INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
FROM
UZBEKISTAN

Maddalena Honorati
Senior Economist
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Total and working-age population in Uzbekistan is growing. This increases pressure on the domestic labor market and pushes many Uzbeks to other countries in search of (better) employment and income opportunities.

Note: Total population is based on the de facto definition of population, which counts all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship. The values shown are midyear estimates.
Stock of Uzbek migrants abroad has increased but not substantially since 2015

The majority of migrants born in Uzbekistan lived in Russia, followed by Kazakhstan and Ukraine. A substantial increase of migrants from Uzbekistan is observed in high-income destinations such as the USA, Germany, and the Republic of Korea.

**Total migrant stock from Uzbekistan by top 10 destination countries, 2000-2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of destination</th>
<th>Type of data</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total (world)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,575,969</td>
<td>1,730,060</td>
<td>1,880,557</td>
<td>1,951,668</td>
<td>1,979,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>913,322</td>
<td>1,030,041</td>
<td>1,125,335</td>
<td>1,146,803</td>
<td>1,146,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>168,223</td>
<td>216,537</td>
<td>264,862</td>
<td>281,713</td>
<td>294,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>251,285</td>
<td>229,608</td>
<td>219,081</td>
<td>219,814</td>
<td>222,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>71,162</td>
<td>70,180</td>
<td>67,903</td>
<td>67,505</td>
<td>67,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>23,613</td>
<td>26,322</td>
<td>29,911</td>
<td>61,204</td>
<td>66,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>15,193</td>
<td>25,587</td>
<td>34,199</td>
<td>35,633</td>
<td>39,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>4,198</td>
<td>9,821</td>
<td>19,326</td>
<td>24,012</td>
<td>24,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>B R</td>
<td>29,428</td>
<td>25,379</td>
<td>21,638</td>
<td>22,316</td>
<td>21,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>B R</td>
<td>20,549</td>
<td>19,501</td>
<td>17,853</td>
<td>17,030</td>
<td>16,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>15,344</td>
<td>15,108</td>
<td>14,919</td>
<td>14,788</td>
<td>14,603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: * B = estimates were derived from data on the foreign-born population; C = estimates were derived from data on foreign citizens; R = the number of refugees or persons in refugee-like were added to the estimates.
Stock of foreign-born population in Uzbekistan is decreasing

The share of foreign-born residents in total population has decreased from 5.7% in 2000 to 3.5% in 2019. The major countries of origin are FSU countries including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, etc.

### Total immigrant stock in Uzbekistan by country of origin, 2000-2019

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total (Uzbekistan)</td>
<td>1,406,498</td>
<td>1,329,932</td>
<td>1,220,149</td>
<td>1,170,873</td>
<td>1,168,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>1,067,247</td>
<td>980,674</td>
<td>913,652</td>
<td>877,690</td>
<td>875,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>131,027</td>
<td>132,963</td>
<td>129,604</td>
<td>124,602</td>
<td>124,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>28,456</td>
<td>28,636</td>
<td>27,674</td>
<td>26,532</td>
<td>26,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>22,744</td>
<td>22,504</td>
<td>21,360</td>
<td>20,357</td>
<td>20,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>20,868</td>
<td>18,166</td>
<td>14,700</td>
<td>13,194</td>
<td>13,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>32,002</td>
<td>42,216</td>
<td>11,945</td>
<td>11,496</td>
<td>11,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>9,353</td>
<td>9,362</td>
<td>8,998</td>
<td>8,610</td>
<td>8,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>7,498</td>
<td>7,039</td>
<td>6,291</td>
<td>5,870</td>
<td>5,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>5,110</td>
<td>5,201</td>
<td>5,085</td>
<td>4,894</td>
<td>4,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Foreign-born population as a share of total population in Uzbekistan (%)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Estimates were derived from data on the foreign-born population. Estimates for the share of foreign-born population in total population are from UNDESA “International Migrant Stock 2019: Country Profile. Uzbekistan”.
Remittances to GDP ratio has substantially increased since 2015

Economic reasons have been the main factors to migrate

- International labor migration is driven in large part by weak local labor markets
- Out-migration is most common in areas with low labor force participation, low confidence in local economic prospects
- International labor migration is a fundamental coping mechanism (higher among poorer households)
- There is a strong relationship between household shocks and beginning to consider migrating

Source: Honorati and Carraro 2019, Seiz 2019
The COVID pandemic discouraged labor migration

Incidence of labor migration (%), 2018-2020

% of households with current labor migrants
% of working age people currently working abroad

Source: L2CU high frequency data
Majority of international labor migrants are male and young

Gender and age composition of labor migrants vs. non-migrants (%), 2019

Incidence of labor migration by age and gender (%), 2019

Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkey are the top three reported destinations

Source: L2CU high frequency data (rounds 5-16), individual-level data.
Note: The incidence of labor migration refers to the percentage of working-age (15+) household members who were living or staying temporarily in another country for work, as reported by the primary respondent.
A large share of migrants from Uzbekistan living in South Korea, USA, and "other countries" didn't work according to the primary respondent. The reason is unknown.

Share of migrants not working at the time of the survey, by destination country (%), 2018-2020 (average)

Share of migrants not working during the survey in the main destination countries (%), 2018-2020

Source: L2CU high frequency data (rounds 1-24).
Many migrants from Uzbekistan tend to work informally, especially in Kazakhstan and South Korea. Turkey is an exception.

Source: L2CU high frequency data (rounds 1-24).
The majority of labor migrants have vocational education

Source: L2CU baseline survey.
Note: International migrants are defined as temporarily absent household members because they were living and/or working abroad. Labor migrants cannot be distinguished from non-labor migrants in L2CU.
Less than half of the labor migrant send remittances to their households in Uzbekistan

- Uzbekistan-based banks and official money transfer operators are the major channels for remittances used by labor migrants.
- The major currency for remittances is USD, regardless of the country of destination.
- Remittances are predominantly used on consumption of food and housing.

Source: L2CU high frequency data (rounds 5-16).
Labor migration is predominantly short term and circular

- As of June-July 2018, nearly 57% of migrants stayed abroad for up to 180 days.
- One in four migrants had been living abroad for over 1 year.
- The average duration of migration is 313 days, the maximum is 5854 days (over 16 years).
- Migration to Kazakhstan was predominantly short-term. The stock of migrants in Russia and Turkey included more mid- and long-term migrants.

Source: L2CU baseline survey. Note: International migrants are defined as temporarily absent household members because they were living and/or working abroad. Labor migrants cannot be distinguished from non-labor migrants in L2CU.
A new Agency for External Labor Migration was established under the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, opening its branches in each region, and overseas offices in major cities (2019); Branches are open within MELR multi-functional jobs centers

Granting rights to private organizations to carry out activities to employ citizens of Uzbekistan abroad;

Introduction of preferential fees and subsidized loans for the purchase of travel tickets for temporary labor migrants

The creation of a Fund to support and protect the rights and interests of migrants working abroad;

Cancellation of the procedure for issuing permits to work abroad with the introduction of voluntary registration system

COVID response: feedback mechanisms were created: “birgamiz.com” and “anketa.migration.uz”, a call-center and Telegram channel; ALMPs for ~ 160k people unable to leave
Thank you!

Maddalena Honorati
mhonorati@worldbank.org