إحصائيات تونس
STATISTIQUES TUNISIE

المرصد الوطني للهجرة
Observatoire National de la Migration



National Survey on International Migration

المسح الوطني للهجرة الدولية

ProGreS Migration TUNISIE
GOUVERNANCE DE LA MIGRATION

ICMPD
International Centre for Migration Policy Development

الجمهوريّة التونسيّة
RÉPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE

Funded by
the European Union

National Survey on International Migration

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Preamble

This report published by the National Institute of Statistics (Institut National de la Statistique - INS), in collaboration with the National Observatory of Migration (Observatoire National de la Migration - ONM), presents the main findings of the first survey on international migration undertaken in Tunisia. It provides an inventory of the migration phenomena, from the perspective of Tunisian territories, based on the timeframe of the survey between July 2020 and March 2021. This survey comes as part of the Household International Migration Surveys in the Mediterranean countries (MED-HIMS).

The last two years, have been deeply marked by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on all aspects of human life, including displacements and consequently the migration flows. However, beyond recent developments, these flows, from and to Tunisia, have intensified during the last decade, in the aftermath of the geopolitical tensions that have touched the region. These disturbances have touched as much the numbers of migrants as their profiles and forms of migration.

With these changes, Tunisia has constantly expressed its firm will to undertake appropriate migration strategies and policies in order to promote regular, secure and well-ordered migration. Its accession to the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), the continuation of the dialogue on Mobility Partnership and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are all the proof of its commitment and its will to seek common and shared responses, with the regional partners, concerning the complexity of the migratory phenomena.

The survey conducted under this study essentially aims at bridging the data gaps as well as identifying and developing a number of relevant indicators in order to reinforce the Tunisian information system on international migration. This stage is fundamental in the process of setting up efficient migration governance. The findings of the survey thus constitute a precious tool for a better analysis of this phenomenon and a more rational formulation of policies and strategies in terms of migration.

This survey, realised by the INS, has benefited from the financial support of the European Union in the framework of the implementation of the first component of the Tunisian Migration Governance Strategy Program (“Programme Gouvernance et Stratégie”), ProGreS Migration Tunisia. The execution of this component was entrusted to the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Adnen LASSOUED
Director General
National Institute of Statistics

Abderraouf JEMAL
Director General
National Observatory on Migration

Analytical summary

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) statistics reveal that there are 281 million migrants in the World in 2020, i.e., 3.6% of the world population. Although migration flows slowed down recently as due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the trends of the last two decades show an acceleration of migration in its various forms, voluntary or forced.

Tunisia has not been an exception to this trend, namely since 2011. Major changes have thus marked the Tunisian migratory landscape for both inflows and outflows. This report attempts to scope the main determinants of these changes as well as provide a profile of the different migrant populations, including estimates of such populations.

The non-migrants

In this survey, a non-migrant is considered as any individual of Tunisian nationality, aged 15 and older, having declared that he has never resided in another country for more than three months.

Around one person out of five declares having the intent to emigrate. This allows the framing of a profile of the emigration candidate: a young man, between 15 and 24, single, educated and jobless, living in Greater Tunis, or “Grand Tunis”, the Centre-East or the South-East of the country.

The main reasons for emigration stated by the potential migrants are related to the search for jobs and better work conditions, as well as to the opportunity for a better standard of living.

Europe (mainly France, Italy and Germany) remains the preferred destination for seven out of ten non-migrants who intend to emigrate, followed by North America and the Arab countries.

However, for most of the potential migrants, the intention for migration remains aspirational with no real action planned as only 14.3% declare having a specific plan for emigration.

The current migrants

Under this survey, a current migrant or emigrant is as any person of Tunisian nationality, aged 15 and above, who was a resident of Tunisia and has been residing in another country for at least three months. According to this definition, the number of Tunisian current migrants would be around 566,000 individuals (388,000 men and 178,000 women).

The spatial distribution of the current migrants represents a double polarisation: according to the residence area in Tunisia and the host country abroad. Approximately three quarters of the current migrants come from three regions: North-East, Grand Tunis and Centre-East. Moreover, three countries of Europe host three quarters of the current migrants: France, Italy and Germany.

The age structure of the current migrants does not seem to offer a strong concentration of an age profile although the population remains relatively young: around four migrants out of ten are between 15 and 29. The age profile distribution is almost identical for men and women.

Concerning the main reasons for emigration, job search and improvement of work conditions remain a dominant incentive for around half of the current migrants. Family reunification concerns however were also identified as a priority for two thirds of the female population.

The educational level of the current migrants is significantly higher than that of the population in Tunisia. One out of three emigrants have a higher education level. Those with no educational level are a minority (3.3%). This trend has increased during the last few years. For example, during 2015-2020, around 39,000 engineers and 3,300 physicians would have left the country for job opportunities abroad.

At the time of the survey, 55.5% of the current Tunisian migrants declared that they had a professional activity in the host country (68.1% for men against 28.2% for women). Before COVID-19, the proportion of job holders was estimated to be 63.4%, which confirms the negative impact of the health crisis on the employment of Tunisian emigrants. During the pre-COVID period, the primary sectors of employment for the current migrants were the construction and public works sectors (17%), hotel management and catering (13.7%) and commerce (8.7%). These were followed by the manufacturing industry (8.1%), and agriculture and fisheries (7%).

Around one out of ten current Tunisian migrants states having executed investments in Tunisia. This percentage increases proportionally with the age of the migrant. Investments achieved concern classical fields: construction, real estate, agriculture, or commerce. The execution of projects faced many difficulties and obstacles: complex administrative procedures, insufficient capital, corruption and support as well as poor financial assistance and tax incentives in Tunisia.

Finally, half of the current migrants have emigrated during the last two decades. The longest migratory periods were in countries of Europe, i.e., the traditional host countries for Tunisian migrants. The Gulf countries, though constituting an emerging destination, present longer stays.

The returning migrants

Within the framework of this survey, a returning migrant is any person who is currently residing in Tunisia, who has lived abroad for three months and more, and is 15 years old and above at the moment of return. According to this definition, the number of returning migrants who are still alive at the time of the survey is estimated at 211,000 individuals (176,000 men and 35,000 women).

Spatial concentration characterised returning migration. Therefore, returning migrants get settled essentially in three areas of Tunisia: The Grand Tunis, the Centre-East, and the South-East. As for the countries where they come from, around eight out of ten returning migrants come from Libya, France or Italy.

Though the proportion of migrant women is steadily rising, return remains a predominantly masculine phenomenon (83.5%). Return migration varies much with age. Relatively high among youth, it decreases to its lowest point between migrants aged 45 and 59 years before going up again after 60, retirement age. Moreover, the educational level of the returning migrants has improved with time. The share of non-educated people has gradually decreased, while the share of those who have a higher education degree has increased, especially amongst women.

Migration for work was the main reason for departure of the returning migrants, noted by seven out of ten migrants. Concerning the conditions for return, half had returned willingly to Tunisia, mainly for family reasons (marriage, separation, family reunion, children's education) or at retirement age. However, the other half have returned due to constraints or by obligation: for reasons such as vulnerability and adverse conditions in the host country, expiry of contract or expulsion.

One third of the returning migrants stated that they have faced difficulties upon their return, namely in terms of employment and income. Social problems (integration, family problems) have affected women more than men 30% of the returning migrants intend to emigrate again, including more than 56% of the returning migrants of the last two decades.

Almost one out of five returning migrants stated having made investments in Tunisia. This proportion increases as the duration of the migration increases. It also increases proportionately to the age of the migrant. According to the returning migrants, the complex administrative procedures, the weak tax incentive, the corruption and the market-limited size hindered essentially investment in Tunisia.

The foreign residents in Tunisia (Immigrants)

Within the framework of this survey, an immigrant (or a foreign resident in Tunisia) is any person who resides on the territory for a minimum duration of six months. This population comprises all persons of foreign nationality who do or do not hold a residence permit in Tunisia. According to this definition, the number at the time of the survey would be approximately 59,000 individuals.

The three main geographical areas from where the immigrants come are Europe (18.5%), the Maghreb (37%) and the other countries of Africa (36.4%). It is worth noting that the critical COVID-19 pandemic situation, which coincided with the survey, caused a significant departure of European nationals back to their countries of origin, affecting their residence status, as well as the assistance of their home countries' authorities, which facilitated their mobility during that period.

The immigrant population originating from countries of Africa other than the Maghreb countries is the cohort who have registered the highest growth during the last years, with a number growing from 7,200 individuals in 2014 (according to the last population census) to 21,466 at the moment of the survey.

The immigrant communities reside, mainly, in two regions of the country: around 80% live either in Grand Tunis or in the Centre-East. These two coastal areas are characterised by a modern infrastructure compared to the other areas, better employment opportunities, presence and accessibility to the main services and an important density of higher education institutions.

The immigrants who entered Tunisia state that they came mainly for three reasons: marriage or family reunification in 36.6% of the cases, employment and improvement of living conditions for 35.1% of the migrants and studying for 15.5% of the cases.

Six out of ten immigrants consider staying in Tunisia. Among those who declared having the intention to leave, two thirds intend to return to the country of origin, a quarter of them want to leave to other countries and a tenth of them are still undecided.

Concepts and Definitions

The concepts and definitions presented in this report, which were used to determine the target populations in the survey, are based on international definitions and recommendations in the field of international migration with adaptation to the national context.

1. Current migrant

The current migrant is actually an international migrant. According to the definition offered by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) , an international migrant is "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence". This means any person who, when leaving his or her usual place of residence, crosses or has crossed an international border regardless of: i) the legal status of the person; ii) the character, voluntary or non-voluntary, of the movement; iii) the causes of movement. The duration of stay is usually at least one year. However, three months is considered as a minimum duration of stay to define short-term migration

For the purposes of this survey, a current migrant is considered any person of Tunisian nationality, aged 15 and above, having Tunisia as a usual country of residence, and residing in another country for at least three months.

2. Returning migrant

According to the definition proposed by the UN DESA for the compilation of statistical data on international migration returning migrants are persons returning to their country of citizenship after having been international migrants intending to stay in their own country for at least a year.

Within the framework of this survey, adjustments have been made to the dimensions of this definition, namely the one related to the durations of stay in the host country and in Tunisia (upon return). The returning migrant is as any surveyed household member, of Tunisian nationality, who has lived abroad for three months or more, and returned at the age of 15 or above, to reside in Tunisia for at least six months.

3. Foreign resident in Tunisia or immigrant

He is also an international migrant. In fact, and within the framework of the National Survey on International Migration, an immigrant or a foreign resident in Tunisia is any person who has been residing in Tunisia for six months or more, or intends to stay more than six months, regardless of their situation of residence; legal or illegal. It includes all persons of foreign nationality, whether or not they hold a residence permit in Tunisia.

[1] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Recommendations on Statistics on International Migration Revision 1, United Nations, New York, 1998
[2] Ibidem

4. Emigration / Immigration

- Emigration: It is the fact of leaving a country to go and reside in a country other than one's country of origin. Such people are emigrants (upon their departure) or expatriates (when they stay in the destination country).

- Immigration: It is the fact of arriving in a country to reside in it. Moreover, it is necessary to distinguish between the concept of immigrant and that of expatriate: an immigrant is the person who arrives in a country; an expatriate is the one who resides in it.

5. Stock and flow of migrants

• Stock of migrants

It is the number of international migrants in a certain country at a certain moment. In the framework of the survey, an assessment undertaken of the stock of current Tunisian migrants aged 15 and above who are abroad and have previously resided in Tunisia. Another assessment was also made of the total stock of the returning Tunisians aged 15 or above upon their return and having stayed abroad more than three months.

• Flow

It is the number of migrants entering a country (immigrants) or leaving a country (emigrants) during a certain period.

6. Other definitions

• Household

A household, in the statistical sense, is defined as all the occupants of a main residence, whether they are related or not. A household may consist of one person only. Note: Households do not include people living in mobile homes and people living in communal settings (workers' homes, retirement homes, university residences, detention centres, etc.)

• Head of the household

This is the person who is considered by the household members or the respondent as the head of the household. This is in general a person has an economic or moral power.

• Country of usual residence

In accordance with international recommendations, the INS considers the country of usual residence to be the country where the person usually lives. Travel for business, recreational reasons, medical care, visiting relatives and pilgrimages do not change the country of usual residence. The length of stay related to the concept of residence considered in the survey is six months for people living in Tunisia and three months for those living abroad.

Chapter 1 The non-migrants

For the purposes of the survey, a non-migrant is any individual member of a household, of Tunisian nationality, aged 15 and over, who has declared that he or she has never resided in another country for more than three months.

This category of population represents the reservoir of future migration. Indeed, non-migrants who have declared an intention to emigrate are as potential migrants, even if this intention does not lead to an actual emigration.

The following sections subsequently describe the intention to emigrate and its determinants, the profile of potential migrants and possible plans to emigrate, the reasons for emigration, the potential destinations, and finally the reasons for non-emigration.

1.1. Intention to emigrate and its determinants

About one in five (19.9%) of the non-migrant population aged 15 and over declare that they intend to emigrate to live, work or study abroad. The intention to emigrate varies significantly by gender. It is 25.6% for men and 14.7% for women.

Table 1: The non-migrants based on intention to emigrate by gender (%)

Intention to emigrate to live, work or study	Gender		
	Male	Féminin	Total
Yes	25,6	14,4	19,9
No	70,6	82,9	76,9
Undecided	3,8	2,7	3,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021

As expected, the intention to emigrate decreases with age, with young people expressing a strong desire to leave Tunisia, while older people are less interested in international migration. Thus, it drops from 39.5% for 15-29 year-olds to 2.2% for those aged 60 and over. In addition, the intention to emigrate increases with the level of education. It increases from 2.7% among the uneducated to 29.5% among those with a higher level of education. The intention to migrate is highest among those with vocational training (32.5%). According to marital status, the intention to migrate is high among single, separated and divorced people; 36.6%, 19.9% and 14.5% respectively. It is lowest among widowed (2.2%), followed by married people (9.3%).

In terms of employment status, unemployment is obviously a determining factor in the intention to emigrate: 35.8% of the unemployed declare their desire to leave the country. This proportion is higher for men than for women (48.5% versus 22.9%). Among the employed, 18.5% of non-migrants intend to emigrate (20.2% among men versus 14.8% among women). On the other hand, about 16.9% of inactive people express a desire to emigrate (26.1% among men versus 12.6% among women).

Figure 1: the proportion of non-migrants who intend to emigrate by age group (%)

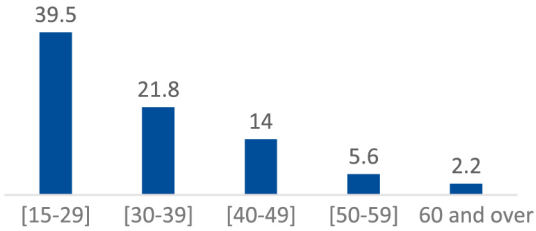
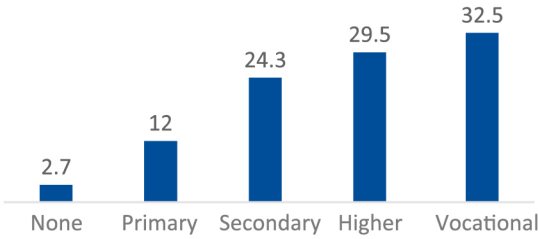


Figure 2 : the proportion of non-migrants who intend to emigrate by level of education (%)



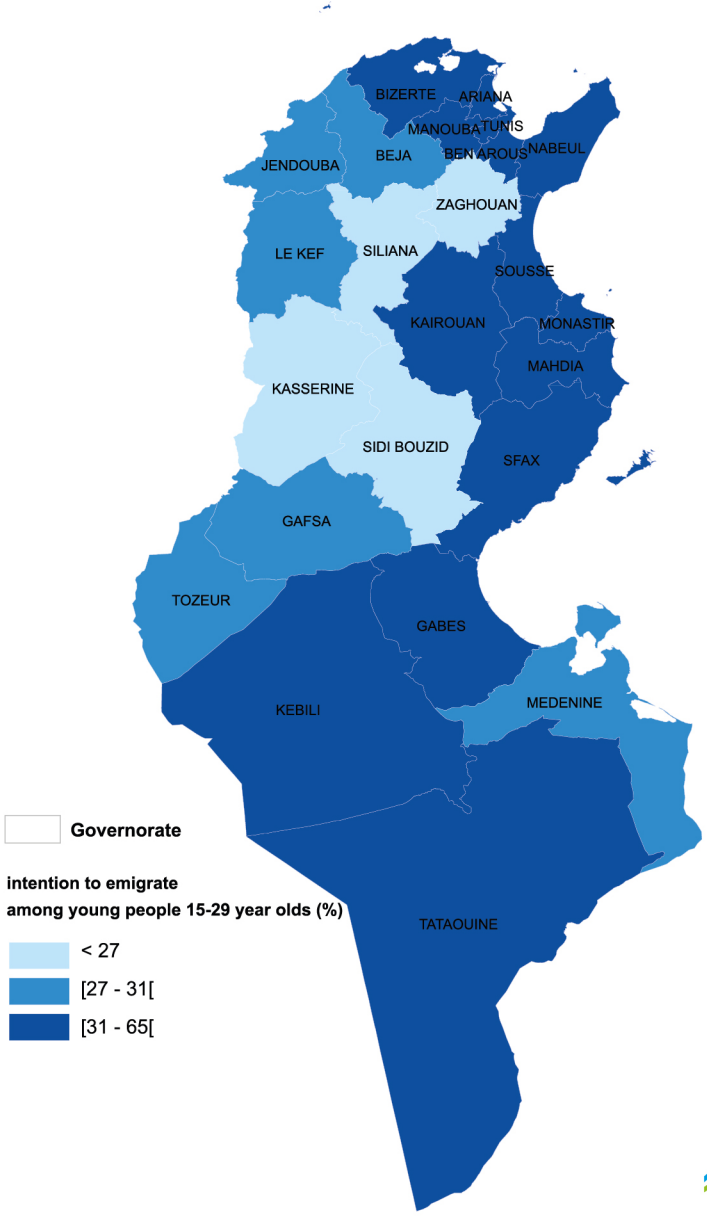
According to the region of residence, nationals of regions with a strong resident community abroad are more likely to emigrate abroad. Indeed, the proportion of individuals with the desire to emigrate is 26.1% in the Grand Tunis region, 22.9% in the Centre-East, and 22.9% in the South-East. Other regions are below the national average: North-East with 16.5%, South-West with about 15.0% and the North-West region with the lowest intention to emigrate, 11.2%.

