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Socio-economic characteristics of migrants and people with foreign background

The findings of the 2015 population micro-census on migration

Note by Federal State Statistics Service (ROSSTAT), Russian Federation

Abstract

In October 2015 the population micro-census was conducted in all constituents of the Russian Federation. Altogether over 2 million people were surveyed.

The population micro-census structure included standard questions concerning gender, age, marital status, education, household composition, basic subsistence, economic activity, ethnicity, citizenship, etc.

Moreover, for the purpose of a detailed research of migration process respondents were asked the following questions: how they got their citizenship; where they actually live and where they are registered; duration of living at the place of permanent residence and what their place of residence is as of October 2010. The census contributed to obtaining information on long-term absent household members, reasons and period of their absence, their socio-demographic characteristics, family relation to other members of the household.

Thus, population micro-census outcomes provided information on social and economic characteristics of migrants as well as on migration processes that took place after conduction of the last Census. The question related to registration gave an idea of deviation scale of the number of resident population from the so-called legal or registered population. This deviation might be used for further analysis when developing methodology both for the next Census and current accounting of the population during the inter-census period.

1. The processes of the population migration over the country territory always played important role in attaining socio-economic objectives. The most common way to record migration of population is registering activities of migration services and offices for passports and visas. The usual residence data and registration at temporary residence form the basis for information on quantitative and qualitative socio-economic characteristics of migration processes.
2. However in Russia, as in other countries, such system rather often allows for undercoverage of certain part of migrants. The results of statistical registration are strongly influenced by the peculiarities of legislation and migration policy.
3. To study the current migration flows and provide a detailed analysis of its influence upon the population resettlement are needed more ample and detailed data. The state management of migration flows requires development of the registration system to record the population motions in any direction with accounting for migrants' qualitative characteristics. Russia is a country-accepting migrants. One of the actual tasks facing the Russian statistics is creation of a migration monitoring system. Censuses play most important role in migration survey.
4. In October 2015 in the Russian Federation there was conducted a federal statistical observation "Socio-demographic survey (population micro-census) 2015".
5. The sampling set of survey units for the 2015 population micro-census was arranged based on informational array of the All-Russia Population Census 2010. Actual sampling array was 1.5% of the private households registered in the All-Russia Census 2010.
6. The 2015 micro-census was performed in all constituents of the Russian Federation, in urban and rural communities. During the period of 1 – 31 October 2015 - 2.2 million people responded the questionnaire.
7. The 2015 micro-census was held at the usual residence of persons, which could differ from the registered address. During the Population Census, the respondents are recorded in the same way.
8. The observation unit for the 2015 micro-census was private household. The population of communal households, homeless persons and persons temporarily (less than 1 year) staying in Russia were not questioned.
9. While preparing the micro-census program, the UN recommendation referring to population and housing censuses were accounted for as well as the experience in organizing Micro-census in 1994 and All-Russia Population Censuses in 2002 and 2010 (further, RPC-2002 and RPC-2010).
10. The questionnaire contained 28 questions, including the following standard questions of All-Russia Population Census:
 - family relationship,
 - sex,
 - date of birth,

- marital status,
- nationality,
- sources of subsistence,
- number of born children,
- education attained,
- study at educational institutions, attendance of pre-school institutions,
- economic activity.
- Furthermore, new questions were added to the questionnaire:
- estimation of the state of health,
- confirmed status of disability category,
- factors influencing childbirth decisions.

11. As compared with the All-Russia Population Census of 2010, the question blocks were extended:

1. On citizenship. Aside from the question of the citizenship, some questions were added:

- how and when did you receive Russian citizenship
- in what year did you receive Russian citizenship
- your previous citizenship – for the persons, who received Russian citizenship not by birth, and not in exchange for the USSR passport .

2. On migration. Aside from the question of continuous residence at the permanent address, some new questions were added:

- previous place of residence – for persons, who live at their usual residence not since their birth;
- residence in October 2010 – for persons, who left their permanent residence after November 2010. This question will provide information on migration processes after the All-Russia Population Census of 2010;
- location of registration. This question may help to estimate deviation of regular residence population from de jure population.

3. On languages. Aside from the questions about foreign languages and the mother tongue, a question on the language used in everyday life was added.

12. The Micro-census had a special block of questions to persons, who were absent from their usual residence for more than 1 year. During the All-Russia Population Census, such information was not collected.

13. The Micro-census is the first big scale statistical survey performed by ROSSTAT without printed questionnaires. All information about the population was recorded by enumerators into electronic census questionnaires in tablet

computers. This improved quality of the collected information and accelerated automatic processing of the micro-census materials.

14. At present, automatic processing of the micro-census materials is underway.

15. This paper presents preliminary micro-census findings on citizenship and migration.

16. 99.4% of respondents are Russian. Out of them 0.1% aside from the Russian citizenship have a citizenship of a foreign country.

17. Out of the surveyed population, 0.5% are foreign citizens. Out of them about 95% are citizens of the CIS countries. Out of the foreigners, more than one third are Ukrainian citizens, one fourth are citizens of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

18. More than 80% of foreign citizens live in urban communities, and only 20% of foreigners live in rural area.

19. Three fourth of foreigners are of working age (men 16-59 years old, women 16-54 years old). Less than 10% of foreigners are above working age.

20. In the micro-census for the first time information on the history of obtaining Russian citizenship was collected.

21. Overwhelming majority of Russians have obtained Russian citizenship by birth or in the procedure of the USSR passport exchange. Only 2.5% of respondents obtained Russian citizenship in the process of registering the Russian Federation citizenship in 1992-2000 and a result of recovery and admittance to the Russian Federation citizenship. Out of them more than 90% were citizens of the CIS countries and among them more than 40% had had Ukrainian citizenship and 25% had been citizens of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

22. More than 42% of the migrants received Russian citizenship in the period 2010-2015, and 25% of the migrants in the period 1992-1997.

23. Among the persons who received Russian citizenship in 2010-2015 the overwhelming majority had been citizens of Ukraine, only one fifth of the foreigners who received Russian citizenship had been from other countries.

24. To examine migration processes the respondents to micro-census were given special questions on continuity of living at their usual residence.

25. In the period from October 2010 to October 2015 6% of population changed their residence. Among them, every tenth in October 2010 lived in other country. The migrants from other countries are characterized by the following data.

26. Almost half of the above mentioned migrated to permanent residence in Russia from Ukraine – 40%, from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan came each fourth migrant.

27. Practically all migrants (95%) pointed out that they know well and use Russian language. Out of them, more than half are employed and each fifth is a student.

28. The findings of the micro-census will be published by the end of the current year on the ROSSTAT official website www.gks.ru within the Program of the results of the federal statistical observation “Socio-demographic survey (micro-census) 2015” presenting absolute unexpanded and relative data.

29. Information on citizenship and history of its attainment will be provided combined with population characterization by age, sex, place of birth, year and reason of acquiring Russian citizenship, previous citizenship and year of receiving Russian citizenship.

30. For examination of migration processes there will be provided information on duration of living at the usual residence, actual place of residence in the Russian territory, place of birth and registration. The migrants, who moved in 2010 and later, in the micro-census findings, will be presented according to place of residence and to place of previous residence, by knowledge of Russian language as combined with the previous country of residence and the year of immigration.

31. To obtain the micro-census findings above the published volume there will be provided access to impersonalized database of microdata to arrange user requirements.

32. This would allow the users of statistical information personally arrange needed tables with micro-census findings along all indicators of the micro-census program, e.g., disaggregation by citizenship (or duration of living at usual residence), sources of subsistence, birth place, employment, education attainment, state of health, etc.