



IOM Activities in Measuring Remittances in Eastern Europe/Central Asia

**UNECE Workshop on Migration Statistics
November 1-2, 2017**

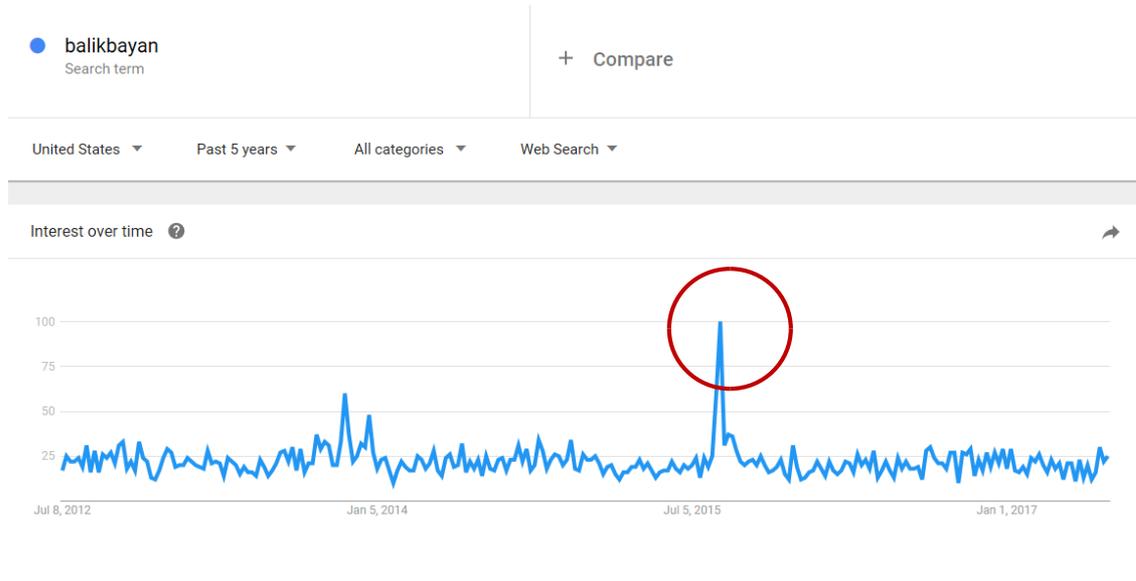
IOM's Interest in Remittance Data

- Broader focus on diaspora engagement in development for policy & programme development
- Assessing diaspora engagement and opportunities for engagement includes:
 - Diaspora mapping;
 - Understanding impacts of remittances;
 - Assessing diaspora's non-financial contributions to development;
- IOM research primarily intended to inform government policy development and programming related to diaspora engagement

Sources of Data on Diaspora

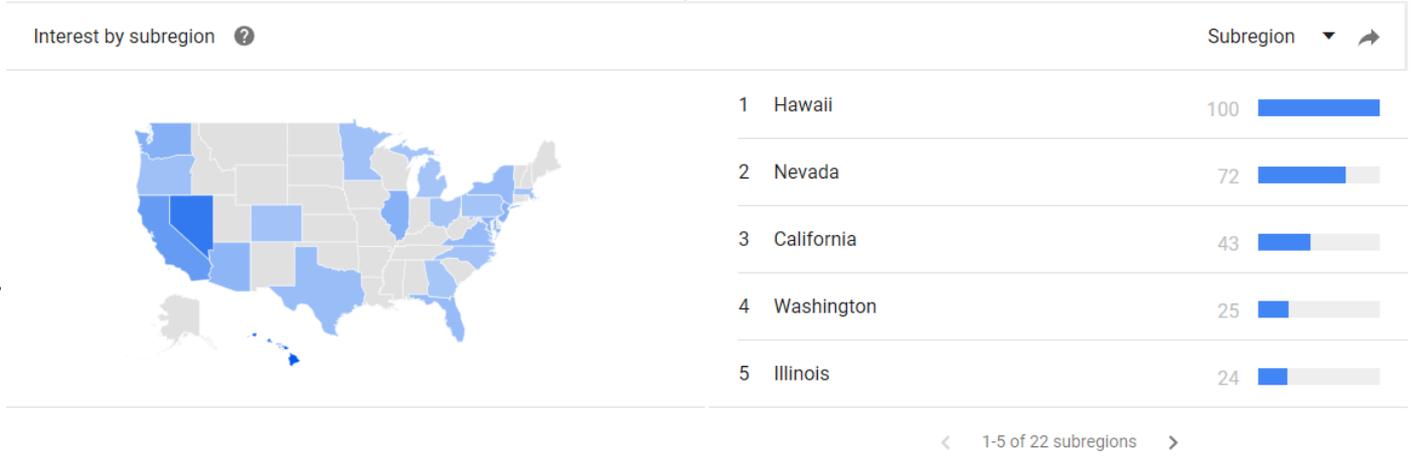
- World Bank & Central Bank Data on Remittances (limited in detail)
- Census Data & Administrative Data in Countries of Destination
- Alternative / “Big Data” sources
 - Estimating concentrations of diaspora rather than size:
 - Understanding diaspora interests and levels of engagement over time
- Specialized Household Surveys & Diaspora Surveys

