

Natives of the Post-Soviet Countries in the Population of Russia: International Migrants or Not?

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Abstract

In this article, the role of natives from the former republics of the USSR in forming the population of Russia is analysed. In spite of the fact that Russia formally was ranked to be the second country in the world after the USA in regards to the numbers that were born abroad, only a small part of them are international migrants. From 11 million people, only one-third arrived to Russia after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, they are not repatriates, they returned home to be representative of the people that traditionally live in Russia. In this article, not only are the scales of resettlement in Russia calculated, but also an attempt to estimate the survival of migrants, by an accommodation assessment in place of their installation being made. The vast majority of migrants from Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Abkhazia and South Ossetia lived in Russia for more than 10 years, and it is difficult to distinguish them from locals. Among the natives of these countries, included: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Moldova and Armenia. A high share of those who lived in a residence for less than 3 years, are considered to be new settlers. A large number of the arrived return to their countries, even if they at first wished to remain in Russia on a permanent residence. A large migratory turnover does not cause a large number of the saved-up migrants in case of their low survival.

Keywords: Census, Integration of Migrants, Lifetime Migrants

1. Introduction

According to the UN, it was indicated that Russia has 11 million that were born outside the country and takes second place in the world after the USA, where 45.8 million citizens were born abroad³. In addition to Russia and the USA, the first ten countries also include Germany (9.8 million), Saudi Arabia (9.1 million), the United Arab Emirates (7.8 million), Great Britain (7.8 million), France (7.4 million), Canada (7.3 million), Australia (6.5 million), and Spain (6.5 million). Contrary to the opinion of many Russian mass media that hurried to call Russia the second most attractive country to migrants in the world¹⁸, experts in the UN made the clause that in the case of the former USSR, the speech partially discusses internal migrants making movements within their uniform

country⁸. They 'trained for a new profession' among international migrants, only owing to the formation of new frontiers in the former Soviet Union, which was similar with Yugoslavia's case.

Because migration is always followed by accommodating a new change of conditions, new settlers do not always get accustomed and adapt in their new place¹⁻²⁴. The less time passes from the time they change residence; the probability of moving to a new place is higher. The research conducted in the USSR revealed that at living less than 3 years' intensity of leaving is higher many times over, than at old residents, they are most migration mobile^{2,12}.

According to a number of authors, 10 years are more than a sufficient term for migrants to adapt and integrate in their new place. They are already adapted and

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integrated into an accepting community, and according to many characteristics, are similar to the local autochthonic population. Therefore, they are less likely than others to be inclined to change their residence^{12,19}.

Furthermore, in foreign research it was confirmed that the employment level and economic activity of immigrants who lived in New Zealand for 10 years and more, already differ slightly from those who were born in this country⁶. Between distinctions of natives and immigrants in the Netherlands, those that lived in the country for more than a decade, in the level of access to a health care system are not observed any more⁹. A research in Britain shows that with an increase in the length of residence, the share of the occupied - 47% lived there for more than 1 year, 67% arrived more than 5 years ago, and 73% for 10 years or more⁷.

2. Materials and Methods

Until recently, the answer to a question, what part of the residents of Russia were born beyond its borders arrived before the collapse of the USSR, and after that as well as in what distinctions of these migrants depended on that territory for an outcome, which was complicated because of restrictions in the development of census materials. In 2014, Rosstat provided access to a base of microthese for the All-Russian population censuses 2002 and 2010, where information on the people residing in Russian territory were contained. The base of microdata was capable to provide a more flexible approach to data than publications of traditional census results at the expense of the possibility of designing of any model of the table. A non-personified base of microdata does not provide access on particular persons and to groups of people with certain characteristics. By means of the SuperWEB2 web interface, it is possible to make cross-tables, usually with dimensions to 3-4 measurements, which are suitable for the descriptive analysis¹.

Estimates of the UN do not belong to migratory flows (migration flows), but actually to the number of movements determined, as a rule, by the current accounting, and to the migratory contingents (migrants stock), which is to the total number of people not living in the country in which they were born. The contingents of migrants are defined most often by means of the question of the birthplace asked in a population census or special selective inspection. The migrants revealed by criterion of discrepancy of the place of residence and birthplace being

lifelong (lifetime migrants)^{21,16}. Therefore, the criterion of a birthplace is invariable for the person during all their life, unlike criterion of the previous residence defined in censuses of some countries, such as for example, in India^{4,5}.

