CARIM East – Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration

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Statistical data collection on migration in Russia

Irina Ivakhnyuk, Vladimir Iontsev

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Introduction

Migration data collection within Russia has significantly improved in recent years. A set of laws and administrative decrees launched in 2002-2010 have updated the system of migrant registration and have improved communication channels between data collecting administrative bodies (Ministry of Interior, Federal Migration Service, Border Service, etc.) and the Federal Statistical Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat). In 2009, the elaboration of the Integrated System of Migration Data (*Gosudarstvennaya Informatsionnaya Systema Migratsionnogo Ucheta - GISMU*) was finalized. Its core is the Centralized databank on foreign nationals (*Centralny bank dannykh ucheta inostrannykh grajdan - CBDUIG*) that carries both personal and statistical information. Collection of migration data focuses mainly on migrants' flows, while data on migrant stocks are an object for population censuses only. Russian statistical sources usually separate data on migration exchange with the post-Soviet countries (CIS & Baltic countries and Georgia) (*novoye zarubejye*) from data on all other countries (*staroye zarubejye*). This division is fundamental because of differences in migration flows between Russia and the two groups of countries in terms of nature, scale, structure, as well as the migration regulations applied.

Flow data sources

The principal primary source data on international migration flows are the **statistical registration forms** (arrivals - *listok statisticheskogo ucheta pribytia;* departures - *listok statisticheskogo ucheta vybytia*) that are filled out by every person when they register or de-register from a *place of residence* (*de iure* population) and then are collected by the local offices of the Federal Migration Service of Russia. The statistical registration forms are passed to Rosstat where they are processed. Immigrants are defined as foreign nationals who are registered for a period of over 1 year in their *place of residence* in Russia. Foreign nationals who come for temporary stay in Russia are, instead, registered in their *place of stay* (*de facto* population) and are **not** included in international migration statistics irrespective of the duration of their stay in the territory of the Russian Federation. The latter is a major problem given that the majority of long-term migrants are, instead, likely to be registered in a place of stay rather than in the place of residence for a series of reasons, among which we notice both the lack of legal time criteria which clearly separate temporary stay from permanent residence and .the difficulties in obtaining a residence permit, which is a pre-condition for registration in a place of residence. Coverage strongly depends on the accuracy of registration, too.

   Border-crossing statistics characterize the scale of migration flows, too. They are based on primary migration forms (*migratsionnaya karta)*, which are filled out by every person who enters/exits the Russian Federation. *Migratsionnaya karta* stamped at the Russian border is the principal document for the continued registration of a foreign national in Russia. But this data is not absolutely accurate as the same person can cross the border more than once a year.

Stock data sources

Stocks of foreign nationals and the foreign-born population more generally are recorded by **population censuses**. However, it is to be noted that in the case of the post-Soviet territory the term *foreign-born* is specific: people who were born before 1992 in other Soviet republics and later moved to the Russian Federation are *not foreign nationals*, as by birth they were citizens of the single country, the USSR. Data on population groups based on one variable only (be it country of birth, citizenship, or nationality/ethnicity) is usually unsatisfactory when the goal is to extract information on international migrants. The naturalization procedures make the interpretation of data on foreign nationals or foreign-born residents difficult. A very scarce set of variables do not allow us to better identify persons with a migration background.

Main gaps in statistical data collection on migration

As a whole, the scale of international migration is likely to be grossly underestimated because of the following gaps in data collection:

Inward migration

- Visa-free agreements with most of the CIS countries result in the non-registration of a certain proportion of migrants and the underestimation of migration flows and stocks, originating from the CIS states.

- Absence of a legal time criteria makes it difficult to separate temporary stay from permanent residence. This implies that large numbers of immigrants prefer to register as temporary migrants (i.e. in their place of stay), though the duration of stay may last several years, and so they are not counted in migration statistics.

- Large numbers of foreign nationals obtain RF citizenship very soon after arrival (within several months) – in a simplified manner – and are registered as Russian nationals rather than immigrants.

Outward migration

- Many emigrants do not de-register from the place of residence before departure because they have no incentives to do so.

Additional gaps are as follows:

- No specialized surveys focused on permanent and temporary immigrants are conducted. Labour force surveys do not include data on foreign workers.

- In many ministries which deal with current records on migrants (e.g. registry offices - *zags*, taxation service) data – aggregated and depersonalized – is not accessible.

