

## **FACTSHEET**

# **Suriname Migrant Situation Analysis: Baseline Assessment 2023**

# FACTSHEET

## Suriname Migrant Situation Analysis: Baseline Assessment



Please cite this report as: Sobhie, R., Ooft, T., Kisoensingh, A. (2023). 'Suriname Migrant Situation Analysis: Baseline Assessment' FACTSHEET, International Organization for Migration, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2024.

According to the country's official immigration and emigration figures from 1972 to 2013 (table 1a and 1b), the substantial negative migration balance in 1974, 1975, 1979, and 1980 was the primary reason of the population drop at that time. The population decreased by 24,300 people according to the Censuses of 1972 and 1980, from 379,607 to 355,240. There was a significant departure excess in that time compared to previous years. With the exception of 1982, the last time there was a settlement surplus, a positive migration balance was from 2006 to 2013. Immigration played a significant role in Suriname's economic growth since 2000.

Table 1a: Immigration, Emigration and Net Migration, 1972-2013

Year	Immigration	Emigration	Net Migration	Year	Immigration	Emigration	Net Migration
1972	2,615	8,490	-5,875	1993	2,007	9,083	-7,076
1973	2,442	11,098	-8,656	1994	1,393	3,909	-2,516
1974	3,066	17,902	-14,836	1995	1,316	2,691	-1,375
1975	3,959	39,699	-35,740	1996	1,618	3,640	-2,022
1976	5,345	5,757	-412	1997	2,074	3,481	-1,407
1977	2,981	4,786	-1,805	1998	2,045	4,622	-2,577
1978	2,323	7,388	-5,065	1999	2,499	3,139	-640
1979	1,916	18,162	-16,246	2000	1,446	3,801	-2,355
1980	2,282	18,988	-16,706	2001	1,074	3,607	-2,533
1981	2,858	4,432	-1,574	2002	1,403	3,517	-2,114
1982	3,605	3,431	174	2003	1,696	3,555	-1,859
1983	2,805	5,225	-2,420	2004	1,590	3,078	-1,488
1984	3,393	3,488	-95	2005	2,175	2,360	-185
1985	1,902	5,321	-3,419	2006	2,639	1,920	719
1986	2,129	5,311	-3,182	2007	2,484	2,072	412
1987	1,660	6,547	-4,887	2008	4,183	2,332	1,851
1988	1,738	4,130	-2,392	2009	3,863	2,279	1,584
1989	2,386	5,653	-3,267	2010	7,183	2,050	5,133
1990	2,182	8,416	-6,234	2011	4,917	2,135	2,782
1991	2,297	8,288	-5,991	2012	4,284	1,881	2,403
1992	2,905	8,328	-5,423	2013	4,153	1,729	2,424

Table 1b : Migration data for Suriname, 2013-2021

Year	Immigration	Emigration*	Net migration	Gross migration	Ratio net migration to gross migration
2013	4,153	1,729	2,424	5,882	0.4121
2014	3,984	1,809	2,175	5,793	0.3754
2015	4,774	1,801	2,973	6,575	0.4522
2016	3,276	2,061	1,215	5,337	0.2277
2017	2,367	1,905	462	4,272	0.1081
2018	4,850	2,335	2,515	7,185	0.3500
2019	5,054	2,481	2,573	7,535	0.3415
2020	2,956	2,175	781	5,131	0.1522
2021	2,772	2,337	435	5,109	0.0851

\* With corrections from CBS Netherlands



## International Conventions

According to the Suriname Needs Assessment on Migration Governance (2021) , Suriname has ratified six out of nine human rights treaties. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, or the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances for example have not been ratified by the Surinamese Government. Table 2 provides an overview of the international conventions regarding migration that have been ratified by Suriname.

**Table 2: International Conventions Ratified in Suriname**

	Convention Name	Ratified (yes/no) + year
1	International Labour Organization (ILO) Migration for Employment Convention (revised), 1949 (no. 97)	No
2	United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (also known as the Refugee Convention), 1951	Yes, 1987
3	United Nations Convention on Statelessness, 1954 and 1961	No
4	ILP Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (no. 143)	No
5	Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC), 1989	Yes (1993)
6	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW),1990	No

### **Suriname Needs Assessment on Migration Governance, 2021**

Based on the key findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Develop an inter-institutional coordination mechanism for border management and safety.
2. Create an integrated system for the data collection and analysis of migration data.
3. Support in the development and promotion of training across all ministries on key concepts and trends related to migration in Suriname and in the region.
4. Develop legislation, policies and procedures related to refugees to ensure refugee identification and protection.
5. Collect data to determine migrants' access to and use of the public health system and the specific health needs of migrants.
6. Collect data on migrant populations in conditions of vulnerability.
7. Develop a national labour policy to manage the supply and demand of skilled and unskilled foreign labour in the country, following ethical recruitment principles.
8. Establish an inter-ministerial committee for labour migration.
9. Strengthen the Labour Market Information System to identify the type of skills and occupations in the labour market and develop mechanisms to conduct regular labour market analyses on skills supply and demand, including for foreign labour.
10. Conduct a labour assessment to identify the type of missing skillsets and occupations in the labour market in order to engage with the diaspora to attract those skills.
11. Conduct research on the number of migrants with an irregular status participating in the labour market to determine the scope of the irregular labour force.



