

## Article

# External Migration of The Population of Uzbekistan and Factors Influencing IT

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the external migration of the population of Uzbekistan based on data from the last 10 years. Also, in recent years, the population of Uzbekistan has 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 mainly went to the Russian Federation and partly to Kazakhstan to work, but today new directions have opened up and this continues. The participation of the population of Uzbekistan in external migration in recent years, including labor migration, its dynamics, remittances from abroad and the amount of transit migration, is also considered in this article.

**Keywords:** Migration, Migrant, Labor Migrants, International Migration, Transit Migration, International Remittances

## 1. Introduction

In the world today, we can witness that the number of international migrants is also increasing every year, along with the increase in the population. The changes in the last 50 years indicate that the number of international migrants has increased from 84 million to 280 million people during the period 1970-2020, which means that it has increased 3.5 times in these 50 years. While international migrants constituted 2.3% of the world population in 1970, this figure will be 3.6% by 2020 [4]. If we see that the annual growth rate of international migrants is 3.6% higher than the annual growth rate of the world population, which is 1.06%, we can observe that these two indicators are growing in opposite directions. The annual growth rate of the world population continues to decline, and the share of international migrants in the world population is constantly increasing. This situation also develops under the influence of socio-economic, political, ethnic, and religious factors in the world.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), almost all countries in the world are currently involved in the international migration process. In this, groups of donor countries sending migrants and countries receiving migrants have been formed. If we pay attention to the reasons that cause the migration process, the migration process, although it is a social phenomenon, occurs mainly under the influence of economic factors. Here, the main factor is the availability of excess jobs in the countries of the first group, while in the countries of the second group, the availability of excess labor. Thus, the participation of the population of countries in the external migration process is closely related to the population of this country. It is known that today

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Uzbekistan is one of the countries with the fastest growing population in the world. As of January 1, 2025, the population of our country was 37.5 million people, which ranks 43rd in the world in terms of this indicator[9]. Such high population growth in our country also ensures an increase in the number of labor resources in the population. Ultimately, as the share of the working-age population in the total population increases, the surplus labor force may migrate to other countries in search of work.

## 2. Materials and Methods

In today's globalization process, the study of migration processes is an area of interest to many scientists and researchers. Therefore, one of the most studied areas today is migration processes, because the permanent or seasonal movement of the population from one region to another is of interest to many researchers. The reason is that the migratory movements of the population are formed under the influence of many factors and their consequences are also diverse, which is why the study of population migration is becoming more and more intensive. In the study of population migration, foreign researchers D.M. Tomayeva, N.A. Pruyel, L.N. Lipatova, V.N. Gradusova, L.P. Kleev studied general issues of migration, M.A. Troyanskaya, I.F. Farkhadov, M.A. Pitukhina studied its geographical features, and O.A. Kolesnikova, V.A. Emelyanov, N.G. Gordeev, L.A. Varakina studied labor migration.

Migration, especially external migration, is becoming one of the most important factors uniting countries in the world today, therefore, today the causes and factors that cause migration and its consequences are being studied and analyzed in depth by scientists from almost all countries. In China, the impact of internal migration on demographic processes during 1996-2010 was studied by Rufe Guo, Junsen Zhang, and Minhai Zhou[11]. It is known that China is the country with the largest internal migration in the world, in this country every year 100 million people move from rural areas to cities in search of work, naturally, as the permanent place of residence of the population changes, its attitude to demographic processes also changes, because the external environment can also have its impact.

The research of scientists from the former Soviet Union, D.I. Volobieva, V.G. Magnevsky, V.G. Nishtkim, M.I. Rukkim, G.B. Topilin, E.V. Turukanova, is devoted to various issues of the migration process: the authors paid special attention to international migration: Iontsev, A.N. Kamensky, E. G. Krasinets, P.K. Vechkanov, L.A. Solonskaya (labor migration); G.S. Vitkovskaya, V.I. Mukomel (forced migration); Ledeneva L.I., I.A. Malakh ("brain drain"); V.A. Volokh, S.B. Yagodin (migration policy); TD; Ivanova (illegal, transit migration), etc.

Russian researcher P.V. Vasilenko, studying foreign theories of population migration, explains the reasons for the accelerated migration processes in the context of globalization in them as follows: "The economic growth of developed countries and the problems of developing countries constitute push and pull factors for modern migrants" [4].

Studies on the migration process Central Asian scholars Fariza Tolesh and Svitlana Biloshchytska developed a forecast of international migration in Kazakhstan using the ARIMA model. In this, the participation of the Kazakh population in immigration and emigration processes was forecasted until 2060[1]. The causes and consequences of the migration movement of the population in Tajikistan were analyzed in the studies of K. Gulmirzoev, G. Nazarova, O. Kasimov, and others.