- Data from the GISMU system is not well processed and adapted for statistical and research purposes. Data in the CBDUIG is poorly aggregated and not available to experts.

- The diversity of available variables in official migration data is very poor. Some important data on migration is not available by sex or by age. Information on the marital status of migrants, country of birth and activity status is not available.

Data on issued work permits cannot be used for statistical purposes since they do not differentiate between 'primary' and 'renewed' work permits, a fact which means partial double counting.

		Inward migration: relevant information on sources			
Source	**Institutional body in charge of collecting and diffusing data**	**Population of reference**	**Migration related variables contained in the source**	**Data collection methodology**	**Advantages (+) and drawbacks (-) compared with other sources**
Russian Population Census **Main info:** Primary source; stock data. **Periodicity:** roughly every 10 years	Federal Statistical Service of Russia (Rosstat).	Population census covers both **permanent residents**, i.e. those registered in a place of residence (*de iure* population) and **temporary stayers**, i.e. those registered in a place of stay (*de facto* population). **Immigrants** are defined as foreign nationals who are registered for a period of over 1 year in a place of residence in Russia.	a. Population by country of birth and country of citizenship according to duration of residence in the current place; b. Foreign citizens by country of citizenship and according to: age group, purpose of stay.	Interviewing of population with personal questionnaires being filled in 'long questionnaire' for resident population and immigrants; 'short questionnaire' for temporary migrants who come to Russia for work, business, studies, tourism, , pilgrimage, transit, etc. for less than 1 year.	**(+)** Population Census is the principle source of data on stocks of immigrants; **(-)** 10-year inter-census interval is the major drawback of this source.
Statistical registration forms . **Main info:** Primary source; flow data **Periodicity:** Continuous registration (aggregated by year).	Federal Migration Service of Russia (data collection) Federal Statistical Service of Russia (Rosstat) (data processing and dissemination).	The definition 'arrivals' (*pribyvshiye*) is used. **Arrivals** include people who register in a place of permanent residence, i.e. *de iure* population.	a. Arrivals by country of citizenship and according to purpose of movement, age group, level of education; b. Forced migrants; c. Acquisitions of Russian citizenship.	Information is based on statistical registration forms (*listok statisticheskogo ucheta pribytia*) collected by the Federal Migration Service of Russia and then passed to Rosstat.	-
Statistical registration forms (Integrated System of Migration Data - GISMU)	Federal Migration Service of Russia (FMS).	The definition 'arrivals' (pribyvshiye) is used. **Arrivals** include people who register in a place of	a. Arrivals by country of citizenship and according to purpose of movement, age group,	Information is based on statistical registration forms (*listok statisticheskogo ucheta pribytia*) collected by	-

Main info: Primary source; flow data **Periodicity:** Continuos registration		permanent residence, i.e. *de iure* population.	level of education. Forced migrants. b. Acquisitions of Russian citizenship; c. Expulsions; deportations; d. **N**umber of issued temporary stay permits / residence permits / work permits by country of citizenship.	the Federal Migration Service of Russia and then passed to Rosstat.	
Centralized Database of Foreign Nationals (CBDUIG) **Main info:** Primary source; stock data. It is a sort of a 'register of foreign nationals'. **Periodicity:** Continuos registration; personalized data.	Federal Migration Service of Russia (FMS).	**Migrants** are defined according to the country of citizenship criterion. All foreign nationals irrespective of their status, duration and purpose of are an object of the CBDUIG.	a. Foreign nationals by country of citizenship and according to purpose of arrival, age, sex, level of education; b. Number of issued temporary stay permits / residence permits / work permits by country of citizenship; c. Forced migrants; d. Aquisitions of Russian citizenship; e. Expulsions, deportations; f. Employers who hire migrant workers	Information in the CBDUIG is accumulated from **(1)** local departments of the Federal Migration Service of Russia; **(2)** Ministry of Interior; **(3)** Border Service of Russia; **(4)** Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	**(-)** Data is poorly aggregated and not available to experts.
Crossing border statistics **Main info:** Primary source; flow data. **Periodicity:** Continuos registration.	Border Service of Russia affiliated to the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation.	The definition 'arrivals' (pribyvshiye) is used. **Arrivals** include people who cross the border.	Arrivals by country of citizenship according to purpose of arrival (number of border-crossings and number of persons).	Information is based on migration forms (*migratsionnaya karta)*, which are to be filled out by every person who enters the Russian Federation.	**(-)** Declared purpose of arrival can differ from actual one.

