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**Results on migration from the 2020 population census round**

# **The 2019 Census of Population of the Republic of Belarus: Migration and Ethno-cultural Characteristics**

**Note by National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus\***

## *Summary*

In today's world, migration issues are key to international and national agendas. Qualitative data on internal and external migration are essential for accurate assessments of the current demographic situation, planning, resource allocation and the formulation of migration policies.

The population census is the main source of data on the number of migrants permanently residing in the country but born outside the country or arriving from abroad, as well as information on the ethnic composition of the population. The report presents the experience of the Republic of Belarus in measuring migration characteristics in the 2019 census, including by expanding the block of questions on migration, obtaining data on ethnic composition and disseminating the resulting data.

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## I. Census as a source of data on migration and national composition of a country

2. Migration activity in the world is increasing from year to year. Therefore, studies of quantitative and qualitative characteristics of population mobility are of particular importance. Among all sources of statistical information on international migrants, the main one is the population census. The data obtained in the course of its conduct are the most complete, universal and comparable, and allow for cross-country comparisons of internal and external population migration. The census is also the only source of data on the national composition of a country's population, spoken and native languages.
3. The distinctive feature of the population census is a continuous survey of all those living and staying in the country on a particular date, which provides data on each resident of the country for each locality, as well as determining the preferences of migrants with regard to their territorial placement in the country.
4. The Republic of Belarus conducts a population census at least once every ten years. The last population census was conducted in 2019. It was the third since the Republic's independence and the most innovative of all previously conducted censuses. A distinctive feature of the 2019 census is the rejection of paper carriers and the use of modern information technologies at the stages of data collection, processing and storage, as well as the dissemination of its results.
5. The census programme, while retaining its comparability with the 2009 census programme 2009, taking into account international recommendations, was expanded with a block of questions on migration and labour force. The block of questions on migration activity of the population included, among others, such questions as continuity of residence in the given locality; country from which the respondent arrived in the Republic of Belarus; reasons for arrival.

Table 1

Questions on migration activity included in the national census programme

<b>№</b>	<b>Census 2019 programme questions</b>
1	Continuous residence in a city, urban-type settlement or rural settlement of this administrative region
2	the period of arrival in the locality
3	reason for arrival in the locality
4	previous residence
5	Residence for one year or more continuously in any other country
6	country from which the respondent came to the Republic of Belarus for permanent residence
7	period of arrival in the Republic of Belarus
8	reason for arrival in Belarus for permanent residence
9	Intention and reason for leaving the Republic of Belarus (for persons aged 15-74)

10	the period for which you plan to leave the Republic of Belarus
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6. For respondents temporarily residing or staying in the territory of the Republic of Belarus, a separate census questionnaire was formed, which included 7 questions:
- (1) NAME;
  - (2) Date of Birth;
  - (3) Pol;
  - (4) Country of birth;
  - (5) Citizenship;
  - (6) Country of permanent residence;
  - (7) The main reason for entering the Republic of Belarus.

#### A. Migration characteristics as part of the 2019 census

7. Migration processes taking place in the Republic of Belarus in recent years have undergone significant changes. As in any country in the world, they have a significant impact on the demographic and socio-economic situation, living standards and welfare of the population, as well as the labour market.
8. According to the data obtained in the Republic, changes in the size and intensity of migration flows occurred during the inter-census period.
9. Thus, according to the results of the 2019 census of the population of the Republic of Belarus:
- 4977.2 thousand people (52.9 per cent) have lived at their permanent place of residence continuously since birth;
  - 4,317,400 people (45.9 per cent) changed their place of residence;
  - came from outside the Republic of Belarus - 764 thousand people (17.7 per cent).

Table 2  
Internal and external migration from the 2009 and 2019 censuses

Population census	Resided permanently since birth, thousand people	Changed place of residence, thousand people	Of which:	
			inland	international arrivals
2009	5607,5	457,7*	406,1	39,3
2019	4977,2	4317,4	3390,4	764,0

\*Changed place of residence in 2005-2009.

10. Internal migration significantly exceeded external migration and totalled 3.4 million people. And, as the data showed, women are more mobile (57.6 per cent).
11. The overwhelming majority of respondents who changed their place of residence had lived at the place of residence for 5 years and more - 78.7 per cent. The optimal structure of the

population was formed among those who had been living in the area for 1-4 years, as the share of the able-bodied population in this group was 74.3%.

