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MIGRATION STATISTICS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

Submitted by the Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan

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Migration data are part of a country's demographic statistics. Information on the numbers, sex and age of persons entering or leaving a particular region during a specified period and information on the number of persons registered in that region at the beginning of the period together with data on births and deaths over the same time are important for evaluating the size and structure of the population.

Statistics on migration are necessary for current and prospective calculations of the size and composition of the population and for studying demographic processes.

Categories of migrants

The United Nations recommendations include the following criteria for defining international migrants among persons arriving and leaving.

1.   An international migrant is a person who changes his or her country of usual residence. A person's country of usual residence is that in which the person lives, that is to say, the country in which the person has a place to live where he or she normally spends the daily period of rest. Temporary travel abroad for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage does not change a person's country of usual residence.

2.   A long-term migrant is a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence. From the perspective of the country of departure, the person will be a long-term emigrant and from that of the country of arrival, the person will be a long-term immigrant.

3.   A short-term migrant is a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least three months, but less than a year (12 months) except in cases where the movement to that country is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage. For the purposes of international migration statistics, the country of usual residence of short-term migrants is considered to be the country of destination during the period they spend in it.

The new definitions of the concepts of short-term and long-term migrant and others will be taken into account by the Kazakhstan Statistical Agency in future work and gradually introduced in the course of improving its demographic statistics and computer technology.

Meeting the prerequisites for the establishment of a single system of data collection and bringing together information from various sources on a single methodological basis will enable the Kazakhstan Statistical Agency and migration services to add considerably to the information available on international migration. Statistical observation is to be conducted for certain categories of the population (those moving for work, for study in educational institutions and to attend courses lasting more than 6 (or 12) months, and for permanent residence).

Thus, data on migration between Kazakhstan and CIS and non-CIS countries are obtained as a result of processing of the documents supplied by the internal affairs bodies and containing statistical records of arrivals and departures, these being compiled regularly at the time of registration of the population by place of residence. The concepts of "arrivals" and "departures" characterize migration somewhat tentatively, since one and the same person may change his or her place of permanent residence more than once in a year.

Data on forcibly displaced persons and refugees are provided from information of the Kazakhstan Agency for Migration and Demography in respect of persons who have officially obtained the respective status in the regional services.

For the analysis of migration processes, use cannot be made solely of absolute data, as these depend on the size of the population of the territories concerned. Together with indicators for total arrivals and departures and net migration, it is therefore essential to provide relative indicators characterizing the intensity and structure of migration. Such indicators may be calculated separately for inflows and outflows and net migration and will be incorporated into our future work.

Sources of data on migration in Kazakhstan

Population migration - the movement of people (migrants) across the boundaries of a territory (country, region, district) - entails a change of place of residence. Data on migration are processed on the basis of two documents - the statistical record cards attached to the arrival form and that attached to the departure form. The statistical record card for the arrival form (form 19) and that for the departure form (form 20) are completed for the whole family.

Both documents are in questionnaire form. Gathering of the data and checking on the correctness and quality of completion of the cards is the responsibility of the district or municipal statistical sections. Improperly completed cards are returned for correction to the internal affairs bodies. After noting and filling in of all incorrectly completed cards they are submitted to the oblast statistical departments once a month (by the 10th day of the month following the reporting month). Data entry on IBM PCs, including coding, checking and sorting, is performed monthly in the oblast statistical departments. The primary database file, once processed (coded and sorted), is sent by modem each month to the Information Computing Centre of the Kazakhstan Statistical Agency together with oblast form A by no later than the 20th day of the month following the reporting month. Oblast form A reports the control figures.

Economic development, urban growth and other processes involving socio-economic transformations are reflected in the growing mobility of the population and increasing internal migration. The accuracy of measurement of internal migration is not as yet entirely satisfactory. This is evidenced by the frequent discrepancy in the data for the number of departures from any given territory and the number of arrivals therefrom in other territories. There is less precise recording of migrants from urban to rural areas and from one locality to another.

The difficulty of recording migration is explained, first of all, by the mass of facts needing to be examined, which is many times greater than for the measurement of natural movement. While people are born and die only once and marry or divorce not so very frequently in a lifetime, moving from one place of residence to another is with many people a recurrent event and such of movements cannot all be fully documented, but for a country's economic development policy and strategy it is essential to study internal migration, particularly during a transitional period, so that the Government can take measures in time to anticipate large-scale migration, especially from environmentally or economically distressed regions (Arals, Semipalatinsk, the cities of Kontau, Zhanatas, Karatau, etc.).

To improve the completeness and quality of the monitoring of migration and all migration processes inside the country it is necessary to improve local record-keeping and carry out quarterly sample checks of the completeness of the records, for which at present there is a shortage of funding.

Local enumeration and processing of data on migration

The Kazakhstan Statistical Agency actually uses general data regarding migration based on information from the internal affairs bodies (migration police divisions), i.e. the statistical record cards

showing arrivals and departures which are completed at the same time as the address forms upon registration or deregistration according to place of residence or sojourn.