Scientific studies on population migration in Uzbekistan were initially studied 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.

This article widely uses statistical observation, statistical grouping, territorial analysis, mathematical, geographical comparison methods.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The migration of people from one region to another in human development also dates back to ancient historical periods. Indeed, from the migration of Homo sapiens out of Africa approximately 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 associated with factors such as climate change, adverse landscapes, conflicts and food shortages, in modern times, socio-economic factors such as wage inequality, differences in well-being and living conditions, and globalization have increasingly played a role[2].

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[7]. Professor Z.N. Tojiyeva considers it appropriate to conditionally divide the factors influencing population migration into economic, demographic, political, social and environmental factors[8]. 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 inflow and outflow of the population. Therefore, if migration is formed under the influence of separate factors, then inflow 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.

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 launched from many cities of our country to Russian cities, which is certainly due to the convenience of migrants and good relations between the countries.

The highest rate of population migration intensity per 1,000 people in Uzbekistan is in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, with 8.31 people in 2010 and 3.62 people in 2023, Tashkent region with 5.08 and 1.79 people, respectively, in Tashkent city with this indicator of 3.5 and 1.3 people, and Navoi region with 5.06 and 2.10 people, respectively, while in the rest of the regions this indicator is very low. In 2010, the migration intensity

was also high in Andijan, Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions, but by 2023 we will witness a decrease in these regions as well. The reason for this is that during the period when the country gained independence, there was a large population migration, especially to foreign countries, and a large number of these migrants are those who immigrated during the former Soviet Union and their descendants.

Migration movements of the population of Uzbekistan play an important role in the socio-economic and demographic development of the country. Migration processes in the territory of Uzbekistan have a long history. Since ancient times, this territory, located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, has witnessed the meeting of different peoples and cultures. During the Soviet Union, migration processes became even more active. The 1966 Tashkent earthquake and subsequent reconstruction work caused many people to move to the capital. The migration movements of the population living in Uzbekistan can be divided into the following 4 periods.

- a. The era of the Great Silk Road.
- b. The era of the Soviet Union.
- c. The 1966 Tashkent earthquake.
- d. Independence of Uzbekistan.

It is known that due to the fact that our country is located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, many peoples and nationalities became interested in this area and moved to it to trade. Therefore, this period can be distinguished as a separate period in the migration history of the country's population. The second period is the Soviet Union, from this period onwards, the population mainly migrated from other neighboring regions and settled permanently in the territory of the country. During the Soviet period, qualified specialists for industrial enterprises transferred to the territory of Uzbekistan from the western regions were also brought from those countries, in addition, the development of new lands and the opening and operation of new mines also caused the migration of representatives of this industry. Most of the Russian-speaking peoples who migrated during the Soviet period settled in urban areas, which can be seen in the territorial distribution of the national composition of the population today.

**Table 1.** Dynamics of external migration of the population of Uzbekistan, 2010-2023 (Immigrants and emigrants).

Years	Immigrants		Emmigrants		Migration Residue		External Migration Flow	
	Total	Per 1000 People	Total	Per 1000 People	Total	Per 1000 People	Total	Per 1000 People
2010	4665	0,16	44420	1,58	-39755	1,41	49085	1,75
2014	3666	0,12	42228	1,38	-38562	1,26	45894	1,50
2018	2850	0,08	17579	0,53	-14729	0,45	20429	0,62
2022	2291	0,06	8790	0,24	-6499	0,18	11081	0,31
2023	2955	0,08	17336	0,48	-14381	0,39	20291	0,56

Source: Website of the Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan <https://stat.uz/uz/>.

After the devastating earthquake in Tashkent in 1966, many specialists from other regions of the former Soviet Union were involved in the reconstruction of the city, which was devastated, and this also served to enrich the national composition of the population. The last period, which began after the fall of 1991, when our country declared its independence, was significantly different from the previous ones. Previously, there was a lot of immigration to this region, but after independence, the migration balance has only a negative indicator, which is also due to the fact that part of the population that migrated in previous years and their descendants began to migrate to their homeland. Therefore, the majority of the migrants during the period when the country gained independence were representatives of other nationalities.

In the dynamics of external migration of the population of Uzbekistan, it can be seen that during the research period, immigrants decreased from 0.16 people per 1,000 people to 0.08 people, that is, by 2 times. While those who emigrated from the country during this period amounted to 44,420 people in 2010, this figure decreased to 17,336 people by 2023, or more than 2 times during this period. While immigrants per 1,000 people amounted to 1.58 people in 2010, this figure decreased to 0.48 people by 2023, or 3 times compared to 2010.

The age structure of those participating in the external migration of the population of Uzbekistan also shows that the working-age population is active in external migration. The reason for this is that not all the population entering the labor market in the country is provided with work. According to the 2010 census, the number of people of working age arriving is almost 10 times less than those leaving.