Table 2: The non-migrants by their intention to emigrate and their region of residence (%)

Area of residence	Yes	No	Undecided	Total
Grand Tunis	26,1	69,6	4,3	100,0
Noth-Est	16,5	78,9	4,6	100,0
Noth-West	11,2	87,6	1,2	100,0
Centre-East	22,9	75,2	1,9	100,0
Centre-West	15,0	80,9	4,1	100,0
South-East	22,9	74,1	3,0	100,0
South-West	15,0	83,4	1,6	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Figure 3 : The proportion of the non migrants aged between 15 and 29 who intend to emigrate by gouvernorate



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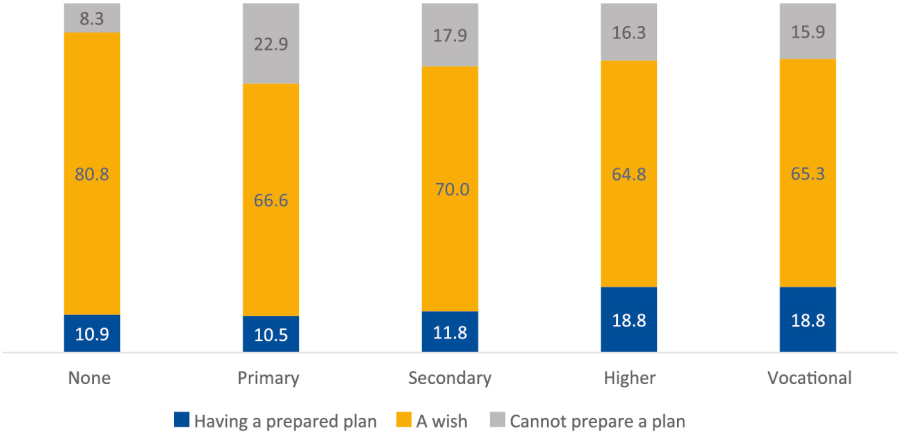
1.2. Potential migrants and planning of emigration

- Existence of a specific emigration plann

Although they intend to emigrate, only 14.3% of potential migrants (non-migrants intending to emigrate) said they had well prepared their emigration project. This proportion is slightly higher among men (14.8%) than among women (13.6%). Around 67.9% of non-migrants express a wish to emigrate and do not have a specific plan to leave. Finally, 17.8% of potential migrants are still looking for an adequate plan to achieve their ambition.

Furthermore, according to the level of education, the proportion of potential migrants who have prepared a departure plan is noteworthy, for example, those with higher education (18.8%) and those with vocational training (18.8%) have a plan to emigrate.

Figure 4 : The potential migrants by the existence of a specific emigration plan and by the level of education (%)



• Type of steps undertaken for the preparation of emigration

Among those who have taken steps, one out of three (31.9%) has initiated a procedure to obtain a visa, 17.5% have contacted relatives or friends living abroad, 12.1% are learning a foreign language, 14.6% are exploring emigration possibilities on the Internet, and 8.2% have contacted a recruitment intermediary to work abroad. Irregular emigration, mainly by sea (commonly referred to as "Harga"), is envisaged by 6.5% of potential migrants who have started plans to emigrate. This rate of persons declaring to have contacted an intermediary of irregular migration (or "Harrag") probably suffers from under-reporting due to the illegal nature of the procedure.

Table 3 : Potential migrants who have a specific emigration plan by type of step made (%)

Type of step	Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
Start visa application procedure	34,8	25,4	31,9
Learn a foreign language	10,5	15,6	12,1
Contact relatives/friends who live abroad	17,5	17,7	17,5
Contact a recruitment intermediary to work abroad	9,4	5,6	8,2
Search on internet	12,4	19,7	14,6
Contact an intermediary for irregular migration « Harrag »	9,4	0,0	6,5
Other	6,0	16,0	9,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

It is noting that searching the internet or contacting placement intermediaries for work abroad tends to attract potential migrants with higher education or vocational training. "Harga" is more prevalent among the uneducated and those with less than tertiary education.

For those who contacted an intermediary, 26.7% used a private employment agency located in Tunisia, 26.1% used an intermediary offering job opportunities abroad, 19.8% used a state agency in Tunisia and 5.9% used a foreign agency placed abroad.

Table 4 : The potential migrants who contacted an intermediary for a job abroad by type of intermediary and by gender (%)

Type of step	Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
Private employment agency situated in Tunisia	24,6	32,2	26,7
Intermediary offering jobs abroad	28,5	20,0	26,1
A Tunisian State agency (ATCT, ANETI...)	17,2	26,6	19,8
Other	17,5	2,8	13,5
Foreign company/agency for employment abroad	10,5	18,4	12,7
Rejection	1,7	-	1,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

1.3. Reasons for potential emigration

Reasons related to work and working conditions are the main reasons for wanting to emigrate (51.7%), followed by the search for better living standards and conditions (26.7%). "Social" reasons (education, family reunion, marriages and divorces or separations, desire to travel) represent 19.1%; this proportion is 27.2% for women and 14.4% for men.

Table 5 : The potential migrants by reasons of emigration and gender (%)

Reason for emigration	Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
Search for a job	27,8	15,6	23,2
Improved income, nature and conditions of work	29,6	26,7	28,5
Improved living conditions	26,5	27	26,7
Family reunion	0,6	3,7	1,7
Education	11,6	18,3	14,1
Desire to travel	2,2	5,2	3,3
Other	1,7	3,5	2,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

1.4. Destination country for potential emigration

The traditional countries of emigration of Tunisians continue to be attractive to potential migrants. Indeed, seven out of ten non-migrants intending to emigrate want to settle in Europe, especially in the first three countries where the Tunisian community is the largest, i.e., in the order of size, France, Italy and Germany. The existence of family help and assistance networks or other acquaintances are essential for these preferences. North America (USA and Canada) is attractive to 8.8% of all non-migrants. As for the Arab countries, 13.9% of potential non-migrants opt for the destination of the Gulf countries while only 3.8% would like to settle in the Maghreb countries.

Table 6 : The potential migrants by country of emigration and gender (%)

Country of emigration	Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
Algeria	1,1	2,1	1,6
Libye	3,8	0,4	2,2
France	41,8	41,6	41,7
Italy	13,7	6,6	10,3
Germany	10,5	8,4	9,5
Other European countries	4,9	4,5	4,8
KSA	7,1	14,7	10,7
Qatar	2,9	1,7	2,3
United Arab Emirates	0,7	1,1	0,9
Turkey	1,7	8,4	4,8
North America	9,3	8,3	8,8
Other countries	2,5	2,2	2,4
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

1.5. Reasons for non-emigration

Non-migrants who do not intend to emigrate represent nearly three quarters of non-migrants (76.3%). Among them, two-thirds feel comfortable in Tunisia and consider their living conditions favourable. For the remaining third, the reasons for not emigrating are related to family, financial, or other constraints, such as taking care of parents (10.3%), children's schooling (5.7%), spouse's preference (14.7%), or the difficulty of obtaining a visa for the whole family (2.1%).

According to gender, the proportion of women who do not envisage emigrating because the spouse has a different choice is 22.1%; i.e., proportionally four times more than men (5.5%).

Conversely, the proportion of men who say they have a good job and salary is 20.4%, three times that of women (6.9%).

Table 7 : Non-migrants who do not intend to emigrate by reason for non-emigration and by gender (%)

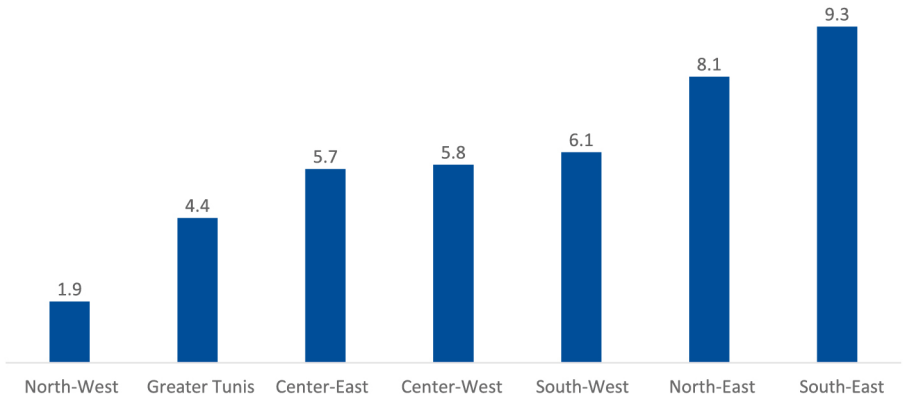
Reasons for non-emigration	Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
Feels comfortable in Tunisia	40,3	42,3	41,4
Has satisfactory job and salary	20,4	6,9	12,9
The spouse prefers to live in Tunisia	5,5	22,1	14,7
Is taking care of the parents	10,7	10,0	10,3
Children's school fees	5,0	6,3	5,7
Other	5,1	5,5	5,3
The trip costs much	5,1	3,5	4,2
Successful business in Tunisia	5,0	1,2	2,9
Difficulty to obtain a visa for the whole family	2,3	1,9	2,1
Good living conditions in Tunisia	0,6	0,4	0,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

1.6. Possibility of illegal emigration

"Once you have decided to emigrate, but your visa application is unsuccessful, are you thinking of emigrating illegally?" In response to the question, 5.5% of all non-migrants say they are ready to take such a risk (9.1% among men and 2.2% among women). This proportion decreases with age: 9.7% for young people aged 15 to 29, 7.4% for those aged 30 to 39, 3.4% for those aged 40 to 49, and finally 1.4% for non-migrants aged 60 and over. It records its highest values among non-migrants in the Southeast, North-East, and Southwest. The Northwest has the lowest rate (1.9%).

Figure 5 : The proportion of non-migrants who have the will to emigrate in an illegal manner by areas of residence (%)



Chapter 2 The current migrants

Within the framework of this survey. A current migrant is any person of Tunisian nationality, aged 15 and over, who has resided in Tunisia and who, at the time of the survey, has been residing in another country for at least three months.
Based on this definition, the number of Tunisian current migrants would be around 566,000 individuals (388,000 men and 178,000 women).

The events that Tunisia and its region have experienced over the past ten years lead us to distinguish in the analysis between two periods of departure for current migrants: the period before 2010 and after 2010.

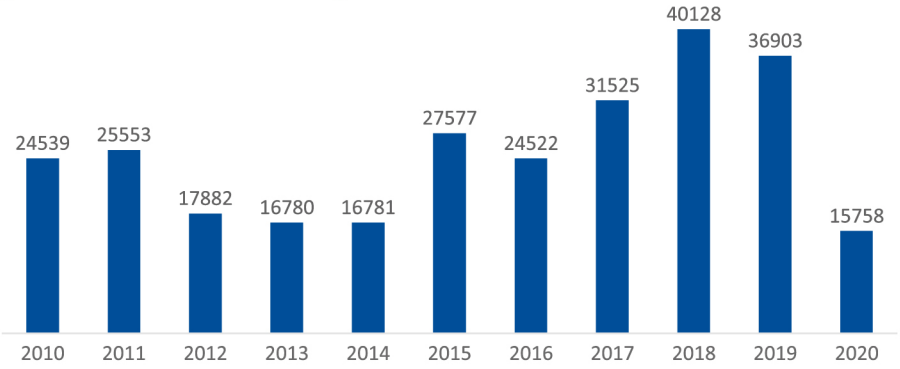
In what follows, the report presents the evolution of the stock and flow of current migrants, their spatial distribution, their profile, the conditions of departure, their economic situation before departure and in the host country, before and during the Covid-19 pandemic, and finally, the investments made in Tunisia.

2.1. Stock of current migrants residing abroad and spatial distribution

• Stock and flow of current migrants

The survey estimates the number of current migrants at 566,000 migrants, aged 15 or older at the time of the survey, half of whom emigrated after the year 2010, 24% between 2000 and 2010, and 26% before 2000.

Figure 6 : The outflows of current migrants between 2010 and 2020



• Distribution of current migrants by area of residence in Tunisia

Strong concentration characterises the spatial distribution of current migrants according to their region of residence in Tunisia. More than three-quarters of current migrants come from three areas: The North-East (26.4%), Grand Tunis (26.2%) and the Centre-East (24.4%). The three Western areas of the country account for only one tenth of the current migrant stock.

Table 8 : The current migrants by area of residence

Area	Number	Percentage
Grand Tunis	148591	26,2
North-East	149725	26,4
North-West	17720	3,1
Centre-East	137871	24,4
Centre-West	25836	4,6
South-East	71645	12,7
South-West	14684	2,6
Total	566070	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

• Distribution of current migrants by host country

The majority of emigrants settled in Europe. This continent is home to 83.3% of all current Tunisian migrants. Three countries host three quarters of those: France (52.5%), Italy (14.1%) and Germany (8.2%). North America attracts 4.0% of those migrants (2.5% for Canada and 1.5% for the USA). 11.4% stay in the Arab countries.

Since 2000, there has been a rebalancing of the gender equity balance in favour of women in some countries, such as the United Arab Emirates, Belgium and Canada.

Figure 7 : The current migrants by gender and host country since 2000 (departure period) (%)

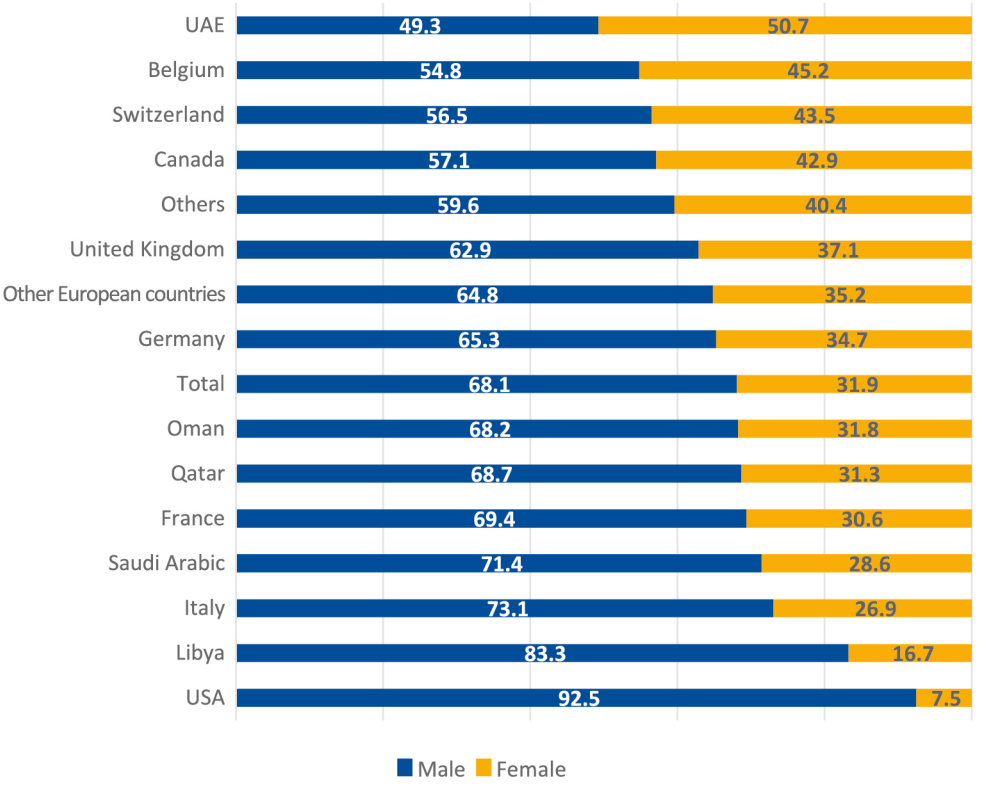
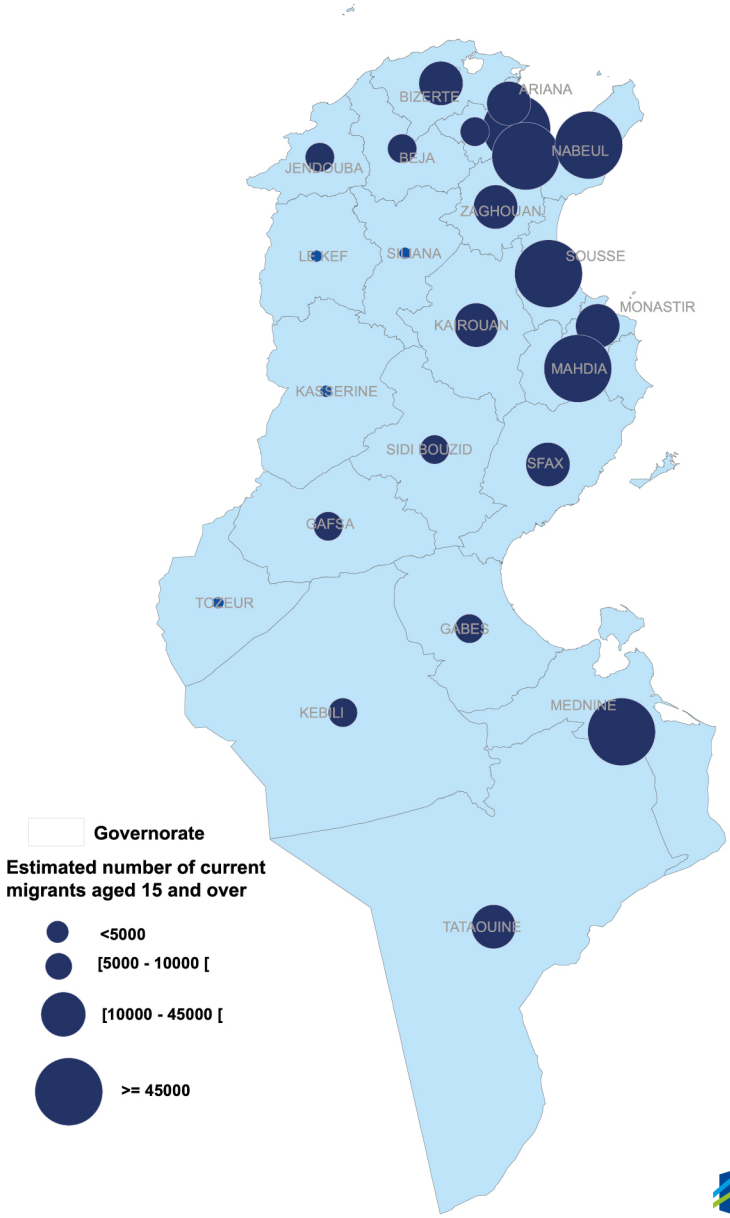


Figure 8: The current migrants aged 15 and older, by governorate



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2.2. Profiles of current migrants

• Structure by gender and age: Feminisation rate and mean age

Although international migration in recent decades become more feminised, men still dominate the phenomenon. The survey results confirm this predominance of male migration. Just over two out of three current migrants are men. The feminisation rate of current migrants is 31.5%. This difference is mainly because the first waves of emigration of Tunisians abroad were essentially male. The process of feminisation of emigration began within the framework of family reunion, then more and more with an autonomous female emigration for studying or working.

