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ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE



Co-financed by the EU

Migration Facts Russia

On the web: www.migrationpolicycentre.eu

April 2013

Introduction. External migration during the Soviet period was generally not allowed and insignificant. Migration flows from and to the Republic were limited to the territory of the USSR. Migration became noticeable in 1988, when the permission to migrate was granted to ethnic Jews, Greeks and Germans, as well as the permission to travel abroad to all citizens. Since 1992, return migration of ethnic Russians and migration of CIS nationals to Russia are the main factors that compensate for the loss of population. Russia is also a host and a transit country for refugees from Afghanistan and Central Asia. Current migration flows are mainly directed to the EU. CIS countries are the main source countries.

Demographic-Economic			
Outward Migration		Inward Migration	
STOCK			
Russian emigration stocks - year 2011 (a)		Immigration stocks in Russia - years 2002-2010 (b)	
Total emigrants: 2,288,051 (according to 2011 consular statistics: 1,700,000)		Total immigrants: 11,976,822 persons born abroad - including post-Soviet Republics (year 2002) 1,640,801 foreign nationals (year 2010)	
Five top countries of residence:		Five top countries of birth (2002)	Five top countries of nationality (2010)
Destination countries' statistics United States: 415,438 Israel: 268,375 Germany: 206,030 Estonia: 190,599 Latvia: 172,336	Russian consular statistics (2011) Germany: 554,000 Israel: 129,000 United States: 119,000 Estonia: 127,000 Ukraine: 101,000	Ukraine: 3,559,975 Kazakhstan: 2,584,955 Belarus: 935,782 Uzbekistan: 918,037 Azerbaijan: 846,104 Source: Russian population census	Uzbekistan: 511,455 Tajikistan: 268,632 China: 186,492 Ukraine: 167,264 Kyrgyzstan: 117,656 Source: Work permits (FMS – Russia)
Sex: Males: 39.4% Females: 60.6%	Age group: Less than 15: 10.7% 15-64: 72.4% 65+: 16.9%	Sex (year 2002): Males: 60.2% Females: 39.8%	Age group (year 2002): Less than 15: 17.6% 15-59: 67.3% 60+: 15.0%
Level of education (year 2006): primary or below (31.2%); secondary (38.1%); tertiary (30.7%)		Level of education (year 2002): primary or below (19.7%); secondary (58.7%); tertiary (21.6%)	
Occupation (year 2006): elementary occupations (20.4%); craft and related trades workers (18.5%); technicians and associate professionals (15.0%)		Occupation (year 2002): craft and related trades workers (16.2%); professionals (15.3%); plant and machine operators and assemblers (14.9%)	
Notes: (a) Russian emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence. In the post-Soviet zone, the country of nationality is used Source: destination countries' sources (population census/population register/household survey)		Notes: (b) Data based on only one criterion (country of birth vs country of nationality) are usually unsatisfactory for capturing international migrants in Russia. According to the country of birth criterion, all people born in the post-Soviet zone and migrated within the USSR before 1991 are counted as international migrants even though they were internal migrants. According to the country of nationality criterion, all people migrated to Russia with the USSR nationality soon acquired the Russian nationality or fell into the category <i>stateless</i> regardless of the period of emigration Source: Russian population census - 2002	
FLOWS			
Outflows of Russian nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011		Inflows of foreign nationals in Russia – years 2010	
Total outflows: 87,955 Five top countries of destination: Poland: 24,048 United Kingdom: 8,816 Ukraine: 8,275 Germany: 6,265 Italy: 5,629 Source: flow data are proxied by granted first residence permits (EU MS + Norway), visas issued (US + Australia) and the number of registrations to a place of permanent residence (post-Soviet zone)		Total inflows: 45,949 foreign nationals 191,6000 persons arrived from abroad Five top countries of nationality	
		Uzbekistan: 7,513 Tajikistan: 6,847 Ukraine: 6,829 Armenia: 6,290 Azerbaijan: 4,929	Five top countries of departure Kazakhstan: 27,900 Ukraine: 27,500 Uzbekistan: 24,100 Kyrgyzstan: 20,900 Armenia: 19,900 Source: flow data are proxied by the number of registrations to a place of permanent residence in Russia (FSS - Rosstat)

Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

General legal references

2011 Law on Ratification of Agreement on the Legal Status of Labour Migrants and their Family Members
 2006 Presidential Decree on Regulation of the Procedure for Granting Political Asylum in the RF
 2006 Law on Migration Registration of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation (amended in 2012)
 2003 Concept on Regulation of Migration Processes in the Russian Federation
 2002 Law on Legal Status Foreign citizens in the Russian Federation (amended in 2007, 2010, 2012)
 2002 Law on Citizenship (amended in 2012)
 1999 Law on the State Policy of the Russian Federation towards Compatriots Living Abroad
 1996 Law on the Procedure of Exit from the RF and Entry to the RF (amended in 2012)

