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Migration statistics**External labour migration: sources, measurement methodology and system of indicators****Prepared by State Statistics Service of Ukraine***Summary*

The paper focuses on statistical measurement of labor migration in light of the Ukrainian experience. External labor migration of Ukrainian citizens takes a special place in the system of migration processes of Ukraine. Currently, Ukraine is one of the largest donors of labor in Europe. A wide range of users are interested in assessing the real extent of this phenomenon and its impact on the socio-economic development of the country.

Information sources on labor migration as well as main trends need to be analysed in detail, for instance in volumes, prevalence, geographical orientation of labor migration, socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Ukrainian labor migrants, their working conditions, income level. The paper also identifies challenges in obtaining information on foreign labor migration and considers the possible way forward in improving the existing recording system.

The paper is presented for discussion to the Conference of European Statisticians seminar on migration statistics.

I. Introduction

1. Ukraine is currently one of the largest migrant sending countries in Europe. Its nationals work in West European countries, in new European Union member states, in the Commonwealth of Independent States and even further abroad. A critical factor prompting the spread of labour migration is the considerable wage gap between Ukraine and main foreign destination countries. Under such conditions, labour migration is one of the few options for securing acceptable living standards for a considerable portion of Ukraine's economically active population.
2. This why lately the problem of labor migration of Ukraine citizens has attracted a lot of attention. This matter is actively discussed by the government institutions and highlighted in the media. However, there are often complaints about the lack of impartial information in this field. There are separate expert's assessments according to which the estimates of labor migration of Ukrainian citizens varies from 2 to 7 million.
3. Such conflicting information cannot be considered in isolation from the problem of the completeness and reliability of the Ukrainian emigration statistics. Nowadays, the state migration statistics are actually based on registration by place of residence. If a person leaving the country to go abroad is not deregistered in Ukraine (this happens in majority of cases concerning labor migration, which is considered temporary by citizens), he is not recorded as an emigrant statistically. Due to this, there is a significant underestimation of emigration.

II. Sources of information

4. The analysis of existing official sources of information about labor migration shows that any one of them presents information about separate segments of this phenomenon and this does not permit to identify the its real scale in whole. At present, in Ukraine the sources of information about labor migration (emigration) of citizens abroad are as follows:
 - (a) Administrative data;
 - (b) Population census;
 - (c) Sample surveys.
5. Information obtained from these sources is of controversial nature, one of the reasons is the lack of coordinated methodological frameworks, discrepancies in periodicity of collection and coverage of the "labor migration" phenomenon.
6. Information obtained from administrative data of the State Employment Service covers only legal labor migration and is split into two directions:
 - (a) Data on the number and composition of Ukraine citizens temporarily working abroad;
 - (b) Data on the number and composition of foreigners temporarily working in Ukraine.
7. The official job placement of Ukraine citizens abroad follows two directions:
 - (a) Under the contact;
 - (b) By working abroad through an official intermediary who has a license to ender such services.

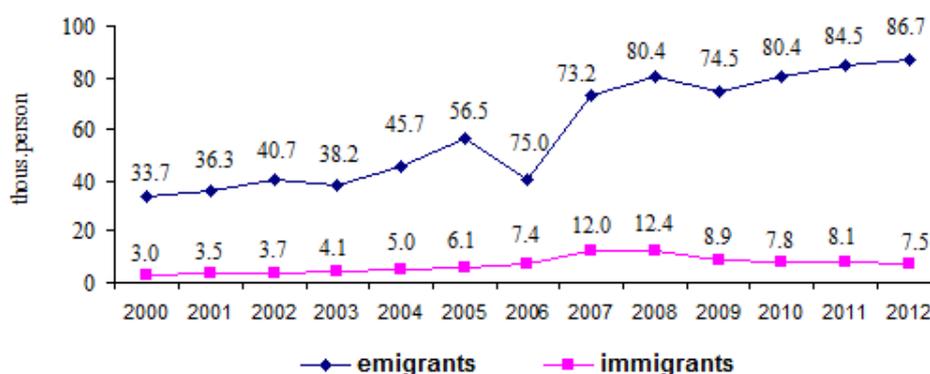
8. The main indicators measuring this phenomenon are the number of persons who received jobs by country of destination, migrant category, sex, age, education, duration of work, type of economic activity, country of destination and etc.

