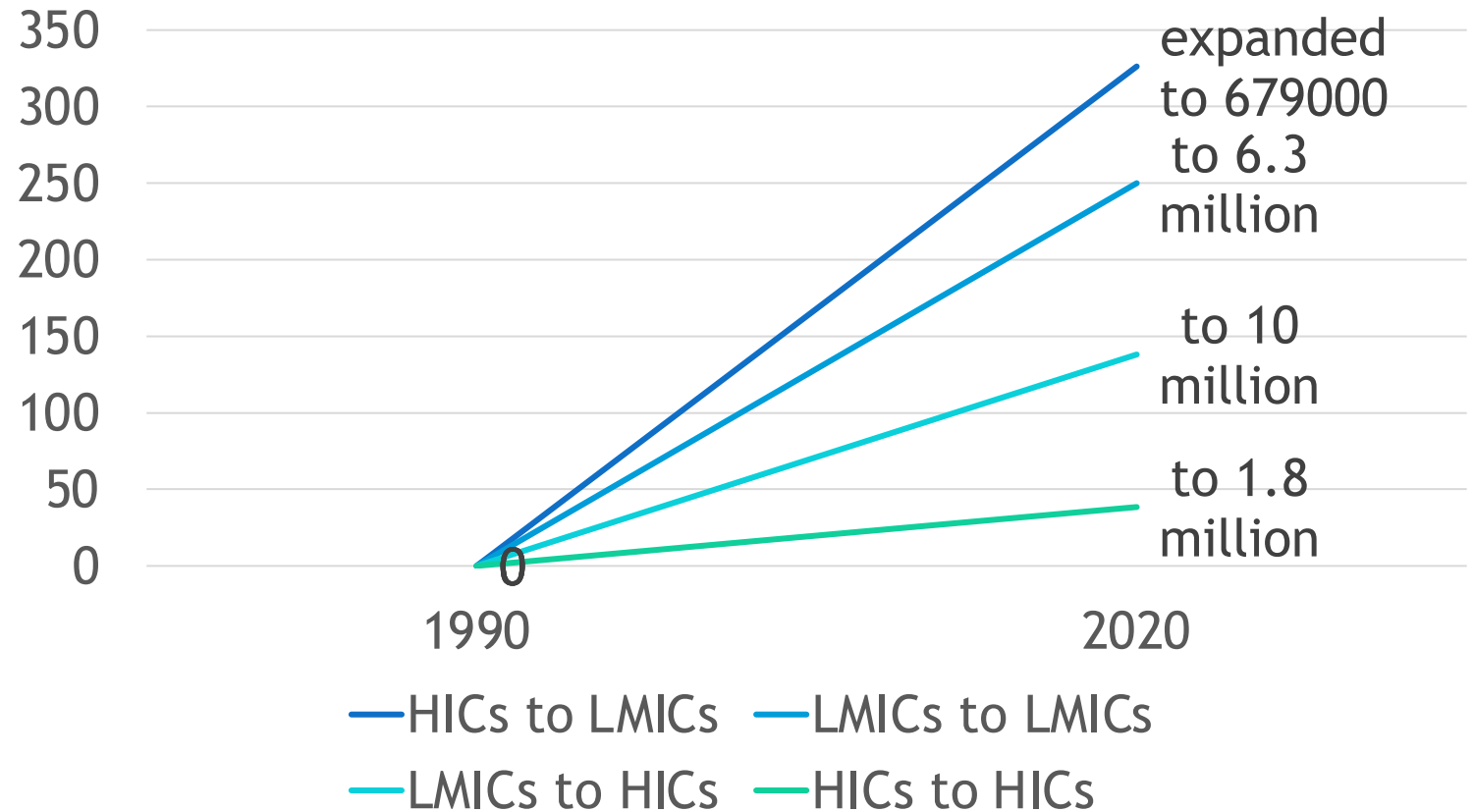
But intra-regional migration is overtaking inter-regional migration and is more diverse than other regions



Over the three decades, migration to low- and middle-income countries expanded

- EAP HICs remain the key destinations.
- But, migration to LMICs expanded much faster
- Especially from HICs to LMICs, albeit from a low base