# Work Permit Applications by Nationality and Economic Sector

Table 3a: The number of work permit applications granted for male foreign nationals

Male		2022											
Nationality/Economic Sector	A	B	C	F	G	H	I	M	N	Q	R	Other	Total
American	-	87.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.5	-	-	8
Australian	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Brazilian	-	5.3	2.6	10.5	39.5	-	-	34.2	-	-	-	7.9	38
Canadian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	0
Chinese	-	22.9	2.9	-	25.7	-	42.9	-	-	-	-	5.7	35
Cuban	-	-	-	-	35.3	-	-	-	-	41.2	11.8	11.8	17
Dutch	-	4.8	4.8	23.8	-	9.5	4.8	19.0	4.8	4.8	-	23.8	21
French	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Guyanese	61.0	2.4	-	4.9	9.8	4.9	12.2	-	-	-	4.9	-	41
Haitian	81.0	-	-	-	4.8	4.8	4.8	-	-	-	-	4.8	21
Indian	-	9.5	4.8	14.3	38.1	-	9.5	-	14.3	-	4.8	4.8	21
Indonesian	-	46.7	53.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Peruvian	-	60.0	-	-	-	-	10.0	10.0	-	-	20.0	-	10
Philippine	18.8	1.6	12.5	3.1	31.3	-	10.9	-	7.8	9.4	4.7	-	64
Trinidadian	-	40.0	-	10.0	10.0	20.0	-	20.0	-	-	-	-	10
Turkish	-	-	-	-	-	-	51.9	-	-	-	44.4	3.7	27
Venezuelan	-	16.7	-	-	16.7	16.7	8.3	25.0	8.3	-	-	8.3	12
Other <sup>1</sup>	-	50.0	1.7	1.7	10.0	11.7	11.7	8.3	-	-	3.3	1.7	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>411</b>

Male		January-April 2023											
Nationality/Economic Sector	A	B	C	F	G	H	I	M	N	Q	R	Other	Total
American	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Australian	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Brazilian	-	-	-	12.5	-	-	-	75.0	-	-	-	12.5	8
Canadian	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Chinese	-	-	-	-	66.7	-	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	6
Cuban	20.0	-	20.0	-	-	-	60.0	-	-	-	-	-	5
Dutch	-	6.7	6.7	20.0	6.7	-	-	13.3	-	-	13.3	33.3	15
French	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Guyanese	62.5	-	-	-	25.0	-	6.3	-	-	-	6.3	-	16
Haitian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Indian	-	-	6.3	68.8	18.8	-	6.3	-	-	-	-	-	16
Indonesian	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peruvian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	1
Philippine	8.3	-	8.3	33.3	41.7	-	8.3	-	-	-	-	-	12
Trinidadian	-	85.7	-	-	-	-	-	14.3	-	-	-	-	7
Turkish	-	-	-	-	-	-	81.3	-	-	-	18.8	-	16
Venezuelan	-	-	-	-	85.0	-	-	10.0	-	-	-	5.0	20
Other <sup>1</sup>	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	-	0.3	0.2	-	-	0.2	97.8	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>175</b>

Table 3b: The number of work permit applications granted for female foreign nationals

Female		2022									January-April 2023								
Nationality/Economic Sector	A	G	I	M	P	Q	R	Other <sup>3</sup>	Total	A	G	I	M	P	Q	R	Other	Total	
Brazilian	-	75.0	8.3	-	-	-	-	16.7	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	1	
Chinese	-	38.9	33.3	-	11.1	-	5.6	11.1	18	-	28.6	57.1	-	-	-	14.3	-	7	
Columbian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	0	-	-	50.0	16.7	-	-	33.3	-	6	
Cuban	-	10.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	52.6	15.8	5.3	19	-	-	60.0	-	-	40.0	-	-	5	
Dutch	-	10.5	10.5	5.3	52.6	5.3	-	15.8	19	-	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	-	-	33.3	6	
Guyanese	27.6	3.4	34.5	3.4	-	-	13.8	17.2	29	25.0	-	12.5	-	-	12.5	37.5	12.5	8	
Philippine	10.3	27.6	13.8	3.4	-	3.4	10.3	31.0	29	14.3	14.3	-	14.3	-	-	-	57.1	7	
Trinidadian	-	-	-	66.7	-	-	-	33.3	3	-	-	-	50.0	-	-	-	50.0	4	
Venezuelan	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	4	
Other <sup>1</sup>	23.3	6.7	23.3	3.3	-	3.3	13.3	26.7	30	-	-	14.3	14.3	-	-	14.3	57.1	7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>55</b>	

Note: see Economic Sector in Appendix 1



## Work Permit Applications by Nationality and Occupational Group

Table 4a: The number of work permit applications granted for male foreign nationals

Male		2022								
Nationality/ Occupational Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Australian	54.5	-	18.2	-	-	-	-	27.3	-	11
Brazilian	10.5	15.8	23.7	18.4	-	-	13.2	10.5	7.9	38
Canadian	85.7	-	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Chinese	8.6	5.7	5.7	2.9	68.6	-	2.9	-	5.7	35
Cuban	17.6	35.3	23.5	11.8	11.8	-	-	-	-	17
Dutch	57.1	9.5	9.5	9.5	4.8	-	4.8	-	4.8	21
French	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Guyanese	29.3	-	2.4	-	17.1	-	14.6	7.3	29.3	41
Haitian	-	-	-	-	14.3	23.8	-	4.8	57.1	21
Indian	57.1	9.5	19.0	-	4.8	-	4.8	4.8	-	21
Indonesian	13.3	-	13.3	-	-	-	13.3	60.0	-	15
Peruvian	40.0	-	20.0	10.0	-	-	-	20.0	10.0	10
Philippine	21.9	7.8	10.9	6.3	-	-	10.9	31.3	10.9	64
Trinidadian	60.0	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	10.0	20.0	10
Turkish	88.9	-	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Venezuelan	25.0	8.3	33.3	-	-	-	8.3	25.0	-	12
Other	54.1	6.6	18.0	1.6	6.6	-	6.6	6.6	-	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>411</b>