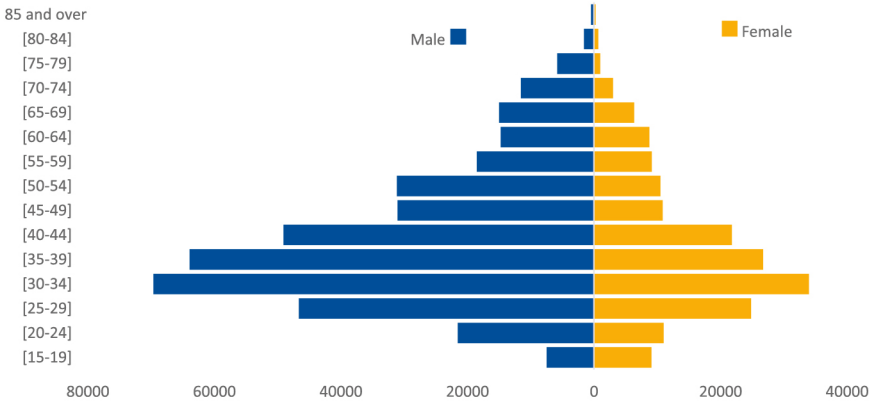
The age structure of current migrants does not seem to present a strong concentration of age groups, although the population remains relatively young: nearly 40% are under 35 years old.

Table 9 : The current migrants by gender and age group

Age group	Percentage (%)			Feminisation rate (%)
	Male	Female	Total	
15-29 years	19,5	25,2	21,3	37,3
30-39 years	34,4	34,0	34,3	31,2
40-49 years	20,6	18,3	19,9	29,0
50-59 years	12,8	11,0	12,2	28,4
60 and+	12,7	11,3	12,3	29,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	31,5

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Figure 9 : The current migrants by age and by gender



The average age of current emigrants is 41 years old. The average age at the time of emigration has increased from 20 years old before the 2000s to 27 years old between 2010 and2020; a seven-year difference.

Table 10: The current migrants by age upon departure and the moment of the survey

Departure period	Average age at the moment of emigration (in years)	Current average age (in years)
Before 2000	20	56
[2000 -2009]	22	38
[2010 -2020]	27	32
Total	24	41

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

· Marital status

Marital status at the time of emigration is significantly different for male and female emigrants. The latter are more likely to migrate while married and family reunion would partly explain this trend. Thus, only 15.5% of men were married at the time of departure (61.2% are currently married), compared to 59.7% of women at the time of departure (71.7% are currently married).

Table 11 : The current migrants by gender and by marital status upon departure and current status (%)

Marital status	Status at the moment of departure			Current status		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Célibataire	83,4	38,7	69,4	33,4	22,2	29,8
Marié	15,5	59,7	29,4	61,2	71,8	64,6
Autre	0,4	0,8	0,5	4,8	5,5	5,0
Non Déclaré	0,7	0,8	0,6	0,7	0,5	0,6
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

· Educational characteristics

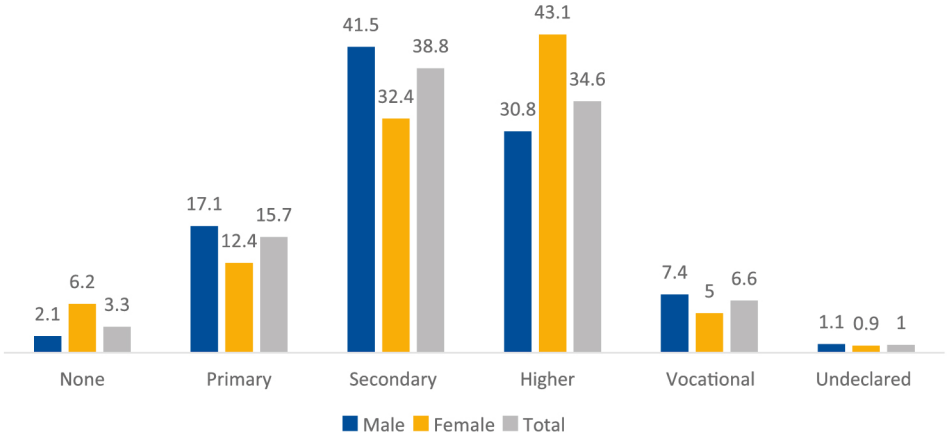
- *Literacy*

The illiteracy rate of current migrants is low (2.5%). It has been on a downward trend over time, especially for women. It dropped from 14.4% for female departures before 2000 to only 1.2% for departures during the 2010-2020 period.

- *Level of education*

The level of education of current migrants is higher than that of the population in Tunisia. Nearly one out of three current migrants (34.6%) have a higher education level (43.1% of women vs. 30.8% of men) and 38.7% have a secondary education level (32.4% of women and 41.5% of men). Those with primary education represent 15.7% (12.4% of women and 17.1% of men) of current migrants and those without education represent 3.3% (6.2% of women and 2.1% of men).

Figure 10 : The current migrants by gender and level of education (%)



As before, the educational structure of current migrants evolves favourably over time. Thus, the share of current migrants with higher education level tends to increase, from 17.3% for departures before 2000 to 47.4% for departures after 2010.

Table 12 : The current migrants by departure period and level of education (%)

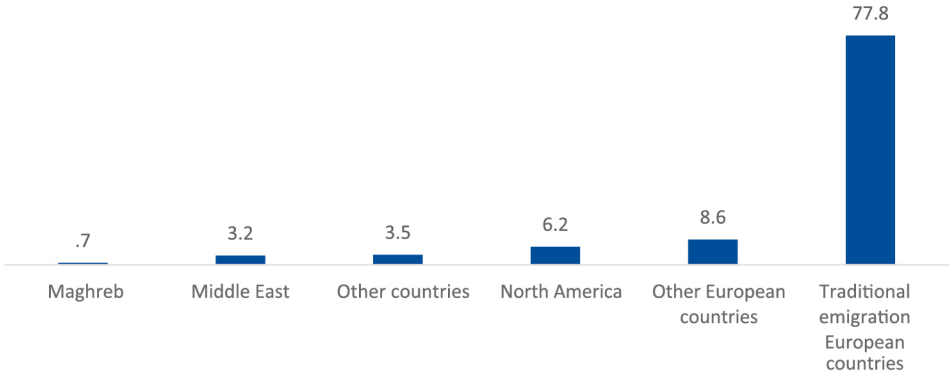
Departure period	Level of education						
	None	Primary	Secondary	Higher	Vocational	Undeclared	
Before 2000	9,5	32,7	31,4	17,3	8,3	0,8	100,0
[2000 -2009]	1,8	14,9	47,9	27,6	6,6	1,2	100,0
[2010 -2020]	0,8	7,0	38,1	47,4	5,7	1,0	100,0
Total	3,3	15,7	38,8	34,6	6,6	1,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

- *School enrolment*

The number of current migrants aged 15 or older who are in school estimated to be 8.3% of the total current migrant population, 13.1% among women and 6.1% among men. Although the majority of international migration is male, there are almost as many women in school as men (50.6% are men and 49.4% are women). By period of departure, 54.6% of those enrolled left Tunisia between 2015 and 2020. European countries attract 86.4% of migrants pursuing their studies.

Figure 11 : The current migrants enrolled in school by host country (%)



Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

2.3 The conditions of departure from Tunisia

- Main reasons for departure

The main reasons for departure for all current migrants are, employment (45.0%), family reunion (32.0%) and studies (11.5%). More men than women leave for professional reasons (58.6% versus 15.5%). The main reason given by women for leaving was family reunion (68.8%). The percentage of men and women leaving for study purposes is almost the same.

An analysis of the field of specialisation of current migrants reveals that over the period 2015 - 2020, 39,000 engineers and 3,300 doctors would have migrated for a job opportunity abroad.

[3] The traditional emigration European countries for Tunisians are here: France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Table 13 : The current migrants by reason of departure and gender

Reason of departure	Gender (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
Job search/ job opportunities	58,6	15,5	45,0
Improved income/ salary/work conditions	8,2	2,0	6,2
Level/conditions/cost of living	5,5	1,0	4,1
Education and training	11,8	10,9	11,5
Family reunion and marriage	15,1	68,8	32,0
Other reasons	0,8	1,8	1,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Cross-checking the reason for departure with the region of destination highlights some differences in the profile of migration between these regions. Regardless of the host region of current migrants, the search for employment is the primary motivation, with destinations in the Maghreb and the Middle East showing the highest rates for this reason for departure. On the other hand, the proportion of family reunions is relatively the highest in Europe.

Table 14 : The current migrants by reason for departure and host region

Reason for departure	Host country (%)					
	Maghreb	Traditional emigration European countries	Other European countries	Middle-East	North-America	Others
Job research/ job opportunities	64,2	44,1	31,4	61,5	35,7	39,3
Improved income/ salary/work conditions	3,7	4,9	12,9	10,5	14,3	15,3
Level/conditions of living	5,8	4,5	3,5	1,1	2,6	2,7
Studies and training	4,1	11,5	20,7	2,8	26,0	9,4
Family reunion and marriage	20,5	34,0	30,1	22,8	19,8	29,5
Other reasons	1,7	1,0	1,4	1,3	1,6	3,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

· Departure period

While nearly a third of the departures of current migrants seem to have taken place in the last five years, these new migratory streams have proportionally concerned new destinations such as the Middle East (52.7%) or North America (42.7%), rather than the classic destinations in Europe with long-standing emigration traditions and an already high number of departures in the past.

Table 15 : The current migrants by departure period and host country (%)

Departure period	Host country (%)						Total
	Maghreb	Traditional emigration European countries	Other European countries	Middle-East	North America	Others	
Before 1990	8,7	20,3	18,8	1,8	5,6	1,7	17,4
[1991 -1999]	7,4	10,0	7,0	3,8	3,4	1,9	8,9
[2000 -2004]	6,4	11,9	11,2	8,9	8,4	0,9	11,1
[2005 -2010]	5,6	13,6	6,3	9,5	21,4	8,1	13,1
[2011 -2014]	26,7	17,3	19,9	23,3	18,5	17,5	18,0
[2015 -2020]	45,2	26,9	36,8	52,7	42,7	70,8	31,5
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Before 1990, 92.4% of the departing migrants settled in the traditional host countries in Europe (France, Italy, and Germany). This rate has been steadily declining over time (68.1% after 2015) to the benefit of new destinations such as the Middle East (whose proportion has risen from 0.8% to 13.1%) or North America (from 1.3% to 5.4%).

Table 16 : The current migrants by departure period and host country (%)

Departure period	Host country (%)						Total
	Maghreb	Traditional emigration European countries	Other European countries	Middle-East	North America	Others	
Before 1990	1,2	92,4	4,0	0,8	1,3	0,3	**100,0**
[1991 -1999]	2,0	89,6	2,9	3,3	1,5	0,5	**100,0**
[2000 -2004]	1,4	85,3	3,8	6,3	3,0	0,2	**100,0**
[2005 -2010]	1,0	83,5	1,8	5,6	6,5	1,5	**100,0**
[2011 -2014]	3,6	75,9	4,1	10,1	4,1	2,3	**100,0**
[2015 -2020]	3,5	68,1	4,4	13,1	5,4	5,6	**100,0**
Total	2,4	79,6	3,7	7,8	4,0	2,5	**100,0**

Source : INS, Enquête Nationale sur la migration internationale 2020/2021

· Current administrative status and the status upon entry to the destination country

• *Status at the moment of entry*

According to the findings of the survey, about 15% of current migrants, mostly men, report having entered the first destination country without official documents.

Table 17 : The current migrants by possession of entry documents to the host country and gender

Possession of entry documents	Gender (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	67,7	85,4	73,4
Irregular	20,8	3,0	15,1
Not required	11,5	11,6	11,5
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

• *Status at the time of survey*

At the time of the survey, 25.3% of current migrants declared that they had acquired another nationality, which is a situation more frequent among women (30.7%) than among men (22.8%). 31.6% declared that they were in the process of legalising their residence situation. Finally, 6.1% of the current emigrants declared that they were in an illegal situation (8.4% of men and 1% of women).

Table 18 : The current migrants by current administrative status and gender

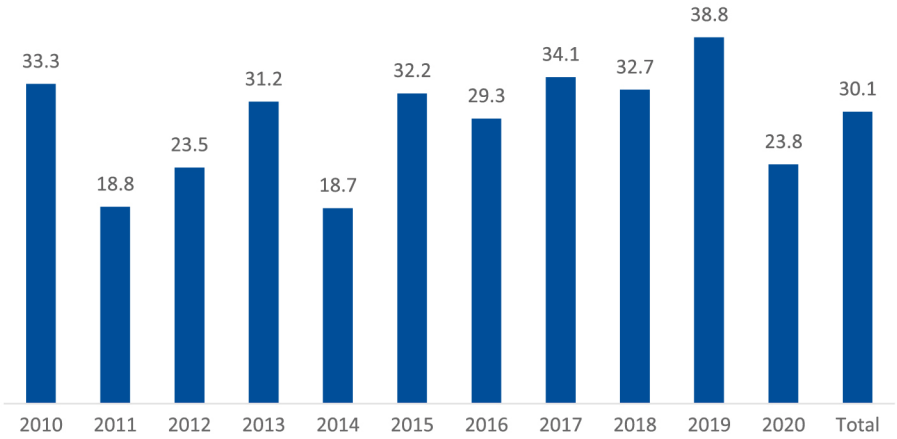
Administrative situation	Gender (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
Regular situation	54,7	66,4	58,4
Ongoing regularisation	33,0	28,6	31,6
Irregular situation	8,4	1,0	6,1
Other	2,2	2,0	2,1
Undeclared	1,7	2,0	1,8
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source : INS, Enquête Nationale sur la migration internationale 2020/2021

• Current migrants and contracting processes before departure

A reading of the evolution of the number of properly prepared departures (contracting before departure) shows that one migrant out of three obtains a contract before leaving Tunisia. It is noteworthy that Covid-19 hampered the upward trend in this proportion

Figure 12: Percentage of current migrants having obtained a contract / are promised a job in the host country, before departure between 2010 and 2020



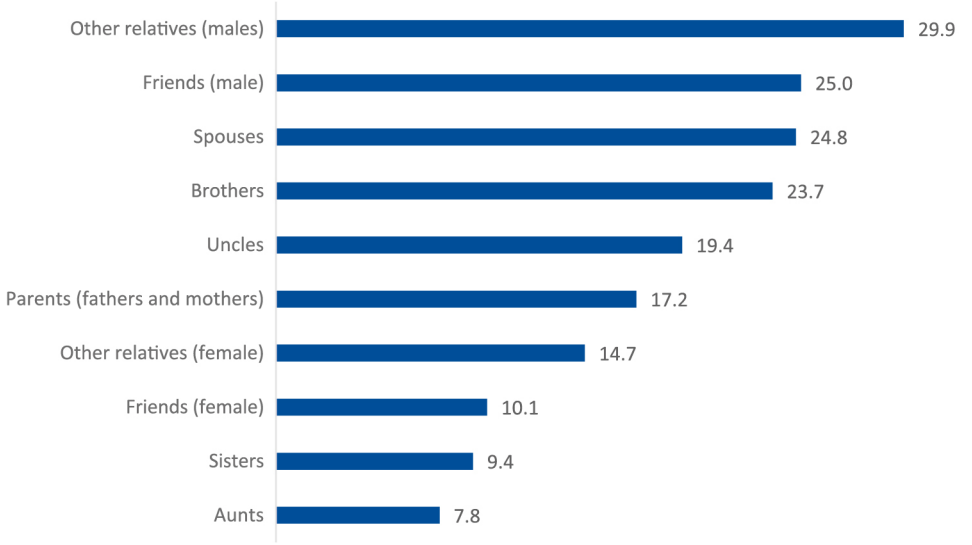
Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

• Help and assistance networks at the time of entry into the host country

The presence of family networks abroad is one of the determining factors for choosing the destination country. These networks represent the main host structure, especially for those who are beginning the migration experience for the first time. The findings of the survey reveal that 61.1% of current migrants report having parents or relatives in their first entry country.

