

**UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Joint ECE-EUROSTAT Work Session on Migration Statistics  
organised in cooperation with the UN Statistics Division  
(Geneva, 21-23 May 2001)

**Registration of International Migration in the Russian Federation**

Submitted by the Goskomstat of the Russian Federation

The following sources of information are currently used in the Russian Federation for international migration analysis.

1. The main source of information on migration in-and-out of Russia is a registration of people when changing a place of residence. Territorial passport departments of the Ministry for Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation (MIA of Russia) carry out that registration. Special statistical documents are filled in at the moment of registration: leaflets of statistical records of migrants - on those who arrived to a new residence and tear-off slips on leaflets of statistical records of migrants - on those who departed from a former place of residence. The documents mentioned are handed over to the bodies of state statistics for tabulating and consolidating the results obtained. However, this source of information has some shortcomings. In particular, the legislation of the Russian Federation does not require that those departing the country should take their names off the register, which might lead to the underenumeration of long-term migrants.

The items tabulated on the basis of information from leaflets of statistical record of migrants are as follows: country of arrival (or departure), males and females by age groups, origin of emigrants and immigrants, main reasons that induced a change of residence.

Information pertaining to children arrived (departed) under 14 years of age is tabulated on the base of data entered on a leaflet of statistical record by one of the parents (guardian, tutor).

Main reasons that cause a change of residence are as follows:

- due to studies
- due to work
- return to former place of residence
- aggravation of inter-ethnic relations
- aggravation of crime situation
- ecology troubles
- nature and climatic conditions inadequacy
- reasons of personal and household nature
- other reasons (indicate)

Besides, the primary documents of statistical registration of migrants comprise questions of citizenship, occupation and engagement of a migrant, type of social security, educational attainment and marital status. However, the compilation of data on characters indicated is not exercised at present due to restricted financing.

The character "citizenship" has been present in statistical documents since 1995. The given character is supposed to be produced after the 2002 All-Russia census as a corresponding issue will be included in the questionnaire of this census.

2. The bodies of state statistics also use statistical information that is collected and tabulated by the Ministry for Internal Affairs of Russia in order to estimate and analyse the flows of international migration. This information contains data on the number of foreigners who were granted an entry permit for a permanent residence in the Russian Federation and departing for a permanent residence and the number of citizens of the Russian Federation, foreign citizens and persons without a citizenship permanently residing in Russia who were granted a departure permit for a permanent residence outside the former Soviet Union.

Information pertaining to entry is tabulated for the countries of former permanent residence but that pertaining to departure is done for the countries of presumed residence including children under 18 years of age to be singled out among the emigrants. Data on citizenship of immigrants and emigrants is not currently tabulated.

This information is considered as a data from administrative sources according to recommendations on improvement of international migration data collection.

Data from administrative sources and those from bodies of state statistics do not vary much and this confirms a harmonisation of the sources.

In this way, data on those departing the non-CIS countries are based on registration of people when changing a residence are complete enough. This can be judged by ratio, for instance, of data about the number of those who were granted a departure permit for leaving the former Soviet Union to those who took their names off the register for this reason (79% of those who were granted a departure permit). Not all the persons who received a departure permit at the reference year must be stressed do leave at the same year.

3. The Federal Frontier Service of Russia collects and develops data about the number of foreign citizens who came in-and-out of the Russian Federation by countries of citizenship, and about the number of the Russian Federation citizens who left for abroad by countries of destination. All this data are distributed by purpose of trips and type of transport.

The types of trips are as follows:

- business
- tourism
- private
- for permanent residence
- transit

4. Ministry for Federation, National and Migrational Policy of the Russian Federation carries out the registration of displaced persons, refugees, asylum-seekers including the registration of labour contracts and permits for foreigners who enter the Russian Federation and that of job applications of the Russian Federation citizens abroad.

Data of displaced persons, refugees, and asylum-seekers are tabulated by countries of departure, sex, age groups (0-15, 16-64, working age, older than working age), educational attainment.