3. Results

Natives of the former federal republics play an important role in forming the population of Russia and its specific regions. In 2010, they made 7.4% of resident population of Russia or 10.5 million people [Table 1]. From these, natives from Ukraine were more than 27%, while Kazakhstan had 23%. Every 10th was born in Uzbekistan. Less than on 1% came from the general share of natives

Table 1. Natives of former USSR countries in the Russian population in 2010

| Countries | Natives of other countries, one thousand persons | | | Accommodation duration, in % | |
|---------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | In total | Arrived till 1991 | Arrived after 1991 | 10 years and more | 3 years and less |
| Azerbaijan | 724 | 278 | 446 | 72% | 9% |
| Armenia | 500 | 102 | 398 | 58% | 14% |
| Belarus | 724 | 495 | 229 | 84% | 6% |
| Kazakhstan | 2 427 | 878 | 1 549 | 70% | 9% |
| Kyrgyzstan | 561 | 140 | 421 | 53% | 20% |
| Moldova | 278 | 95 | 183 | 58% | 16% |
| Tajikistan | 434 | 82 | 352 | 52% | 22% |
| Turkmenistan | 175 | 58 | 117 | 66% | 10% |
| Uzbekistan | 1 081 | 267 | 814 | 54% | 17% |
| Ukraine | 2 876 | 1 696 | 1 180 | 79% | 6% |
| Abkhazia | 83 | 33 | 50 | 80% | 6% |
| South Ossetia | 28 | 14 | 15 | 77% | 6% |
| Georgia | 425 | 174 | 251 | 76% | 7% |
| Latvia | 84 | 41 | 43 | 79% | 7% |
| Lithuania | 67 | 41 | 26 | 84% | 5% |
| Estonia | 55 | 28 | 27 | 80% | 7% |
| In total | 10 523 | 4 422 | 6 101 | 70% | 10% |

from Baltic Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, as well as certain partially recognised states in the former Soviet Union, Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

No less than 42% (4.4 million people) of other countries' natives were not international migrants since those that moved until 1991 was inclusive, until the collapse of the USSR. They are natives of the former federal republics and during the resettlement in existing areas at that time, RSFSR crossed internal administrative borders, but not borders with another state.

In regards to ethnic structure, among those that arrived after 1991 from 6.1 million Russians, there were 3 million and 233 thousand people (or 57% from among moved at this time). Furthermore, Russians from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan accounted for more than 70% of all that arrived. From Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Moldova and Turkmenistan, had more than 60%. From Kazakhstan after the collapse of the USSR into Russia, more than 1.2 million Russians arrived, or nearly 39% of all Russians that arrived at this time were from the former Soviet Union. Furthermore, in absolute values, the number of Russians that arrived from Ukraine (650 thousand people), Uzbekistan (418 thousand people), and Kyrgyzstan (250 thousand people) were great during this period. Therefore, it should be noted that census data on ethnic structure of migrants became unique because similar information on the current accounting ceased to gather since 2008.

315 thousand more people who arrived in Russia after 1991 were representatives of the people that were traditionally living in Russia (Tatars, Bashkirs, other people of the Volga region, Yakuts, Buryats, the people of Dagestan, etc.). These people, as well as Russians, were repatriates returning home. Among them, there were descendants of the specialists from Russia helping to develop a national economy in the Soviet period, subjugators of a virgin soil, children of military personnel, representatives of repressed people that were born in deportations in Kazakhstan as well as Central Asia (Chechens, Ingushs, etc.)¹⁴.

Therefore, it is possible to carry to 'these' international migrants no more than 3.1 million permanent residents of Russia (or slightly less than a third of all natives of other countries in the population of Russia at the time of the 2010 population census). In that case, Russia was in the list of the UN falling into the 16th position, between Thailand and Jordan provided that for reasons, similar with Russia, leaders were left by Post-Soviet Ukraine and Kazakhstan¹⁰.