The statistical record card attached to the arrival form contains the following characteristics of the migrant: date and place of birth, sex, nationality, place of registration, place which the person left and when, from what year the person had been living in the place he or she left, purpose of travel, place of work and occupation at the previous place of residence, educational attainment, family status (married persons should indicate whether or not they arrived with their spouses) and information about children under 16 years of age arriving together with the adults.

Similar data on migrants can be found in the statistical record card attached to the departure form.

Processing of the information contained in the statistical record cards yields data on persons arriving and leaving, grouped by territory and by various socio-demographic characteristics (sex, age, nationality, marital status, educational attainment, etc.).

The statistical record cards for persons arriving/leaving are made out in one copy on their registration or deregistration for permanent residence or for a period of more than six months and the person filling out the document submits it to a specialist of the registration section of the migration police and local internal affairs departments. Once the persons responsible for the application of the rules of the passport system (migration police) have taken the documents needed for the completion of registration or deregistration, they check their authenticity and assume responsibility for the quality of the completed papers.

Gathering of the data and checking on the correctness and quality of completion of the cards is the responsibility of the district or municipal statistical sections. Improperly completed cards are returned for correction. After noting and filling in of all incorrectly completed cards the district or municipal statistical sections submit them to the oblast statistical departments once a month (by the 10th day of the month following the reporting month). Data entry on PCs, including coding, checking and sorting, is performed monthly in the oblast statistical departments.

The database file, once processed (coded and sorted), is sent by modem each month to the Information Computing Centre of the Kazakhstan Statistical Agency together with oblast form A by no later than the 20th day of the month following the reporting period.

Statistical record cards relating to arrivals or departures are not completed for:

(1) Persons changing their place of residence within the same town, urban settlement or village, or for larger cities within the boundaries of city districts;

(2) Persons obtaining a passport on reaching 16 years of age;

(3) Persons changing their passports;

(4) Persons changing their first name, patronymic and surname.

Children under 16 years of age changing their place of residence separately from their parents or guardians are registered or deregistered commonly on the basis of a birth certificate. Children under 16 years of age registered or deregistered together with their parents or guardians do not fill in separate statistical record cards. The children's names are entered in the record card made out for the whole family.

Coding of statistical record cards

In the section "First name, patronymic and surname" (of the person completing the card) the names to be entered are those of the head of family or person responsible for completing the document, which may or may not be the head of family.

The following characteristics are coded:

Place of arrival (Place arriving from);

Place of departure   (Place leaving to);

Date of registration   (day, month, year);

Date of birth   (day, month, year);

Sex;

Nationality;

Citizenship;

Education;

Sections A to F for persons arriving;

Sections A to E for persons leaving;

A -   Social category (employees hired or contracted, employers, workers on own account, unemployed persons, etc.);

B -   Purpose of travel (for permanent residence, for a contract of employment, in connection with study, etc.);

C -   Level of education (higher, incomplete higher, specialized secondary, general secondary, incomplete secondary);

D -   Speciality by education (architecture or building, medical, teaching, technical, economic, legal, farming, etc.);

E -   Marital status (never married, married, widowed, divorced);

F -   Status of persons arriving (refugee, repatriating refugee, immigrant).

Under "Name" the first entry is the name of the head of family or person responsible for completing the statistical form, followed by the names of all other family members in order.

Main indicators of migration in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Migration is a multifunctional phenomenon that is closely connected with the changing economic structure and disposition of productive forces and with growing social and labour mobility, and it is also having a major impact on the social, demographic and ethnic situation in the Republic.

The "coefficient of intensity" is calculated as the ratio of the balance of migration for external migration to the mean annual population size estimated on a current basis.

"Net migration" is calculated as the difference between the number of persons arriving and the number leaving.

"Total growth" is the sum of natural growth and net migration. "Total growth of the urban and rural population" is equal to the sum of the natural increase, net migration and the size of the population becoming urban/rural as the result of a change in status of human settlements (legislatively enacted changes of rural settlements into urban settlements or vice versa). Total, growth, the natural increase and net migration may be negative.

"The intensity of migration" is an indicator characterizing the frequency of migratory events within the population as a whole over a specified period. Most frequently use is made of coefficients of the intensity of migration for the respective territory calculated per year or from an average for several years. These coefficients may be calculated in respect of the numbers of persons arriving and leaving, or net migration, using the formula:

$$K = \frac{M}{S} *100, \text{ where}$$

M - numbers of persons arriving and leaving, or net migration;

S - mean annual population size for the year or a number of years.

The indicator of intensity of migration may serve to characterize change in the migratory activity of the population of a particular territory over a number of years, and it also helps to compare these processes for selected territories.

Calculating indicators of the age structure for net migration is not worthwhile, as they tend to change sign frequently and analysis of them in such cases would be meaningless. We should keep in mind that the age structure of migrants is closely connected with the age structure

of the population of the respective territory as a whole. It therefore makes sense to compare these indicators at territorial level (by urban and rural area) on the basis of relatives for each age group. A similar approach may be taken to consider the structure of migrants by sex, educational attainment, family status and nationality.

The guidelines and recommendations of the United Nations referred to above will be taken into account and gradually introduced into the work of the Kazakhstan Statistical Agency in the course of the improvement of its demographic statistics and computer technology.