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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

THE CHALLENGES OF MEASURING EMIGRATION AND REMITTANCES

Session 3.2. Challenges to measure remittances and emigration

Measuring of non-official migration by Statistics Lithuania.
Estimation of the number of non-official emigrants from the Labour Force Survey*

Submitted by Statistics Lithuania

Abstract

1. Changed conditions of population migration and reporting procedures in the EU countries formulate a challenging task of developing the international migration statistics. Statistics Lithuania strives to reflect migration flows and its composition more accurately.
2. International migration statistics produced by Statistics Lithuania are based on the Population Register data. However, not all persons emigrating from Lithuania declare their departure to the national authorities. It is obvious that non-official emigration exists.
3. Statistics Lithuania carried out a survey, which allowed estimating the number of residents who unofficially left the country in 2001–2005. The number of non-official emigrants

* This paper has been prepared by Dalia Ambrozaitiene.

was estimated having supplemented the Labour Force Survey questionnaire with questions concerning persons who emigrated, their demographic and social characteristics.

4. The survey results show that only each second-third resident of Lithuania declares his / her departure when emigrating.

5. The survey on non-official emigrants will be also carried out in the year 2007. The methodology of the survey will be developed; more attention will be paid to the causes and consequences of the emigration as well as to the quality of the survey. The results will improve the quality and exhaustiveness of international migration statistics.

Lithuania – the country of emigrants

6. Since the restoration of independence of the Republic of Lithuania (1990–2005), the total number of population decreased by 360.5 thousand; 90 per cent of the decrease was due to the negative net migration, 10 per cent – due to the natural decrease of population. About 15 per cent of working age population emigrated from Lithuania. Every year, about 25 thousand persons, on average, emigrated from the country.

7. In 1990–1993, the flows of emigrants were mostly directed to Russia, Belarus and other CIS countries. Since 1994, residents of the Republic of Lithuania have mostly left for Western Europe and the United States. After Lithuania's accession to the EU in 2004, Lithuanian citizens gained the right to work in the EU legally; therefore, emigration flows of Lithuanian residents have increased even more.

8. Lithuania is the country of emigrants. According to the Eurostat database, the crude net migration rate per 1000 residents in 2005 was the highest among the EU Member States. This indicator was negative only in five EU Member States: Lithuania (–2.6), the Netherlands (–1.2), Latvia (–0.5), Estonia (–0.3) and Poland (–0.3).

9. The number of population of Lithuania has been rapidly decreasing; at the beginning of 2006, there were 3403.3 thousand persons living in the country, i.e. by 22.1 thousand less than at the beginning of 2005. Due to the natural decrease of population, the number of population decreased by 13.3 thousand, due to the negative net migration – by 8.8 thousand (emigrated – 15.6 thousand, immigrated – 6.8 thousand).

10. Improving of availability and quality of migration statistics – the new challenges for Statistics Lithuania

11. Statistics Lithuania strives to reflect migration flows and its composition more accurately. It is very important to use widely not only administrative data sources, but also to evaluate the migration flows using other data sources, especially sample surveys` data.

12. National methodology on international migration statistics based on the United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998) and the Law on Declaration of the Residence of the Republic of Lithuania.

13. Statistics Lithuania produces statistics on international migration of population according to the data of the central database of the Residents' (Population) Register. The central database of the Register contains personal data on Lithuanian residents, their departures and arrivals under the declaration data, i.e. data on migrants who declare their departure / arrival.

14. Notwithstanding, it was obvious right from the first year of the restoration of independence of the Republic of Lithuania that the official statistics on emigration flows from Lithuania were not so precise. The 2001 Population and Housing Census results enabled to accomplish the revision of the previously released data on emigration: 1990–2000 emigration flows were estimated with non-official outflows. The new problematic period started from the year 2001 and lasts till now. Not all persons emigrating from Lithuania for permanent residence abroad or for longer than six-month period declare their departure to the national authorities. It is obvious that in the current conditions of free movement of workers non-official emigration exists.

15. In order to improve the quality of international migration statistics, Statistics Lithuania intended to carry out a survey for the estimation of non-official emigration flows.

Evaluation of non-official emigration flows based on a Household Sample Survey

16. In 2005, Statistics Lithuania prepared a draft methodology on estimation of non-official emigration flows in the framework of the sample survey. The purpose of this methodology was to determine the method of data collection and to evaluate the number of non-official emigrants.

17. In I quarter 2006, Statistics Lithuania carried out a Labour Force Survey (LFS) with an additional survey (hereinafter referred to as the Survey), which allowed estimating the number of persons who unofficially left the country in 2001–2005. The number of non-official emigrants was estimated using a supplementary questionnaire to LFS (Annex 1) with questions concerning persons who emigrated, their demographic and social characteristics.