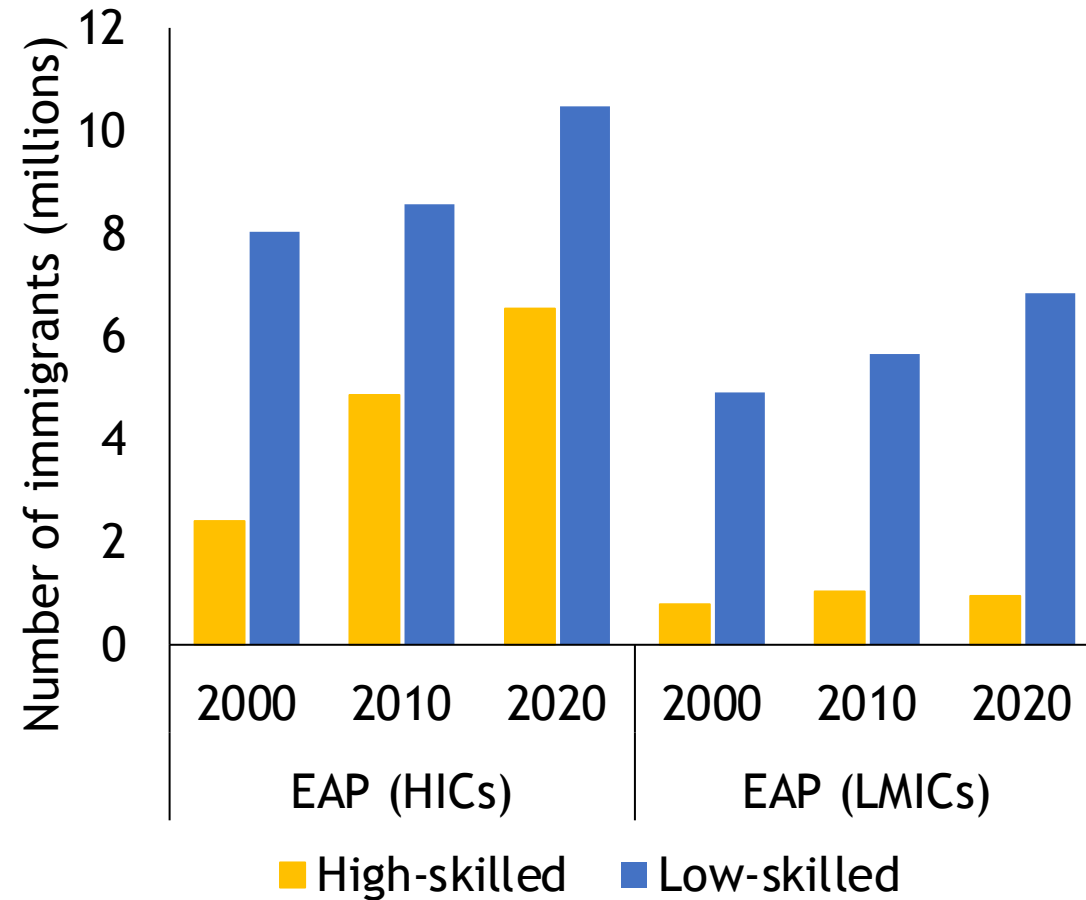
Immigration growth rates 1990-2020 (%)



Source: WDR 2023 Migration Database

Many migrants in EAP are low-skilled.

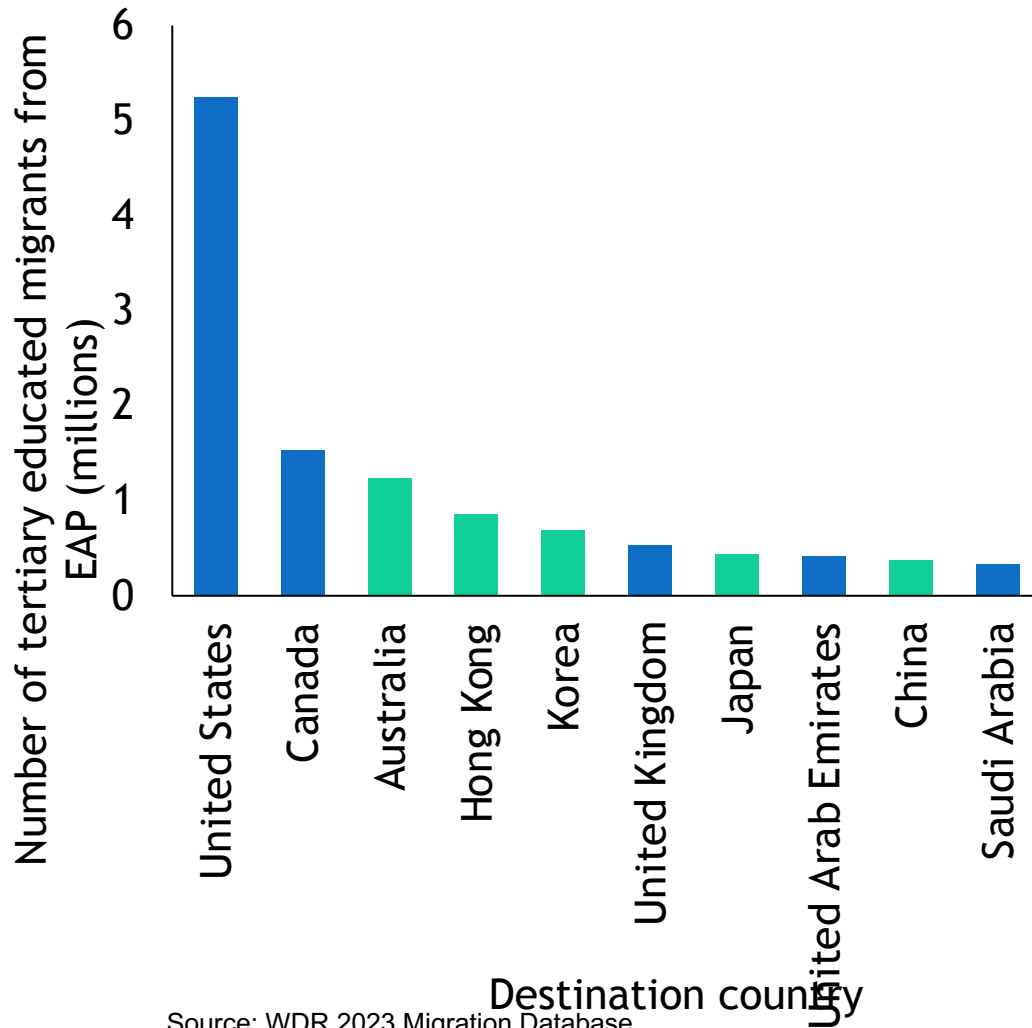
Only 1 in 3 EAP migrants are high-skilled (in 2020), albeit a rapid expansion.



