

Russian Federation

Migration inflows to the Russian Federation in 2011 almost doubled over 2010, to 356 000 people, while the outflow of migrants remained comparatively small (33 500 persons). The dramatic increase is partially due to a change in methodology which Rosstat implemented in 2011. Rosstat now includes migrants registered in a certain locality for nine months or more, in addition to the traditional method of counting migrants registered at their place of residence. Temporarily-registered residents are considered emigrants when their registered residence expires. While the methodology has changed, the general trend remains: decreasing flows from Kazakhstan and Ukraine, and increasing flows from other countries in Central Asia. Most international migration in the Russian Federation is temporary. Temporary labour migration flows are normally at least three times higher than permanent-type flows.

The census, conducted in October 2010, counted 11.2 million foreign-born persons, nearly 800 000 (or 7%) fewer than in the 2002 census. Most of the foreign-born population comes from the former Soviet Union (FSU), led by Ukraine (26%) and Kazakhstan (22%). The census showed that migrants who moved from other Soviet Republics before the breakup of the USSR are ceding share to post-breakup migrants. Between 2002 and 2010, the number of migrants born in countries in Central Asia rose, while the number of those born in Ukraine and Belarus fell. The 2010 census also counted 865 000 foreigners permanently residing in the Russian Federation. Nationals from the Central Asian countries made up 42% of the foreign population, led by Uzbekistan (19%). Among nationalities from outside the FSU, China (4%) was the main origin country.

Despite the ongoing economic crisis, 2011 saw labour migration to the Russian Federation increase. The total stock of work-permit holders at the end of 2011 was over 1.2 million, up from 863 000 in 2010, as well as 900 000 people holding “patents” (license cards for work in private households, substituting a work permit). Work permit numbers have thus returned close to their 2008 level. Most labour migrants are nationals of CIS countries that have a visa-free travel regime with the Russian Federation. Following liberalisation of labour market access for CIS nationals, the share of the inflow from CIS countries rose from 77% in 2010 to 83% in 2011. One third of migrant-workers with regular work permits were low-skilled, about 44% were higher skilled and 4% were top managers. Work permits are subject to an overall quota, set at 1.75 million per year since 2011, and a

sub-quota for visa-countries, set at 460 000 for 2012 and 410 000 for 2013. Certain skilled and high-level occupations are exempt from the quota.

The number of foreign university students in the Russian Federation is growing. In the 2011-12 academic year the total number was 158 000, triple the number in 2000/01. Most (over 75%) were nationals of other FSU countries (20% from Belarus, and 18% from Kazakhstan). China led among the non-FSU countries, with 10 000 students.

About 135 000 persons were naturalised in 2011, a 21% increase over 2010, despite stricter rules. Individuals who could formerly obtain Russian nationality through a quick and simple procedure now must apply for a temporary, and then permanent, residence permit, and wait for a decision on naturalisation.

A mandatory Russian language proficiency test administered by a Russian government-certified language centre for certain categories of migrant workers was also introduced for workers in retail trade and domestic work. As of December 2012, workers from visa-exempt countries seeking employment in the housing, utility, retail business and consumer service industries must demonstrate basic Russian language skills. Foreign nationals applying for the Highly Qualified Specialist Program are exempt from this requirement. Citizens of countries where Russian is an official language, and those holding at least a secondary-level degree issued in a country of the FSU, are also exempt.

The Assistance in the Voluntary Return of Compatriots Living Abroad programme is still operative and expected to be modernised to attract more participants. In June 2012 the President signed a document entitled Concept for the Russian Federation’s State Policy on Migration to 2025, a result of public discussion and co-operation between experts and officials. The document contains a set of new approaches which are expected to help authorities work out a more efficient and pragmatic policy aimed at both permanent-type and temporary migration to meet demographic challenges and the need for additional labour force in the Russian Federation.