18. Data on the family members who unofficially left Lithuania were collected from the sampled persons. The questionnaires were filled in by a face-to-face interview mode. If there was no one living at the sampled address, the interviewer (if there were possibilities) asked the neighbours to indicate the reason for non-response to the questionnaire. One of the non-response reasons was "Left Lithuania (to work, live abroad)"; if this answer had been marked, the supplemented questionnaire was filled in. The questionnaire was also filled in if some member of the household had gone abroad.

19. After the data base of the survey had been coded and prepared, a sampling method (calibration) was used for the evaluation of those who left Lithuania in 2001–2005.

20. We supposed that personal records of the emigrants who had not declared their departure were included in the database of the Residents' (Population) Register. So, these persons could be selected to the LFS sample. It was considered that data on population (auxiliary information of the Survey) covered all Lithuanian residents and non-official emigrants. The number of employed, unemployed, inactive persons and non-official emigrants had to be estimated using auxiliary information from the demographic statistics database according to the following condition:

Number of residents of Lithuania = employed population + unemployed population + inactive population + non-official emigrants

21. The number of non-official emigrants who had emigrated from Lithuania in 2001–2005 was estimated. These data were compared (at personal level according to the confidentiality rules) with the administrative sources: Residents' (Population) Register and the State Social Insurance Fund Board's central database.

22. Accuracy of the survey results was sufficient for the estimation of the number of non-official emigrants over five years; however, coefficients of variation of indicator's estimates for every concrete year – 2001, 2002 and 2003 – were high.

Table 1. Non-official emigration from Lithuania, 2001–2005

	Non-official emigrants, thousand			Coefficient of variation, %		
	All	Males	Females	All	Males	Females
Total	69.8	39.0	30.8	9.2	11.3	12.1
2001–2003	20.7	10.8	9.9	16.7	21.2	19.2
2004	24.7	11.4	13.3	16.7	22.4	20.8
2005	24.4	16.8	7.6	13.8	15.7	21.4

23. The values of the coefficient of variation were nonnegative numbers. In this survey, the estimate was considered accurate enough if its coefficient of variation did not exceed 8 per cent. The estimate was satisfactory if its coefficient of variation was between 8 per cent and 30 per cent. The estimate was not suitable if its coefficient of variation was higher than 30 per cent. The accuracy of the estimates depended on the sample size that could be used for the estimation. The smaller was the sample; the worse was the accuracy of the estimate.

24. The results of the survey were published: a press release was prepared, a detailed survey report and estimation of errors of results was published on the website of Statistics Lithuania www.stat.gov.lt. Lithuanian society was very interested in survey results.

25. Due to the high emigration flows, the Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania concluded that emigration may have the most negative consequences for Lithuania. Statistical information and analysis were used for the preparation of strategic paper for the management of labour emigration processes in the country. Continuation of evaluation of migration flows and improvement of quality of migration statistics is topical both in the national and international contexts. The users need to have information not only on the number of emigrants, but more employment-related information on migrants: occupation, qualification, employment status, education, etc.

26. Statistics Lithuania will continue methodological work on evaluation on the international migration flows. The survey on non-official emigrants will be also carried out in the first half of 2007. The methodology of the survey will be developed; more attention will be paid to the causes and consequences of the emigration as well as questions on emigrants and their socio-economic characteristics have to be included in it and this kind of evaluations have to be more exhaustive for various social statistics needs.

27. It is the beginning of the studies on improvement of the quality of international migration statistics. The growing mobility of migrants leads to observation difficulties. Due to the reason that the citizens who left the country non-officially can come back (re-immigrate) after some time without any declaration as well (in 2005, the biggest share of immigrants (85.5%) consisted of citizens of the Republic of Lithuania). It is problematic to make the right decision concerning recalculation (evaluation) of the number of population of the country and its composition.

28. Statistics Lithuania has already started the preparatory works for the Population and Housing Census 2011. The topic of migration is the high priority in this issue. We expect that only final good quality census results will provide a possibility to evaluate the exact number of the usual resident population of the country during the inter-censal period.

Non-official emigration from Lithuania in 2001–2005

29. The survey results show that only each second-third resident of Lithuania declares his / her departure when emigrating. In 2001–2005, the non-official emigration figures were about 70 thousand persons, together with the ones who declared their departure – about 126 thousand (3.7 per cent) of country's population.