Extended family members and friends make up the bulk of migration networks. The graph below shows the composition of the migration network in the destination country at the time of first emigration.

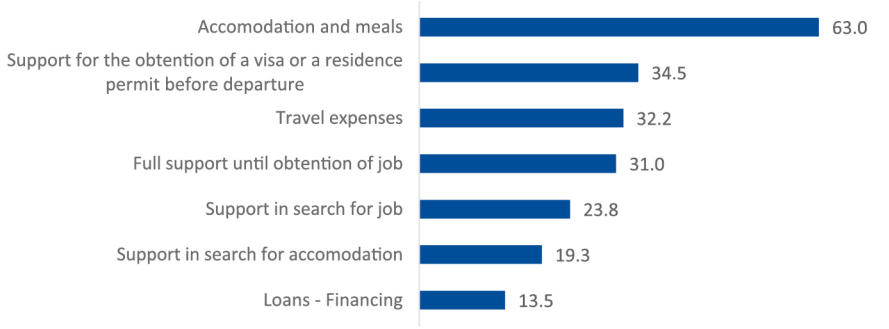
Figure 13 : The current migrants by composition of the network in the destination country the moment of first emigration



Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

80.5% of the current migrants, who declared having parents or relatives abroad, received help from this network, mainly: accommodation and food (63.0%), support in obtaining a visa and/or a residence permit (34.5%), payment of travel expenses (32.2%) and complete support until obtaining a job (31.0%). Other supports included the assistance for job search (19.3%) and financial support (13.5%).

Figure 14 : The current migrants having received assistance by type of assistance received the moment of the first emigration



Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

• Long-term Migration

The average length of stay for current migrants is 16.7 years. The longest average durations are in European countries. This result is consistent with the fact that the latter are old host countries where Tunisian migrants have been present for a long time. The Gulf countries show shorter durations of stay due to the temporary nature of migration essentially for work, with restrictions on stay and its duration in general.

Table 19 : The current migrants by Mean, Migration, Duration and Country of residence

Host country	Mean migration duration (in years)
United-Kingdom	26 ,0
Switzerland	19,9
France	18,7
Italy	17,7
Germany	16,7
Libya	16 ,0
Other European countries	14,9
USA	12,6
Belgium	12 ,0
UAE	11,1
Canada	10,3
KSA	9,8
Oman	7,8
Qatar	7,5
Other countries	6,9
Total	**16,7**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

2.4. Activity and employment in the host country

• Employment status

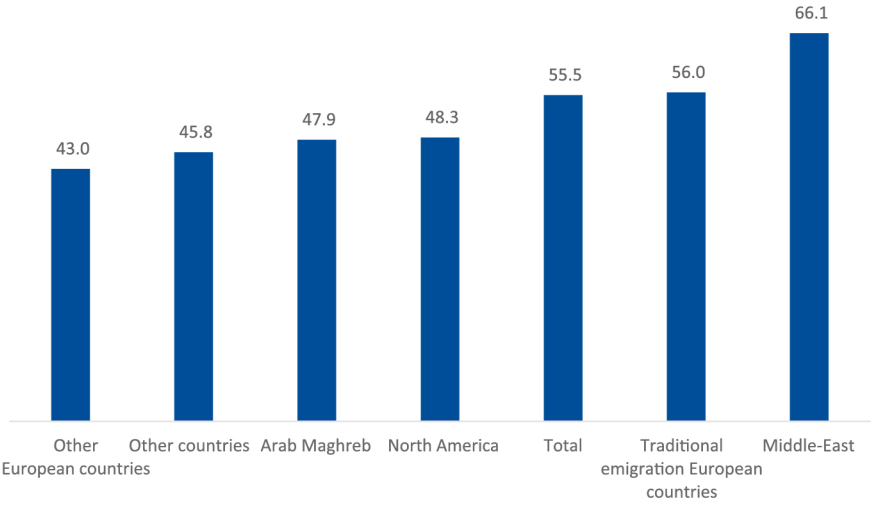
At the time of the survey, 55.5% of current migrants were practicing a professional activity in the host country. For men, this proportion is two and a half times higher than for women, i.e., 68.1% against 28.2%. The proportion of employed people estimated at 63.4% before the Covid-19 pandemic, which seems to have had a heavy impact on the employment of Tunisian emigrants. On the other hand, the proportion of unemployed, estimated at 5.8% before the pandemic, seems to have been stable and estimated at 5.4% at the time of the survey. It is rather the proportion of inactive migrants that was most affected by the health crisis, rising from 29.6% to 36.0%; some migrants were discouraged from seeking employment because of the pandemic situation.

Table 20 : Percentage of current migrants by occupation and gender, before and at the time of the pandemic (%)

Type of activity	Before Covid-19 pandemic			At the time of the survey		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Employed	77,8	32,1	63,4	68,1	28,2	55,5
Unemployed	6,9	3,4	5,8	5,9	4,2	5,4
Inactive	13,8	63,8	29,6	22,1	66,3	36,0
Undeclared	1,4	0,6	1,2	3,8	1,3	3,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Figure 15 : Percentage of current migrants who were employed before the pandemic, by host region (%)



• Job Status

The employment of current migrants is mainly payroll-based, regardless of the host region. Moreover, the pandemic crisis has had relatively little impact on the job status; self-employment has fallen slightly (from 9.7% to 8.6%), while payroll employment has increased slightly (from 89.7% to 90.5%).

Table 21 : The current migrants having a job by gender and job status, before and the moment of the pandemic

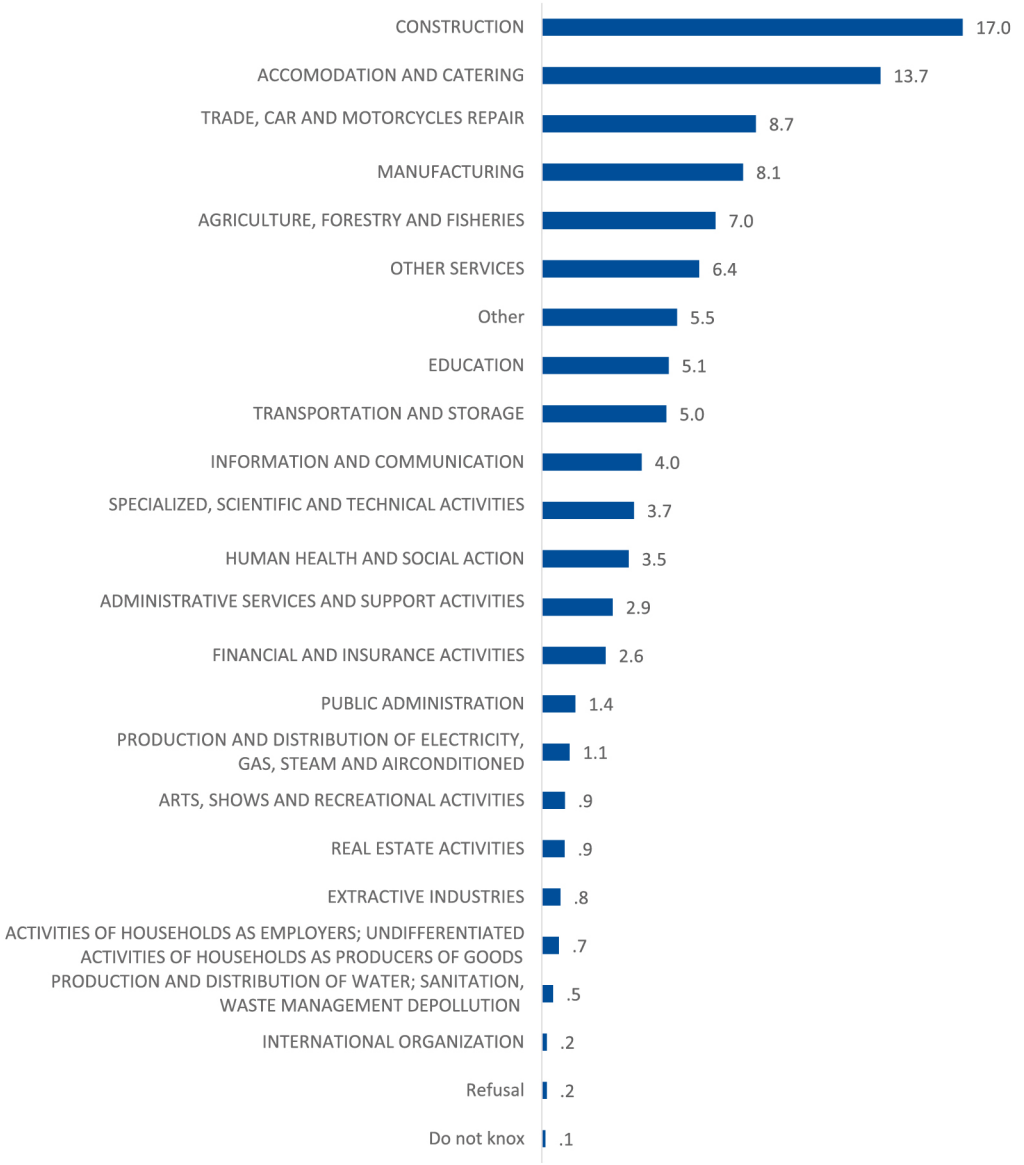
Job status	Before COVID-19 pandemic			At the time of the survey		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Self-employed	10,6	4,8	9,7	9,2	5,5	8,6
Payroll	88,6	94,1	89,5	89,9	93,3	90,5
Other	0,8	1,1	0,8	0,9	1,2	0,9
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

• The economic sector before the Couid-19 pandemic

The distribution of employed current migrants by the economic sector shows that the construction and public works, hotel and catering, and commerce sectors remain the main providers of jobs for current migrants, with 17.0%, 13.7%, and 8.7% respectively employed in those sectors followed by manufacturing (8.1%) and agriculture and fisheries (7.0%).

Figure 16 : The current migrants who had a job before the pandemic by the economic sector in the host country (%)



Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Employment by the economic sector shows significant disparities by gender. Men are more present than women in agriculture (8.2% vs. 0.8%), in construction (20.1% vs. 1.0%) and in manufacturing (8.8% vs. 4.7%). While some sectors seem to be more female-intensive, such as health (11% vs. 2.1%), education (14.9% vs. 3.2%), financial services (4.1% vs. 2.3%) or domestic services (2.9% vs. 0.3%).

2.5. Investments

Only 9.8% of current migrants reported having carried out investment projects in Tunisia (13.4% among men and 1.9% among women). This proportion increases with age, from 0.6% among migrants aged 15 to 24, to 18.9% for those aged 60 and over.

Figure 17 : Percent of current migrants having invested in Tunisia by age (%)

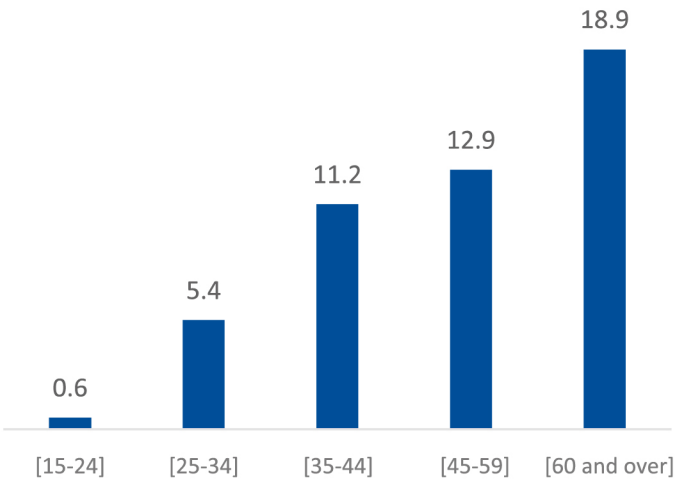
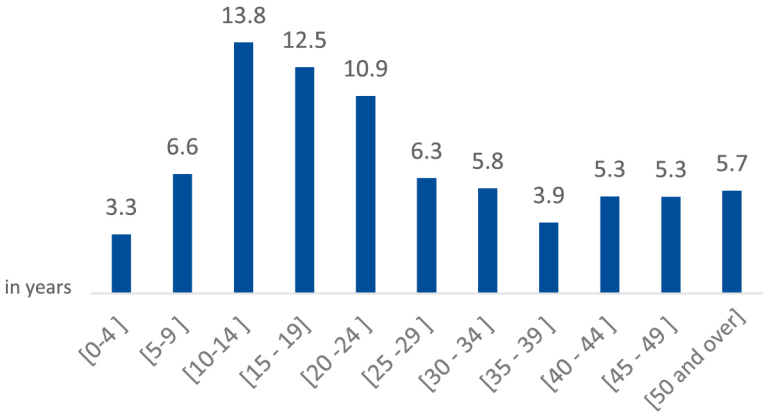


Figure 18 : Percentage of current migrants having invested in Tunisia by migration seniority (%)



The investments made by current migrants are in classic fields and often-in several fields at the same time, mainly: construction (44.6% of respondents), real estate (29.8%), agriculture (14.8%) or commerce in the broad sense for more than 17% of respondents.

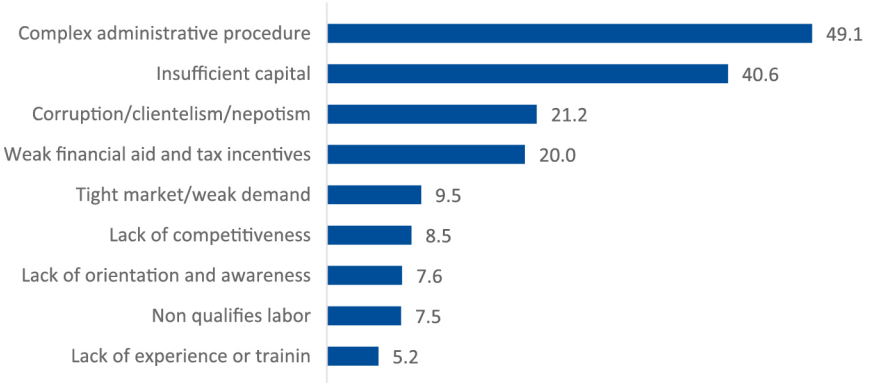
Table 22 : the current migrants having achieved a project in Tunisia by activity sector

Have you achieved a project in Tunisia?	Percentage (%)
Agriculture	14,8
Real estate	29,8
Non-agricultural land	7,4
Industry	3,8
Construction	44,6
Commerce	6,7
Cafe-restaurant	4,0
Other services	6,7

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Current migrants have encountered several difficulties and obstacles when making their investments. The most challenging of all, recorded in decreasing order of importance: complex administrative procedures (49.1%), lack of capital (40.6%), corruption and support (21.2%) and weak financial aid and tax incentives in Tunisia (20%).

Figure 19 : The current migrants in Tunisia by difficulties faced at the time of creation of the project in Tunisia



Chapter 3 The returning migrants

Within the framework of this survey, a returning migrant is any member of the surveyed household, of Tunisian nationality, who has lived abroad for three months or more, has returned to Tunisia at the age of 15 or more and has been residing there for at least six months.

Based on this definition, the estimated number of returning migrants would be nearly 211,000. In the following analysis, two periods are, before and after 2000. This distinction allows for a better examination of possible changes in certain migration trends.

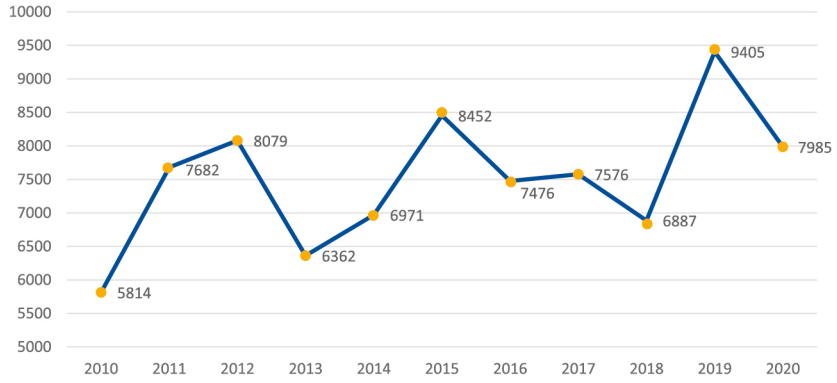
In the following, the reports assess the evolution of the stock and flow of returning migrants, the spatial distribution, their profile, the conditions of emigration, the conditions of return, their economic situation before and after departure, and, finally, the investments made in Tunisia.

3.1. Stock and flow of returning migrants and spatial distribution

• Stock and flow of returning migrants

About 44.7% of returning migrants returned before 2000 and 55.3% during the last two decades. Over the last ten years, the number of returning migrants has reportedly been trending upward.