If we pay attention to Table 2, here the distribution of the external migration of the population of Uzbekistan by region is presented. Here it is recommended to study the countries in 3 groups, namely:

- a. Neighboring countries.
- b. CIS countries.
- c. Other countries.

The division of countries into these 3 groups is connected with the formation and development of the demographic history of the population of Uzbekistan in this region. During the Soviet Union, Uzbekistan had a well-developed migration process with most of the countries that were part of the Union at that time, which can be seen in the national-ethnic composition of the population today. Uzbekistan has always had good relations with neighboring countries, because from ancient times these fraternal peoples lived on the same river as friends and brothers, therefore the first factor determining the location of the population in Central Asia is the hydrography of the territory, but by the fall of 1991, after the countries declared their independence, the political borders did not quite coincide with the hydrographic borders, which resulted in further intensification of migration processes in this region.

According to the 2010 census, 69% of the total external migration of the population of Uzbekistan was accounted for by neighboring countries, while this figure will be 76% by 2023. The share of the CIS and other countries was 30% and 1% in 2010, respectively, while this figure will be 20% and 4% by 2023. These data also show that the contribution of neighboring countries to total external migration is primarily high.

**Table 2.** External migration indicators of the population of Uzbekistan (in percentage terms).

Years	Neighboring countries		CIS countries		Other countries	
	Immigrants	Emmigrants	Immigrants	Emmigrants	Immigrants	Emmigrants
2010	61,2	69,5	36,3	28,9	2,5	1,6
2014	60,1	39,2	37,2	58	2,7	2,8
2018	68,8	51,5	25,7	44	5,5	4,5
2022	38,7	62	2,4	12,9	58,9	25,1
2023	41,4	82	42,2	15,7	16,4	2,3

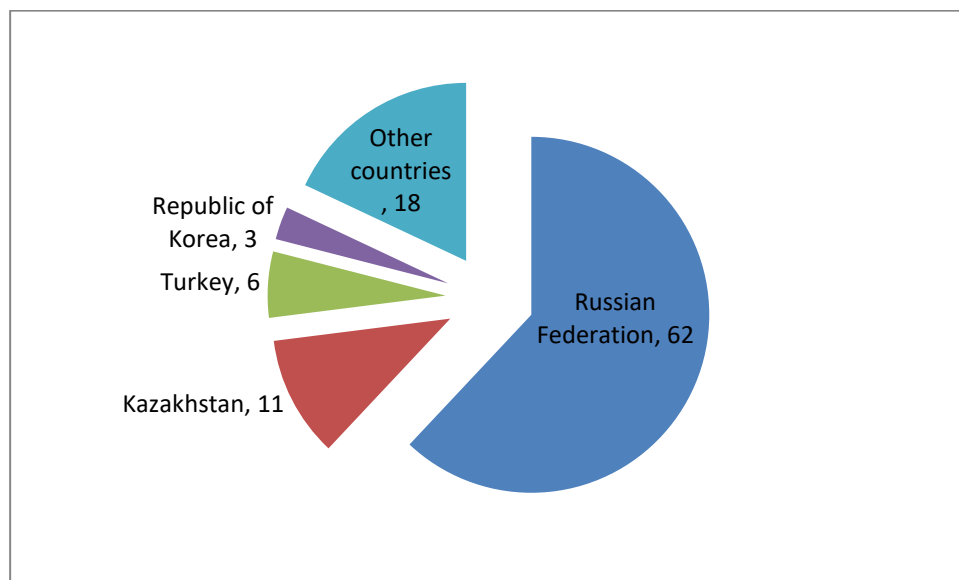
Source: Website of the Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan <https://stat.uz/uz/>.

Note:

- a. The group of neighboring countries includes the Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- b. The group of CIS countries includes the countries of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.
- c. The group of other countries includes countries other than neighboring republics and CIS countries, including Afghanistan.



When comparing the growth of the population in Uzbekistan with the growth of GDP in the country, 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 that the population of this region is the first to be active in external migration. It is known that if economic growth in a certain region is higher than demographic growth, demographic pressure increases, and as a result, the excess population migrates to other regions.



