



THE 2015 NATIONAL INTERNAL MIGRATION SURVEY: MAJOR FINDINGS



VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY PUBLISHING HOUSE

GENERAL STATISTICS OFFICE

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

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FOREWORD

Viet Nam has undergone a significant migration transition over the last three decades. At the beginning of the 1960s most movement was controlled by the Government through a strict household registration system. Movement to rural areas was encouraged and supported by the Government but movement to urban areas was discouraged. The economic reforms introduced in 1986 provided a reservoir of unattached rural labor that wanted and were able to move, while urbanization and industrialization significantly increased employment opportunities. The social network of migrants has further facilitated the migration process, especially from rural areas to large cities.

Internal migration plays an important role in population dynamics and thus is closely related to issues of social, economic, and environmental development. Nevertheless, we lack in-depth information on internal migration. Although the Population and Housing Census, the Inter-censal Population and Housing Survey, the Population Change and Family Planning Surveys, the Labor and Employment Surveys and other population surveys have provided information on migration, the focus of these surveys is on permanent residents and the only information on internal migration available is for long-term migration. In addition to the 2004 Viet Nam Migration Survey, there has been no national survey that attempts to measure a range of population movement and associates that movement with the social and economic conditions of origin and destination areas.

To assist in filling the gap in information on internal migration, particularly in relation to migration decision making, satisfaction with migration, the impact of migration and other information on internal migration, on 11 November 2015, the General Director of the General Statistics Office signed Decision No 1067/QĐ-TCTK relating to the National Internal Migration Survey. The purpose of this decision was to collect information on internal migration at the national and regional level including the two major cities of Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh Cities in order to develop social and economic development policies and assist in the formulation of policies that directly impact migrants. An additional objective was to provide researchers with information for research on internal migration in Viet Nam. The data collection process started at the beginning of December 2015 and ended in January 2016. The data processing and analysis was conducted in 2016.

To provide the data in a timely manner to the Party agencies, the National Assembly and the Government, policy makers and other information users, the General Statistics Office (GSO) is publishing the 2015 National Internal Migration Survey: Major Findings Report. The report includes eight chapters: Chapter 1: Introduction, Chapter 2: Types of migration, characteristics and living conditions of households, Chapter 3: Characteristics of migrants and non-migrants, Chapter 4: Migration determinants, Chapter 5: Satisfaction and difficulties associated with migration, Chapter 6: Economic activities and living condition, Chapter 7: Health, Chapter 8: Conclusion and policy recommendations.

With the detailed analysis and data on internal migrants in Viet Nam presented in

this report, it is expected that this publication will meet the demands for basic information on internal migration and serve the purposes of research and policy planning. In addition, the information can be used to plan development policies by government agencies as well as meeting the needs of internal and external users, especially those that are working in the field of management, policy planning, research and investment.

This report was completed with the technical and financial support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) that provided support for the 2015 National Internal Migration Survey. We would like to express their sincere thanks to Dr. Philip Guest for his excellent technical support during the survey design and finalization of the report, combining both quantitative and qualitative components. Our special thank is extended to national experts, the UNFPA representative and staff in Viet Nam for their valuable contribution during implementation of the survey, especially in designing the survey, data analysis, development and finalization of the report. We welcome and appreciate the efforts of researchers from the Institute for Population and Social Studies (IPSS), the National University of Economics, including Assoc Prof. Luu Bich Ngoc, PhD and colleagues for the collection and analysis of qualitative information, which has provided an important contribution to the quantitative results. We appreciate the efforts of statistical officers at the national and local levels, and teams of enumerators that have been working hard and enthusiastically for the success of the survey. Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to the respondents who used their valuable time in completing the questionnaires.

In addition to the content of this report, detailed tables of data will be published on the website of the GSO (www.gso.gov.vn). Due to the large volume of data collected, limitations and shortcomings of this report are hard to avoid. We look forward to your comments in order to improve the publications in the future. Your comments and contributions can be sent to the following address:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	13
1.1. Internal migration in Viet Nam	13
1.2. Overview of the 2015 National Internal Migration Study	16
CHAPTER 2: TYPE OF MIGRATION, CHARACTERISTICS AND LIVING CONDITION OF HOUSEHOLDS	25
2.1. Type of migration	25
2.2. Characteristics of households	26
2.3. Living conditions	30
CHAPTER 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANTS AND NON-MIGRANTS	37
3.1. Migration level by urban/rural residence and sex	37
3.2. Age structure of migrants and non-migrants	38
3.3. Marital status of migrants and non-migrants	42
3.4. Levels of education, professional and technical qualifications of migrants and non-migrants	46
3.5. Economic activity of migrants and non-migrants	49
CHAPTER 4: MIGRATION DETERMINANTS	55
4.1. Migration experience	56
4.2. The decision to migrate	61
4.3. The most important reason for migration	65
4.4. Decision makers involved in the last move	68
4.5. Persons accompanying migrants	72
4.6. Information sources on the place of current residence	73
4.7. The social network of migrants	76
CHAPTER 5: SATISFACTION AND DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH MIGRATION	79
5.1. Level of satisfaction with the current place of residence compared with the place of residence before migration	80

5.2. Difficulties faced by migrants after last move	88
5.3. Type of difficulties faced by migrants	89
5.4. Awareness of difficulties associated with migration and decision on migration	92
5.5. Seeking assistance when facing difficulties	93
5.6. Types of assistance received	95
5.7. Household registration status	97
5.8. Reasons for not having household registration	100
5.9. Difficulties migrants faced due to not having household registration	100
CHAPTER 6: ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND LIVING CONDITION	103
6.1. Current economic activities of migrants and non-migrants	103
6.2. Current living conditions	125
CHAPTER 7: HEALTH	147
7.1. Self-assessed health status	147
7.2. Health insurance	153
7.3. Health care	159
7.4. Health risk behaviors	165
7.5. Knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)	174
7.6. Family planning	182
7.7. Number of children and immunization	189
7.8. Antenatal care	190
CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	193
REFERENCES	200
APPENDIX	201

LIST OF TABLES

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Table 1.1:	Distribution of enumeration areas by regions and by urban and rural areas	20
Table 1.2:	Distribution of in-depth interviewees carried out by province and sex	21

CHAPTER 2: TYPE OF MIGRATION, CHARACTERISTICS AND LIVING CONDITION OF HOUSEHOLDS

Table 2.1:	Percent of the types of migration of the population aged 15-59 by urban/rural areas and region	26
Table 2.2:	Percentage distribution of households by household composition and migration status of members of household	27
Table 2.3:	Percentage of households that receive remittances by the purpose of remittance use, rural/urban areas and region	28
Table 2.4:	Meantime(minutes)required to travel from a household to the nearest selected facility by migration type, urban/rural areas and region	29
Table 2.5:	Percentage of migrants and non-migrants by household living conditions and type of places where migrants and non-migrants reside	31
Table 2.6:	Percentage of migrants and non-migrants that rent/borrow houses by migration status, age group, urban/rural areas, and region	33
Table 2.7:	Percentage distribution of migrants and non-migrants by average living space, rural/urban areas and region	34

CHAPTER 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANTS AND NON-MIGRANTS

Table 3.1:	Migration rate by region, urban/rural areas and sex	37
Table 3.2:	Percentage distribution of migrants by type of migration, urban/rural areas, sex, and age group	38
Table 3.3:	Sex ratio of migrants and non-migrants by age group	38
Table 3.4:	Percentage distribution of migrants and non-migrants by age group, sex, and region	40
Table 3.5:	Percentage distribution of migrants and non-migrants by marital	

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