

THE INFLUENCE OF GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS ON POPULATION MIGRATION IN UZBEKISTAN

ВЛИЯНИЕ ГЕОГРАФИЧЕСКИХ ФАКТОРОВ НА МИГРАЦИЮ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ

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Abstract This article analyzes the external migration of the population of Uzbekistan, as well as the factors affecting the external migration of the country's population. In recent years, the population of our country has also been included in the category of countries that are active in external migration, especially labor migration, and in turn, the geography of the country's population in external labor migration is expanding. In the early years of independence, the population of Uzbekistan went mainly to the Russian Federation and partly to Kazakhstan to work, but today new directions have opened up and this continues. A number of factors influence this, the above factors are analyzed in detail in this article.

Аннотация: В данной статье анализируется внешняя миграция населения Узбекистана, а также факторы, влияющие на внешнюю миграцию населения страны. В последние годы население нашей страны также входит в категорию стран, активных во внешней миграции, особенно трудовой, и в свою очередь, география населения страны во внешней трудовой миграции расширяется. В первые годы независимости население Узбекистана выезжало в основном в Российскую Федерацию и частично в Казахстан на заработки, но сегодня открылись новые направления, и это продолжается. На это влияет ряд факторов, вышеперечисленные факторы подробно анализируются в данной статье.

Keywords: migration, migrant, external migration, labor migrants, international migration, emigration, immigration, factors.

Ключевые слова: миграция, мигрант, внешняя миграция, трудовые мигранты, международная миграция, эмиграция, иммиграция, факторы.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), currently the population of almost all countries in the world is involved in the process of external migration. If we pay attention to the reasons that cause the migration process, the migration process, although a social phenomenon, occurs mainly under the influence of economic factors. Therefore, today the countries of the world are divided into two groups, the first is the countries that receive international migrants, and the second is the countries that send migrants. Here, the main factor is the availability of excess jobs in the countries of the first group, while the second group is the availability of excess labor. So, the participation of

the population of countries in the process of external migration is closely related to the number of people in this country.

It is known that today Uzbekistan is one of the countries with the fastest growing population in the world. As of October 1, 2024, the population of our country was 37.3 million people, which is 43rd in the world in terms of this indicator. Such a high rate of population growth in our country also ensures an increase in the number of labor resources in the population. As a result, the share of the working-age population in the total population will increase, and other countries may carry out migration movements in search of excess labor. In our country, we can witness an increase in the number of labor resources by 3 million people between 2010 and 2023. The employment rate of the population increased from 66.9% to 67.9% during this period, which is 1% in 13 years. That is, if we take into account that the population of our country grows by 1.7% per year, it took 13 years for the employment rate to increase by 1%. It goes without saying that in such a situation, part of the working-age population is leaving for countries with high demand for labor to work permanently or seasonally.

Table 1

GDP and Population Growth in Uzbekistan (in percent)

Years	GDP growth	Population growth
2015	7,2	1,7
2020	1,6	1,9
2023	6,3	2,1

When comparing population growth in Uzbekistan with GDP growth in the country, Table 1 above shows that in some years, including 2020, GDP grew by 1.6%, while the population grew by 1.9%, which in turn is one of the factors that ensures the population of this region is the first to actively participate in external migration.

Scientific studies on population migration in Uzbekistan were initially conducted by M.Q. Karaxonov, M.R. Mullajonov, B. Goldfarb, B. Makhmudov, but these studies mainly cover the period before the independence of our country. During the period of independence, population migration in Uzbekistan was thoroughly studied by L. Maksakova. In addition, scientific works on population migration can also be seen in the scientific studies of scientists such as Q. Abdurakhmonov, A.A. Kayumov, O.B. Ata-Mirzayev, A.S. Soliyev, M.R. Buriyeva, Z.N. Tojiyeva.

The movement of people from one region to another in human development also dates back to ancient times. Indeed, from the migration of Homo sapiens out of Africa around 70,000 years ago to the European discovery of the “New World”, human existence has always been inextricably linked to their movement. While in the past, patterns of movement were mainly related to factors such as climate change, adverse landscapes, conflict and food shortages, in modern times socio-

economic factors such as wage inequality, differences in welfare and living conditions, and globalization have increasingly played a role[1].

Naturally, population migration occurs under the influence of a number of factors. Some scientists recommend dividing the factors influencing the migration process into two groups: economic and non-economic factors[2]. Professor Z.N. Tojiyeva considers it appropriate to conditionally divide the factors influencing population migration into economic, demographic, political, social and environmental factors[3]. Each region may have different factors depending on its geographical location and historical origin. It is known that the migration process represents two opposite aspects of the population, that is, the migration and emigration of the population. Therefore, if the migration of the population is formed under the influence of separate factors, then the emigration also occurs under the influence of separate factors. We know that since the external migration of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan is large, the main factors influencing this, in our opinion, may be the following.