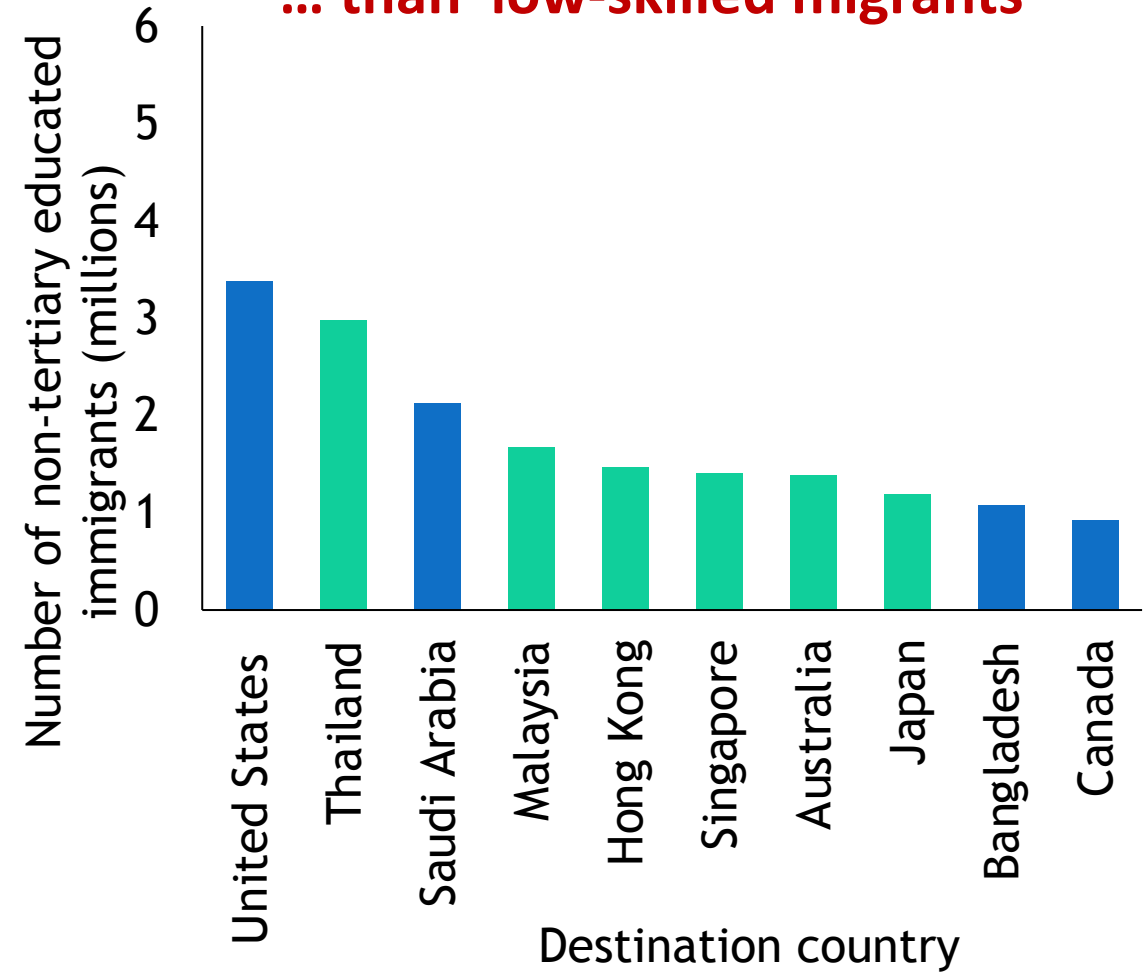
Source: WDR 2023 Migration Database

The key destination of EAP high-skilled migrants is the US, while Thailand for low-skilled migrants

High-skilled migrants travel farther ...