30. Taking into consideration non-official migration, since 1990, over the past 16 years, 404 thousand persons emigrated from Lithuania.

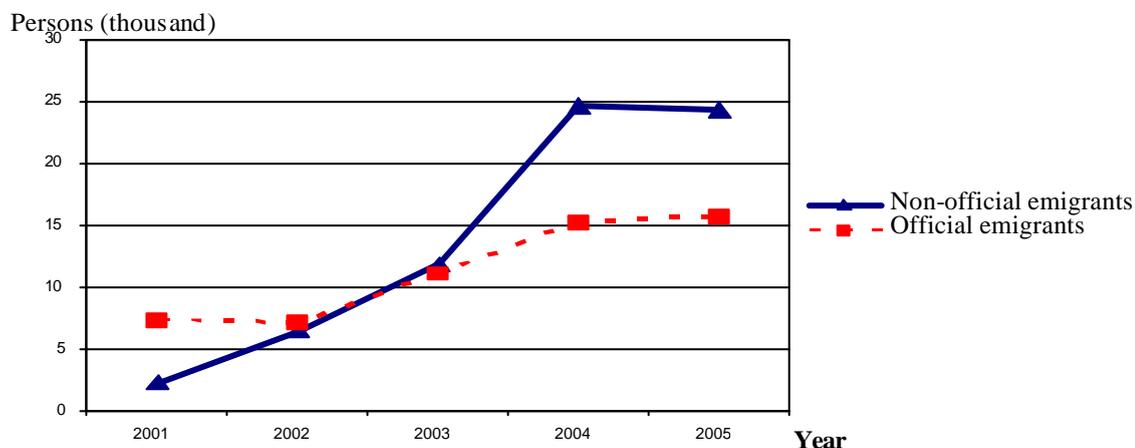
Table 2. **Emigration from Lithuania, 2001–2005**, thousand

	Persons who have declared their departure			Persons who have not declared their departure		
	2001–2005	2004	2005	2001–2005	2004	2005
Total	56.1	15.2	15.6	69.8	24.7	24.4
of them:						
15 years and older	48.2	13.2	13.4	61.8	20.6	22.9
Males	23.2	6.1	7.0	39.0	11.4	16.8
Females	25.0	7.1	6.4	30.8	13.3	7.6

31. The number of non-official emigrants in 2001–2003 made up about 20 thousand persons. After Lithuania's accession to the EU, in 2004 as compared with 2003, the number of non-official emigrants grew twice. Over the previous year, the number of non-official emigrants had stabilised.

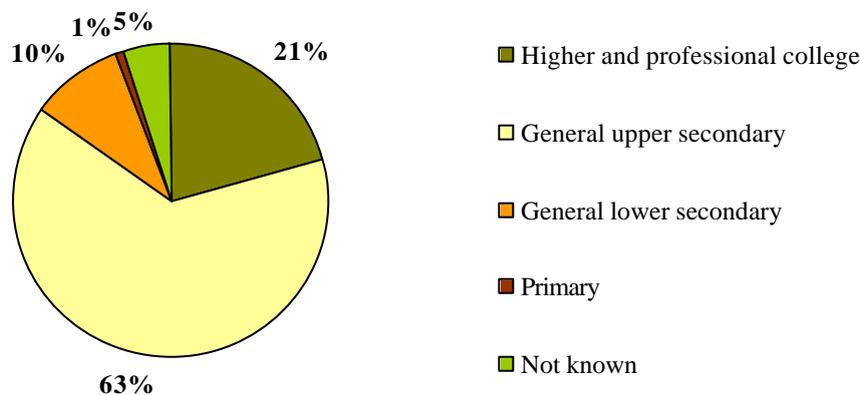
32. Official emigration statistics show the similar tendency: emigration increased in 2003.

Figure 1. **Official and non-official emigrants from Lithuania, 2001–2005**



33. Two of three non-official emigrants aged 15 and older had general upper secondary education, each fifth – higher and professional college education.

Figure 2. **Non-official emigrants by educational attainment, 2001–2005**
(15 years and older), thousand

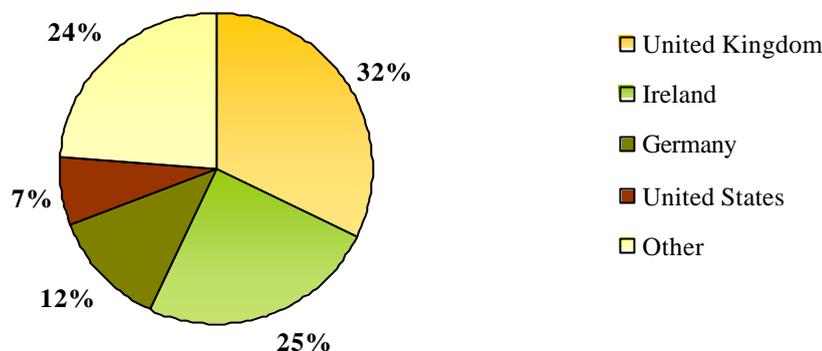


34. According to the survey data, the highest non-official emigration figure was among non-working persons and skilled workers. Over 5 years, each third non-official emigrant was unemployed, each fifth was a skilled worker.