9. Information about the number of foreigners temporarily working in Ukraine is compiled by the State Employment Service and is based on the permits issued by this Service and given to employers to employ the foreigners. The mentioned data are produced by country of permanent residence, migrant category (working migrants, seasonal workers, cross border workers, trainees and employees), sex, age, education, duration of work.

10. Thus, according to data from the State Employment Service, the number of Ukrainian citizens officially employed abroad in 2012 was 86,700 persons while the number of foreigners temporarily working in Ukraine at the end of 2012 was 7,500 persons (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Scale of officially organized international labour migration in Ukraine, 2000-2012



11. The population census is the main source of data on population migration. The value of such information is that the census ensures the full coverage of immigrants including those who did not register the place of residence at the state authorities and who are on the territory of the country at the moment of the census. The population census gives the opportunity to collect data on international and domestic migration across the country in whole and by small geographical areas. During the census the number of foreigners is identified as well as those born abroad.

12. The Ukrainian population census program includes two basic questions: place of birth (country) and citizenship (country) which permit determining the contingents of international migrants. Also, as compared to the previous 2001 census, it contains the questions about the country of the previous residence, staying abroad more than a year, reasons for staying and a year when a person arrived into the country. Provision is made for receiving information about labor migration including the commuter based on questions about the place of residence and the place of job (region, settlement and country).

13. The combination of migration attributes with other variables will give the opportunity to get many-sided demographic, and social and economic characteristics of migrants (sex, age, nationality and command of language, education, marital status, source of income, employment, characteristics of migrants' households and their housing conditions).

14. As international and national experience reveals, the important source of information about labor migrants is the specially tailored sample surveys of the population (households). The results derived from the mentioned surveys allow not only to assess the

scales of labor migration including the illegal one but to get data on demographic, and social and economic characteristics of labor migrants.

15. Ukraine has already accumulated experience in designing and undertaking such surveys. The first full-scale sample survey of the population (households) on labor migration (hereinafter, labor migration survey) was conducted by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine jointly with the Ukrainian Center of Social Reforms in June 2008.

16. The second subject-matter survey was carried out by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine along with the Institute of Demography and Social Research named after M.V. Ptukha of the Ukraine National Academy of Sciences in April-June of 2012 under the EU project, Effective Management of Labor Migration and its Qualifications Aspects, which was launched by International Labor Organization (ILO). The observation was conducted as a module to labor force survey.

17. The purpose of the survey is to assess the scale, scope and geographic coverage of Ukrainian citizens' migration for employment purposes, the socio-demographic composition of migrant workers, including their educational attainment, areas of training before departure abroad, their economic activities, working conditions, frequency and duration of their migration cycles, etc. The 2012 survey targeted persons aged 15–70 permanently residing in their households (in 2008 the survey targeted working aged persons: women 15-54, men 15-59).

18. According to the methodology applied in this survey, migrant workers are persons, who during the reference period (1 January 2010–17 June 2012) worked abroad or searched for a job abroad. They are also persons who within the reference period had a job abroad but have already returned to Ukraine and also those who were abroad during the survey due to the job performance or search abroad.

19. Temporary migrant workers and those who have a job and receive a salary in Ukraine, but on business travel abroad, were not included in the survey. Development of the labour migration survey program took account of labour migration observation peculiarities, particularly their irregular character and different duration, which dictated the need for distinguishing between the following respondent groups:

(a) Returned migrant workers to Ukraine are household members aged 15–70 who returned to Ukraine within the specified reference period after having worked abroad or having searched a job abroad;

(b) Short-term migrant workers are defined as household members aged 15–70 who were absent from their household for less than a year at least once during the specified observation period (with likely return during the next 12 months) due to working or searching a job abroad (e.g. persons with seasonal or temporary jobs, etc.). Based on the survey results, this category does not include frontier commuting migrants and persons working and receiving wages in Ukraine and making trips abroad for business reasons (e.g. workers of international transport companies, persons on missions, and so forth);

(c) Emigrant workers are household members aged 15–70 who were working abroad or searching for a job and were absent from their household for 12 months or longer during the specified observation period (including persons absent for less than a year and not planning to return to their household during the next 12 months). This category also includes persons who visited their relatives from time to time on weekends or holidays when being on leave, maintaining the possibility of going back abroad for job continuation or search.

20. The program for labor migration survey in 2012 benefitted from the experience acquired in carrying out the 2008 survey and was improved in line with the ILO experts' recommendations. The program makes provision for obtaining information about the

categories of labor migrants (short-term, return labor migrants, emigrant workers or long-term migrants); their characteristics, earnings from abroad and households' wellbeing, plans to leave abroad.