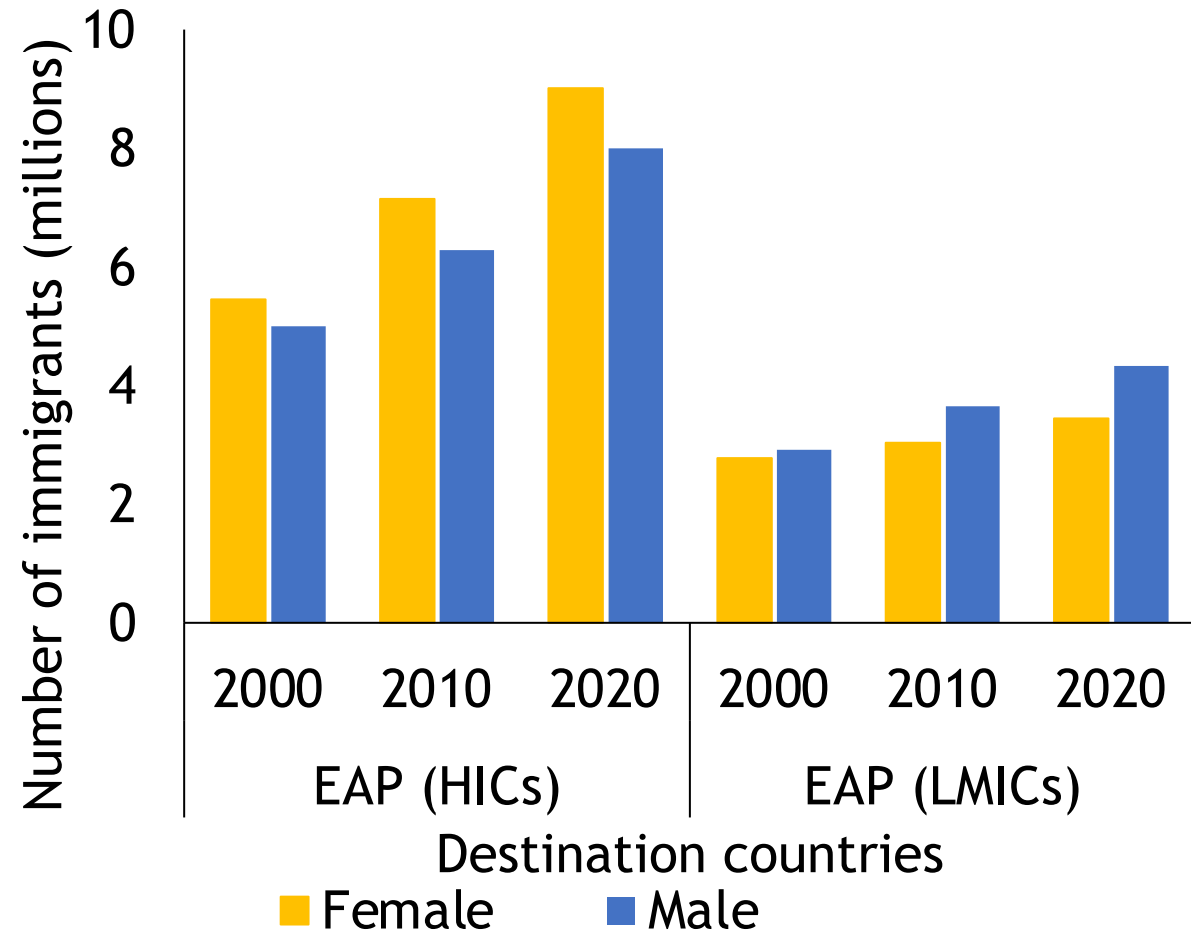


... than low-skilled migrants



More female migration than male in EAP HICs

But more male migration in LMICs.