Filipino Diaspora

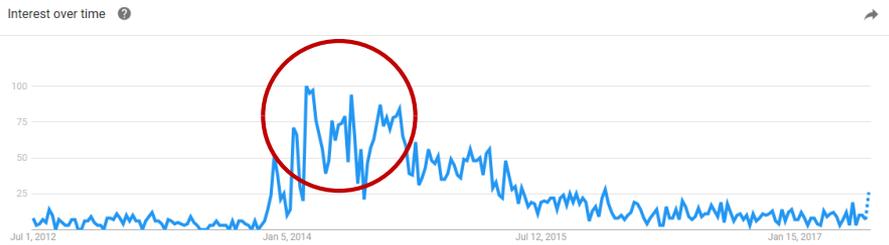


The search for balikbayan (tax-exempt gifts and packages, which Filipinos are allowed to send to friends and family) surged in late August 2015 when rumours that the government would open these packages began surfacing.

The distribution of these searches in the USA corresponds with the respective Filipino diaspora living in each state.

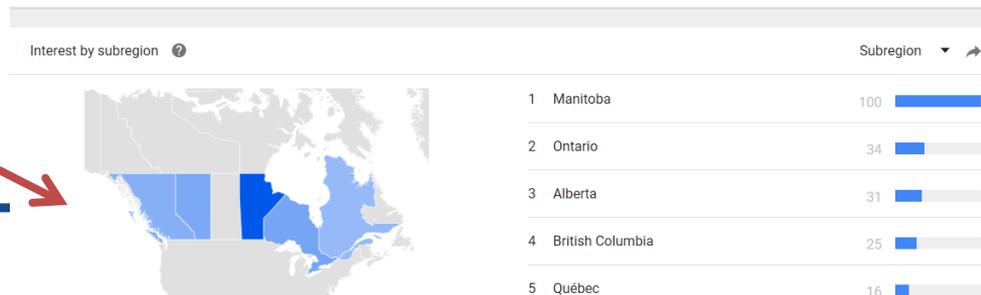
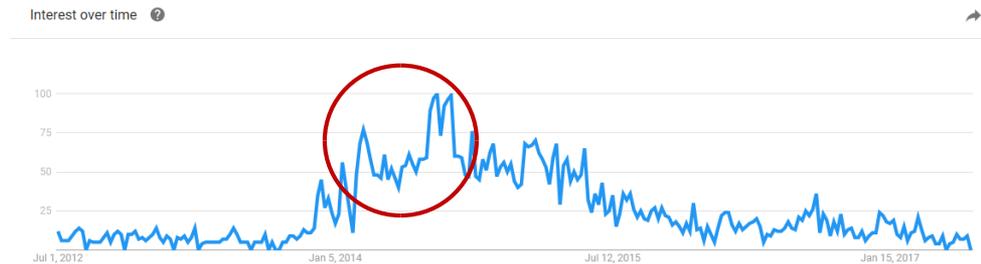
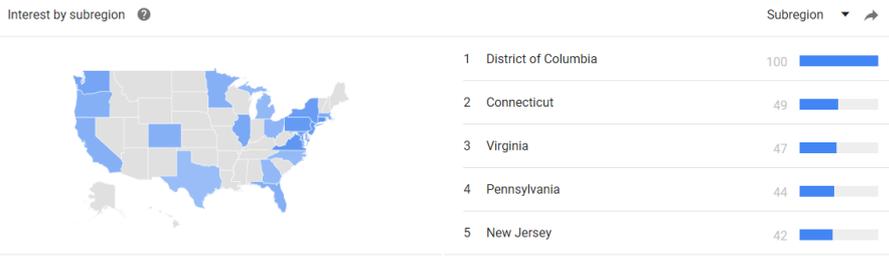


