

**Topics**  
**Hotels, catering & tourism**

**MIGRANT WORKERS**

In 2010, the number of international migrants was about 214 million, accounting for 3 per cent of the global population. Women represent 50 per cent of these international migrants and an estimated 105 million are economically active migrant workers.

Globalization has created a link between the growing demand for labour in the tourism sector and labour migration. Labour migration, when properly governed, can help to fill labour shortages in high-skills and low-skills parts of the market, rejuvenate populations and enhance labour market efficiency, and promote entrepreneurship, dynamism, and diversity in destination and originating countries. The development of tourism products, the provision of labour and cultural enrichment are further positive results of migration. Migrant workers may bring new skills and knowledge to destination countries that could make companies more competitive, helping the country to grow. In some cases, originating countries also may benefit from temporary migration through the learning experiences offered by migrant work and the remittances sent to their home country. As a result, migrants may bring new skills, knowledge and decent work experiences back to their countries of origin and share them with local co-workers and organizations.

In the HCT sector, undeclared labour is frequent, often leading to clandestine employment of foreign workers in irregular status where they may be daily commuters, seasonal or permanent workers. Many migrant workers in the sector suffer from poor working and living conditions. They are paid lower wages and endure informal or casual employment services in a less safe and favourable working environment than native workers. Women in irregular status are particularly vulnerable as they are also in danger of sexual exploitation.

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#### **Links for further information:**

For an overview on the work of the ILO on migrant workers, see

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/index.htm>