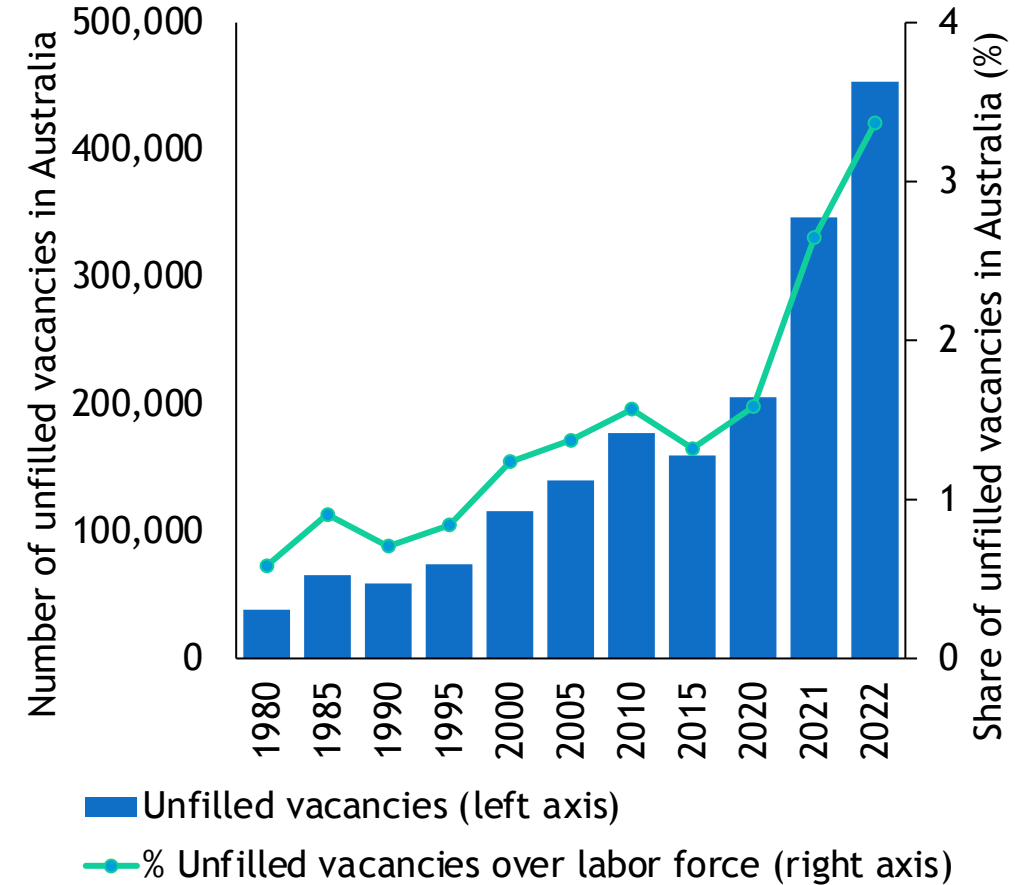
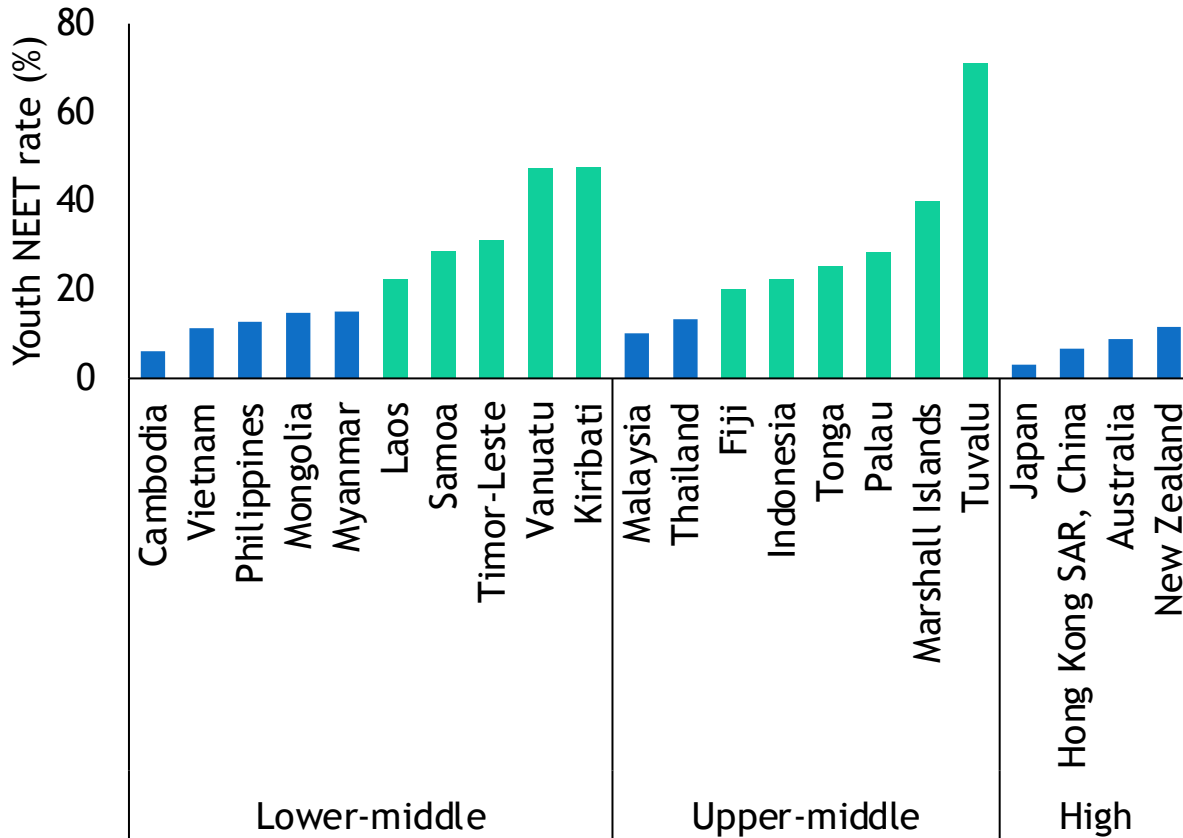


Source: WDR 2023 Migration Database

Workers go to where employment opportunities are relatively abundant

Workers in countries with limited employment opportunities, such as the Pacific Island countries...