4. Discussion

After the collapse of the USSR, the geography of migratory flows significantly changed. Considerable migratory activity of natives from Ukraine and Belarus, while activity of natives from the Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan and Transcaucasia grew decreased¹¹. Therefore, on censuses 1989, 2002 and 2010, when the question about birthplace (place of birth) was set, the number of natives of the former federal republics were approximately at one level, about 10.5-11 million people, but their structure [Figure 1] considerably changed. Therefore, if in 1989, more than half of the migrants in Russia fell on Ukraine and Belarus, and in the subsequent their role promptly fell. Generally, were at the expense of Kazakhstan, the republics of Central Asia and Transcaucasia.

In addition to the number of migrants, how they were fixed in structure of an accepting community is important. Natives of different parts of the former USSR have on average, a different duration of accommodation in a permanent address.

Old residents most of all were among natives of Belarus, Ukraine and the Baltic States at 75-80% [Table 1]. Whereas among the republics of Central Asia, except Turkmenistan, they were less than a half. Among natives of certain countries like Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, and Armenia, a high share of those that lived in a residence for less than 3 years, were new settlers.

It not only testifies that a number of migrants were from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are growing since the beginning of the 2000's, but also that they are less than the others are oriented to a long-term residence in Russia. There is 'a routine of personnel' – a large number

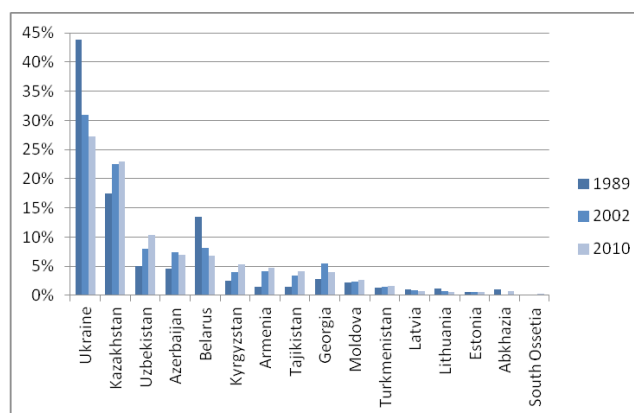


Figure 1. Natives of the countries of the former USSR in the population of Russia.

arrived were compensated so that many leave back even if they initially wished to remain in Russia on a permanent residence. Therefore, a large migratory turnover does not cause a large number of saved-up migrants in case of their low survival¹³.

Natives of Belarus, the Baltic States, and Ukraine move less often, their survival in Russia is higher. That is not surprising, considering they have great linguistic, cultural, ethnic community, and prevalence for personal contact with residents in Russia²⁰.

It is worth noticing that the criteria of a permanent residence are not exact and strongly underestimates the number of migrants who moved in the borders of the Soviet Union. For example, if the natives of the federal republic moved to Russia until 1991, and then made movement or even some movements after 1991 already within Russia, by this criterion, it cannot be separated from the international migrants crossing the frontier. This movement, on the contrary, will be determined by the current accounting by bodies of Rosstat to be an internal migration.

5. Conclusion

In spite of the fact that Russia on the number of natives of other countries cedes in the population only by the USA, only a small part from them were the international migrants in the usual sense of this word. From 11 million people, no more than a third arrived to Russia after the collapse of the USSR and were not repatriates. Owing to this fact, a talk on the second place in the world on the number of the international migrants was not quite reasonable. Russia only became on the way of the country, which is rather accepting of international migrants.

The result of migratory processes depends not only on resettlement scales, but also on the survival of migrants. Natives of the different republics of the USSR have different survival, which consist overwhelmingly a part of natives from Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia lived in Russia for more than 10 years continuously. Therefore, it is already difficult to distinguish them from locals. Furthermore, among natives of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, and Armenia, more than 10% arrived recently. Therefore, that is only about the resident population. These new settlers can move from place to place, thereby a large number of the arrived were compensated so that the most leave them back.

Further work on an article subject can be continued in detecting of features of transformation of important social and demographic characteristics of lifelong migrants (lifetime migrants) in Post-Soviet time, ethnic origin, age structure, education level, as well as studying natives in Russia in the Post-Soviet countries on materials of their national population censuses.

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