Although immigration has expanded significantly over the past two decades in some large European countries and the United States, trade remains as the more important channel for accessing the large global labor force.

Sources: Docquier and Marfouk (2005); OECD, International Migration Data; U.S. Census Bureau; and IMF staff calculations.

1. 2000 data for immigration and emigration.

2. Hong Kong SAR, Greece, Israel, New Zealand, Singapore, and Taiwan Province of China are not included in average immigration due to data limitations. Russia and Slovak Republic are not included in average emigration due to data limitations.

3. Foreign-born labor force for Australia, Canada, and the United States. For Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom, the data refer to the share of foreign employment in total employment.