It is important to emphasize that the law "For displaced persons" (1993, new revision in 1995, #202-? ?) and the law "For refugees" (1993, new revision in 1997, #95-? ?). The laws specified the following:

- displaced persons: citizens of the Russian Federation who are outside their habitual residence for reasons that include: violence or other forms of persecution committed towards him/her or his/her family; in consequence of real danger to be subjected to persecution on the basis of racial or national affiliation, confession, language including affiliation to social groups or political convictions that became a reason of mass public nuisance or hostile activities to particular person or group of people.
- refugees: persons who are not citizens of the Russian Federation and are outside their country of nationality and who might by force of grounded misgivings become victims of persecution on the basis of race, confession, citizenship, nationality, affiliation to particular social group or political convictions; persons who are outside their country of origin and can not use the protection of this country or do not wish to use such protection due to mentioned misgivings; whether because of not being citizens of a particular country and outside their habitual residence they are not able or do not wish to return to this country as a consequence of these misgivings".

According to registration those who arrived from the CIS and Baltia countries account to over 82 % of the total number of displaced persons, the rest - from the subjects of the Russian Federation, i.e. in-migrants. Over 99% of refugees are the persons from CIS and Baltia countries, only 1% are the persons from other countries.

One of the functions of the Ministry for Affairs of Federation, National and Migrational Policy of the Russian Federation is to prevent an illegal migration. In order to fulfill it there is an immigration control system being installed at the state border check - points.

5. Russia experiences heavy difficulties in exercising the adopted international recommendations relating to the registration of international migration. First of all it is linked to a border "transparency" between Russia and the republics of the former Soviet Union and a lack of everywhere immigration controls. Besides, the legislative acts of the Russian Federation relating to emigrants and immigrants are currently under elaboration.

Hence, a place of residence in the Russian legislation is defined as a living quarters where a person resides permanently or most of time.

As it was already stressed in the foregoing, the "transparency" of borders with most countries that used to be republics of the former Soviet Union, gives rise to great flows of illegal migrants.

In 1998 Goskomstat of Russia made an attempt to produce a methodology of pilot estimate for illegal migration into Russia and run it in fact. The major groups of illegal migrants, approximate numerical estimate of them and base sources for the estimation were picked up during the work (see table).

#### Estimates of number of illegal migrants in Russia by category. 1998

#	Category	Appr.estimate (thousand. psns)	Note
1.	Foreign students enrolled at educational institutions of Russia and former Soviet Union who decided not to return to their countries of origin after graduation by political or economical reasons	100	Estimate of Ministry for Federation of Russia
2.	Foreigners employed in Russia under international agreements and contracts with expired date but not having an opportunity or not desiring to leave the country	100	Estimate of Ministry for Federation of Russia
3.	Foreign citizens and persons without any citizenship among asylum-seekers, including those of concern to UNHCR	300	Estimate of Ministry for Federation of Russia
4.	"Transit" migrants with a temporary stay in Russia who intend to obtain a permanent residence in another country	100-200	Estimate of Ministry for Federation of Russia. 2/3 of this category of migrants settles in the country according to surveys made in Russia
5.	Foreigners from non-CIS countries with an illegal stay in the Russian Federation (under forged documents or after skipping border check-points)	20	Number of detentions made by frontier service for illegal passing through the border is 10% of the total. Estimate made by foreign countries
6.	Foreigners from non-CIS countries with a legal stay in the Russian Federation under valid tourist documents, individual invitations, guest, business and training visas but with goals other than that pointed out in visa applications and their registrations done improperly	1,500-2,000	Estimate is based on data of Ministry for Internal Affairs and Federal Frontier Service
7.	Illegal labour migrants from CIS countries entering Russia on simplified procedure with their stay and employment registered improperly	1,800.	Estimate is based on data of Ministry for Labour and Ministry for Economical Development of Russia
Total (approximately)		4,000-4,500	
of which illegally employed		3,500-3,800	

Survey methods and programs were designed at the next stage of work in 1999 in order to estimate the illegal migration at the regional level. The purpose of this project was to get a complete picture of illegal migration, which could be obtained under existing statistical system of Russia at present. However, the survey method and program were not tested due to scarce pilot survey financing.

There has been definite improvements in registration of migration between countries lately. In particular, the account of refugees and displaced persons has been put into effect since 1992, for asylum-seekers it's been since 1998.

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation for granting temporary asylum to asylum-seekers is currently under elaboration to allow the legal migrant status to be conferred on the major part of migrants of this category.

The order to issue residence permits to the citizens of the CIS countries with a permanent residence in the Russian Federation is currently designed.

Data on migration available at state statistics bodies and other institutions have been accessible and regularly published in national and international statistical handbooks since 1992.

-----