21. Based on the results of the survey, the detailed information on social and demographic, and social and economic characteristics of labor migrants by category and country of destination was obtained. The analytical review of the main results of the survey given below provides insight into the system for indicators available from the observation.

III. Summary of results obtained from labour migration sample survey of population

22. According to the survey results, 1.2 million, or 3.4 per cent of the Ukrainian population, aged 15–70, were identified as migrant workers from January 2010 to June 2012. Among the working aged population, the portion of migrant workers within the specified period comprised 4.1 per cent (on Labor Market Survey conducted in 2008 in the period from the beginning of 2005 through June 01, 2008, some 5.1 per cent of active working individuals worked abroad, and from the beginning of 2007 till 1 June 2008, it was 4.4 per cent).

23. Short-term migrant workers comprise almost half (48.5 per cent) of the total number of migrant workers; persons who returned to Ukraine comprise more than one-third of the total; and only one in seven labour migrant worked abroad for 12 months or longer. The latter category includes more women than men, and more urban than rural residents (Table 1).

Table 1.

Ukrainian migrant workers by migrant group, gender and place of residence before departure, 2010–2012

	Total	Women	Men	Urban settlements	Rural areas
Total number of migrant workers, thousand persons	1,181.6	405.9	775.7	540.1	641.5
by migrant groups, %					
return migrant workers	37.4	32.8	39.8	37.3	37.4
short-term migrant workers	48.5	43.1	51.3	44.6	51.8
emigrant workers	14.1	24.1	8.9	18.1	10.8
Share of migrant workers among population aged 15-70, %	3.4	2.2	4.8	2.2	6.3

24. The overwhelming majority of migrant workers (1,160,900, or 98.2 per cent) worked abroad during the specified period of time while only 20,700 (1.8 per cent) were looking for employment. Labour migrations are more common among men – they make up two-thirds of the total number of migrant workers. The share of migrant workers in the total number of men aged 15–70 is 4.8 per cent whereas the percentage for women is almost half of this, at 2.2 per cent.

25. Overall, rural residents comprise 54.3 per cent of the entire migrant worker contingent. The rural population participation rate in labor migrations is 2.9 times higher than that of the urban one: 6.3% of rural population aged 15-70 years old is involved into

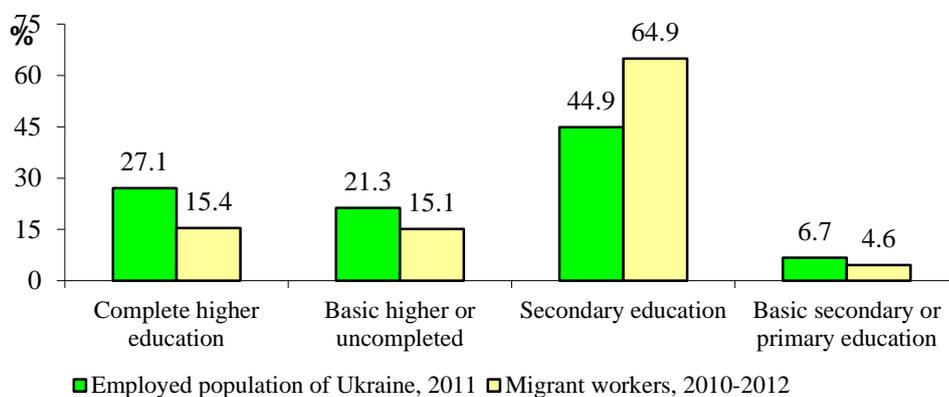
them against 2.2% of urban dwellers. More high intensity of labor migrations of the rural population is mainly explained by the limited opportunities for their employment.

26. The average age of Ukrainian migrant workers is 37 years (average age of the economically active population of Ukraine is 40 years). The youngest worker contingent is in Hungary whereas the oldest ones are those migrating to Belarus, Italy (40 years) and especially Spain (43 years).

27. The educational attainment of migrant workers was considerably lower compared to total employed population. Almost two-thirds of migrant workers have completed general secondary education. Higher educated individuals are less interested in employment abroad because they have better employment opportunities in the domestic labour market. The percentage of those having completed higher education is 15.4 per cent whereas the share of those with higher education of all levels (complete, basic and incomplete) is 30.5 per cent (Figure 2).

Figure 2.