Male		January-April 2023								
Nationality/ Occupational Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Australian	33.3	-	33.3	-	-	-	-	33.3	-	3
Brazilian	50.0	12.5	12.5	-	-	-	-	-	25.0	8
Canadian	54.5	9.1	27.3	-	-	-	-	9.1	-	11
Chinese	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	6
Cuban	20.0	-	40.0	-	20.0	20.0	-	-	-	5
Dutch	73.3	-	6.7	6.7	-	-	6.7	6.7	-	15
French	50.0	10.0	30.0	-	-	-	-	10.0	-	10
Guyanese	31.3	6.3	-	-	6.3	-	12.5	6.3	37.5	16
Haitian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Indian	56.3	12.5	18.8	-	6.3	-	-	-	6.3	16
Indonesian	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peruvian	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Philippine	25.0	-	8.3	16.7	-	-	8.3	33.3	8.3	12
Trinidadian	57.1	-	-	14.3	-	-	14.3	14.3	-	7
Turkish	81.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.8	-	16
Venezuelan	5.0	-	15.0	-	-	-	5.0	75.0	-	20
Other	57.1	7.1	21.4	-	3.6	-	3.6	7.1	-	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>175</b>

Table 4b: The number of work permit applications granted for female foreign nationals

Female		2022							January-April 2023							
Nationality/ Occupational Group	1	2	3	4	5	9	Other	Total	1	2	3	4	5	9	Other	Total
Brazilian	8.3	-	16.7	8.3	66.7	-	0.0	12	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	1
Chinese	11.1	5.6	5.6	16.7	55.6	5.6	-	18	-	-	-	14.3	71.4	14.3	-	7
Columbian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	16.7	83.3	-	-	-	6
Cuban	10.5	52.6	5.3	5.3	15.8	10.5	0.0	19	-	20.0	20.0	-	60.0	-	-	5
Dutch	36.8	36.8	10.5	10.5	-	5.3	0.0	19	66.7	-	-	33.3	-	-	0.0	6
Guyanese	10.3	3.4	3.4	27.6	24.1	24.1	6.9	29	-	-	25.0	37.5	25.0	12.5	-	8
Philippine	44.8	6.9	20.7	3.4	17.2	-	6.9	29	42.9	-	28.6	-	14.3	14.3	0.0	7
Venezuelan	-	-	20.0	80.0	-	-	-	10	-	-	25.0	75.0	-	-	-	4
Other <sup>1</sup>	30.3	6.1	21.2	6.1	15.2	3.0	18.2	33	45.5	9.1	9.1	9.1	18.2	-	9.1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>

Note: see Occupational Groups in Appendix 1



# Number of Registrations of Foreigners

Figure 1: Number of registrations of foreigners per year

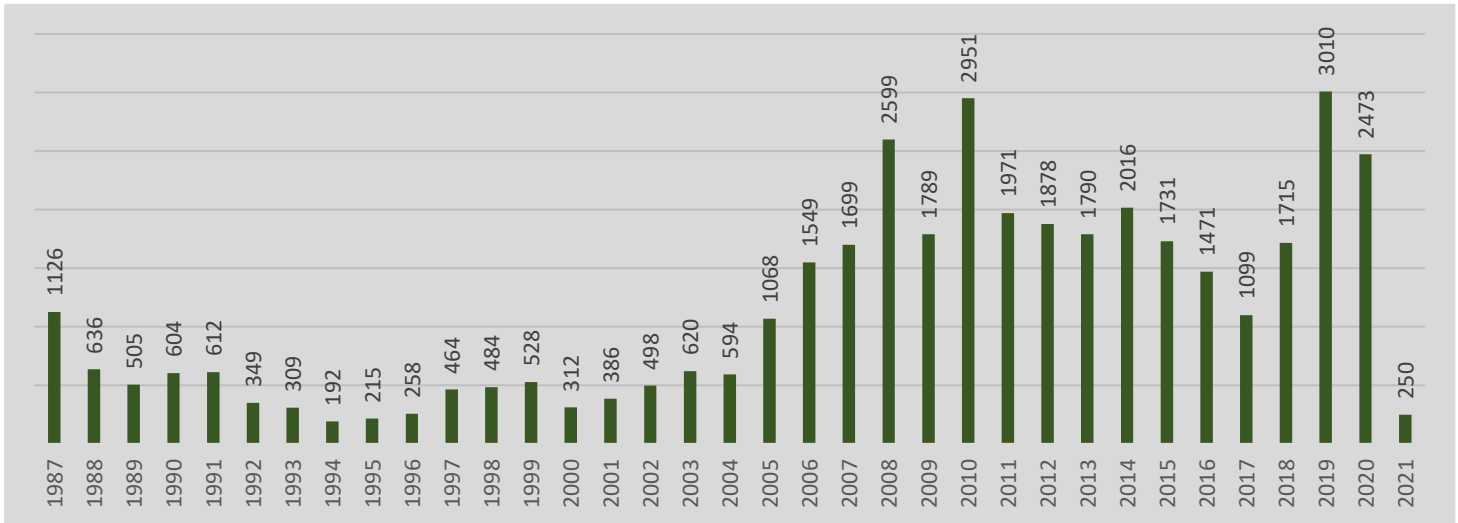


Figure 1 presents an overview of the migrants by nationality and year of registration. The migration database - which has an historical collection of all registration -, has a number of 42,000 registered migrants. This is about 7% of the total population.