Figure 20 : Number of returning migrants by returning year, between 2010 and 2020



• Spatial distribution of returning migrants in Tunisia

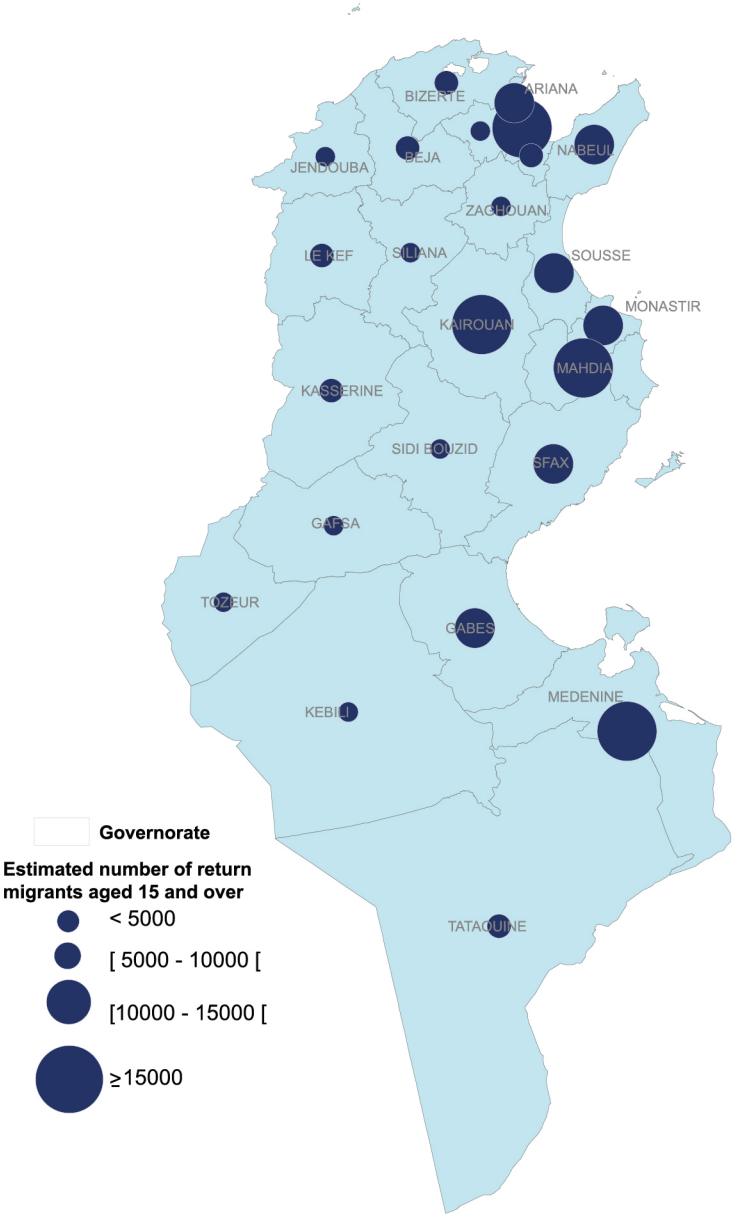
The regions of Grand Tunis, Centre-East and Southeast are the regions with the greatest concentration of returning migrants. They host nearly 62.9% of the returning migrants. The Centre-West region hosts 16.4% of the returning migrants, mainly returning migrants from Libya (68.7%). The Northwest and Southwest regions received only 8.2% and 3.1% of returning migrants, respectively.

Table 23: The returning migrants by area of residence (%)

Area	Number	Percentage (%)
Greater Tunis	39769	18,9
North-East	19801	9,4
North-West	17198	8,2
Centre-East	54799	26,0
Centre-West	34792	16,4
South-East	37993	18,0
South-West	6568	3,1
Total	210920	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Figure 21 : The returning migrants aged 15 and over by governorate of residence



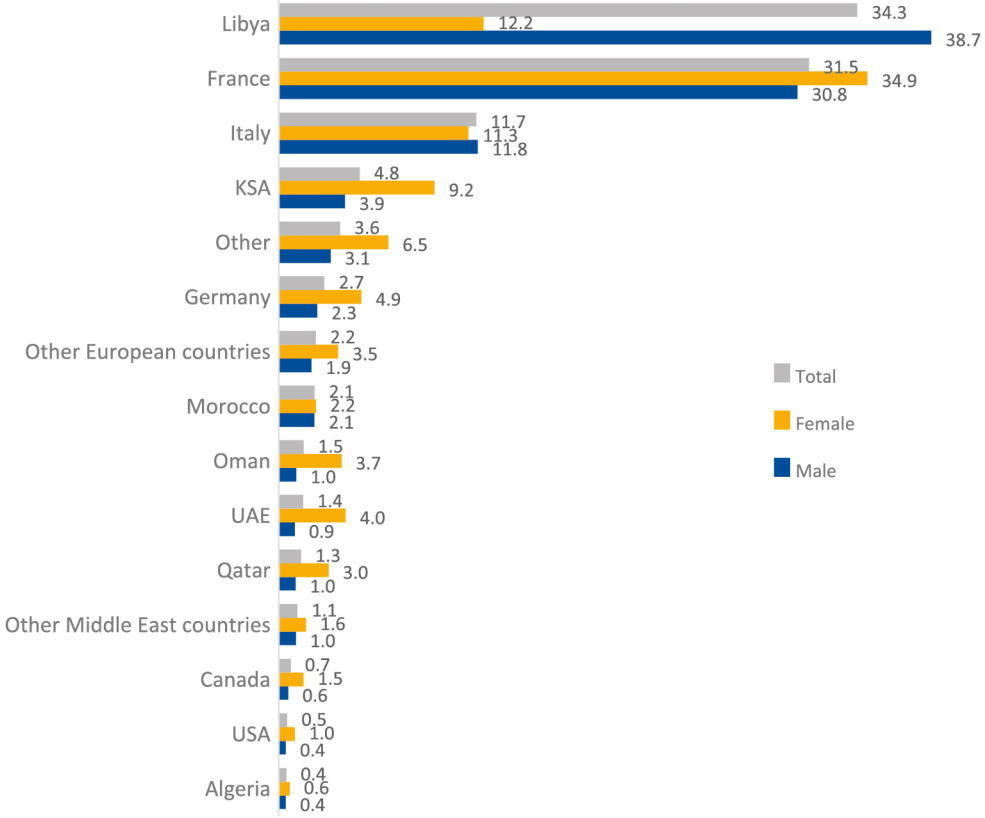
· Distribution of returning migrants by host country

• *The returning migrants by host country and gender*

According to the results of the survey, the traditional destinations of Tunisian current migrants are also the main countries recording returning Tunisian migrants. Thus, 34.3% returned from Libya (12.2% among women and 38.7% among men), 31.5% from France (34.9% among women and 30.8% among men) and 11.7% from Italy (11.3% among women and 11.8% among men). The survey also records lower rates of Tunisian returning migrants from host countries with structured migration conventions, namely Saudi Arabia (4.8%), Germany (2.7%), Morocco (2.1%), Oman (1.5%), the Emirates (1.4%), and Qatar (1.3%). On the other hand, the new emigration countries are also providers of returning migrants with 1.2%. This is particularly true of North America: Canada (0.7%) and the USA (0.5%).

Men dominated return migration from Libya, which characterised gender variation. The highest proportion of return cases among men concerns Libya (38.7%), much higher than that of women (12.2%).

Figure 22: The returning migrants by host country and by gender (%)



- *The returning migrants by host country and period of return*

Looking at the period of return, there is a significant decrease in the percent of return cases from Libya, down 12 points between the period before 2000 and the period after 2000, from 40.9% to 29.0% . In contrast, the percentage of return cases from France remained stable and the percentage of return cases from Italy increased by 9.6% from 6.4% to 16.0%. The share of return cases from the Gulf States and North America also increased, from 8.2% to 11.7% and from 0.7% to 1.7% for the two regions respectively.

Table 24: The returning migrants by host country and period of return (%)

Host country	Period of return		Evolution (points)
	Before 2000	Since 2000	
Libya	40,9	29,0	-11,9
France	32,3	30,7	-1,6
Italy	6,4	16,0	9,6
KSA	4,6	4,9	0,3
Germany	3,8	1,9	-1,9
Morocco	2,6	1,8	-0,8
Other European countries	2,4	2,0	-0,4
Other	2,3	4,7	2,4
Other Middle Eastern countries	1,8	0,5	-1,3
Oman	1,4	1,6	0,2
Algeria	0,4	0,5	0,1
USA	0,4	0,6	0,2
Canada	0,3	1,1	0,8
UAE	0,2	2,4	2,2
Qatar	0,2	2,3	2,1
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	-

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

3.2. Profile of the returning migrants upon departure and upon return

• Structure by gender and age

The findings of the survey confirm the predominance of male international migration in Tunisia. The higher emigration of men on the one hand, and the fact that women tend to stay in the host countries with their children explains, indeed, this predominance of male returns 83.5% against 16.5% for females. Although the proportion of female returning migrants remains lower than that of men, it increased after 2000, to 18.2% of women compared to 14.5% before 2000.

Table 25 : The returning migrants by gender and period of return

Gender	Period of departure					
	Total period		Before 2000		Since 2000	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Male	176093	83,5	80711	85,5	95382	81,8
Female	34827	16,5	13645	14,5	21182	18,2
Total	**210920**	**100,0**	**94356**	**100,0**	**116564**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Over the entire period, the age distribution shows that the highest number of return cases recorded among migrants aged between 15 and 29, with 33.1%, followed by the 30 to 39 age group, with 31.5%. From the age of 40 onwards, return cases show a downward trend with an upward trend as of the age of 60; i.e., the retirement age.

Table 26 : The returning migrants by age at the time of return and gender

Age at the time of return	Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
[15-29]	32,3	37,9	33,1
[30-39]	31,7	30,3	31,5
[40-49]	15,7	12,0	15,1
[50-59]	8,6	11,5	9,1
60 and over	11,7	8,3	11,2
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**
Mean age (in years)	**38,1**	**36,2**	**37,7**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

• Marital status

Regardless of intermediate changes, migration seems to affect the marital status of male migrants more. Thus, while 32% of men were married at the time of departure, 62.6% were married at the time of return. As for women, 69.2% were married at the time of departure and this rate increased only slightly to 73.9% at the time of return.

Table 27 : The returning migrants by gender and marital status at the time of departure and the time of the return (%)

Marital status	At the time of departure			At the time of return		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Single	67,7	27,8	61,0	36,0	21,1	33,6
Married	32,0	69,2	38,2	62,6	73,9	64,4
Other	0,3	3,0	0,8	1,4	5,0	2,0
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

• Educational characteristics

- *Literacy*

The change in the educational profile of returning migrants over time and through migration experience is significant. Thus, 19.1% of the returning migrants before 2000 were illiterate, while after 2000 this rate was only 9.2%. This could be explained both by the change in the educational profile of migrants over time and by the impact of migration on the individual education of migrants.

Table 28: The returning migrants by literacy rate, gender and period of return (%)

Literacy	Period of return								
	Total period			Before 2000			Since 2000		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Alphabète	86,3	86,6	86,4	80,2	84,8	80,9	91,5	87,7	90,8
Analphabète	13,7	13,4	13,6	19,8	15,2	19,1	8,5	12,3	9,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

- *Level of education*

The educational level of the returning migrants has improved over time; the share of the uneducated returning migrants has decreased from 23.5% before 2000 to 12.0% after 2000. While the share of those with a higher level of education increased from 13.2% to 18.4%. This improvement is even more visible among women than among men. In fact, the percentage of returning females with a higher education level has increased from 16.8% to 32.7%.

Table 29: The returning migrants by level of education, gender and period of return (%)

Level of education	Period of return								
	Total period			Before 2000			Since 2000		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
None	17,3	16,3	17,1	24,4	18,5	23,5	11,3	15,0	12,0
Primary	39,3	23,7	36,8	40,0	30,9	38,7	38,7	19,1	35,1
Secondary	24,6	29,4	25,4	18,7	30,7	20,4	29,6	28,5	29,4
Higher	14,0	26,5	16,0	12,6	16,8	13,2	15,2	32,7	18,4
Vocational	4,8	4,1	4,7	4,4	3,1	4,2	5,2	4,7	5,1
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

3.3. The conditions of departure from Tunisia

- Main reasons for departure

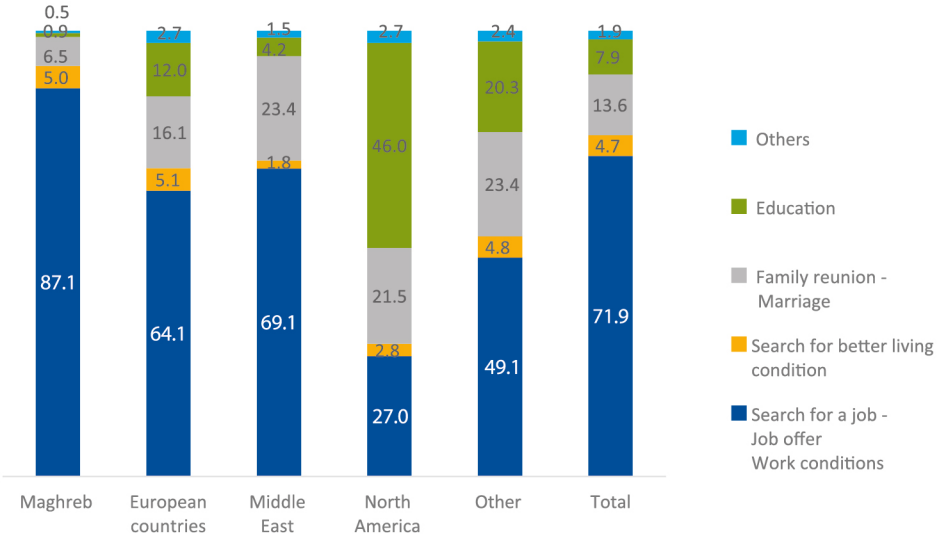
The search for employment is the main reason for the departure of returning migrants (71.9%). This is a predominantly male motivation (83.6%) throughout the period, with no significant variation over time. However, this reason for return shows a clear increase among women, from 7.2% for the group of returning migrants before 2000 to 16.1% for those returning after 2000. Family reunion is the second most important reason for returning, especially for women, but it has decreased over time, from 81% to 68% between those who returned before and after 2000. Finally, continuing one's education (7.9%) is as the third most important reason for departures by returning migrants. It is interesting to note that this reason for return concerns 46.0% of the returning migrants from North America; a rate that is much higher than that of the other destinations.

Table 30 : The returning migrants by main reason for departure, gender and period of return (%)

Main reason for departure	Period of return								
	Total period			Before 2000			Since 2000		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Search for a job - Obtaining a job - better conditions of work	83,6	12,6	71,9	83,5	7,2	72,4	83,9	16,1	71,6
Living conditions	5,3	1,6	4,7	4,7	1,8	4,3	5,8	1,5	5
Family reunion - Marriage	1,9	73,1	13,6	0,9	81,0	12,5	2,6	68,0	14,5
Education	7,6	9,2	7,9	9,2	6,3	8,8	6,2	11,1	7,1
Others	1,6	3,5	1,9	1,7	3,7	2	1,5	3,3	1,8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Figure 23: The returning migrants by main reason for departure and by region of destination country (%)



• Duration of migration

The average length of stay abroad of returning migrants estimated at eleven and a half years, with a strong variability depending on the host country. Thus, Tunisian returning migrants stay on average more than 10 years in Europe, and they stay in particular the longest in France (18 years and a half). This explained the relatively long-standing nature of emigration to these countries. In addition, the average length of stay in new destinations such as the Gulf States is shorter for different reasons (nature of the contracts, education, and other factors). Finally, the average length of stay for returning migrants from Libya and Algeria is among the lowest (nearly 7 years and 6 years respectively).

Table 31: Average migration duration by host country

Country	Average migration duration (in years)
France	18,5
Germany	12,1
Morocco	12,0
Italy	10,9
Other European countries	10,0
Qatar	9,6
USA	9,3
KSA	8,2
Oman	8,0
UAE	7,4
Canada	7,4
Middle Eastern countries	7,3
Other	7,2
Libya	7,1
Algeria	6,0
Total	**11,5**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

3.4. The conditions for returning to Tunisia

• Main reasons for returning

The majority of return movements to Tunisia are voluntary or unconstrained (51.6%), corresponding to return for family reasons (marriage, separation, family reunion, children's education, etc.) and retirement age. However, some returning cases are forced (47.6%) for reasons of vulnerability and conditions related to the residence status, the economic situation in the host country, contractual obligations (end of contract) or following expulsion.

Voluntary return

Family reasons are the first reason for return with 31.2%. They concern more women (47.1%) than men (28.1%). The percentage of return cases for family reasons has decreased over time: 36.4% before 2000 against 27% afterwards.

Retirement is the reason mentioned by 9.9% of the returning migrants. It concerns more men (11.3%) than women (2.5%). By period of return, the number of retirees returning to Tunisia has increased significantly over time. In fact, it went from 3.9% before 2000 to 14.8% after. By region of origin, the highest proportion of retirees returned from Europe (19.3%). In contrast, the lowest percentage of retirees returned from Middle Eastern countries (1.7%).

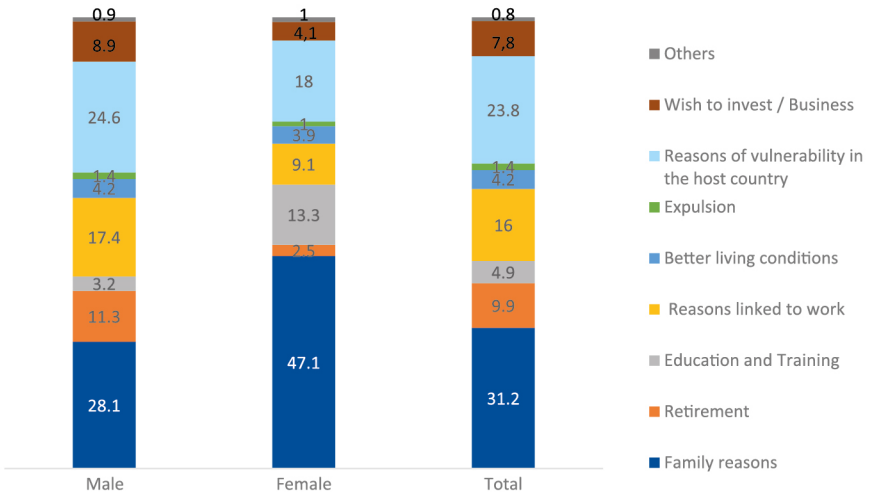
Another part of voluntary return cases is linked to education or training (4.9%), to better living conditions in Tunisia (4.2%) or to the desire to invest and do business there (1.3%).

Constrained return

Return due to expulsion, repression or documentation problems concerns 7.8% of returning migrants (8.9% among men and 4.1% among women). This rate is higher for return cases from European countries (10.1%). The vulnerable situations sometimes experienced by migrants in the host country (illegal situation, feeling of non-integration, insecurity, health problems ...) were the main reason for 23.8% of return cases (24.7% among men compared to 19.5% among women). Noting thatthat this reason is the highest among return cases from Libya (24.4%).