Table 3  
Persons who changed residence, by length of residence and age (2019)

Length of stay	Total, thousand people	Including by main age groups, thousand people		
		under working age	able-bodied	over working age
less than 1 year	193,3	36,3	140,9	16,1
1 - 4 years	570,1	80,4	423,6	66,1
5 years or more	3397,4	66,8	1926,7	1403,8

12. The working-age population was the most mobile, accounting for 59.3 per cent of all persons who changed their place of residence (50.4 per cent of men and 49.6 per cent of women, respectively).
13. The reasons why people changed their place of residence varied. Respondents mainly indicated family circumstances (54.8%), work (19.8%) and return to the previous place of residence (8.2%).
14. As already noted, 764,000 people arrived in Belarus from other countries, of whom 671,400, or 87.8 per cent of the total number of arrivals, were migrants from CIS countries, including 407,800 from Russia, 144,300 from Ukraine and 67,500 from Kazakhstan.
15. From non-CIS countries 91.3 thousand people arrived (12.2% of the total). These are mainly from Germany (21.7 thousand people), Latvia (17.2 thousand people), Lithuania (15.5 thousand people) and Poland (5.8 thousand people). In total, the list includes more than 100 countries.

Table 4  
Migrants by country of arrival

Population census	Persons arriving from CIS countries, thousand people	Persons arriving from non-CIS countries, thousand people
2009*	32,1	7,1
2019	671,4	91,3

\*Profits for the period 2005-2009.

16. During the inter-census period, not only the number of those arriving in Belarus has changed, but also their qualitative composition. Thus, if according to the 2009 census among

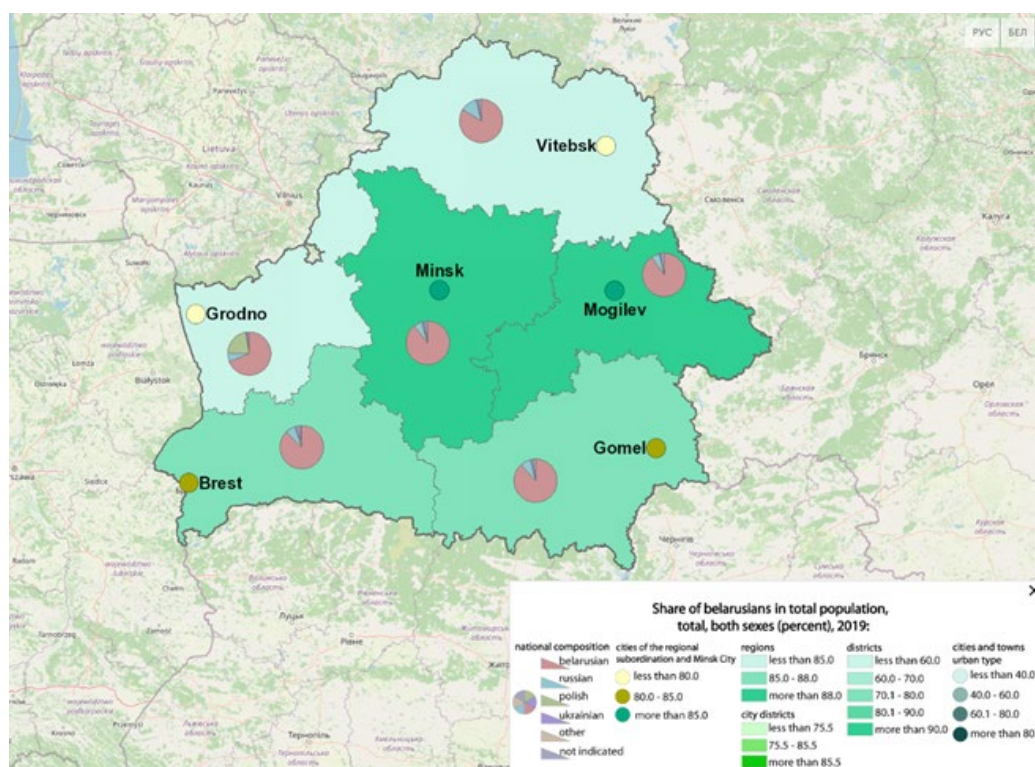
emigrants aged 10 years and older, persons with higher and postgraduate education accounted for 22.1 per cent, then according to the results of 2019 - 30.7 per cent. The situation is similar among emigrants with secondary specialised education: 2009 - 21.2 per cent, according to the 2019 census - 31.6 per cent.