Figure 2: Number of registrations of foreigners per nationality for 2021

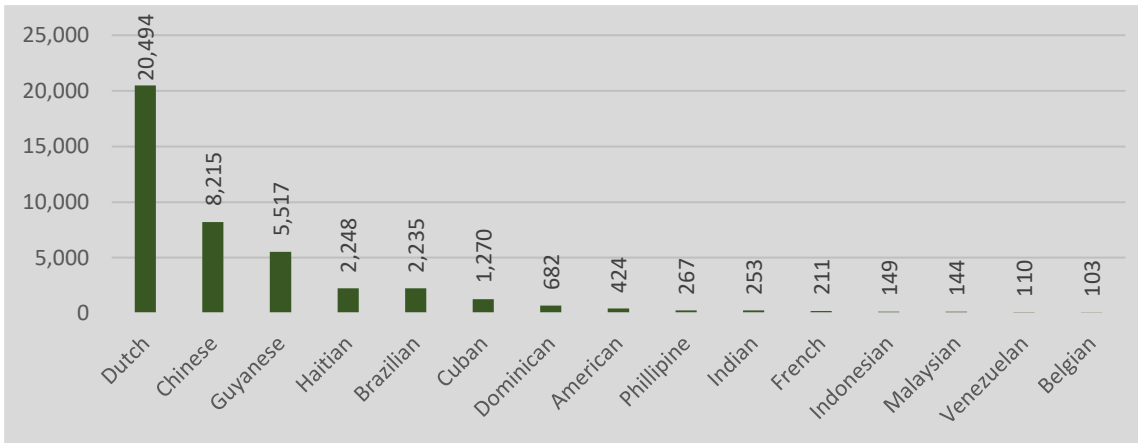
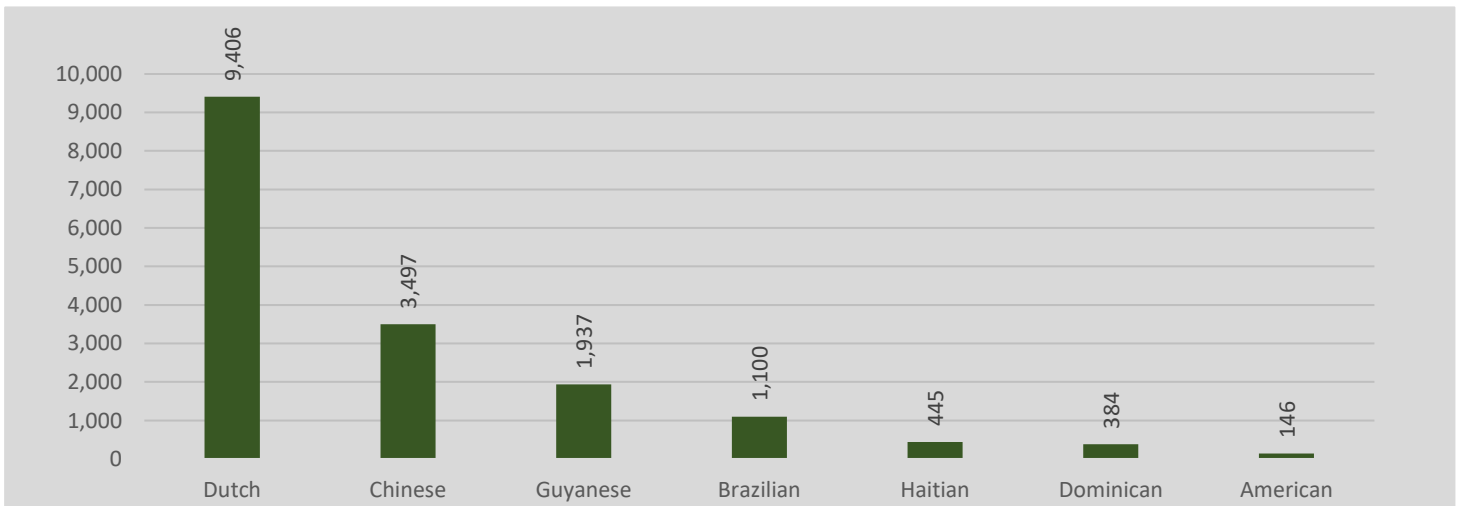


Figure 2 presents the number of “active” and still registered migrants in the year 2021. The difference with Figure 1 is caused by exclusion due to deregistration because of death or moving out of the country.

Figure 3: Number of registrations of foreigners per nationality



Note: only nationalities with a registration number of 100 and above are included in Figure 3.



## Population by Nationality

Table 5: ZX-ID numbers by place of birth and year of ID card creation

Place of Birth	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
China	102			119		100	135		128	768	222	1,574
Dominican Republic										161		161
French-Guyana					111	110	101	155	158	589	288	1,512
Guyana	127	113	118	179	144	198	167	201	349	3,045	781	5,422
Haiti										277		277
Netherlands										146		146
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>4,986</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>9,092</b>