While most migration abroad motivated by work, part of the return migration flows to Tunisia are also related to working conditions. Indeed, unemployment, poor working conditions, and the end of the work contract were behind the return of 16% of migrants. This reason concerns more men (17.4%) than women (9.1%), Middle Eastern countries (35%), and young people under the age of thirty-five (65.6%).

Figure 24 : The returning migrants by gender and main reason for return (%)



- Period of return

38.1% of returning migrants who are still alive have returned before 1995, 16% between 2000 and 2009, and 39.3% between 2010 and 2020.

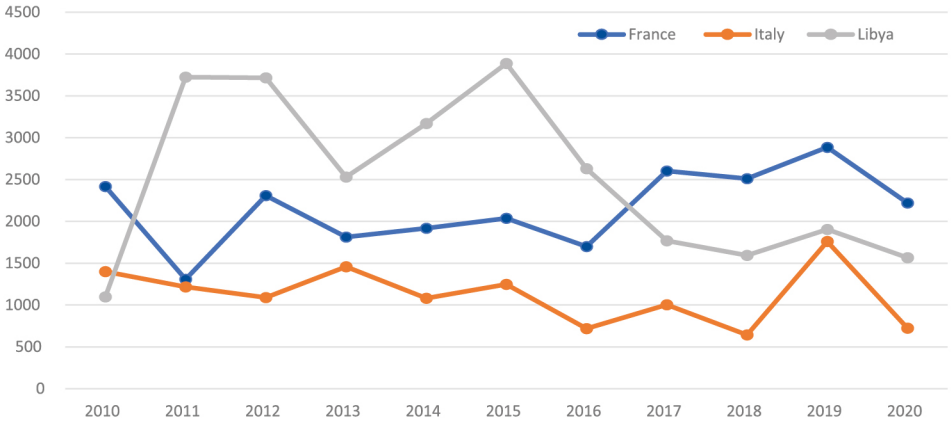
Table 32 : The returning migrants by gender and period of return

Period of return	Gender (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
Before 1995	39,1	33,3	38,1
[1995-1999]	6,7	5,9	6,6
[2000-2004]	6,6	6,8	6,6
[2005-2009]	9,0	11,3	9,4
[2010-2014]	17,0	14,1	16,6
[2015-2020]	21,6	28,6	22,7
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

The figure below illustrates, over the last ten years, the dynamics of return flows from main countries of return of Tunisian migrants (Libya, France, and Italy).

Figure 25: The estimated number of migrants returning from Libya, France and Italy, by year of return between 2010 and 2020



• Taking the decision to return

The decision to return is taken individually rather than by family, particularly for men (87.7%). However, this situation is more prominent for women, 44.2% of whom state that the decision made by their spouse (compared to 45.1% who said they took the decision by themselves).

Table 33: The returning migrants by gender and person who took the decision to return (%)

The person who took the decision to return	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Own decision	87,7	45,1	81,8
The spouse	1,5	44,2	7,4
The children	0,3	0,5	0,3
The parents	1,7	7,8	2,5
The employer of the last host country	0,0	0,2	0,1
The employer in Tunisia	1,2	0,3	1,0
Authority in the host country	2,4	0,8	2,2
Other	5,0	1,0	4,5
Undeclared	0,2	0,1	0,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

• Return of the spouse

For those who were married at the time of the survey, more than 58% declared that their spouse was already in Tunisia at the time of their return and nearly 20% declared that he/she returned at the same time as them.

Table 34 : The returning migrants by return of the spouse

Return of the spouse	Percentage (%)
She/he was in Tunisia	58,1
Yes	19,9
No	2,6
Not married at the time of return	19,4
Total	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

• Difficulties faced in Tunisia and intention to re-emigrate

Nearly three quarters of the returning migrants declared that they had not encountered any problems upon their return. For the others, more than 57.0% of them faced employment problems and 44.7% had income-related difficulties. Social problems (integration, family problems, etc.) seem to affect women more than men, with 46.7% of them reporting integration difficulties.

Table 35 : The returning migrants who faced difficulties by nature of difficulty and gender (%)

Nature of difficulties faced since the return	Gender (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
No employment	60,9	24,3	57,2
Unsatisfactory salary	47,8	17,5	44,7
Family problems	10,5	26,7	12,1
Integration difficulty	15,8	46,7	18,9
Administrative difficulties	15,8	21,2	16,4
Others	5,2	4,4	5,1

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Over the entire period, more than 70% of returning migrants say they want to stay in Tunisia and do not want to re-emigrate. This proportion percentage is only 56.1% for the post-2000 period, for which nearly one returning migrant out of five declares wanting to re-emigrate to the last host country, whereas only 3.5% of returning migrants before 2000 wish to do so. This finding is of course due to the different age structure of returning migrants of the two periods at the time of the survey, but it also highlights the increasing difficulties of reintegration of returning migrants over the last 20 years.

Table 36 : The returning migrants by intention to re-emigrate, gender and period of return (%)

Intention to re-emigrate	Period of return								
	Total period			Before 2000			After 2000		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
I want to stay in Tunisia	71,5	63,4	**70,2**	89,0	79,1	**87,5**	56,8	53,3	**56,1**
I want to leave to the last emigration country	12,1	14,5	**12,5**	3,3	4,6	**3,5**	19,6	20,8	**19,8**
I want to leave to another country	4,8	7,1	**5,2**	1,9	5,2	**2,4**	7,3	8,4	**7,5**
I haven't decided yet	11,3	14,9	**11,9**	5,8	11,1	**6,5**	16,1	17,3	**16,3**
Refusal	0,3	0,1	**0,1**	0,1	0,0	**0,1**	0,2	0,2	**0,3**
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

On the other hand, migrants who do not intend to emigrate again would explain this by their desire to live with their family (67.2%), or to enjoy their retirement (17.7%).

Table 37 : The returning migrants not having the intention to re-emigrate, by reason for staying in Tunisia and gender (%)

Reason for staying in Tunisia	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Wants to live with the family	66,9	68,8	67,2
Retirement	19,7	6,2	17,7
Feels happy in Tunisia	7,4	16,2	8,7
Create one's own business	2,0	1,4	1,9
Security and safety	1,2	2,2	1,4
Other	1,3	1,3	1,3
Easier access to education for kids	0,7	2,5	0,9
Better remuneration	0,7	0,9	0,7
Easier access to the labour market	0,1	0,5	0,2
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

3.5. Activity and employment of returning migrants

• Activity and employment before departure from Tunisia

The number of returning migrants who were aged 15 and over before, emigrating was 203,586. Before departure, 16.6% were inactive, 69.2% were employed and 14.3% were unemployed. Unemployment at departure affected proportionally more women (17.9%) and young people aged 15 to 24 (19.6%). Among the employed returning migrants before departure, 85.7% declared been employed before emigration, 9.5% were self-employed and 4.8% had another status.

Table 38: The returning migrants by gender and type of activity before departure

Type of activity Before departure	Proportion (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
Employed	77,0	27,7	69,2
Unemployed	13,6	17,9	14,3
Inactive[5]	9,4	54,4	16,5
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

[5] Is considered as inactive, under this survey, any person who does not work and is not searching for a job.

Table 39 : The returning migrants by age group and type of activity before departure

Type of activity Before departure	Age group of the returning migrant at the time of departure				
	[15-24]	[25-34]	[35-44]	45 and over	Total
Employed	55,5	79,5	87,8	70,2	69,2
Unemployed	19,6	10,6	7,5	9,3	14,3
Inactive	24,9	9,9	4,7	20,5	16,5
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

- ## Activity and employment in the host country (abroad)

Around 79.7% of the returning migrants declared been employed in the host country. This proportion rises to 90.4% for men and is only 25.7% for women.

Table 40: The returning migrants by gender and type of activity in the host country

Have you had any job during your stay in the host country ?	Estimated number			Proportion (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Yes	15,9120	8,937	168,057	90,4	25,7	79,7
No	16,973	25,890	42,863	9,6	74,3	20,3
Total	176,093	34,827	210,920	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Employment varies according to the host country. It is relatively higher in the Maghreb countries (91.7%) than in European countries (73.3%), Middle Eastern countries (74.1%) or North American countries (63.1%). Regarding the status in the profession, 95.9% of the employees were salaried. In the most recent host country, the sectors that employed most former migrants were construction (40.7%), agriculture and fisheries (12.7%), catering (10.0%), manufacturing (8.5%) and commerce (6.6%).

Figure 26 : The Returning migrants who had an occupation by the economic sector in the last host country



Activity and employment at the time of the survey in Tunisia

Labour force participation and employment status

After their return and with respect to their current employment status in Tunisia, the activity rate is relatively lower on average than before their departure and migration episode, in particular because of a higher proportion of retired persons and inactive women.

Table 41 : The returning migrants by gender and by type of activity at the time of the survey

Type of activity At the time of the survey	Proportion (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
Employed	46,1	18,9	41,6
Unemployed	8,9	6,7	8,5
Inactive	45,0	74,4	49,9
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source : INS, Enquête Nationale sur la migration internationale 2020/2021

According to the age, the proportion of employed is higher among adults aged 35-44 (71.7%) and 45-54 (74.1%) than among other age groups. However, a relatively large proportion of returning migrants aged 65 and over (11.4%) continue to have activity.

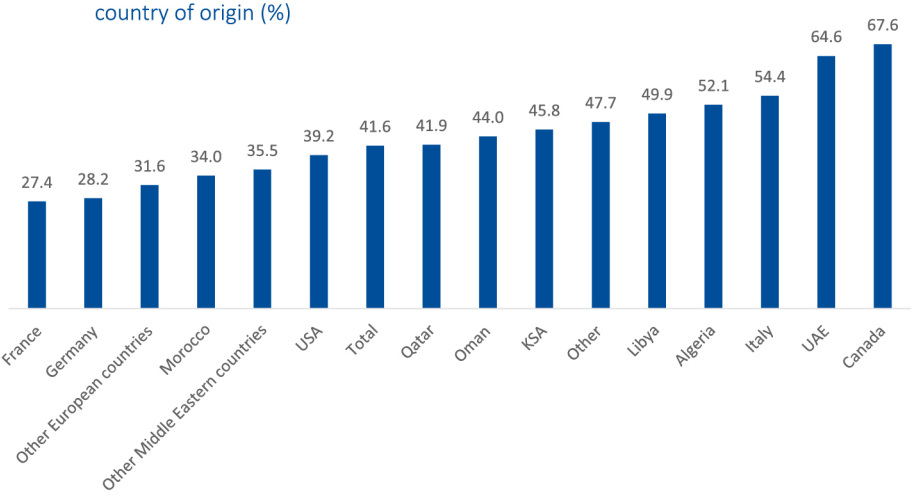
Table 42 : The returning migrants by age group and type of activity at the time of the survey (%)

Type of activity At the time of the survey	Age group at the time of the survey						
	[15-24]	[25-34]	[35-44]	[45-54]	[55 - 64]	65 and over	Total
Employed	30,8	57,2	71,7	74,1	45,6	11,4	41,6
Unemployed	11,1	26,4	13,1	11,3	7,4	2,8	8,5
Inactive	58,1	16,4	15,2	14,6	47,0	85,8	49,9
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

According to the country from which they returned, employed returning migrants at the time of the survey are more numerous among those returning from Canada (67.6%), the UAE (64.6%), or Italy (54.4%). The other European countries have lower proportions, notably returning migrants from France (27.4%) and Germany (28.2%).

Figure 27 : Proportions of employed returning migrants in Tunisia at the time of the survey by country of origin (%)



Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Among the returning migrants who declared themselves inactive, the main reasons for inactivity were retirement (72.9% of inactive men) or domestic work (63.3% of inactive women). 17.7% of the returning migrants declaring themselves inactive would do so because of illness or disability.

Table 43 : The inactive returning migrants by the reason of inactivity at the time of the survey and gender (%)

Reason	Male	Female	Total
Education/ training	0,6	3,5	1,3
House chores	1,1	63,3	16,4
Sick/Disabled	21,1	7,5	17,7
Retired	72,9	17,3	59,2
Other	4,3	8,4	5,4
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

- *Status in the profession at the time of the survey*

Regarding the employment status of the employed among the returning migrants, 61.8% are wage earners, 24.4% are non-wage self-employed, and 12.9% are employers. The self-employed are the most numerous among returning migrants from European countries of immigration (44.1%) and from Middle Eastern countries (35.2%).

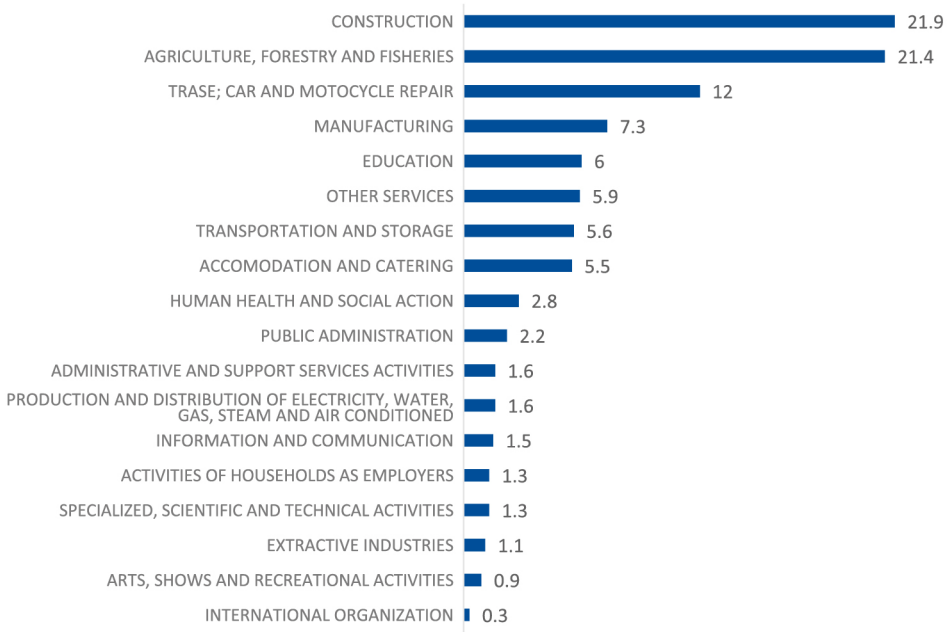
Table 44: The employed returning migrants by status in the profession at the time of the survey and region of origin (%)

Status in the current profession	Arab Maghreb	European countries	Middle-East	Other countries	Total
Self-employed	33,2	44,1	35,2	24,2	37,2
Wage-earners	65,9	54,8	63,5	75,8	61,8
Other	0,9	1,1	1,3	0,0	1,0
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

According to the economic sector, more than half of the employed work in the construction (21.9%), agriculture (21.4%) and commerce (12.0%) sectors, consistent with the main sectors of activity before the return.

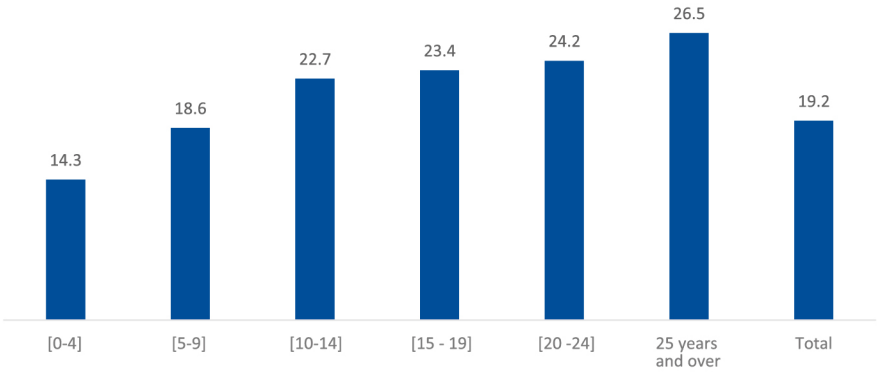
Figure 28 : The employed returning migrants by the economic sector at the time of the survey (%)



3.6. Investments

Nearly one out of five returning migrants declared having made investments in Tunisia. The longer the duration of the migration is the higher in terms of those who made such investments.

Figure 29: Proportion of returning migrants who have invested in Tunisia by length of migration stay abroad (%)



This percentage varies moderately with the last country of residence of the returning migrant. Thus, returning migrants from the Maghreb countries have the lowest level of investment (15%) compared to other regions such as the Middle East (22.7%) or North America (27.3%). It be noted that investment in construction has undergone a significant increase since 2000, moving from 19.6% of investments made before 2000 to 37.9% after 2000.

Table 45 : The returning migrants having achieved a project in Tunisia by the economic sector and period of return

Economic sector	Period of return (%)		
	Total period	Before 2000	Since 2000
Agriculture	30,6	30,1	31,1
Real estate	9,1	8,9	9,3
Non-agricultural land	3,1	0,7	5,3
Industry	6,5	9,2	4,0
Construction	29,1	19,6	37,9
Commerce	22,7	24,5	21,1
Café-restaurant	7,7	6,2	9,1

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

For returning migrants who have carried out projects, the major difficulties encountered in Tunisia concern the lack of capital (58.2%), complex administrative procedures (53.1%), low tax incentives (25.5%), corruption (11.8%), and tight market (11.8%).

Figure 30 : The returning migrants having achieved projects in Tunisia by difficulties faced at the time of the creation of the project (%)



Chapter 4 Foreign residents in Tunisia

Within the framework of this survey, an immigrant or a foreign resident in Tunisia is any person who has been residing in Tunisia for six months or more, or intends to stay for more than six months, regardless of his or her residence status, whether regular or irregular.

According to this definition, the size of the foreign population in Tunisia estimated to be around 58,990 at the time of the survey.