17. For the first time in 2019, respondents aged 15-74 were asked about planning to leave the country. 145.8 thousand people or 2% of respondents in this age group, including 81.4 thousand men and 64.4 thousand women, answered positively. Of these, 79.3 thousand people were planning to move to a permanent place of residence, 79.3 thousand to a new place of residence, and 79.3 thousand people, 32.6 thousand people for a period of less than one year, and 33.9 thousand people for a period of more than one year. 33,900 people. The main reasons cited were: education, family reunification, and work.

## B. National composition and languages

18. Data on national composition provide a more accurate picture of the size of the immigrant population than can be obtained from information on country of birth alone.
19. According to the latest census data, the proportion of Belarusians in the population structure of the country has continued to grow. Thus, if according to the data of 2009 there were 837 Belarusians per 1000 inhabitants, in 2019 this figure was as follows 849 Belarusians. The second in number are Russians, then Poles and Ukrainians. In total, according to the census, 156 nationalities live in the republic.

Figure 1 Share of Belarusians in the total population according to the 2019 census data



20. 54.1 per cent of the population named Belarusian as their native language. Over the ten years, the share of the population with Belarusian as their mother tongue increased by almost

1%. The Russian language was named as a native language by 42.3% of the total population of the republic.

### C. Dissemination of findings

21. The first census results were published at the end of February 2020. Later, statistical bulletins and compilations containing information on migration characteristics and national composition of the population were published [https://www.belstat.gov.by/ofitsialnaya-statistika/publications/izdania/public\\_compilation/index\\_41896/](https://www.belstat.gov.by/ofitsialnaya-statistika/publications/izdania/public_compilation/index_41896/).
22. Other ways to disseminate the totals, which include both migration characteristics and national composition, include the information and analytical system "Population Census Totals", the database of the 10 per cent sample from the 2019 Census, and the information and analytical system "Geostatistics".
23. The information and analytical system "Final Data of Population Censuses of the Republic of Belarus" (ISA PN) became available to users at the end of October 2021. It contains final data from the 2009 and 2019 censuses on population size, age composition and marital status, fertility, education level, national composition, mother tongue and language usually spoken at home, economic characteristics of the population, migration and temporary residents, household composition and amenities. The system allows the user to independently form a query, quickly export data in various formats (xls, doc, csv, json) and visualise them in the form of graphs, charts and cartograms. You can familiarise yourself with the IAS PN work at <https://census.belstat.gov.by/>.
24. In 2022, the Belstat formed a 10 per cent sample based on the 2019 census data, which also contains information on the migration activity of respondents. The work on the preparation of the database was carried out in accordance with the UN recommendations. The main objective of the microsample construction was to provide the scientific community with detailed information on small population groups together with metadata, information on sampling structures, normative and reference documentation.
25. . The micro-sample was formed by mechanically selecting every tenth private household, the premises where these households live, and then respondents - members of the households in the sample. The data are distributed by region and type of locality, and there is also an attribute of a large city (100,000 inhabitants or more). The sample does not include collective households, as well as persons who were temporarily in Belarus at the time of the census.
26. Today, the 10% census database contains detailed anonymised data on households, premises, respondents and is available for users conducting research and development. All requirements to ensure confidentiality of personal data are met.
27. Belstat is constantly improving the methods of data dissemination, using new formats and methods of data presentation. Thus, in December 2023, the information and analytical system "Geostatistics" became available to users. The system is an interactive graphical visualisation of all official statistics, as in addition to the 2019 population census data, it additionally includes information on various branches of statistics, including business demographics.
28. The system allows to generate tables according to individual requests, build graphs, diagrams and cartograms, and upload them in a convenient format. Users have the opportunity to obtain information about the territory of the republic of interest to them, taking into account its socio-economic and demographic characteristics.

29. The system is available anywhere in the world in Belarusian, Russian and English, including from mobile devices. IAS Geostatistics is constantly updated with new data. We try to make the maps interesting and accessible for analyses, deepen the dynamic series. You can familiarise yourself with the system's capabilities at <https://gis.belstat.gov.by/>.

Figure 2 Interface of the main page of IAS "Geostatistics"

