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**PECULARITIES OF MIGRATION STATISTICS AND REGISTRATION IN  
UZBEKISTAN**

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1. Population migration, being a means of territorial redistribution of the population and labor force, is a determining influence in the social and demographic development of the society. Considerable changes in the migration of population and labor resources, which took place in the post-Soviet area during the last years, led to the aggravation of migration processes and employment, resulting in one region experiencing a sharp shortage of qualified specialists, whereas in other regions the excess of migrants caused difficulties in the provision of housing and employment.
2. Migration, as a factor of the socio-economic and political developments of the society, attracts the attention of not only the scientific community but also politicians, the legislative and executive authorities, who are in charge of decision-making and implementation of migration policy in their countries.

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3. The formulation and implementation of an effective migration policy requires the availability of a reliable and profound information database that stipulates the importance of a coherent definition of 'migration'. Despite extensive interest in this problem, there is a lack of a unambiguous interpretation and clear definition of migration in the existing economic and demographic scientific literature.

4. In a general sense, migration is considered an aggregate number of territorial movements of population, related to changes of permanent residence. Some researchers include in this concept only irrevocable migration, i.e., related to the changes of permanent residence, meanwhile, others include both irrevocable and seasonal movements. On the other hand, a third group interprets this notion loosely and proposes to include also episodic and even intersectorial mobility of labor force.

5. Taking into consideration the variety of approaches and forms of migration, differing by direction, territorial characteristics, structure as well as duration, in our opinion, migration should be considered as a broad concept and defined as **an aggregate number of any territorial movements**. Based on this interpretation, it is essential to distinguish the following three types of migration:

- Irrevocable (migration with the intent to settle permanently in another country);
- Temporary (migration for a limited period of time);
- Seasonal (movements during the certain periods of a year).

6. The migration movements include the following: (i) movements of persons across national borders (international migration i.e. a territorial relocation of people between different countries); (ii) movements of persons within the country (internal/domestic migration). International migration takes place in the forms of emigration out of country and immigration into the country. Thus, **emigration** means to leave a country with the intent or hope to settle temporarily or permanently in another; and **immigration** means to enter a new country with the intention of staying there permanently.

7. Internal migration consists of migration flows between village and city; between cities; between regions as well as within the regions. In aggregate, the sum of migration flows to and from country and within the country forms total volume of migration, and characterizes the degree of migration mobility of population.

8. Uzbekistan has long standing traditions in registration of population migration. During the years of independence these traditions were not only saved, but also developed. The current system of migration registration in Uzbekistan is based on the registration of migrants '**by place of residence**' (registration of permanent migration). Permanent address serves as a criterion for identification of migrant.

9. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan is responsible for the current record of migration movements. It is based on records of residence permit and leave of population. The following specially designed forms will be filled out at the time of changing one's place of residence and will be used by the authorities of internal affairs for the supplemental information purposes:

- "Address Form of Arrival"
- "Address Form of Departure"
- "Coupon of Statistical Registration for Arrival Form"
- "Coupon of Statistical Registration for Departure Form"

10. Then the above-mentioned supplementary coupons will be transferred (submitted) to the authorities, who are responsible for collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. These coupons contain the following information: (i) surname, given name and patronymic; (ii) date of birth; (iii) place of birth; (iv) sex; (v) nationality; (vi) a new place of residence; (vii) place of previous (last) residence; (viii) purpose of arrival; (ix) occupation in the place of previous (last) residence; (x) education; and (xi) marital status. In the case of migrants with children younger than 16 years old, only the number of children will be indicated (other related information such as full name, sex and date of birth of children are to be indicated in coupons of parents).

11. It should be noted that information collected by means of supplementary statistical coupons enables the collection of detailed data on records of residence permit and leave of population disaggregated by territorial and other important social-demographic characteristics.

12. Based on the above-mentioned information the statistical registration of migration in Uzbekistan is being conducted based on the following directions:

- **Migration registration by territory.** The registration covers all the CIS countries and the Baltics as well as other foreign countries. The registration is conducted based on the origin of countries of arrival and departure, which includes standard detailed information on town and village; arriving and departing persons; and migration balance.
- **Registration of migrants by sex and age.** The age of migrants ranges between 0 and 100 years, and recorded data is disaggregated by sex (women and men) and place of residence (town and village). A special form will be developed to capture information about sex and date of birth of migrants. At present, migration registration takes into account only stocks of migration (throughout massive arrivals and departures of persons) without dividing them into migration flows. It makes it difficult to analyze the structure of migration flows.
- **Migration registration by migration flows.** Migration statistics reflects:
  - Internal (domestic) migration;
  - Migratory relationships with the CIS countries and the Baltics;
  - Migratory relationships with other foreign countries.This registration covers all administrative and territorial units, including towns and villages. It mainly contains quantitative parameters (the number of incoming and leaving persons) and allows describing the characteristics and structure of migrating population.
- **Registration of migrants by education.** Registration based on the following types of education: (i) higher education; (ii) unfinished higher education; (iii) upper secondary; (iv) secondary; (v) unfinished secondary; (vi) elementary and primary education. Data on sex and place of residence (town and village) is collected. Registration of migrants takes into account only stocks of migration (throughout massive of arriving and departing persons) without dividing them into migration flows. Effectiveness of external migratory relationships is estimated based on indirect parameters such as migration balance i.e. the aggregate growth (reduction) of population with a corresponding kind of education. In the context of regions (provinces) this indirect method of defining of educational structure of population in external migratory flows is not applicable, as the migratory balance also covers internal/domestic migration.
- **Registration of migrating people by nationality.** In comparing with the former Soviet period the registration of migrating people by nationality has been slightly expanded.