In what follows, we firstly outline the demographic characteristics and the distribution by the region of residence

Secondly, we present some results concerning foreign residents in Tunisia aged 15 and over in terms of spatial distribution, country of origin, profiles, reasons for entry and intention to stay in Tunisia.

4.1. Total foreign population residing in Tunisia: number and characteristics

• Trend in the number of foreign residents in Tunisia

Out of a total population of 11,708,370 inhabitants estimated in January 2020, the number of foreigners residing in Tunisia (58,990 individuals) represents 0.5% of the total Tunisian population. Compared to the 2014 census, the number of foreigners in Tunisia has recorded an absolute increase of about 6,000 foreigners, an overall growth rate of 11.4% since 2014 against 6.2% for the total resident population.

• Spatial distribution of foreigners in Tunisia

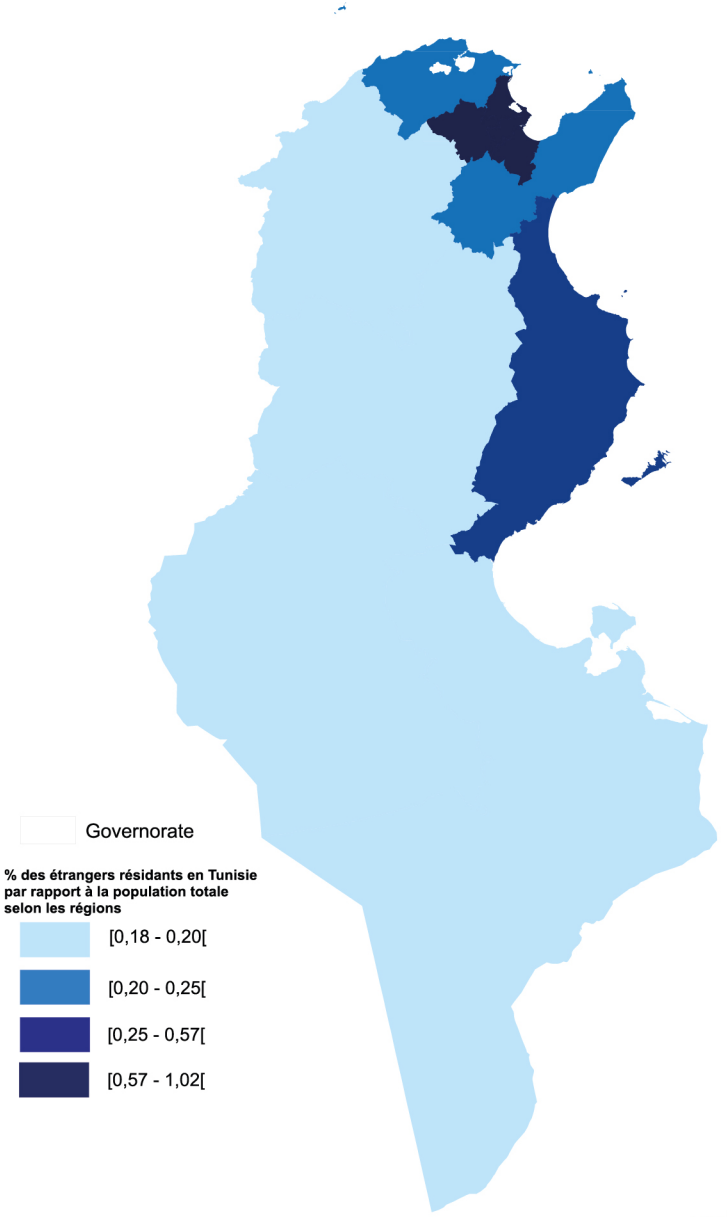
Strong geographical concentration characterised the foreign population in Tunisia. It is located, for the most part, in two Tunisian regions: Grand Tunis (50.2%) and the Centre-East (27.7%). The regions of the South and Northeast record lower proportions, 7.3% and 5.5% respectively. The Western regions of the country (the North-West and the Centre-West), bordering Algeria, are not attractive to foreigners. These regions have the lowest proportions as immigrants residing in these two regions account for 9.4% of the resident foreign population and 56.8% are of Algerian nationality.

Table 46: Distribution of foreign population in Tunisia by regions of residence

Region	Estimated number	Percentage (%)
Grand Tunis	29641	50,2
Center -East	16337	27,7
North-West & Centre-West	5517	9,4
North-East	4279	7,3
South	3216	5,5
Total	**58990**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Figure 31 : Percentage of foreign residents in Tunisia out of the total population



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• Foreign residents in Tunisia by nationality

Nearly three quarters of foreigners come from African countries, half of them from the Maghreb countries (the other half from other African countries, mainly sub-Saharan), 18.5% from European countries, 6.5% from the Middle East and finally 1.6% from other countries of the world.

Table 47: Distribution of foreign residents in Tunisia by region of origin

Region	Number	Percentage
Maghreb [6]	21818	37,0
Other African countries [7]	21466	36,4
The Middle-East [8]	3861	6,5
European countries	10927	18,5
Other countries	918	1,6
Total	**58990**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

At the time of the survey, the number of nationals of some countries has decreased compared to their number recorded during the RGPH 2014 , including that relating to the European community, which fell from 15,000 to nearly 11,000 individuals. This could be explained by the critical pandemic situation that Tunisia was facing at the time of the survey (July 2020 - March 2021). The pandemic would have pushed some immigrants to leave the country, especially Europeans whose residence status facilitates mobility.

The number of African nationals, excluding Maghreb countries, has risen sharply since 2014; it has increased from 7,200 to 21,466 individuals. Ivoirians, who represent one third of the total, are the most numerous nationality followed by nationals of the D.R. Congo, Guinea and Mali, who each account for about one tenth of all African non Maghreb citizens.

6 The Maghreb countries are Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia

7 The other countries of Africa are the countries of the African continent, other than the Maghreb countries and Egypt.

8 The Middle East including Egypt.

9 General Survey of Population and Habitation (Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat – RGPH) 2014, main indicators, http://www.ins.tn/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/RGPH%202014-V0.pdf

• Structure of foreign residents in Tunisia by gender and by age

At the time of the survey, foreign residents in Tunisia were 29,481 men and 29,509 women. The overall gender ratio is almost balanced. This ratio reaches its maximum variance among nationals of African non-Maghreb countries, with 1,920 men for 1,000 women, and its minimum variance among the Maghreb community with 619 men for 1,000 women.

The average age of migrants is 36.2 years. The population of African non-Maghreb countries is the youngest immigrant population (26.6 years on average). European nationals are the oldest migrants, with an average age of 49.9 years.

Table 48: Structure of foreign residents in Tunisia by gender, masculinity ratio and average age, and by region of the citizenship country

Region of origin	Male	Female	Total	Masculinity ratio (per thousand)	Average age
Maghreb	8343	13475	21818	619	37, 8
Other African countries	14115	7351	21466	1920	26,6
Middle-East	1987	1874	3861	1060	42,3
European countries	4610	6317	10927	730	49,9
Other countries	426	492	918	866	34,5
Total	**29481**	**29509**	**58990**	**999**	**36,2**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

An examination of the age structure of the immigrant population reveals that 9.6% are under 15 years of age, 77.1% are between 15 and 59 and 13.3% are over 60. The age distribution shows a high proportion of relatively young adults of working age. Indeed, half of the resident foreign population is between 15 and 39 years old.

Table 49: Distribution of foreigners residing in Tunisia by age group

Age group	Number	Percentage (%)
0 - 14 yeas	5684	9,6
15 - 24 years	10512	17,8
25 - 39 years	19602	33,3
40 - 49 years	9764	16,6
50 - 59 years	5563	9,4
60 and +	7865	13,3
Total	**58990**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

4.2. Foreign residents in Tunisia aged 15 and older

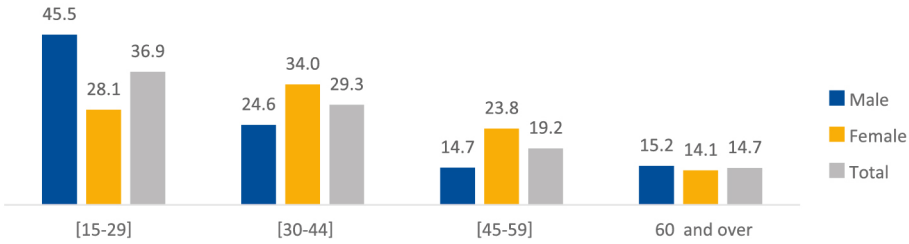
4.2.1. Profile of foreigners aged 15 and older

- Structure by age group

The foreign population aged 15 years and over, residing in Tunisia divided into 26,946 men and 26,360 women, i.e. 50.5% and 49.5% respectively.

The distribution by age shows that 36.9% are young people aged 15 to 29 years; the share of men exceeds that of women in this age group, with 45.5% and 28.1% respectively. On the other hand, the proportion of women is relatively higher than that of men in the 30 - 59 age group. The population aged 60 and over represents a minority (14.7%) with a more or less balanced gender distribution; 15.2% for men and 14.1% for women.

Figure 32 : Structure by age and gender of the resident foreign population aged 15 and over (%)



- Marital status

The percentage of single people among the resident foreign population aging 15 and over is almost 40%. Depending on gender, this status concerns a little more than half of the men and a little more than a quarter of the women. Widows and divorcees represent only 6% of the immigrant population over 15 years of age.

Table 50: The foreign resident population in Tunisia aged 15 and over by marital status, and age group (%)

Marital status	Groupe d'âge					
	[15-29]	[30-44]	[45-59]	60 and over	Total	Percentage (%)
Single	78,0	17,0	1,6	3,4	100,0	**39,7**
Married	11,0	41,0	31,3	16,7	100,0	**54,3**
Widowed or divorced	-[10]	3,5	26,5	70,0	100,0	**6,0**
Total	36,9	29,3	19,2	14,6	100,0	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

10 Non-representative

Educational characteristics

Literacy rate

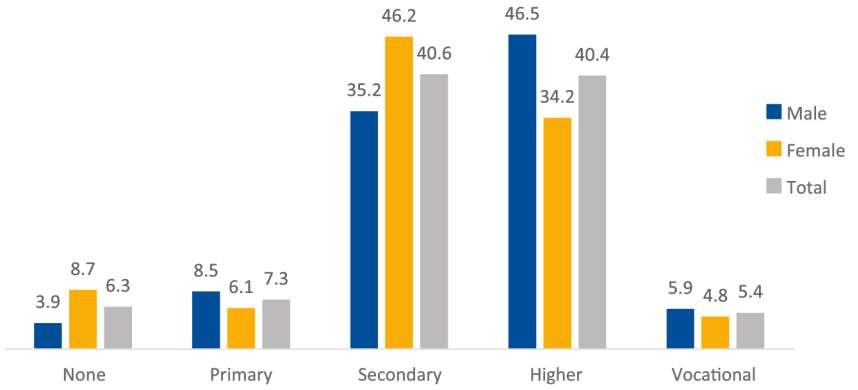
The percentage of foreign residents aged 15 and over who can read and write is 94.5%. By gender, 96.3% of men can read and write compared to 92.6% of women.

The lowest literacy rate is recorded among the population from African non-Maghreb countries with 91.2% (94.6% for men and 84.2% for women), followed by residents from Maghreb countries with 94.4% (96.3% for men and 93.2% for women) and Middle Eastern countries with 98.3% (99.5% for men and 97.0% for women). Finally, for residents from European countries, this rate reaches 100%.

Level of education

Four out of ten (40.4%) migrants over 15 years of age have attained higher-level education, more among men (46.5%) than among women (34.2%). An equal percentage of migrants (40.6%) have secondary education. For both genders, migrants with no education and those with primary education represent, respectively, 6.3% and 7.3%. Finally, 5.4% of resident foreigners have vocational training (5.9% for men and 4.8% for women).

Figure 33 : The foreign resident population aged 15 and over in Tunisia, by level of education and gender (%)



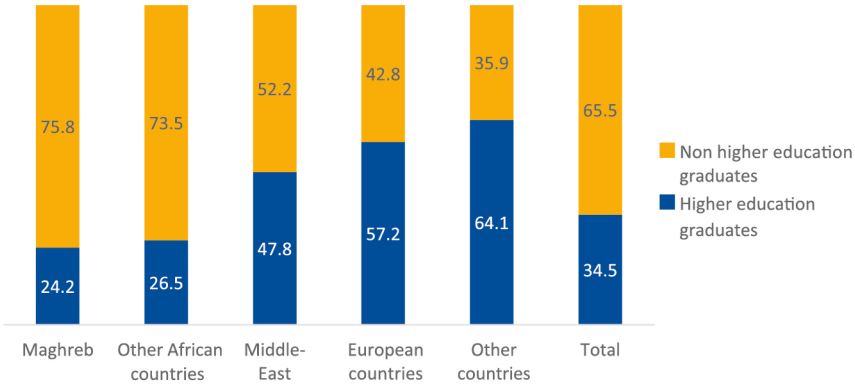
The data also show that the percent of people aged 15 and over with a higher level of education is lower among African nationals. Indeed, about one third (34.2%) have a higher level of education: 28.7% among Maghreb nationals and 39.2% among nationals of other African countries. In contrast, the percentage of nationals from the rest of the regions with this level is slightly more than half.

- *The higher education graduates*

For higher education graduates, the report refers to the population aged 25 and over. According to the survey results, one out of three migrants in this sub-population category has a higher education degree (34.5%). The percentage of higher education graduates among men is higher than among women (39.2% vs. 30.2%).

The lowest percentages recorded among the Maghreb community and the nationals of the rest of the African countries, i.e., 24.2% and 26.5% respectively. The percentages among European nationals and those from other countries of the world are much higher (57.2% and 64.1% respectively).

Figure 34 : The foreign resident population aged 15 and over in Tunisia, by region of origin and higher education graduates (%)



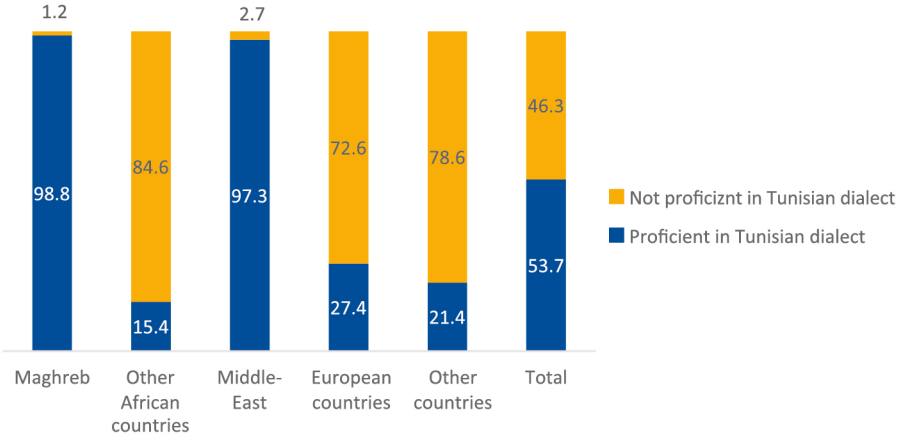
- *Language proficiency*[11]

Arabic, across its dialects, is the mother tongue of about 43.4% of the foreign population living in Tunisia (almost all nationals of Maghreb and Middle Eastern countries). The second language spoken is French (32.9%), spoken by 72.9% of nationals of African non-Maghreb countries and 26.9% of immigrants from Europe. Italian spoken by only 3.7% of foreign residents, mainly those of Italian nationality.

Nearly half do not master the Tunisian dialect (46.3%). This percentage is high among nationals of African non-Maghreb countries, European countries, and other countries of the world, 84.6%, 72.6%, and 78.6% respectively.

11 A person is as proficient in the dialect if he/she can understand and formulate simple ideas related to the daily life.

Figure 35 : The foreign resident population aged 15 and over in Tunisia by region of origin and proficiency or not of Tunisian dialect (%)



4.2.2. Activity and employment

- *Working age population*

The working age population estimated, at the time of the survey, at 53,306 individuals representing 90% of the total immigrant population.

At the time of the survey, 36% of the foreign population of working age, residing in Tunisia, were employed. The share of employed men (49.5%) is significantly higher than that of women (22.1%).

Table 51: Foreign resident population aged 15 and over by gender and by type of activity

Type of activity	Proportion (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
Employed	49,5	22,1	36,0
Unemployed	14,2	14,6	14,4
Inactive	36,3	63,3	49,6
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

- *Employed active population*

Of the employed active immigrant population, 30.1% are young people aged 15 to 29, 63.3% are adults aged 30 to 59, and 6.7% are people aged 60 and over.

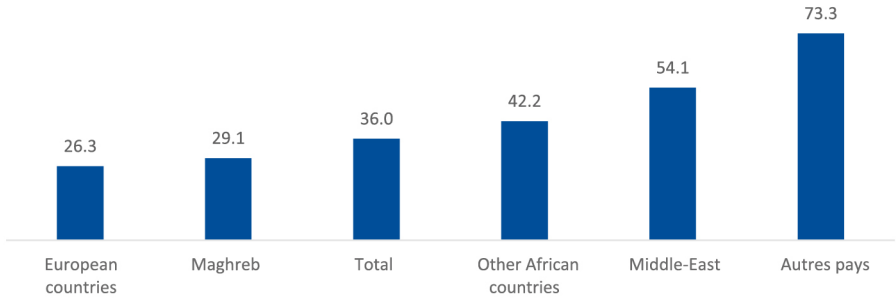
Table 52: Distribution of the employed population by age group and gender (%)

Age group	Gender (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
15-29	29,6	30,9	30,1
30-44	40,1	47,0	42,1
45-59	21,6	20,0	21,1
60 and over	8,7	2,1	6,7
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

The percentage of employed people among the active immigrant population is lowest among the Maghreb community and the European community, at 29.1% and 26.3% respectively. This is mainly due to a higher proportion of women among the Maghreb community in Tunisia (62.8%) and a relatively high proportion of people in the retirement age (60 years and over) among the European community (48.6%). The employment rate is higher among nationals of the Middle East (54.1%) and African non-Maghreb countries (42.2%), it even reaches 73.3% for immigrants from other countries of the world (China, Canada, USA ...).