For further information


www.fms.gov.ru
www.fms.gov.ru/documents/formvisa/index_eng.php
www.mid.ru/
www.gks.ru/

Recent trends in migrant flows and stocks

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average		Level ('000)
					2001-05	2006-10	2011
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	2.5	1.2	1.3	2.5	1.1	1.7	356.5
Outflows	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.3	36.8
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners Russian Federation ■ 2001-10 annual average ■ 2011 		
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2010	2011	2010	2011			
Work	70.4	273.0	30.7	66.2			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	111.9	93.9	48.8	22.7			
Humanitarian	2.1	1.8	0.9	0.4			
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	45.0	44.0	19.6	10.7			
Total	229.4	412.6	100.0	100.0			
Temporary migration	2005	2010	2011	Average 2006-10			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	37.3	35.1	35.5			
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	795.7	2 014.0	1 077.9			
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average	Level	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2 292
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average	Level ('000)	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	-4.0	-5.0	..	..	-4.9	..	..
Natural increase	-6.5	-5.9	..	..	-6.1	..	..
Net migration	1.6	0.8	..	..	0.5	..	..
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average	Level ('000)	
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	..	..	7.9	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	..	..	0.5	..	..	..	..
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average	Level	
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	..	..	..	19.6	..	..	134 980
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2010	2011	Average	Level	
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	10.0	6.4	4.3	4.3	6.1	3.7	..
GDP/capita (level in USD)	10.5	6.8	4.3	4.3	6.6	3.8	21 093
Employment (level in thousands)	3.4	1.3	0.7	1.3	0.9	0.5	70 732
<i>Percentage of the total labour force</i>							
Unemployment	10.5	7.6	7.5	6.5	8.3	7.1	..

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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SOURCES AND NOTES OF THE COUNTRY TABLES OF CHAPTER 5

Migration flows of foreigners

OECD countries and the Russian Federation: sources and notes are available in the Statistical annex (Metadata related to Tables A.1, B.1 and A.2).

Bulgaria: Number of new permanent and long-term residence permits granted (*Source*: Ministry of the Interior); Lithuania: Arrivals and departures of residents (*Source*: Department of Statistics of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania); Romania: Permanent residence changes (*Source*: Romanian Statistical Yearbook).

Long-term migration inflows of foreigners by type (standardised inflows)

The statistics are based largely on residence and work permit data and have been standardised, to the extent possible (cf. www.oecd.org/migration/imo).

Temporary migration

Based on residence or work permit data. Data on temporary workers generally do not cover workers who benefit from a free circulation agreement.

Inflows of asylum seekers

United Nations High Commission for Refugees (www.unhcr.org/statistics).

Components of population growth

Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania: Eurostat. Other OECD countries and the Russian Federation: Population and Vital Statistics, OECD, 2011.

Total population

Foreign-born population

National sources and Secretariat estimates (cf. www.oecd.org/migration/foreignborn for more information on methods of estimation). Sources and notes of national sources are provided in the Statistical annex (see Metadata related to Tables A.4 and B.4).

Foreign population

National sources. Exact sources and notes for the OECD countries are given in the Statistical annex (Metadata related to Tables A.5 and B.5).

Lithuania: Residents' Register Service (Ministry of the Interior); Romania: Ministry of the Interior.

Naturalisations

National sources. Exact sources and notes for the OECD countries are given in the Statistical annex (Metadata related to Tables A.6 and B.6). Bulgaria and Lithuania: Ministry of the Interior.

Labour market outcomes

European countries: Labour Force Surveys (Eurostat); Australia, Canada, Chile, Mexico: Labour Force Surveys (annual averages); United States: Current Population Survey, March supplement.

Macroeconomic and labour market indicators**Real GDP and GDP per capita**

Annual National Accounts – Comparative tables at the price levels and PPPs of 2005 (OECD).

Employment and unemployment

OECD Employment Outlook 2012, OECD, 2012.



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