Registration also takes into account the following: (i) sex; (ii) age in breakdown (able-bodied age, younger and older than able-bodied age); and (iii) migration flows.

- **Registration of migrating people by marital status.** Registration is carried out in the context of towns and villages, by sex and age (for both sexes – age from 16 years and older). It should be noted that the registration is conducted in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, all 12 regions, and in the City of Tashkent as well as separately in towns and villages of these administrative units. The related statistical information is published in the form of annual bulletins and statistical books.
- **Registration of internal labor migration** was based on the continuous (complete) statistical reporting of enterprises and organizations. Realities of the current transition period require developing and utilizing new special sampling surveys for these purposes.
- **Officially organized external labor migration** is being monitored by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Uzbekistan. Together with the organized (legal) labor migration there is an illegal external labor migration which in most cases is not passed through official registration in both donor and recipient countries. The illegal migration flows are developing spontaneously, and therefore, these flows are not regulated and registered by the state.

### **Labor migration**

13. Labor migration has always been in existence in Uzbekistan and took place in both directions: internal (domestic) and external (international). Statistical analysis of internal labor migration i.e. inter-sectoral and inter-regional movements of labor force was based on the results of complete (continuous) statistical reporting of enterprises and organizations.

14. The scales and directions of labor force migration have been estimated by means of dynamic comparisons and definition of balance sizes of incoming (growth) or leaving (reduction) workers by regions (by towns and villages), by sectors of economy and forms of ownership of the entities.

15. In conditions of transition to free market economy, when alongside with the official sector there is an informal sector of economy (shadow economy), it becomes difficult and even impossible to use the above discussed methods. In this context, the realities of the current transition period require developing and utilizing new special sampling surveys which should take into account structure of market participants including the shadow economy.

16. Alternate (temporary, regular) migration occupies an important place in labor migration. The balance of alternate migration (a difference between incoming persons to a place of work in the given region and leaving persons for these purposes to other regions) is considered at construction of balance of manpower in the context of territories for the balancing of resource and distributive parts of accounting balance. Its necessity is caused by the specification of population registration i.e. usually persons are registered by a place of residence, meantime workers by a place of work.

17. Registration of alternate migration allows the estimating of surplus or neediness of labor force sphere by selected regions of a country and creates a basis for regulation of the specified processes.

18. The data related to alternate migration has been collected through simultaneous complete surveys of working persons by their working places and places of residence. There are substantial reasons to assume that during the last years there were serious changes in scales and directions of “alternate migrants” movements, and therefore, it becomes difficult and/or impossible to use the old data (even updated and corrected data) for alternate migration analysis purposes.

19. Currently, tracing of the above-mentioned changes is complicated in view of presence of a disorganized labor market. Moreover, this exercise is a labor intensive, and therefore, requires considerable financial resources. In this regard, there is a necessity for developing new tracing methodologies and methods of these processes taking into consideration peculiarities of the transition period.

20. The external migration, including labor migration, process in the former Soviet Union has been strictly planned and controlled by the government. Usually the government on the behalf of its administrative institutes or industrial organizations has initiated external labor migration. Present day labor migration in Uzbekistan takes place more democratically and often without direct regulation of the government. Studies in this field show that there are two labor migration flows (streams) in Uzbekistan: legal and illegal migration.

21. *The legal labor migration flow* is organized and monitored by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Uzbekistan. Labor force migrating under this category is both socially and legally protected.

22. Together with the organized labor migration there is *an illegal external labor migration* which in most cases is not passed through official registration in both donor and recipient countries. The illegal migration flows are developing spontaneously, and therefore, these flows are not regulated and registered by the state. Sociological studies and surveys in different recipient countries are conducted in different methodologies and programmes, and therefore, it is difficult to carry out comparative analysis and qualitative estimations.

23. In conclusion, we would like to point out that the improvements and developments of statistical registration of population migration should be carried out in close interrelation with the government’s concept of migration policy. At the same time, the migration policy itself should be closely connected to the Program of Demographic Safety of Uzbekistan taken into consideration the current trends in the world.

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