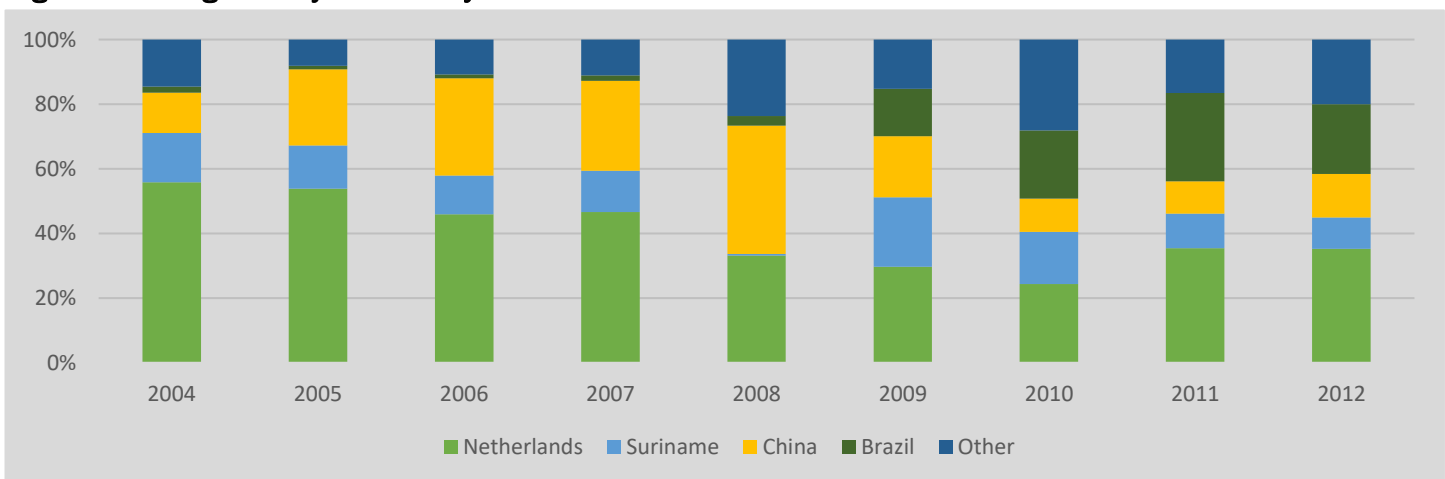
The migrants in the Central Population Administration of the Civil Registry Office can be identified by the given identification number which starts with "ZX". Table 5 presents an overview of ZX ID-numbers given to migrants by nationality over the period 2010-2020. As illustrated, until 2019 the average of ZX-IDs was about 200-400, but in 2019 about 5000 ZX-IDs were given and 199 in 2020. The nationalities with a relatively higher frequency in 2019 and 2020 are migrants from French Guyana and Guyana.

Table 6: Population of Suriname by Nationality Census 2004 and Census 2012

Nationality		Surinamese	Dutch	Guyanese	French	Brazilian	Haitian	Chinese	Other Nationalities	Total
2004	Number	460,173	8,738	9,401	2,705	5,838	748	3,664	1,562	492,829
	Percentage	93.4	1.8	1.9	0.5	1.2	0.2	0.7	0.3	100
2012	Number	508,380	10,312	8,329	3,597	5,058	705	3,781	1,476	541,638
	Percentage	93.3	1.9	1.5	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.7	0.3	100

The motives behind migration can be very different. Sometimes the desire for a better life overseas drives this movement. Because it impacts so many different aspects, including the economy, demographic change, politics, national security, culture, language, and religion, the issue of migration, especially international migration, is important. Table 6 presents Census data on the nationality of the Surinamese population.

Figure 4: Immigrants by Nationality 2004-2012



The figure below shows that the Dutch nationality grows significantly each year. With the exception of 2008, the group of people with the Surinamese nationality is fairly represented. In the subsequent years, the population of Chinese immigrants has fluctuated as additional people have immigrated. From 2009 on, we primarily see Brazilians. The group of additional immigrants, to which Guyanese are included, is at the top.



# Georeferenced mapping using administrative population data, secondary data and qualitative data

Figure 5: Georeferenced mapping by Resort over District

		Aruba	Netherlands Antills	Brazil	China	Curaçao	Dominica	French Guyana	Guyana	Hong Kong	Haiti	Indonesia	India	Netherlands	USA
	Resort of Residence	AB	AN	BR	CN	CW	DO	GF	GY	HK	HT	ID	IN	NL	US
Paramaribo	Blauwgrond	67	73	185	1,700	134	534	2,351	2,374	110	95	40	64	626	207
	Munder														
	Centrum														
	Beekhuizen														
	Rainville														
	Latour														
	Livorno														
	Pontbuiten														
	Tammenga														
	Flora														
Wanica	Houttuin		13	33	180	24	52	884	848	10	227	22	10	131	19
	De Nieuwe Grond														
	Lelydorp														
	Kwatta														
	Domburg														
	Saramacca Polder														
	Koewarasan														
Para	Noord	4	4	8	15	3	3	220	121	1	3	7		28	7
	Oost														
	Zuid														
	Carolina														
	Bigi Poika														
Commewijne	Nieuw-Amsterdam		4	9	38	4	7	125	606	1	16	23		31	4
	Bakie														
	Meerzorg														
	Alkmaar														
	Tamanredjo														
Margaretha															
Saramacca	Tijgerkreek			3	27	3	1	18	184	1	87	2		15	2
	Groningen														
	Jarikaba														
	Wayamboweg														
	Kampong Baroe														
Calcutta															
Nickerie	Wageningen	6	1	11	43	2	29	22	1,167	1		3	4	12	6
	Groot Henar														
	Oostelijke Polders														
	Nieuw-Nickerie														
Coronie	Westelijke Polders														
	Welgelegen														
	Totness														
Marowijne	Johanna Maria					1			4	43		1			4
	Albina														
	Galibi														
	Moengo														
	Wanhatti														
Patamacca															
Brokopondo	Moengo Tapoe		1			31	1	5	2,483	17	2				2
	Kwakoegrone														
	Marshallkreek														
	Klaaskreek														
	Brownsweg														
Sarakreek															
Sipaliwini	Centrum				5			2	54	3					1
	Tapanahoni														
	Boven-Suriname														
	Boven-Saramacca														
	Boven-Coppename														
Kabalebo															
Coeroeni															

Aruba	Netherlands Antills	Brazil	China	Curaçao	Dominica	French Guyana	Guyana	Hong Kong	Haiti	Indonesia	India	Netherlands	USA
-------	---------------------	--------	-------	---------	----------	---------------	--------	-----------	-------	-----------	-------	-------------	-----