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
Visa	Visa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU-RF Visa Facilitation Agreement signed in 2006. - RF citizens are exempted from visa requirements in the CIS countries, Albania, Argentina, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, China, Columbia, Croatia (tourist voucher), Chili, Cuba, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, Philippines, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Laos, Hong-Kong, Israel, Macao, Macedonia, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Micronesia, Mongolia (restrictions), Montenegro, Namibia, Nicaragua, Peru, Salvador, Samoa, Seychelles, Serbia, Shri-Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Uruguay, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 types of visa: 'DP' - diplomatic visa (up to 1 year); 'SL' – service visa (up to 1 year); 'O' – regular visa (7 categories: private, business, tourist, study, work, humanitarian, and visa for the purpose of obtaining refugee status in the RF): 'TR1' and 'TR2' - transit visa (up to 10 days); and 'VP' – visa for temporary residence (up to 4 months, renewable). - Citizens of CIS, Argentina, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Chili, Columbia, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Laos, Macedonia, Malaysia, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Serbia, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, etc. are exempted from visa requirements.
Labour	Labour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2010 Agreement between the RF, BY and Kazakhstan, regulating labour migration and legal status of labour migrants/their family members, and combating illegal migration; - 2009 RF-France and 2010 RF-Rep. of Korea agreements on temporary labour activity of their citizens on the territory of the other state. - 1999 Treaty on Customs Union and Common Economic Space between the RF, BY, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. - Russia partially ratified the European Social Charter (revised in 1996). 	<p>Following the intensive post-Soviet economic growth based on natural resources combined with demographic decline, RF pursues an active immigration policy, attracting both skilled and unskilled migrants. The employer must obtain a permission to hire aliens. Work permits (renewable every 3 months up to 12 months, then a new license can be applied for) are obligatory, except for highly-skilled specialists/their family members (since 2010), voluntary settlers, holders of resident permits, etc. A special procedure for obtaining work permits is in place for aliens from visa-free regimes. Work permits are issued upon request of an employee by the regional state agencies.</p>
Rights	Rights
<p>Acc. to the constitution, RF citizens enjoy the protection of their State both at home and abroad, as well as the right to freedom of movement, unless law provisions state the opposite.</p>	<p>Aliens have the same rights as the citizens of the RF, with some exceptions, mainly related to political freedoms and freedom of residence and employment. Aliens must reside on the territory of the RF subject, where they obtained their residence permit.</p>
Readmission Agreements	Irregular Migration
<p>Readmission agreements are concluded with Armenia, Denmark, the EU, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia and Lithuania (in force until the ratification of the EU-RF Implementation protocol), Lichtenstein, Mongolia, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Vietnam, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. In 1998, the Cooperation Agreement with the CIS member states to combat illegal migration was signed (ratified in 2000). Party to the EurAzEC Cooperation Agreement on Countering Illegal Labour Migration from Third Countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illegal crossing of the state border without valid documents or proper authorization is a crime. Violation of rules of entry and stay is an administrative offence. - Decision on deportation is taken by the regional branch of the Federal Migration Service (FMS), or the FMS director. The decision on administrative expulsion is taken by the court.
Diaspora	International Protection
<p>RF has been developing an active diaspora policy, addressing especially ethnic Russians and highly-skilled emigrants. Central state authorities responsible for the realization of state programs on cooperation with diaspora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs; - RF Ministry of Culture; - World congress of compatriots every three years. <p>A special state program on voluntary resettlement of the Russian citizens living abroad was launched in 2006.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accession to the Geneva Refugee Convention; - Forms of protection granted in the RF are: refugee status and asylum (temporary and political asylum). - Application for refugee status is submitted to the Diplomatic or consular mission (outside of the RF), border guard service (at the moment of the border crossing), or the Federal Migration Service (on the territory of the RF). The status is approved by the Federal Migration Service. While waiting, the alien can stay in a Temporary Accommodation Centre.
Multiple Citizenship	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dual citizenship is possible in case of existence of an international agreement (exists with Tajikistan); - Multiple citizenships are allowed; - RF citizens who are at the same time the citizens of other states are recognized in relation to the Federation only as Russian citizens. 	<p>Preconditions of the naturalization are: min 5 years of permanent lawful residence (1 year for refugees, 3 years for persons married to RF citizens); knowledge and observance of the constitution and laws; knowledge of the state language; lawful sources of subsistence; renunciation of the other citizenship.</p>