

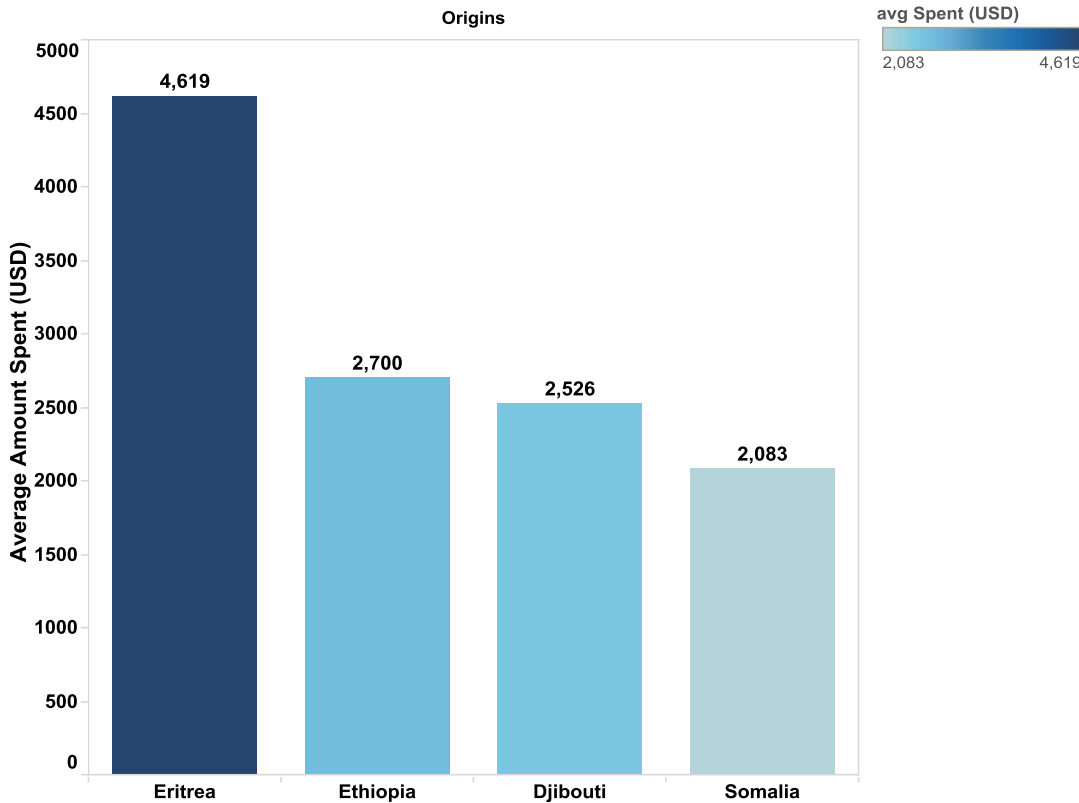


One-Way Passage from Asmara to Aarhus: \$4,619

Throughout its work, the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat has offered what migration costs in terms of protection, both which protection concerns migrants and refugees are escaping in their countries of origin and which protection concerns migrants and refugees are encountering on the move to Europe, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. This monthly trend analysis sets out to look at a more tangible cost: what comes out of the migrants and refugees' wallet.

4mi data offers additional perspective: migration takes financial backing as well. Migrants from the Horn of Africa expend significant financial resources, either their own savings or resources from their family and friends in the Horn of Africa and in Europe itself, to make the passage from Addis and Asmara to Amsterdam and Aarhus.

Average Cost vs Origin



In an era where economy round-trip passage from Asmara to Frankfurt may be found for as little as 761 USD and lasting 12 hours one-way, 4mi found that the average Eritrean respondent had spent over 4,600 USD total on their passage, including transport, food, water, shelter and other attendant costs. 4mi respondents originating in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia report average expenditure between 2,000 and 2,800 USD. Since 4mi interviews migrants and refugees mainly on the African continent and usually well prior to migrants and refugees' final destination (generally Europe or South Africa), the final financial costs may be much higher than the above average implies.

When put in the light of the financial situation in the migrants and refugees' home region, the amount expended on passage becomes more significant. The Horn of Africa is among the most impoverished regions in the world. According to the latest World Bank data, Ethiopia's and Eritrea's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita hovers between 525 USD and 575 USD

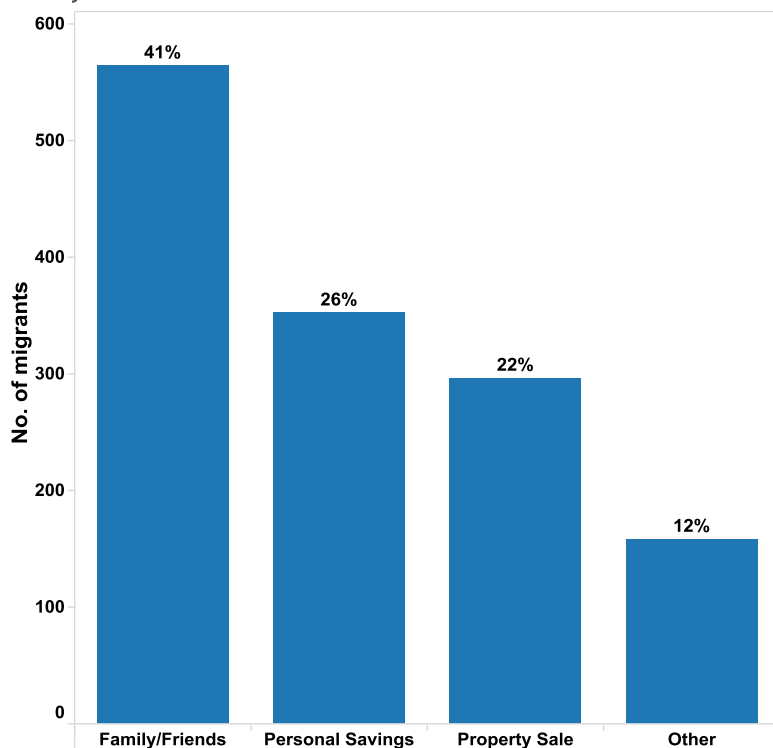


per year.¹ Djibouti is an outlier, where the GDP is approximately 1,813 USD per year; however, as per the United Nations Development Programme, Djibouti's 2013 Gini coefficient of 40.0, a measure of income inequality, indicates that the median individual income may be below the per capita GDP.

In units of yearly income, the outlay for a passage to migrants' and refugees' final destinations for the average Horn of Africa resident requires financial resources that total about 5-8 times the amount of the average Ethiopian and Eritrean per capita GDP. In other words, for an average American, who made approximately 53,700 USD per year in 2014², the decision to migrate would require a financial decision equivalent to at least 268,500 USD.

Therefore, migration is often the result of community financial action. While only one migrant may travel, migrants and refugees often bring the financial resources of their family and friends with them. 41% of migrants interviewed reported largely depending on their family or friends' assets to finance their passage. Further, 22% of migrants interviewed reported relying on property sale to finance their passage to their final destination. Only 26% of respondents said they used personal savings primarily to finance their passage. The 26% who relied on personal savings indicate that those respondents either had incomes significantly higher than the average income or their made significant financial sacrifices to save in the years or decades leading to the final decision to migrate.

Primary Source of Finances



When combined with the protection challenges encountered and the exertion required, migration not only takes a toll in the emotional and physical realms, but in the financial realm as well.

¹ World Bank, GDP per capita data for Ethiopia and Djibouti are for 2014 and Eritrea's GDP per capita data is for 2011 Available: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>

² United States Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2015/demo/distribution-of-household-income-2014.html>