## Main Findings of the 2016 Suriname Survey of Living Conditions

The SSLC data indicates that most of the respondents (95%) were born in Suriname and about 5% in another country. The indicated 5% 'migrant population' is in line with the statistics from the Census 2012 and the Civil Registry Office (6-7%). The second biggest group was people born in Guyana (2%), followed by people born in French Guyana (1%). Other countries of birth that were mentioned concerned the Netherlands, Brazil, China and Haiti. Only a few respondents (0.5%) were born in countries such as Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, Curacao, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Trinidad, USA, Venezuela, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

**Table 7: Country of birth by years residing in Suriname**

Country of Birth	Years Residing in Suriname			
	< 10 Years (%)	10-20 Years (%)	> 20 Years (%)	Total (N)
Suriname	2	1	97	6,461
Netherlands	38	19	42	52
Guyana	23	13	65	159
Brasil	58	26	16	19
French Guyana	18	0	82	96
China	8	62	31	13
Haiti	17	17	67	12
Other	48	4	48	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>6,837</b>

Note: the groups that are marked grey are not included in the analysis of migrants in the following part of this section. The group that is marked yellow is included in the migrant's analysis since these Surinamese remigrated to Suriname.

**Table 8: Demographics of Migrants using SSLC data, 2016**

Demographic variables	Surinamese Migrants < 10 Years	Dutch	Guyanese	Brazilian	French Guyanese	Chinese	Haitian
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	55	58	38	37	46	54	58
Female	45	42	62	63	54	46	42
<b>Total (n) = 100%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Highest level of education attended</b>							
Primary	13	8	39	17	21	20	42
Lower secondary (LTS, MULU, LBO, ULO)	37	32	42	42	43	40	33
Upper secondary (IMEAO, NATIN, AMTO, HAVO, VWO, CPI, SPI, ACI)	13	11	11	33	29	20	25
Tertiary (HBO/ University/ College)	26	41	1	8	7	20	0
Masters/ PhD	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
Other	9	5	7				0
<b>Total (n) = 100%</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Age</b>							
0-14	9	14	4	32	81	0	0
15-29	15	25	16	16	12	0	0
30-44	21	21	22	26	5	39	33
45-59	26	21	40	21	1	46	25
60-64	8	8	9	32	0	8	33
65+	21	12	9		1	8	8
<b>Total (n) = 100%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>District</b>							
01 Brokopondo	0	0					
02 Commewijne	53	8	10				
03 Coronie	1	0	1				
04 Marowijne	2	0			50	15	
05 Nickerie	4	6	35	16			
06 Para	0	0	1				
07 Paramaribo	62	56	43	68	12	46	8
08 Saramacca	3	2	1	5	1		75
09 Sipaliwini	3	4			22	8	
10 Wanica	20	25	9	11	16	31	17
<b>Total (n) = 100%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>



# Key Findings of Focus Groups and Interviews

## Guyanese Migrants: Focus Groups



### 1. General Information & Context of migration

- Participants are a family with parents and six children (two are born in Guyana)
- They live for more than 44 years in Suriname; they came from Corantijn village (Guyana)
- The main reason they came to Suriname, was because they could not survive living in Guyana (too expensive)
- In Suriname there is more security and back then, the economy was far healthier in Suriname, and there is less racial discrimination than Suriname



### 2. Living Conditions & Family Structure

- Surinamese people are friendly and there is less crime compared to Guyana
- The kids go to school and teach Dutch language to their parents
- Most Guyanese come to Suriname because they struggled
- The participants want to stay in Suriname because their kids/grandkids are here



### 3. Working Conditions

- They work in construction, building houses, as mechanic/hydraulic and as pastor; the wife worked as maid. Children have government jobs.
- In the beginning it was not easy to find a job and they were discriminated and being underpaid
- Most of the Guyanese in general work also in agriculture and fisheries (most of them own their own boats)



### 4. Integration and Assistance

- They arranged their own accommodation and bought a piece of land; they also build churches (the father is also a pastor)
- They got their residence stay after 10 years and their Surinamese nationality after 20 years living in Suriname
- In the beginning there were some language barriers, but along the way they learned Sranan tongo and Dutch



### 5. Concentrations in Suriname

- Nickerie
- Commewijne: Marienburg, Pomona, Braamspunt
- Paramaribo: Pomona, Abrobroki, Leonsberg, Charlesburg



### 6. Main obstacles/wishes

- Difficulties with getting permits/process of naturalization
- Guyanese are often underpaid and sometimes discriminated for being Indians that did not speak Hindi
- Some of them face language barriers

*"I love Suriname because I came here young, and it has been 40 years of living here. I love here."*



### Guyanese Migrants: Interviews (fieldvisit Nickerie)



#### Context of migration to Suriname



The participants live for respectively 16 years and 40 years in Suriname. They came with their family from Berbice and Bartica (Guyana). In Suriname they had to arrange their accommodation by themselves.

#### Working conditions



They worked in various jobs, namely as allrounder (supermarket), as mason, in the rice sector, farming, fisherman, in construction and much more. In the beginning it was for some of the respondents difficult to work, because of their language barriers, but nevertheless there was very little discrimination experienced. Although it wasn't difficult to find a job, most of the time the Guyanese migrants were underpaid.

#### Living conditions



Overall, their life in Suriname is better and they want to stay here.

#### Integration and assistance



In general, they had to find out everything regarding amenities (health insurance, residence permit, etc.) by themselves. The government didn't help or give information. In some cases, family/friends/employers helped with their integration process.

#### Concentrations



Most of the Guyanese live scattered throughout Nickerie.