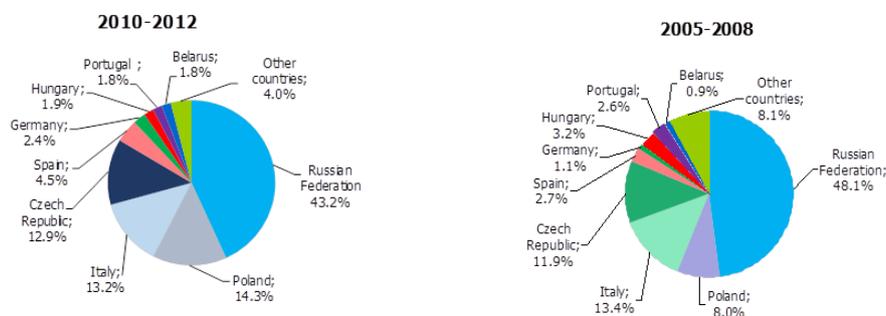
Employed population of Ukraine and Ukrainian migrant workers by level of education



28. Labour migration flows have distinct geographical trends: generally, most labour migrations are to the countries of Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Union. According to data from the labor migration survey undertaken in 2012, the first three countries, where a majority of labor migrants worked, were the Russian Federation (43.2%), Poland (14.3%) and Italy (13.2%) while according to the results of the 2008 survey: the Russian Federation, Italy and Czech Republic (Figure 3).

Figure 3.

Direction of labor migration (according to surveys in 2008 and 2012)



29. External labour migrations of Ukraine population are mostly cyclical and seasonal. During a two and a half year period, each migrant surveyed made on average three trips to work abroad (previous survey provided for the same number of trips to work abroad from the beginning of 2005 to 1 June 2008). Average duration of stay abroad (during the most recent labour trip taken) was 5 months. Almost half of the total number of migrants (45.9 per cent) made one trip each, 43.5 per cent made a few trips per year, and 7.3 per cent travelled once or more per month.

30. The migrant workers going to Russia, Belarus, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary focus on periodic short trips with permanent return to Ukraine. However, those travelling to and working in Southern Europe and Germany usually remain there for a longer period.

31. Most Ukrainian migrant workers have regular status of stay and employment, formalized according to local legislative requirements of their destination countries. They obtain a residence and work permit, temporary registration, or a work permit. However, every fifth labour migrant surveyed had no official legal migration status and arrived in a country of destination on a tourist visa that provides no legal entitlement to a job/working permit. Compared with the Labor Market Survey 2008, from the beginning of 2007 to 1 June 2008 every fourth resident of Ukraine has worked abroad in an irregular situation. Among labor migrants who work in the Czech Republic, 71.7% had the permits both to reside and work, in Spain and Italy more than a half (59.1% and 54.5% respectively), in Poland and Russia around a quarter (28.2% and 23.5%). The largest share of labor migrants without official legal status was in Hungary (51.3%) and the lowest in the Czech Republic (2.4%). 19.8% and 12.8% of labor migrants arrived to Portugal and Italy correspondently to work using tourist visas.

32. Most migrants who worked abroad held the status of employee. In particular, 63.8 per cent were engaged at or in enterprises, institutions and organizations (hereinafter referred to as enterprises) whereas 29.3 per cent were engaged in households of other states' nationals. At the same time, just 7 per cent of migrants were doing business as self-employed. Labor migrants working in Hungary, Belarus, the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation preferred to be employed on enterprises mainly. The employment in households is widely spread in Italy, Portugal and Spain (from 56.2% to 73.6%).

33. The most common types of economic activity, as noted similarly in the 2008 survey, include construction (45.7 per cent of their total number) and household activities (18.3 per cent). Other industries where the migrant workers are primarily concentrated included agriculture (11.3 per cent) and trade (9.1 per cent). A significant share of labor migrants in the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, Portugal were employed in construction (from 62.7% to 70.8%). Among labor migrants in Belarus and Poland, the persons engaged in agriculture (64.7% and 35.2% correspondently) predominated. In Italy almost the three quarter, in Spain 41.7% and in Portugal around the quarter (23.5%) of labor migrants worked as household servants. In addition, in Portugal and the Czech Republic 13.8% and 11.6% of labor migrants correspondently were engaged into hotel and restaurant business.

