

Distr.: General

25 October 2022 07:51:46

English

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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

Conference of European Statisticians

### **Group of Experts on Migration Statistics**

Geneva, Switzerland, October 26-28, 2022

Item A of the Provisional Agenda

**Improvements in use of administrative data for migration statistics**

### **Measuring Migration in the Kyrgyz Republic**

The situation with population migration is to a great extent related to the economic, social and technological transformations going on in the country.

When registering employed population in the country, the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC KR) accounts for labour migrants, as by sending money migrants directly participate in the lives of household members. In 2021, remittances amounted to USD 2.8 billion (website of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic)

The public agency responsible for migration policy in the Kyrgyz Republic is the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration.

The laws of the Kyrgyz Republic On Internal Migration, On External Migration, On External Labour Migration and On Promoting Employment are regulatory legal acts governing migration.

The National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic every year conducts the Integrated Household and Labour Force Survey, and one-off surveys.

Thus, the most important data sources on labour migration are population census data, data of sample labour force surveys, various one-off surveys, and agencies' administrative data.

Migration data from various sources differ from each other as collection methodologies differ.

A Comprehensive Population Census is conducted once in 10 years. The 2009 Population Census provides labour migration and general migration data. Following the Census, the publication *Migration in the Kyrgyz Republic* was released; it was also published on the official website of the NSC KR. In 2022, the

2020 round Population and Housing Census was conducted; the Census data are being processed.

The data on the labour migrant stock were obtained from the Household Budgets and Labour Force Sample Survey, which the National Statistical Committee has conducted regularly since 2003. It covers over 5,000 households in all regions of the country. Survey findings are further applied to the entire population.

According to the Integrated Household Budgets and Labour Force Survey<sup>1</sup>, in 2021 there were 279 thousand people aged 15 and over employed abroad, including 222 thousand men and 53.4 thousand women.

*(thousand people)*

	External labour migrants	including	
		in rural areas	in urban areas
<b>Total - both sexes</b>	<b>279.0</b>	<b>221.2</b>	<b>54.8</b>
men	222.6	179.0	43.6
women	53.4	42.2	11.2

Further, the labour force survey showed that out of all migrants the share of labour migrants from rural areas prevails. For instance, the share of rural population among labour migrants amounted to 80 percent, while the share of urban population was 20 percent. The survey provided data for the assessment of the uneven participation of the population of different regions of Kyrgyzstan in external labour migration.

The labour force survey questionnaire contains the following questions, based on which labour migration data is produced.

Location of primary employment

Question 28 (RAB\_TER)

Tell me, please, if your primary employment during the survey week was

- in this region (oblast) - code 1
- in a different region (oblast) - code 2
- in a different country? - code 3

The respondents who selected code 3, answer Question 29 (RAB\_REG) “Please, indicate that other country”. Then the country code is entered according to the countries of the world classifier.

For Question 85 (TIME\_OT5) the time of absence in months is entered.

There are 279,000 migrants or 11 per cent of the total employed population. The share of migrants is high in hospitality industry - with 70 thousand migrants (44.2%) out of 158 thousand people (27.4% in construction). The structure of employment outside of the country in general is characterized by an evident

<sup>1</sup> Since 2013, the data of the 2009 Population and Housing Census have been used as the sampling frame for the Integrated Household Budgets and Labour Force Survey.

domination of migrants employed in construction. This sector accounts for 31.3 percent of all migrants. The second largest employer abroad is hospitality industry with 25.4 percent, and the third largest employer is wholesale and retail trade, car and motorcycle repair, which provide employment for 21 percent of all migrants.

<b>The employed population of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2021</b>			
<i>(According to the Household Budgets and Labour Force Sample Survey, thousand people)</i>			
	All employed population	Out of them outside of the country	Share of migrants employed outside of the country, %
Total	2537.9	276.0	10.9
Agriculture	465.5	1.9	0.4
Industry	363.3	25.2	6.9
Construction	315.2	86.5	27.4
Wholesale and retail trade	390.5	58.7	15.0
Transport	203.5	14.4	7.1
Hospitality industry	158.4	70.0	44.2
Other services	641.5	19.3	3.0

Labour migration is most common among young people aged 20-29 (55.2% men and 47.9% women), and persons aged 30-39 (26.8% men and 25% women). In the 15-19 age group it decreases to 3.0% respectively. It is at the initial stage of labour activity when people are most active searching jobs, young people study, and enter the labour market for the first time. In addition, compared to older people, young people change jobs more often, because they are in search of the most suitable employment options. Many college and high school students also search employment while continuing their studies.

Migrants by age group and sex, % of total

Age, years	Total	men	women
Total	100	100	100
15-19	3.1	3.1	3.0
20-29	53.8	55.2	47.9
30-39	26.5	26.8	25.0
40-49	12.1	10.9	17.2
50+	4.6	4.0	6.9

The employed population abroad mostly have secondary (complete) general education - 63 per cent; 10 per cent of the employed population have higher

professional education or incomplete college education, and 8 per cent have secondary vocational education.