#### Family structure



One of the Guyanese migrants lives with his family (wife and children) in Suriname, while the others have family in Guyana (parents, children, siblings). It was not difficult for the children to adjust to Surinamese schools. They speak Dutch and have good jobs.



## Key Findings of Focus Groups and Interviews

### Brazilian Migrants: Focus Groups



#### 1. General Information & Context of migration

- Overall most of the participants live in Suriname for a long time (8-33 years) and have their family here
- They are still facing a language barrier (some speak Dutch/Sranan Tongo)
- Living in Suriname is pleasant because of the weather, the education system and Suriname is safe for safety reasons



#### 2. Living Conditions & Family Structure

- Although the economic situation worsened, life in Suriname is still better because of the lower crime and violence rates.
- They still prefer to live in Suriname, because their family/kids are here.
- Other challenges are the language barrier, which make the process to become a citizen or have a permit stay difficult.
- House rent is too high and they are discriminated as migrants.



#### 3. Working Conditions

- All participants are working (mostly for other Brazilians) or run their own business.
- They sometimes feel discriminated, mostly because of the language barrier.
- Most of them are paid in cash, because they do not have a bank account in SRD's. They also send money to their family via Western Union, Moneygram and also via cambio's.



#### 4. Integration and Assistance

- The process of getting their permit stay is very slow
- The Surinamese Embassy is more helpful than the Brazilian Embassy
- The Alien Affairs online form is only in English/Dutch, which make it difficult to process and it cost a lot of money to translate the document (US 100,0)
- They have their permit stay, some have their ID card and almost half of the participants have their drivers license.



#### 5. Concentrations in Suriname

- Mostly in Paramaribo North (Clevia, Anamoestraat, Jozef Israelstraat, Prinsessestraat)
- Commewijne
- Interior (Sipaliwini /Brokopondo), because of the gold mines
- Para



#### 6. Main obstacles/wishes

- No one receive social benefits and there is also lack of knowledge regarding their rights (they pay their own medical insurance)
- The economic crisis (basic needs, transportation, house rent expensive)
- Translation of papers, websites, application forms in Portuguese
- Improvement of immigration policy: quicker/easier process for citizenship/legalisation
- Some of them would like to buy a piece of land or real estate

*"It is easier to survive here for everyone who wants to work.  
There are a lot of options here to be able to survive".*

*"Aqui é mais fácil sobreviver para quem quer trabalhar.  
Há muitas opções aqui para poder sobreviver".*



### Brazilian Migrants: Interviews (fieldvisit Brokopondo)



#### Context of migration to Suriname



- The Brazilian migrants in Brokopondo live between 4 months and 5 years in Suriname. They came from Marajo (Brazil).
- Living in Suriname is pleasant, because it is calmer and easier to survive/find work compared to Brazil.
- All respondents indicate that they came alone to Suriname to work in the goldmines.

#### Working conditions



The Brazilian migrants working as 'Garimpeiro's' work for a boss or rent the area/camp of the mine. They don't experience any discrimination or language barriers.

#### Living conditions



Overall living in Suriname is better compared to Brazil, because there is more work (higher incomes) and they prefer to stay in Suriname.

#### Integration and assistance



- In general, they don't have medical insurance, residence permits or other amenities.
- They are also not familiar with the role of the government. Some have friends in the city who help them if needed.

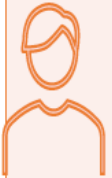
#### Concentrations



The respondents are only familiar with Brazilians working in the gold mines in Brokopondo, namely the area's 'Vila Brazil' and 'Mama Ndyuka'.



### Chinese Migrants: Interviews



#### 1. General Information & Context of migration

- Overall the respondents live for more than 20 years in Suriname
- They came from Kenton and Hainan (China)
- All these migrants live with their family in Suriname and were also accommodated by family when they came to Suriname
- Live in Suriname is free and easy



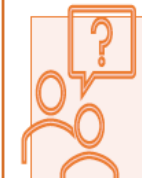
#### 2. Living Conditions & Family Structure

- According to some participants living in China is better (technology and less expensive)
- Economic independence after 10-30 years working and they achieved their goal
- All of them had family in Suriname; some came alone
- They won't go back to live in China, mainly because their family lives here



#### 3. Working Conditions

- They own their own business (supermarket/restaurant)
- For some it was difficult to find work in the beginning and other worked for their family



#### 4. Integration and Assistance

- For some learning Dutch was difficult, while other learn it in school/at work (in the shop)
- They live with their family in Suriname and their children go to Dutch/English schools, so learning is not difficult for them



#### 5. Concentrations in Suriname

Most Chinese live in Paramaribo, because there are more people living there (better for doing business)



#### 6. Main obstacles/wishes

- Assistance with medical insurance and permits
- Overall help from the government is needed regarding health/financial assistance

*"It is better living here. If you have everything here, your family and your friends, you are used to living here, then living here is better."*



## Key Findings of Focus Groups and Interviews



### Haitian Migrants: Focus Groups



#### 1. General Information & Context of migration

- Between 4 and 43 years in Suriname
- Most participants do not have the Surinamese nationality
- Mostly living in rented houses
- In most cases they were invited by family/friends to move to Suriname



#### 2. Living Conditions & Family Structure

- Overall, their quality of life weakens in Suriname.
- In Suriname there is a sense of safety (push factor of migration) and a home feeling



#### 3. Working Conditions

- Because of their language barriers, it is difficult to find a suitable job in Suriname
- The majority work in Agriculture. Some of them work as masons, security guards, carpenters, mechanics, medics, technicians and artists
- Haitians are often self-sufficient and have their own business
- They are undervalued and discriminated against at work



#### 4. Integration and Assistance

- Most of the assistance is provided by family/friend, but not by the government.
- Some Haitians go to a language institute and others speak English or Sranan tongo.
- There is a need for a government institution that makes learning the Surinamese language compulsory.