...are likely to migrate to countries with labor shortages, like Australia



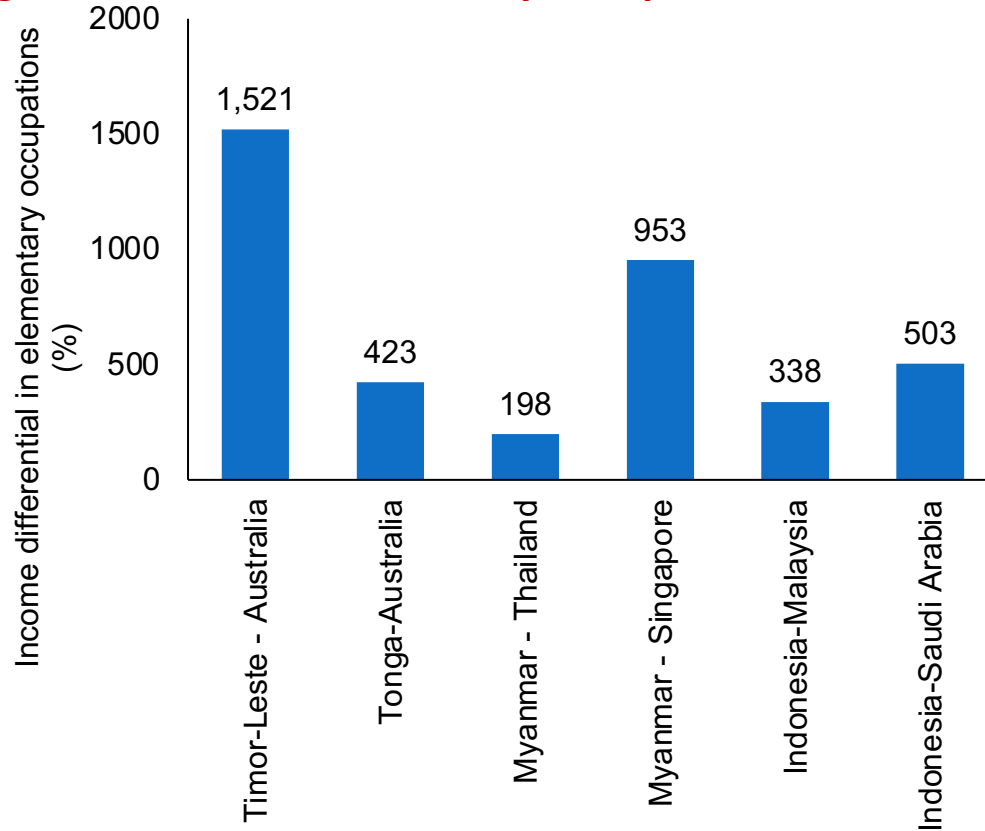
Source: World Development Indicators

Note: Green bars indicate countries with a NEET rate of 20% or higher.

