

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/SEM.42/21
28 April 2000

ENGLISH ONLY

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)**

Joint ECE-EUROSTAT-ESCWA work session
on Migration Statistics^{*}
(Geneva, 8-10 May 2000)

Topic 4

ON MIGRATION SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Supporting paper submitted by Goskomstat of Russia¹

**RECORDKEEPING OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION**

1. At present, the following sources of information are used in the Russian Federation for the analysis of international migration.
2. Registration of population for the purpose of changing the place of residence represents the main source of data on the movement of population. This administrative procedure is effected by the territorial passport/visa services of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Russia. In the process of the said procedure special statistical documents are compiled and then submitted to the bodies of state statistics for their elaboration and preparation of integrated results.

^{*} The documentation for this work session will be processed as for seminars.

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3. The elaboration includes coverage of such indicators as the country of origin (destination), age/sex and national composition of the emigrants and immigrants.

4. Besides, the bodies of state statistics make use of statistical information on international migration which is worked out by the Ministry of Home Affairs of Russia and contains data on the number of persons having received permission for the entry to the Russian Federation and permanent domicile, as well as permission for the departure beyond the borders of the ex-USSR with a view to permanent residence there. The data related to the entry are elaborated only for the countries of former permanent domicile, whereas the data related to the departure are valid for countries of planned residence; besides, among the emigrants children under 18 are singled out.

5. The Federal Frontier Service of Russia collects and elaborates data on the number of foreign persons, according to the countries of their citizenship, having arrived in, and departed from, the Russian Federation, as well as on the number of citizens of the Russian Federation having left for abroad, according to the countries of destination. All these data are distributed as per the objectives of the travels and the types of transport.

6. The Federal Migration Service of Russia carries out the registration and recordkeeping of refugees, persons seeking for asylum, as well as of labour contracts for foreign citizens entering Russia and of employment permits for Russian citizens abroad.

7. The existence of open frontiers with the majority of countries - former republics of the ex-USSR constitutes at present the main problem of the recordkeeping of international migration. The transparency of the frontiers makes it impossible to carry out the frontier registration and the recordkeeping of the issuance of entry and departure permits.

8. Proceeding herefrom, the recordkeeping of population registration for the purpose of changing domicile still remains a real thing. Under the term of "domicile" Russia's legislation means living quarters where a citizen permanently or primarily resides. Thus, this source of information allows to obtain information only about long-term migrants. At this, the Russian definition of long-term migrants differs from the one adopted in international practice by the fact that it lacks the time criterium of the permanent residence.

9. During the last years, certain changes have occurred in the recordkeeping of the inter-state movements. In particular, since 1992 there has been organized the registration of refugees, and since 1998 - the registration of persons seeking for asylum. The information of the population migration has become open and accessible, since 1992 all the restrictions have been lifted from the data worked out in the bodies of state statistics, as well as from those supplied by other agencies.

MIGRATION SITUATION IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN THE 90ies.

10. The international migration has not for a long time produced any telling influence upon the total change in the number of Russia's population. The summary negative balance of migration

in 1959-1974 constituted but a tenth part of the natural increase. During the subsequent 15 years (when the migratory increase became positive) it was almost five times less than the natural increase.

11. The situation sharply changed in the early 90ies when the migratory increase comprised a third of the total numerical increase in the country's population. Since 1992, the migratory flow from abroad (mainly from the CIS and Baltia countries) has been restraining the decrease in Russia's population. On the whole, during 1992-1999 it compensated by half the natural population losses.

12. The peculiarities of the development of the frontier situation in the Russian Federation over the last decade have been preconditioned by the political and socio-economic changes taking place all over the post-Soviet space area after the disintegration of the USSR. Such changes are directly connected with the transformation of the inter-Republican migration into the international migration, the appearance of other types of migration, new for Russia, such as forced migration, labour migration, etc.

13. The size and direction of the international migrations are determined by the nature of the exchange with population between Russia and other states - republics of the former USSR. Around 95 per cent of the arrivals and 60 per cent of the departures annually fall on these countries.

14. It is possible to single out two periods (before 1994 and 1995-1998) in the development of migratory processes.

15. The first stage is characterized by the annual growth (excluding 1991) of net migration which is formed due to the reduction of the number of those departed from Russia to the countries of CIS and Baltia, accompanied by an inconsiderable increase in the number of arrivals. During this period, there was a swift growth of the migratory increment in the countries where armed conflicts were raging. The irrevocable migration from Tajikistan increased almost tenfold (from 6,7 thousand people in 1989 to 62,9 thousand in 1993), 6,7 times from Georgia (from 10,8 thousand to 65,0 thousand), more than 3 times (from 8,6 to 27,8 thousand).

16. The culmination was attained in 1994 when the inflow of population essentially exceeded the level of the early 90ies and reached 1,1 million. This was the largest indicator over the last 25 years. At the same time the outflow of Russia's inhabitants continued to decrease. Compared with 1989, it was reduced three times. In the same year, for the first time after World War II, the positive migratory increment was formed at the expense of the population exchange with all the states - republics of the former USSR. In that year there occurred a double increase in the flow from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (in comparison with the previous year, from 127,0 thousand people to 304,5 thousand people and from 70,6 thousand to 135,4 thousand, respectively).

17. The second stage differentiates between the annual reduction of the number of arrivals in Russia and the number of departures from Russia. Since 1997, the residents of Kazakhstan ensured practically half of the migratory increase.

18. The movements between Russia and the countries of the traditional Near Abroad are subject to much lesser changes. Notwithstanding the expectations, there was no sharp increase in the emigration from Russia to beyond the ex-USSR, after the introduction in 1993 of the law governing the entry to, and the exit from, the country. Beginning from 1990, the claimed emigration (the number of those who have received permission for departure with a view to permanent residence) remains approximately at a level of 100 thousand people, and in 1997-1998 somewhat under that level (around 85 thousand people). In latest years, the direction of immigration has been very stable: a large portion of emigrants leave for Germany, which is succeeded, with a noticeable gap, by Israel and the USA.

19. The situation formed at the end of 1998-1999 showed once again how quickly and sensitively the migratory processes absorb the changes in the socio-economic situation in Russia proper, as well as in the neighboring countries. After the crisis of August 1998, effective September of the same year, there began to increase the number of departures for the countries of the traditional Near Abroad, and from the following November - for the countries of CIS and Baltia. This tendency was perpetuated up to June 1999. As the result, the migratory increase in Russia's population in 1999 was reduced practically twofold, in comparison with the previous year, and constituted 154,6 thousand people.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

20. In the 90ies, international migrations played an essential part in the formation and distribution of population of the Russian Federation, especially noticeable after 1992 when the process of depopulation started in Russia. Net migration slowed down the decrease in the strength of population by half.

21. The movement to Russia from the states - former republics of the ex-USSR remained the main migratory trend in the post-Soviet space area. Out of all the countries of CIS and Baltia, only Russia throughout the entire decade had a stable, though somewhat reduced, migratory increase.

22. The migration with the countries of the Far Abroad in the 90ies remained the same.
