Statistics on international migration in Russia: the current situation, gaps and challenges
Overview

• System of data sources and types of migration related statistics in the Russian Federation
• Main issues of the federal statistical observation of long-term migration flows – methodological and organizational constraints
• Policy relevant statistics related to special aspects of migration – available, potentially available and missing (crime statistics, health screening data, foreign trained health workers, missing opportunities of Labour force survey)
• Concluding remarks
Main producers and types of data on migration in Russia

**Ministry of Interior - Directorate General for Migration Issues (former Fed. Migration service)**
- Individual data on long-term migrants (paper forms)
  - Statistics on: residence permits, work permissions (all types), forced migrants, citizenship acquisition; repatriation program participants; registration of foreigners and nationals in a place of permanent/temporary residence

**Border service**
- Entries and exits of foreigners and nationals by purpose of trip (transport means)

**MFA**
- Visa statistics, consular registrations, citizenship acquisition

**Ministry of Higher Education**
- Foreign students

**Min. of Justice (Civil records)**
- Individual data on vital events with foreigners

**Min. of Healthcare**
- Reports on the results of health examination of foreigners (selected infections)
- Crimes committed by foreigners and against foreigners

**Federal state statistics service (Rosstat)**
- Labour migration
- Forced migration
- Repatriation program

**Ministry of Health**
- Official statistics on long-term migration flows

**Censuses and microcensuses**
- LFS (in the future)

**Vital statistics - foreigners specified**
Statistics of long-term migration flows in Russia: new methodology implemented since 2011 led to unexpected results

Before 2011 –
Immigrants - “permanent” registration in a place of residence,
Emigrants - de-registration from the place of permanent residence

Since 2011 –
Immigrants - “permanent” registration + “temporary” if registered for 9 months and longer
Emigrants - de-registration from the place of permanent residence + expiration of temporary registrations
Composition of international migration flows by type of registration: temporary registration prevails

- Some of the temporary migrants, improperly classified, are in fact long-term residents.
- If renting a dwelling space, permanent registration is problematic.
The situation with IT resources of the former Federal Migration Service and its impact on the federal statistical observation of migration flows

Rosstat: necessity to use data in electronic format

- Huge amount of manual work is costly
- It is impossible to update individual data on departures before registration expiration date (and avoid double count in case of a new arrival)

IT resources of migration authorities: uneven development

- Since 2005 – The Central Data bank of foreigners (all procedures related to foreigners’ statuses)
- “Territory” applied software - registration of both nationals and foreigners and possibility to provide data on migrants in electronic format - (Rosstat expected it would happen in 2019)
- After reorganization of migration service (in 2016) there have been uncertainties in IT resources development
- Now - there is a gap between Rosstat’s needs and MOI capabilities, although the problem is well understood by the specialists of MOI

The quality of statistics on long-term migration in oncoming years is problematic
Some policy relevant topics dealing with migration are better understood by the society

- Public opinion is reluctant to consider the need of migrants due to the population ageing process, a decrease in population, shortages of the labour force, etc.
- Negative information about migrants is well received, such as: potential criminality of migrants, diseases, job competition with the local population, increase in illegal migration etc.
- Whatever the numbers show, reliable statistics should be available
Migrants and crime: a popular topic in pre-election campaigns

A typical headline of an article: “Dangerous guests”

![Image of a person in a room]

https://lenta.ru/articles/2013/03/09/migrant/

The Ministry of Interior and the Prosecutor General office regularly publish statistics of crimes committed by foreigners (not foreign born)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total crimes registered, 1000</th>
<th>Total crimes solved, 1000</th>
<th>Including crimes committed by foreigners, 1000</th>
<th>% foreigners to total solved</th>
<th>Foreigners registered in a place of residence or temporary stay (flow), 1000</th>
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Registered crimes against foreigners in Russia, 1000

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14,7</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Crimes committed by foreigners are mainly not serious (use of false documents etc.), while crimes against foreigners are often serious.