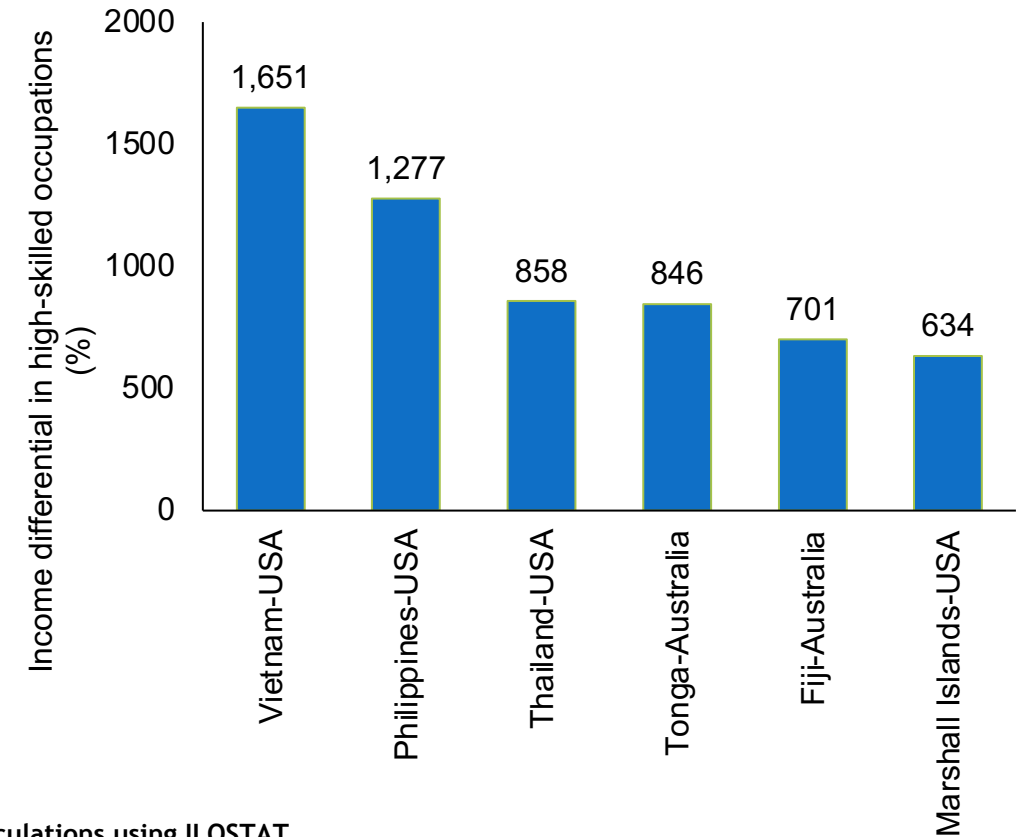
Source: Australia Bureau of Statistics

Potential income gains from migration are significant across occupations

Workers stand to earn significant income gains from migration, both in elementary occupations...