1. The economic factor affects external migration in two ways. The first is as a “push factor” for the population of Uzbekistan: relatively low wages; unemployment, on the contrary, is high, this is especially noticeable in rural areas, where almost half of the country's population lives; On the other hand, as “pull” factors in Russia and Kazakhstan, which are relatively close to Uzbekistan: the type and size of the labor market; relatively high wages, and the relatively large need for workers in regions and sectors.

2. Socio-demographic factor. In Russia, the Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan and European countries, which are the main destinations for external migration of the population of Uzbekistan, there is a decrease in the number of working-age population and population aging, which leads to a shortage of labor resources, on the one hand, and on the other hand, to the relatively favorable demographic situation in Uzbekistan, that is, an excess of labor resources.

3. Cultural and historical factor. The first destination of the population of Uzbekistan in external migration is Russia, so the fact that in the past Russia and Uzbekistan were part of one country and, as a result, the knowledge of the Russian language by the population in our country had its effect. In addition, the presence of social and kinship ties with Russia and other countries is also important. This can facilitate adaptation to the labor market and integration into the country's society.

4. Infrastructure and geographical location are factors that take into account the relative proximity of the countries to each other, the availability of transport links - air transport between Russia and Uzbekistan is developed. In particular, air flights have been established from many cities of our country to Russian cities, which is certainly due to the convenience of migrants and good relations between the countries.

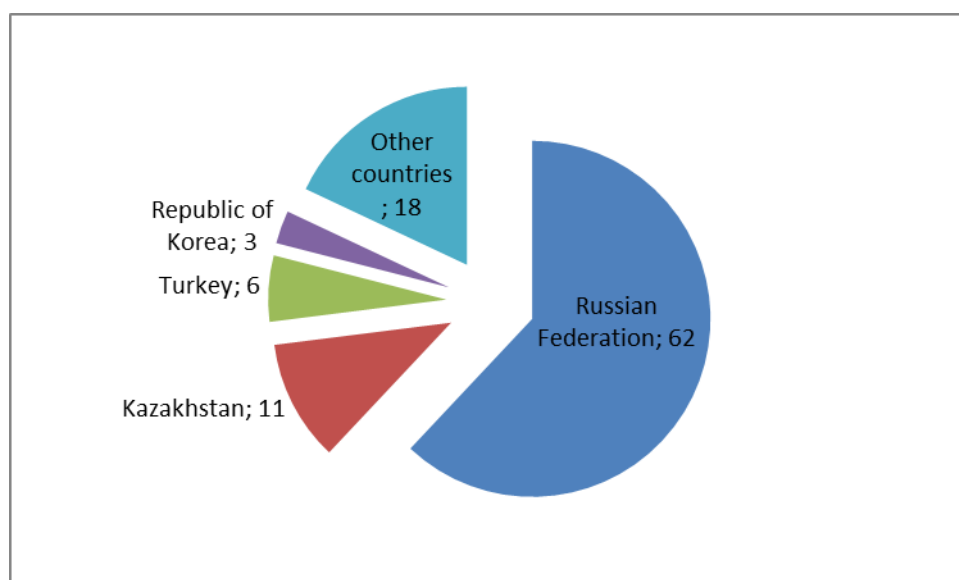


Figure 1. Distribution of external migration of the population in Uzbekistan by country. 2024.

If we look at the data in Figure 1 above, which shows the most receiving countries in the external migration of the population of Uzbekistan, it is clear that 62% of the total migrants go to the Russian Federation, followed by neighboring Kazakhstan with 11%. Today, we can see that the geography of external migration of the population of Uzbekistan has expanded significantly compared to the previous period, in particular, before and after Uzbekistan gained independence, the country's population mainly had well-established migration movements with neighboring countries and the CIS countries, but today our country's population has also established well-established migration relations with distant foreign countries, including the Republic of Korea, the USA, Israel, Turkey and European countries. The reason for this is the introduction and implementation of a number of resolutions and decrees by the head of our state.

It is known that today the Republic of Uzbekistan is also among the countries sending the largest number of labor migrants in the world. For information, according to the 2023 estimate, 2 million 345 thousand citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan are undergoing work practice in foreign countries. The countries considered the most attractive for labor migration of the population of our country are Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and the Republic of Korea. However, in recent years, it can be seen that the situation has changed somewhat, and the reason for this is related to the socio-economic and political situation in these countries. New destinations have appeared for Uzbeks, such as Great Britain, Germany, Poland, Latvia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Migration processes have a significant impact on various aspects of the socio-economic life of Uzbekistan. On the one hand, remittances from labor migrants make a significant contribution to the country's economy and raise the standard of living of many families. On the other hand, the emigration of qualified

personnel abroad creates the problem of "brain drain". Migration also affects family relations, the demographic situation, and the social structure.

In conclusion, it should be noted that in the process of globalization today, the migration process, especially the external migration process, is developing rapidly as a form of international cooperation between countries of the world. There are two types of external migration, which are emigration and immigration. Therefore, the factors affecting emigration and immigration are different. In our country, which is the research area, the emigration process is mainly dominant, and in our opinion, it is important to study the factors affecting it.

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