35. The number of professionals, technicians and associate professionals as well as clerks who unofficially emigrated from Lithuania over five years was 18 per cent of emigrants aged 15 and older.

36. In 2001–2005, the highest non-official emigration flows were to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Germany.

Figure 3. Non-official emigrants by country, 2001–2005



Integration of migration statistics and social statistics

37. Despite the fact that the international migration statistics data is a part of migration statistics, there is a great need (requested by various users such as the Government, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, NGOs, mass media, etc.) for data on emigrants, their socio-economic characteristics, situation in the labour market of Lithuania and influence of the emigration process in various spheres of Lithuanian society.

38. There are negative and positive parts of the consequences of emigration. Negative – decrease in the number of population; changeable structure of age and sex of population; lack of labour force; lack of skilled workers; incomplete families, etc. Positive – lower unemployment rate; higher employment rate; higher wages and salaries; financial benefits for families; cultural exchange, etc. Statistics Lithuania will pay more attention for the complex analysis of migrations processes in Lithuania and in the EU.

39. Negative net migration increases, and the biggest share of emigrants consists of persons of working age (economic migration prevails). This determines the decrease in the number of Lithuanian population, deformation of the structure of age and sex of the population, ageing of society. Emigration influences the society in many aspects: due to the emigration, the unemployment rate has decreased to 6.4 per cent (in 1995 – 12.9 per cent). In 2005, the biggest share (84.4%) of citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who had declared their emigration were unemployed persons. That partially determined the decrease in unemployment from 11.4 per cent (in 2004) to 8.3 per cent (in 2005); the number of unemployed decreased from 184 thousand (in 2004) to 133 thousand (in 2005), i.e. by 51 thousand.

Definitions

Emigrant is a person leaving the Republic of Lithuania with the intention to take up the usual residence in another country permanently or for more than 6 months period. It can be a foreigner whose temporary residence permit for 1 year or longer have expired and a new permit has not been issued.

Non-official emigrant is an emigrant who has not declared his / her departure.

Labour Force Survey is the most reliable way to estimate the current situation and changes in the labour market. The survey is conducted in accordance with the European Council and the European Commission regulations. Persons aged 15 and older selected from the Residents' (Population) Register by a random sample method are interviewed. Such sample ensures equal possibilities for all persons of the surveyed age to be included in the survey.

Eurostat's requirements were taken into account for the preparation of the questionnaire. Due to this, data on employment and unemployment are comparable internationally.

4000 households are selected for the continuous Labour Force Survey quarterly. Each quarter, 25 per cent of the sampled households are replaced. The sample includes the population of all cities, towns and some villages. The survey is carried out by interviewers. Approximately, 0.4 per cent of the population aged 15 and older are interviewed.

Approved by the Order No 246 adopted on 10 December 2005 by the Director General of the Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

STATISTICS LITHUANIA
 Employment Statistics Division
 Gedimino Ave 29, 2746 Vilnius

LABOUR FORCE SAMPLE SURVEY GU – 01

ANNEX 1

Territory code					
Name of municipality, local administrative, village					
.....					
.....					
Household No.					
Identification code					

Reference week I
 No. quarter
 2006 -
 year month day month day

To be submitted: by 15 day after the end of month

Persons interviewed: 15 years old and over

Confidentiality is guaranteed

107	Reasons for non-response:
1. Refused
2. Lived at that address, but were temporarily away (in hospital, military service, prison, rural area (garden) or temporarily moved to foreign country).....
3. Constantly absent but still resides in Lithuania (changed a flat, marriage, departure to study).....
4. Moved from Lithuania for permanent residence abroad or temporarily (to work, to study, to live), up to half a year
5. No information about person, cannot find, nobody resides at to that address
6. Died
7. Other reasons
8. Left Lithuania (to work, live abroad).....
] 108	
Remarks, comments	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	

End of interview

Interviewer

(First name, last name)

(Signature)

(Phone No.)

Date of the interview

Contact phone No. at Statistics Lithuania: No: (8-5) 236 4706