MOI data
Migrants morbidity – HIVS, TB, sexually transmitted diseases and infectious skin diseases

- The Ministry of Health collects statistics on detected cases of infectious diseases (HIVS, TB, STID, inf. skin diseases).
- Foreigners and resident permit holders are specified separately.
- There are no available data sets on the number of screened persons – neither nationals, nor foreigners.
- Reports of the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing occasionally contain info on the number of screened persons.
- Since 2015, all migrant workers and applicants for residence permits must pass health examinations, while it is required only of certain categories of Russian residents (non-migrants), such as those working with food products, with children, in the health care system, etc.
- The denominator problem for indices calculation is that the share of screened resident population is very small, while at least 25% of all migrants coming to Russia are examined.

Illegal plague: which diseases can migrants bring us?

http://www.aif.ru/health/life/nelegalnaya_chuma_kakie_zabolevaniya_mogut_privetsi_k_nam_gastarbajtery

Within 5 years, the number of migrants infected with syphilis increased 40 times in Moscow

Detected infectious diseases among examined foreigners, 2007-2013, thousand and share

- **HIVS**: 24.0, 0.43
- **TB**: 20.9, 0.37
- **Sexually transmitted inf. diseases**: 11.4, 0.20

Total foreigners examined 7,4 million, detected – 56 206 (infected < 1%)

(Source: Reports of the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing)
Estimates of undocumented migration: one of the approaches is similar to the “residual method”

Registrations of foreigners upon arrival who have selected “work” as their purpose of visit and are issued permissions to work in Russia, 2010-2017, (in thousands)

Before 2015, patent system for workers from visa-free states was an easy and cheap access to the labour market. Since 2015, there have been many more procedures and required documents, with much higher fees. A typical migrant must pay a 2-month salary to receive and “maintain” a valid patent for 1 year

Percent of issued patents to registered potential workers in 2017

- Uzbekistan: 53%
- Tajikistan: 50%
- Ukraine: 27%
- Moldova: 24%
- Azerbaijan: 27%

Moscow – only 35% of potential foreign workers are documented (2017)
Particular aspects of migration related to behaviour on the labour market, selected occupations etc.

**Administrative sources:**

- Federal Tax Service - register of taxpayers
- Federal register of entrepreneurs

Application form of registration of a taxpayer or an entrepreneur contains question about country of birth and citizenship. However, information is not processed to produce statistics.

**Federal register of healthcare workers**

Unified State Healthcare Information System and Federal register of healthcare workers (Ministry of Healthcare of Russia), established in 2011, could be helpful:

Each clinic or ambulance – both private or public must collect complete information on every staff member, including info on professional education – basic and retraining.

The full name of educational institution or organization with specification of its location

Citizenship of health worker (but no place of birth)

Common problem – incomplete information on education and previous places of work,

Previously - double count of same persons
Labour Force Survey: neglected potential

- About 900,000 respondents per year
- Monthly
- Sample design does not consider uneven distribution of migrants
- Underestimation of the number of foreigners (> 12 months of stay in Russia) – 90%
- No questions on country of birth and year of arrival
- No detailed questions on citizenship (Russian – non-Russian - dual)
- 99% of naturalizations in Russia occur without a substantial time of residence (< 3 years of residence) and there is no information on naturalized immigrants

Mid-year population of residence permit holders in Russia (migration service data) and stock of foreigners residing in Russia for 12 months and longer (LFS data) in comparable age groups (2013-2015, in thousands)

Migration service data collected over several years, indicate that the stock of foreigners with different statuses staying in Russia for more than 1 year amounts at approximately 3.5 million persons of working ages; thus, LFS covers only 10% of the foreign population stock.
Concluding remarks

• The Russian Federation has a variety of sources of data on international migration and its particular aspects.
• Censuses provide satisfactory results on stocks of international migrants, while the development of statistics of flows is not that successful and Labor Force Survey is far from being a real source of migration related information.
• Unsolvable contradictions between the needs and plans of Rosstat and capabilities of MOI may lead to long-term decrease in quality of statistics on migration flows (both coverage and variables).
• Potential data sources should be explored in terms of producing statistics related to migration and Rosstat can use its influence and mandate to stimulate potential data producers do that.
• “Country of birth” variable should be used more often, because “statistical migrants” of the Soviet times are already replaced (to a big extent) by the real international migrants from the newly independent states.