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

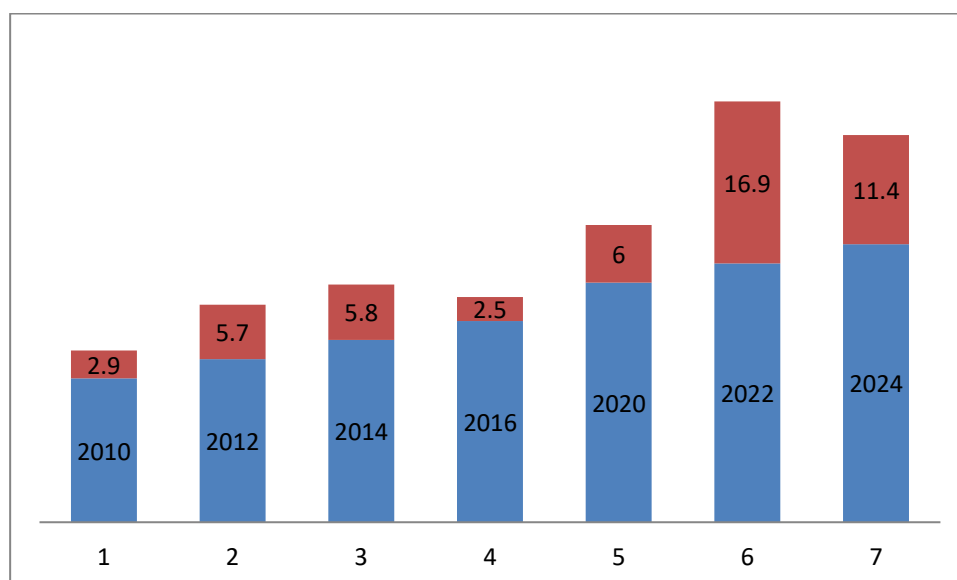
If we look at the data in Figure 1 above, which shows the most receiving countries in the external migration of the population of Uzbekistan, it is clear that 62% of the total migrants go to the Russian Federation, followed by neighboring Kazakhstan with 11%. Today, we can see that the geography of external 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 the population of our country has 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 several resolutions and decrees by the head of our state, including the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-5205 dated July 30, 2021, which developed and implemented practical measures to ensure the protection of the rights and interests of citizens going abroad for temporary work, to provide them with the necessary legal, social, information and advisory assistance, and material support[10].

Since the participation of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan in external migration is largely due to emigrants, the positive or negative impact of migration on the population size, density or demographic situation of the country, on the demographic behavior and composition of the population is not very noticeable. In addition, the demographic processes of other nationalities migrating from the country, in particular, the low birth rate, do not change the overall demographic situation of the republic or lead to significant demographic losses. However, the impact of this process is reflected in a decrease in the population growth rate, a decrease in the number of highly qualified specialists in the republic, and economic, moral and social losses. For example, quite a few highly qualified specialists leave Uzbekistan every year for Russia, Israel, the USA and other countries[11]. This situation has a strong impact on the capital region and large cities

of the republic. In general, in the mechanical movement of the population of the republic, the educational level of migrants is of great importance for both urban and rural residents.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as of September 1, 2023, about 2 million 118 thousand citizens of Uzbekistan worked abroad. Almost 75 percent of them (1 million 596.7 thousand) were men and 25 percent (521.8 thousand) were women. At the same time, 33.2 percent (702.9 thousand) were young people. The bulk of labor migrants (1.3 million) worked in the Russian Federation, 223 thousand in Kazakhstan, 113.1 thousand in Turkey, and 66.8 thousand in the Republic of Korea. The highest labor emigration rates are in Andijan (240 thousand), Samarkand (224 thousand) and Fergana (227 thousand) regions [5]. In recent years, new migration destinations for Uzbekistan have emerged, including countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Latvia, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

Remittances sent by labor migrants have been important for many years and cover part of the living expenses of the population. In particular, according to the 2023 estimate, \$11.4 billion in remittances from abroad entered our country, which is more than 11.2% of the country's GDP. For comparison, the value of gold exported by Uzbekistan in 2023 amounted to \$8.1 billion. The foreign exchange received by labor migrants is spent primarily on daily needs, as well as on the purchase of cars and home repairs.



Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM). Uzbekistan Office. Migration Data Gaps Analysis January 2024.

**Figure 2.** Remittances by Uzbek migrants.

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

As is known, Uzbekistan is located in the center of Central Asia and borders all the countries of the region. Therefore, a large part of the population who left the country due to the prolonged unrest in neighboring Afghanistan has settled in Uzbekistan. Some sources say that their number is more than 10 thousand people[6]. This process also indicates that Uzbekistan is involved in transit migration. Some of the population from Afghanistan subsequently migrates to other countries through Uzbekistan.

#### 4. Conclusion

Thus, 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. In the development of such international cooperation, it is especially important for the Republic of Uzbekistan and its regions, where the population is growing rapidly. In recent years, the Republic of Korea and many European countries, including Germany, Great Britain and the Baltic countries, have been the most organized sources of labor migrants. With most of these countries, the Republic of Uzbekistan carries out labor migration in cooperation with employers' organizations through migration agencies and their territorial departments, as a result of which labor migrants have many advantages: firstly, a guaranteed job and salary. Secondly, since most of these countries are developed countries, working hours are regulated, as a result of which labor migrants have safe working conditions.

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