34. Duration of working time is one of the key indicators depicting working conditions of employed persons. Considering that many migrants employed outside Ukraine have no access to social insurance and often work without days off, their working week is much longer than generally accepted standards. Almost two-thirds (62.6 per cent) of the Ukrainian migrants worked abroad for 41–60 hours a week, and almost every fifth (18.9 per cent) worked even longer. Of them, 14.3 per cent had a working week of 61–80 hours, and the remainder, 4.6 per cent, even exceeded 80 hours.

35. Given the unregulated legal status of many Ukrainian migrant workers working abroad, employment conditions do not always comply with labour standards. In particular,

a considerable number of them have no access to necessary resting time provisions that would allow them to recuperate properly after production work. For example, one-quarter (25.9 per cent) of the labour migrants work without any weekly days off.

36. Every fourth migrant had access to social insurance abroad and to medical, every fifth (20.8 per cent). Only 18.7 per cent of labour migrants used paid leave.

37. When searching for employment abroad, every seventh migrant (13.6 per cent) encountered problems related to remuneration, namely delay of payment or incomplete payment. Similar numbers incurred unfavorable working conditions and were asked to undertake duties that differed from what had been promised (12.7 per cent and 11.5 per cent, respectively). Some 6.0 per cent of migrant workers worked overtime without proper remuneration, while 5.0 per cent encountered instances of transfer from one employer to another without their consent.

38. According to the survey findings, migrant workers earned 930 US dollars per month on average, which is almost three times higher than the average monthly wage of staff workers employed in the Ukrainian economy (according to the 2008 year survey the average monthly wage amounted to 817 US dollars). Men's earnings were higher than women's: 996 and 813 US dollars, respectively. Urban residents earned a little more than rural ones (951 and 914 US dollars, respectively).

39. Most funds earned by migrants arrive in Ukraine through informal channels: they are sent through acquaintances or vehicle drivers or delivered personally. As results of the survey show, more than 40 per cent of migrants in Italy, every third employed in Portugal and every fifth in the Czech Republic send money and valuables to Ukraine through vehicle drivers. Migrant remittances are important for the well-being of their households. According to the results of survey 2011, more than a half (56.5% of the total) of labor migrants sent funds to Ukraine. Every labor migrant sent home 2 158 US dollars on average.

IV. The way forward in improving the current system of recording labor migration

40. At present, the pressing issue in Ukraine is to implement the initiated actions of the state migration policy. In this regard, the essential prerequisite to achieve the high efficiency of labor migration regulation is the availability of adequate information support.

41. Given the labor inputs and high costs, the labor migration survey is possible only in certain periodicity (once every 4-5 years). In any case, the existing administrative and statistical data more likely characterize the tendencies of migration processes and their structure than their specific quantitative parameters.

42. Obtaining reliable results requires improvements in the organization of data collection and quality of labor migration data. The challenge is difficult to solve due to the lack of common concepts and definitions of migration and labor migration as well as the lack of information on the impact of labor migration on the countries of origin and destination, etc.

43. Under the current conditions, the Ukrainian labor market has not attracted numerous foreign citizens. Nevertheless, according to representatives of the State Border Service, the inflow of migrants into the country is on the rise. The tightening of the migration regime in the Russian Federation will also be followed by an increase in the number of migrants into Ukraine owing to citizens from the post-Soviet countries.

44. It is evident that the task to measure labor immigration could become the next challenge for the Ukrainian statistics. The solution of this task by means of modular surveys is not feasible because 99.9 per cent of the persons surveyed on economic activity matters are citizens of Ukraine.

V. Conclusions

45. To resolve the challenges of measuring labor migration the following streams of action could be considered:

(a) At international level – improving the coordination of international organizations' actions and promoting sharing of countries' existing experience in measuring labor migration. Furthermore, exchange of data between the countries could be enhanced by means of establishing accessible databases. When exchanging data, the specific aspects of methodology differences in recording migrants should be taken into account. In fact, even in the countries of Commonwealth of Independent States where a common approach inherited from the Soviet methodology is used, there are discrepancies in migration flow data fixed by place of arrival and departure. The European Union countries mainly make use of official information sources which are based on information obtained from the employment and migration services. Thus, the basic indicators are the number of the given work permits and the employed by country of origin;

(b) At the country level – strengthening the coordination of actions of the state authorities, researchers and sociologists. The important prerequisite for high quality data is the improvement of the recording of personal data, first of all, regarding foreigners who arrive to the country. To that end, it is essential to establish close collaboration between the law enforcement bodies (the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the State Border Service) and the State Migration Service, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. It is also necessary to maintain a permanent exchange of personified information between the agencies for the purpose of statistical production in this area.