### Labour migrants working outside of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2021 by education attainment

*(According to the Integrated Household Budgets and Labour Force Sample Survey, thousand people)*

	Total	men	women
<b>Total</b>	<b>276.0</b>	<b>222.6</b>	<b>53.4</b>
including:			
higher professional	28.6	20.3	8.3
incomplete higher professional	5.1	4.4	0.7
secondary vocational	22.7	15.8	6.9
primary technical	17.8	15.1	2.7
general secondary (complete)	174.1	141.6	32.5
basic general	22.4	20.9	1.5
primary general, no primary general	5.3	4.5	0.8

The survey showed that 96 per cent of labour migrants worked in Russia. In Kazakhstan, Turkey and Germany their share is insignificant (1.0% each). As for the length of stay of migrant workers in the country of destination, short-term migration (up to 12 months) prevails. Migrant workers are mainly employed in such economic areas as construction, trade, and hospitality.

### Labour migration by country

*(thousand people)*

	2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>276.0</b>
including:	
Bulgaria	0.2
Germany	1.7
Kazakhstan	2.3
Korea	1.3
Russia	266.1
Slovakia	0.6
Turkey	3.6
Sweden	0.2

For the Population Census conducted this year, questions were designed about both people temporarily absent and temporarily staying in the country.

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Migrants who had been absent for up to one year and over one year were registered.

**Administrative data sources.**

An Information and Consultation Employment Centre was opened to provide services to citizens in three areas: information support, employment in the domestic labour market and employment abroad. In 2020, the Centre found employment for 724 people.

The process of attracting labour migrants is regulated by establishing a quota, which - in accordance with Article 7 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic On External Labour Migration - is annually determined with due regard for the state interests and the situation in the domestic labour market.

According to the report of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration, the labour quota established in 2021 included representatives of 88 countries and 16,610 people in total. In effect, 10,977 people were employed. International migrants are mainly employed in construction - 19.6 percent, mining, manufacturing - 14.7 percent, wholesale and retail trade. Most foreign specialists are Chinese citizens - over 80 percent. This information is submitted to the NSC KR using form M (migration).

**The National Statistical Committee is developing key migration indicators:** data on the number of arrivals in and departures from the country, as well as the number of arrivals and departures within the country. The source of information for migration statistics is migration registration data received from the Department of Population Registration and Civil Status Acts at the Ministry of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Passport and registration offices at public service centres (PSCs under the Ministry of Digital Development) register citizens at the place of permanent residence and de-register them from the place of permanent residence. In these cases citizens present title documents for residential premises and identification documents.

**Currently the registration of migration (number of arrivals and departures) is performed in electronic format.** The staff of public service centres register the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic, foreign citizens and stateless persons using automated information systems for population registration.

The National Statistical Committee receives primary migration data from the Ministry of Digital Development on a monthly basis through the system of interdepartmental electronic interaction "Tunduk". The Centre for Intelligence Data of the National Statistical Committee generates output tables with aggregated data on migration.

**The information from the Ministry of Digital Development on registration at the place of permanent residence and de-registration of permanent residence contain the following migrant characteristics:** date and place of birth, sex, nationality, place of residence (registration), where from and

when the migrant arrived, since what year the migrant lived in the place of departure, purpose of arrival, place of work and occupation at the previous place of residence, educational attainment, marital status, information about children under 18 (those that arrived and departed).

**External migration.** In 2021, 8,229 people arrived in the country (961 people in 2020), which is 7,268 people, or 8.6 times more than in 2020; 8,998 people departed (5,822 people in 2020), i.e. 3,176 people, or 1.5 times more than the previous year.

*Migration outflow*<sup>2</sup> from the country was -769 people (-4,861 people in 2020), which is 4,092 fewer people, or 15.8 per cent of the migration outflow for the similar period in 2020.

Therefore, in 2021 an increase in emigration of the national population to places of permanent residence was observed in the country.

**External migration of the Kyrgyz Republic population, 1990-2021**

(thousand people)

	Arrivals	Departures	Migration inflow, outflow
1990	40.9	82.9	-41.9
1991	37.6	71.3	-33.8
1992	26.3	103.7	-77.5
1993	23.0	143.6	-120.6
1994	20.1	71.2	-51.1
1995	18.4	37.3	-18.9
2005	3.8	30.7	-27.0
2010	3.9	54.5	-50.6
2015	3.6	7.8	-4.2
2020	1.0	5.8	-4.8
2021	8.2	9.0	-0.8

**Problems and conclusions.**

A migrant is absent from a household, elderly people respond for him/her, i.e. parents or children. The survey is conducted from words, no documents are required.

There is no information about labour migrants from their countries of stay (mirror statistics).

<sup>2</sup> Difference between the number of people entering and leaving the country. With the positive difference there is positive migration balance, and when the difference is negative there is migration outflow (or negative migration balance).