Ukrainian Diaspora

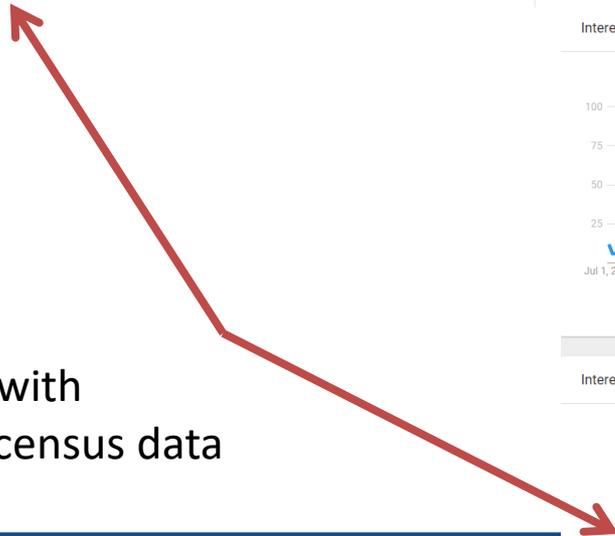


Searches for Kyiv Post

This spike in the search term correlates with crisis in February 2-14



These subregions roughly correlate with Canadian and US census data



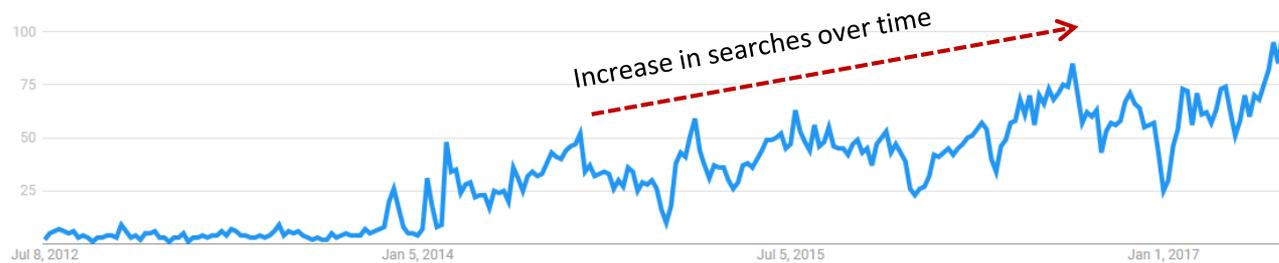
Ukrainians in Poland

● Новини
Search term

+ Compare

Poland ▾ Past 5 years ▾ All categories ▾ Web Search ▾

Interest over time ?

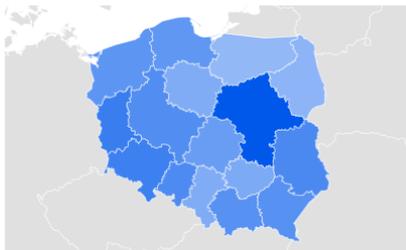


1.) Increases in searches could mean an increase in population size

2.) Fluctuation in searches could correlate to seasonal migration.

Interest by subregion ?

Subregion ▾ ↗



1	Masovian Voivodeship	100	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
2	Lubusz Voivodeship	68	<div style="width: 68%;"></div>
3	Lower Silesian Voivodeship	66	<div style="width: 66%;"></div>
4	Lublin Voivodeship	58	<div style="width: 58%;"></div>
5	Opole Voivodeship	57	<div style="width: 57%;"></div>

< 1-5 of 16 subregions >

IOM Interest in Household Surveys

- Build policy & programme relevant information not available through other data sources
- Information sought on remittances fall into four categories of interest:
 - Level of dependence on remittances
 - How remittances are being transferred
 - How remittances are being used
 - Characteristics of senders & receivers

IOM Interest in Household Surveys

- Levels of dependence on remittances:
 - Risks of economic shock to specific regions
 - Risks for remaining family members
 - Opportunities for use of remittances for community development initiatives
- How Remittances are being transferred:
 - Costs/effectiveness of remittance services
 - Need for information campaigns & financial literacy programming
- How Remittances are being used:
 - Impact of remittances on local economies/businesses
 - Potential for programming to incentivize remittance use to more sustainable development initiatives
- Characteristics of senders and receivers:
 - Variance of dependence/opportunities/risks/attitudes associated with remittances depending on characteristics of senders/receivers
 - Better design programmes/policies to respond to key target groups

IOM Experience in Remittance Studies in CIS

- IOM has engaged in over 150 studies on diaspora engagement and diaspora mapping over the past decade, however:
 - Few focused specifically on the issue of remittances
 - Methodologies and Scope vary significantly based on project budget and objectives
 - Currently looking to develop standard methodology for diaspora mapping
- 2013 – Armenian Household Survey:
 - In collaboration with UNECE and others
 - 7,890 Household Respondents
 - Focus on Migration & Remittances
- 2013 – Moldova Study Using Secondary Sources & Previous Surveys
 - Combining data from several different government studies
 - Focus on potential for diaspora investments & crowdfunding
- 2016 – Ukraine Household Survey:
 - 539 HH with family members abroad and 299 without
 - Focus on Remittances and Potential for Investment of Savings

Challenges with Surveys on Remittances

- Identifying a representative sample can be difficult/costly
- Reluctance of remittance recipients and senders to talk about financial issues – Identification of appropriate conditions/location to conduct survey
- Possible tendency of senders to over-state and recipients to under-state
- Asking for estimates on amounts and use over long periods of time can lead to poor approximations
- Discussing investment possibilities can lead to overstatement of interest in investing – manage expectations of government counterparts
- Developing survey to be policy-relevant & translating results into policy and programme decisions

Moving Forward

- Development of standard modules for diaspora mapping with minimum standards and different areas of focus – including remittances
- Support the inclusion of modules on migration & remittances in HHS in countries of origin and destination
- Identify opportunities to better verify information received through HHS and develop more realistic picture of diaspora interests that policy makers can respond to



THANK YOU

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