#### 5. Concentrations in Suriname

- Paramaribo (Centrum)
- Wanica: Kwatta (3e rijweg, Wayambo, Sophia's lust, Leiding)
- Saramacca (Uitkijk), Commewijne and Para



#### 6. Main obstacles/wishes

- Housing: No regulations and controls regarding rental costs
- Education: enrollment in school/Education for adults
- Health: Better access to healthcare (insurance)
- Respect: Equal treatment, without discrimination
- Free movement: Reasonable ticket prices
- Land: Domain land for practicing agriculture

*"It is difficult to find the right jobs, even if they have studied for it in Haiti.  
There are surgeons from Haiti who work under the market."*

*"Il est difficile de trouver les bons emplois, même s'ils ont étudié pour cela en Haïti.  
Il y a des chirurgiens d'Haïti qui travaillent sous le marché."*



## Key Findings of Focus Groups and Interviews



## Cuban Migrants: Focus Groups



### 1. General Information & Context of migration

- The participants are less than 1 year in Suriname; they came from Havana, Camaguey and Las Tunas (Cuba)
- Overall Suriname is experienced as: a pleasant country (nice society), better economic situation than Cuba; less crime and they feel like home and adapt quite well in Suriname



### 2. Living Conditions & Family Structure

- Their life quality in Suriname depends mainly on their economic/work situations; It is difficult to save or send money to relatives in Cuba
- They have better facilities in Suriname and they chose for Suriname because of the easy accessibility (online visa)
- They came alone to Suriname (without their family)



### 3. Working Conditions

- Most of the time they are being discriminated at work. Because of their language barrier their employers also take advantage of them and sometimes even exploit them.
- They work in construction, in a sawmill, carpentry as a mechanic and as a babysitter, without a contract/work permit
- In Suriname these migrants usually do a less valued job than what they studied for in Cuba



### 4. Integration and Assistance

- There is no support from authorities or the government regarding integration and the language barrier obviously plays an important role
- Only one respondent knew the Cuban embassy; Cubans try to support each other in Suriname
- Access to healthcare and discrimination are major problems



### 5. Concentrations in Suriname

- Paramaribo (North, South)
- Interior (working in construction and gold fields)



### 6. Main obstacles/wishes

- Affordable housing
- Getting papers in order (residence permit)
- Good working conditions (no discrimination and better wages)
- Improving the language barrier
- Optimal access to health care

*“Suriname is a pleasant country. Here and there you have cases of crime, but compared to Cuba and other countries, Suriname is not that bad.”*

*“Surinam es un país agradable. Aquí y allá tienes casos de delincuencia, pero comparado con Cuba y otros países, Surinam no está tan mal.”*





## Main findings of:

- **The Household Budget Survey**

Table 9: Poverty by Nationality (%)

Status/Nationality	Surinamese	Dutch	Guyanese	Brazilian	Haitian	Chinese	Other	Don't Know	All Migrants	All Households
Not Poor	53.3	85.6	34.1	80.7	33.0	16.9	84.8	33.0	62.2	
Poor	46.7	14.4	66.0	19.3	67.0	83.1	15.2	67.0	37.8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

- **The Latin American Public Opinion Project**

Table 10: Ranking of most serious crimes(%)

Most Important Problem	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Economy, problems with, crisis of	4	2.31	2.31
Unemployment	16	9.25	11.56
Poverty	15	8.67	20.23
Crime	46	26.59	46.82
Popular protests (strikes, blocking roads, work stoppages, etc.)	2	1.16	47.98
Land to farm, lack of	1	0.58	48.55
Credit, lack of	3	1.73	50.29
Environment	1	0.58	50.87
Drug addiction, consumption of drugs	2	1.16	52.02
Drug trafficking	2	1.16	53.18
Corruption	19	10.98	64.16
Gangs	1	0.58	64.74
Bad government	3	1.73	66.47
Roads in poor condition	2	1.16	67.63
Water, lack of	4	2.31	69.94
Education, lack of, poor quality	2	1.16	71.1
Health services, lack of	2	1.16	72.25
Discrimination	7	4.05	76.3
External debt	1	0.58	76.88
Armed conflict	5	2.89	79.77
Housing	17	9.83	89.6
Human rights, violations of	2	1.16	90.75
Violence	1	0.58	91.33
Inequality	2	1.16	92.49
Politicians	2	1.16	93.64
Transportation, problems of	1	0.58	94.22
Other	10	5.78	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100</b>	



## Economic Sectors and Occupational Groups

### Economic Sectors

A = Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing  
B = Extraction of minerals  
C = Processing/producing/manufacturing  
D = Production and distribution of electricity and gas  
E = Extraction, purification and distribution of drinking water  
F = Construction  
G = Trade  
H = Transport and storage  
I = Accommodation and food service activities  
J = Information and communication  
K = Financial and insurance activities  
L = Activities related to real estate  
M = Professional, scientific and technical activities  
N = Administrative and support services  
O = Policy of the state and the economic and social policy of the community  
P = Education  
Q = Health and social services  
R = Arts, entertainment and recreation  
S = Other service activities  
T = Activities of households as employers  
U = Activities of extraterritorial organizations and legal personality

### Occupation / Professional Groups

0 = Armed Forces  
1 = Managerial professions  
2 = Scientific professions  
3 = Higher & Secondary technicians and subject specialists  
4 = Administrative professions  
5 = Lower service & commercial occupations  
6 = Skilled workers in agriculture & fisheries  
7 = Craftsmen and craftsmen  
8 = Operators of factory installations and machines and assembly workers  
9 = Elementary professions  
99 = Unknown