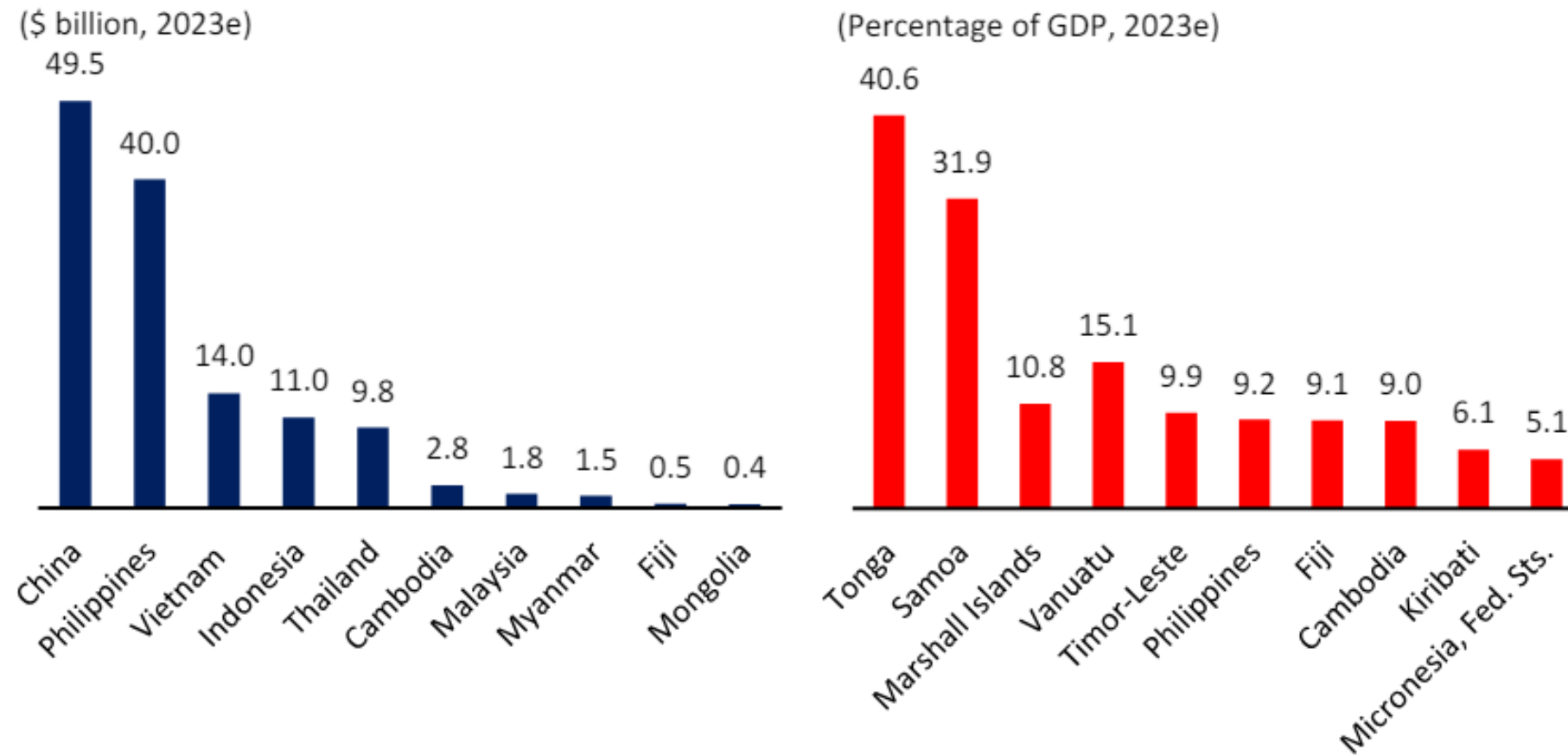


...and in high-skilled occupations



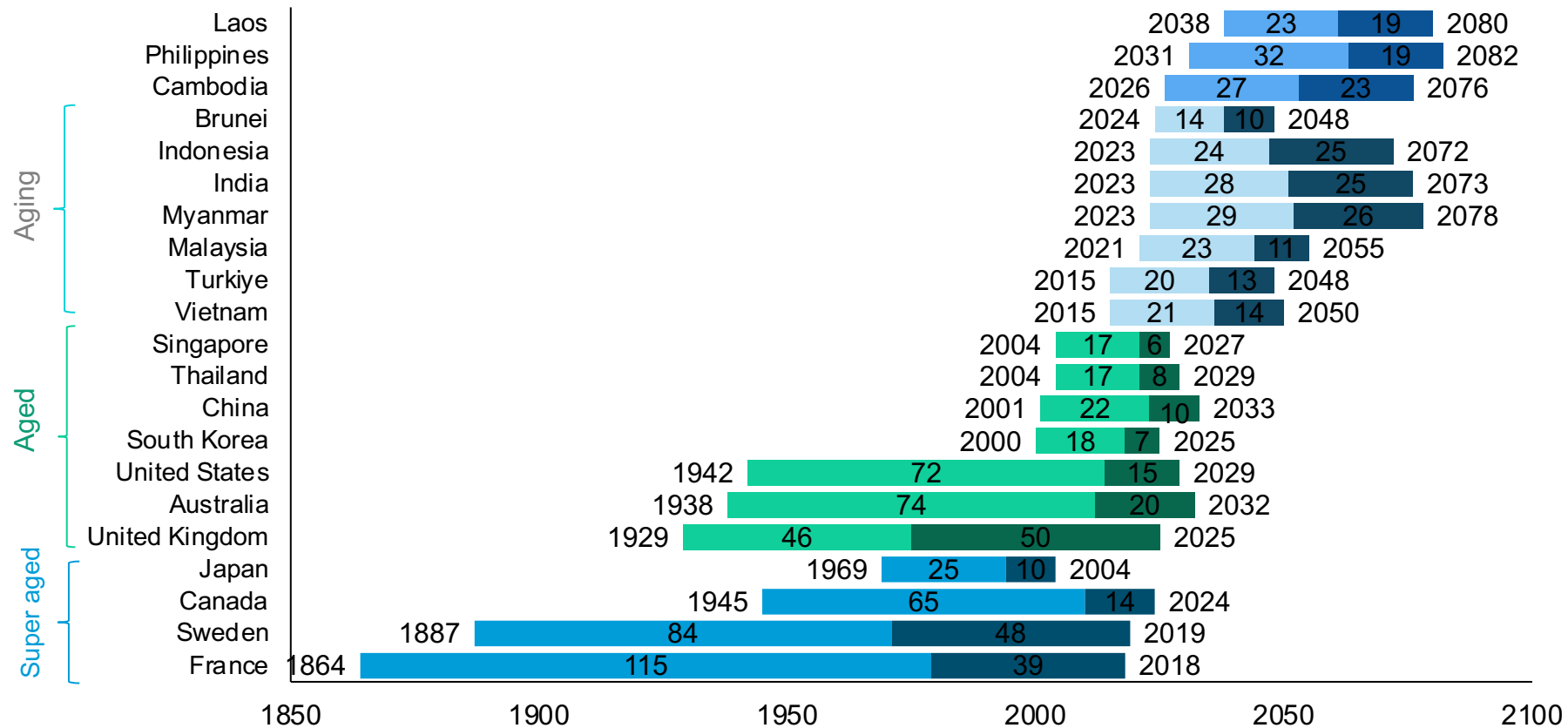
Source: World Bank staff calculations using ILOSTAT

Resulting remittances are import foreign exchange earnings, supporting household consumption



Source: World Bank 2023

Migration is likely to accelerate due to demographic shifts



Source: UN World Population Prospects 2022 (medium variant)

In response, EAP countries are adapting migration policies to better address longer-term labor shortages



Pathway to higher-skilled visa categories



More equal treatment of migrant workers



Introduction of pathways to permanent residence



Integration of migrants



 **EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC
MIGRATION**
CORE COURSE AND CONFERENCE

Thank You!