Figure 36 : Percentages (%) of employed individuals among population aged 15 and over by region of citizenship



- *Job status*

At the time of the survey, nearly 80% of employed immigrants had a wage-earner status, 18.2% were self-employed and 6.5% were employers.

The proportion of wage earners is highest (98.3%) among nationals of African non-Maghreb countries and lowest (62.8%) among immigrants from Middle Eastern countries 52.7%

Table 53 : : Job status by region of citizenship (%)

Job status	Maghreb	Other African countries	Middle-East	European countries	Other countries	Total
Salarié	62,8	98,3	52,7	72,9	95,8	79,7
Indépendant	31,8	1,1	45,2	26,9	4,1	18,2
Autre	5,4	0,6	2,1	0,2	0,1	2,1
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

- *Activity sector*

The service sector remains the primary provider of jobs for foreign residents in Tunisia (61.1%), followed by the industrial sector (17.6%), the construction sector (14%) and the agricultural sector (7%). commerce and domestic services[12] are the predominant services, employing 16.8% and 11.6% respectively among all those employed.

Men work in trade (21.3% vs. 6.5%) and construction (18.1% vs. 4.6%) more than women do. While in domestic services, women are more than men (28.6% vs. 4.1).

Table 54: Main activity sector and gender (%)

Activity sector	Gender (%)		
	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	***6,4***	***8,4***	***7,0***
Construction	**18,1**	**4,6**	**14,0**
Industry	**15,8**	**21,9**	**17,6**
Services	***59,4***	***65,1***	***61,1***
Commerce	21,3	6,5	16,8
Domestic services	4,1	28,6	11,6
Other services	33,9	30,0	32,7
Undeclared	**0,3**	**0,1**	**0,3**
Total	**100,00**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Source : INS, Enquête Nationale sur la migration internationale 2020/2021

12 Domestic services are the activities practiced at home for the households: housekeeping, gardening...

By region of citizenship, the service sector employs half (50.9%) of employed Maghreb migrants, 60% of migrants from other African countries and 74.3% of migrants from other countries To be noted here that more than 80% of immigrants employed in domestic services come from African non-Maghreb countries.

Jobs in industry are proportionally present among the employed immigrant population of Maghreb origin (29%); while construction jobs occupy nearly one out of five employees among immigrant workers from other African countries. These workers account for two-thirds of immigrant jobs in the construction industry.

The agricultural sector employs 8% of migrants from the Maghreb and 10.5% of nationals from other African countries.

Table 55: Main activity sectors and region of citizenship

Activity sector	Region of citizenship (%)			
	Maghreb	Other African countries	Other countries	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	***8,0***	***10,5***	***0,2***	***7,0***
Construction	**11,9**	**20,5**	**5,6**	**14,0**
Industry	**29,0**	**9,0**	**19,4**	**17,6**
Services	***50,9***	***60,0***	***74,3***	***61,1***
Commerce	21,3	13,6	17,2	16,8
Domestic services	6,8	21,2	0,7	11,6
Other services	22,8	25,2	56,4	32,7
Undeclared	**0,2**	**0,1**	**0,5**	**0,3**
Total	**100,00**	**100,0**	**100,00**	**100,0**

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

4.2.3. Conditions of arrival

- *Period of arrival*

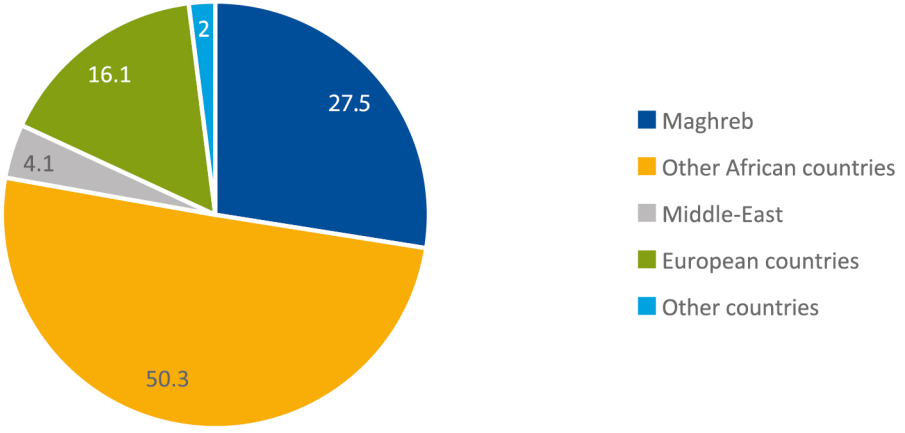
Nine out of ten foreign residents in Tunisia arrived during the last two decades and nearly seven out of ten arrived after 2015. The acceleration of entries in recent years is mainly due to immigration from African non-Maghreb countries, accounting for half of such migrants over the latest period.

Table 56 : Foreign residents aged 15 and over by period of entry in Tunisia (%)

Period of entry	Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
Before 2000	8,4	12,7	10,6
[2000–2005[	3,1	4,0	3,6
[2005–2010[	2,6	6,0	4,3
[2010–2015[	11,6	15,0	13,3
[2015–2020]	74,3	62,3	68,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

Figure 37 : Arrivals over the period of 2015 and the first quarter of 2021 by region of citizenship (%)

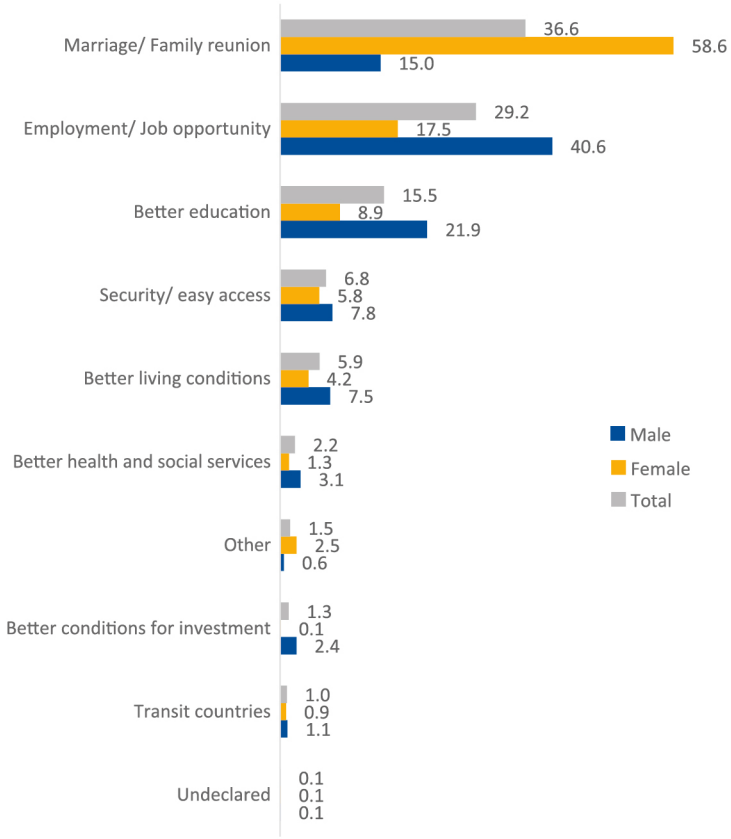


- *Main reasons for entring Tunisia*

Immigrants who entered Tunisia said they came mainly for three reasons: marriage or family reunion for 36.6% of cases, employment and improved working conditions for 29.2% of cases, and studies for 15.5% of cases. Other reasons for entry-included safety and ease of access (6.8%) search for better living conditions (5.9%) and transit to another country (1.0%).

Family reunion and marriage are the main reasons for immigration for slightly less than six out of ten female immigrants (58.6%), compared to 15% for men. Labour market reasons concern 40.6% of men and 17.5% of women. As for studies in Tunisia, this reason is more mentioned by men than women are, 21.9% against 8.9%.

Figure 38 : The reasons for immigration in Tunisia (%)



By region of citizenship, family reasons are the most frequently mentioned by nationals of Maghreb countries (69%), Middle Eastern countries (48.2%) and European countries (35.9%). Economic reasons are the main reasons for immigration from other African countries (50.1%) and other countries of the world outside our primary categorizations (69.9%).Immigrant from African non-Maghreb countries (32.3%) mainly cite studies in Tunisia. At another level, 27.3% of Middle Eastern nationals said they came to Tunisia for reasons of security and ease of access.

Finally, A large proportion of European residents (28.4%) mentions that the climate and better living conditions in Tunisia

Table 57 : Reason of entry by region of citizenship (%)

Reason of entry	Maghreb	Other African countries	Middle-East	European countries	Other countries	Total
Marriage/family reunion	69,0	4,0	48,2	35,9	17,6	36,5
Employment/ job opportunity	12,5	50,1	15,5	20,9	69,9	29,2
Better education	6,8	32,3	2,3	3,2	9,1	15,5
Security / ease of access	4,3	6,3	27,3	5,5	-	6,8
Better living conditions	0,7	1,4	1,6	28,4	2,3	5,9
Other	6,7	5,9	5,1	6,1	1,1	6,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

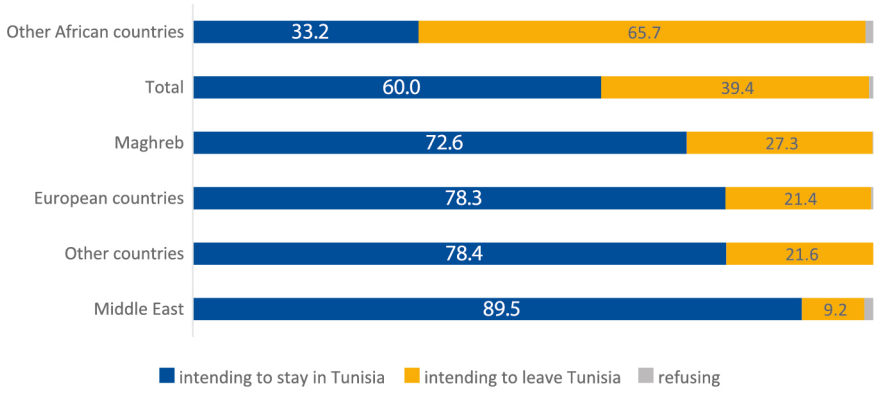
Source: INS, National Survey on International Migration 2020/2021 (Tunisia-HIMS)

4.2.4. Intention and prospects of migration

60% of migrants plan to stay in Tunisia (67.3% among women and 53% among men). Those who say they intend to leave Tunisia represent 39.4%, of which two thirds intend to return to their country of origin, whilst one quarter intend to leave for other countries and one tenth are undecided.

By region of nationality, nearly two thirds of migrants from African non-Maghreb countries (65.7%) intend to leave Tunisia. In contrast, less than 10% of nationals from Middle Eastern countries are planning to leave.

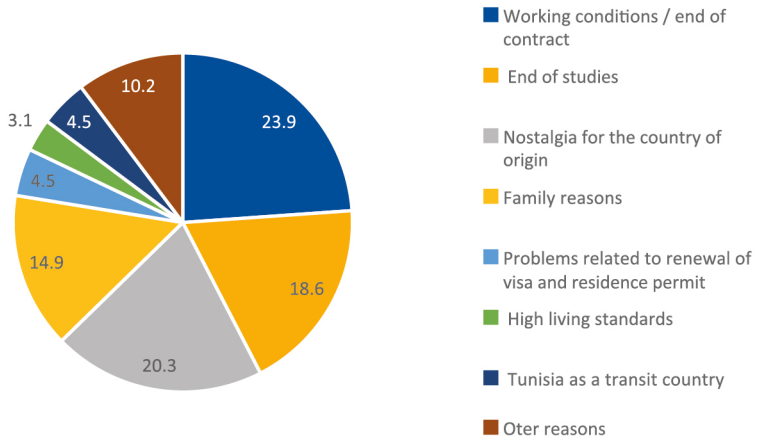
Figure 39 : Intention to stay in Tunisia among immigrants by region of origin (%)



- *Intention to leave, main reason and expected period of departure and destination*

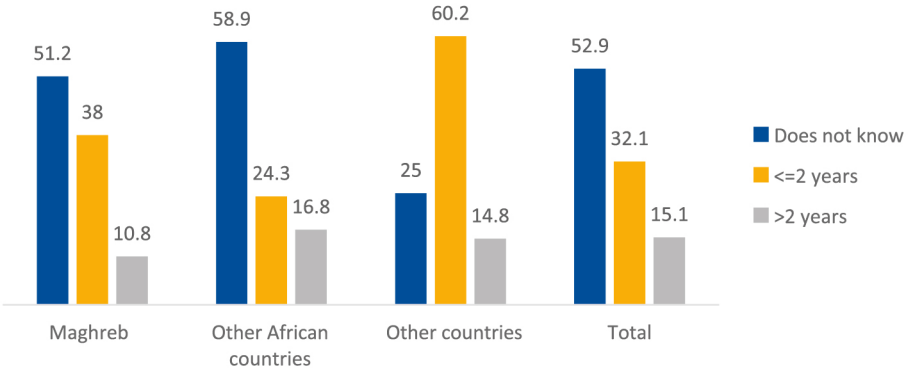
Nearly four out of ten immigrants intend to leave Tunisia. Difficulties in accessing the labour market and working conditions in Tunisia motivated the decision for a quarter of respondents. A fifth of the migrants intending to leave declare feeling nostalgia for their country of origin. The completing education represents the reason for departure of 18.6% of immigrants, followed by family reasons (14.9%), problems related to papers for the renewal of residence or visa (4.5%), the desire to re-emigrate elsewhere (4.5%), and the high cost of living in Tunisia (3.1%).

Figure 40 : Migrants wishing to leave Tunisia by main reason for departure (%)



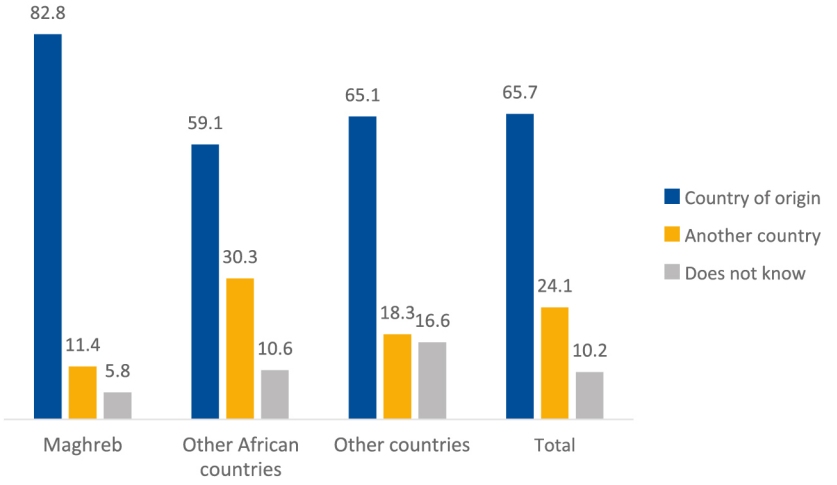
Nearly one out of two migrants intending to leave Tunisia has not yet decided when to leave. 32.1% say they want to leave in the next two years, and 15.1% in more than two years.

Figure 41 : Migrants wishing to leave Tunisia by expected period of departure and region of citizenship (%)



Among the migrants wishing to re-emigrate, two thirds wish to return to their country of origin, a quarter envisage going to live in other countries and a tenth declare themselves undecided.

Figure 42 : Migrants wishing to leave Tunisia by destination and by region of citizenship



Annexe I : Methodology

1. Scope and coverage of the survey

The National Survey on International Migration designbased on a methodology that provides reliable results about the determinants and recent trends of migration to and from Tunisia. The sample design considered the rarity of the phenomenon in the total population. The sample drawn covers the different categories of migrants including returning migrants, current migrants, foreigners residing in Tunisia, as well as the non-migrant population.

2. Sampling method

- *Sample frame*

The 2014 General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH) served as the sampling frame for this survey. The use of the RGPH had the confirmed advantages related to being a comprehensive source, but also posed challenges because the reference year was relatively old for such a rare and changing phenomenon like migration. The RGPH , however, provides, an area frame for updating the population and its structure according to different characteristics. This base is composed of primary units corresponding to enumeration zones (EZ), which represent geographic areas of about 80 households each on average.

- *Sample selection and updating of the EZ sample*

The survey sample drawn according to a two-stage stratified survey based on the sampling frame of the RGPH2014. The latter had counted 29,300 returning migrants, 69,400 emigrants and 53,500 foreign residents in Tunisia. These different categories of migrants distributed in a very unequal way between the EZs. These stratified according to the homogeneous numbers of the different categories of migrants at the time of the 2014 census.

Prior to drawing target households within the selected EZs, a search phase was necessary to update the sampling frame in terms of the population size of each target category. This consisted of walking through the sample (EZs) and enumerating the non-migrant population, returning migrants, current migrants, and foreign residents. Within each (EZ), the dwellings and households listed and numbered with the mention of the exact address of the dwelling and the contact information of the head of household. This allowed the sample (EZ) sizes updated, allowing updated population estimates for all categories of migrants.

إحصائيات تونس
STATISTIQUES TUNISIE
Institut National de la Statistique
E-mail : ins@ins.tn • Website : www.ins.tn

المرصد الوطني للهجرة
Observatoire National de la Migration
Observatoire National de la Migration
E-mail : onm@social.gov.tn • Website : www.migration.nat.tn

ICMPD
International Centre for Migration Policy Development
International Centre for Migration Policy Development
E-mail : ICMPD.Tunis@icmpd.org • Website :www.icmpd.org

TUNISIA HIMS

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