Current records of foreign students **Main info:** Primary source; stock and flow data. **Periodicity:** Continuous registration (aggregated by year).	Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (data collection); Federal Statistical Service of Russia (Rosstat) (data diffusion).	**Foreign students**.	a. Annual inflow of foreign students admitted to Russian high schools ; b. Stock of foreign students in Russia; number of graduated foreign students.	Every Russian higher school institution is to send data on stocks / flows of foreign students to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federaion, which, in turn passes it to Rosstat.	
Criminality statistics **Main info:** Primary source; stock data**.** **Periodicity:** Continuos registration (aggregated by month).	Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation.	The term '**foreign nationals**' is used rather than 'migrants'.	Aggregated numbers of crimes committed by / in relation to foreign nationals.	Current records of detected crimes, committed by foreign nationals, with special emphasis on CIS nationals	(-) Aggregated numbers only. No information on country of citizenship of criminals is published.

		Outward migration: relevant information on sources			
Source	**Institutional body in charge of collecting and diffusing data**	**Population of reference**	**Migration related variables contained in the source**	**Data collection methodology**	**Advantages (+) and drawbacks (-) compared with other sources**
Russian Population Census **Main info:** Primary source; stock data. **Periodicity:** roughly every 10 years	Federal Statistical Service of Russia (Rosstat).	Census covers **temporary emigrants** who have left Russia for a period of less than 1 year.	Numbers of temporary emigrants by country of stay, age and sex.	Interviewing of population filling out personal questionnaires. Data on temporary emigrants is based on questions about family members and their current place of stay.	(-) Russian citizens who stay out of the Russian Federation for a period of over 1 year for residence, work, or studies, are not covered by the Census.
Statistical registration forms. **Main info:** Primary source; flow data **Periodicity:** Continuous registration (aggregated by year).	Federal Migration Service of Russia (data collection) Federal Statistical Service of Russia (Rosstat) (data diffusion).	The definition 'departures' (vybyvshiye) is used. **Departures** include people who de-register from a place of residence in Russia for permanent residence in another country, i.e. *de iure* population.	Departures by country of citizenship according to country of destination, age group, level of education.	Information is based on statistical registration forms (*listok statisticheskogo ucheta vybytia*) that are collected by the Federal Migration Service of Russia (FMS) and passed to Rosstat.	-
Statistical registration forms (Integrated System of Migration Data - GISMU) **Main info:** Primary source; flow data **Periodicity:** Continuos registration	Federal Migration Service of Russia (FMS).	The definition 'departures' (vybyvshiye) is used. **Departures** include people who de-register from a place of residence in Russia for permanent residence in another country, i.e. de iure population.	Departures by country of citizenship according to country of destination, age group, level of education, reason of departure.	Information is based on statistical registration forms (*listok statisticheskogo ucheta vybytia*) that are collected by the Federal Migration Service of Russia (FMS) and passed to Rosstat.	-

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Source	**Institutional body in charge of collecting and diffusing data**	**Population of reference**	**Migration related variables contained in the source**	**Data collection methodology**	**Advantages (+) and drawbacks (-) compared with other sources**
Crossing-border statistics **Main info:** Primary source; flow data **Periodicity:** Continuos registration	Border Service of Russia affiliated to the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation.	The definition 'departures' (vybyvshiye) is used. **Departures** include people who cross the border.	Departures by country of citizenship according to country of destination and purpose of movement (number of border-crossings and number of persons).	Information is based on migration forms (*migratsionnaya karta*), which are filled by every person who enters the Russian Federation.	Declared purpose of movement can differ from actual one.
Consular records **Main info:** Primary source; stock data. **Periodicity:** Continuos registration	Ministry of Foreign Affaires of the Russian Federation.	**Temporary and permanent Russian nationals registered in consulates**	Estimation of temporary and permanent emigrants by country of destination.	Information is based on consulate self-registration of Russian citizens residing abroad, temporarily or permanently.	Data are not full: registration in the Consulates of the Russian Federation abroad is not compulsory for Russian citizens.

Data accessibility: Population Census (http://www.gks.ru): results of the 2002 census are available at http://www.perepis2002.ru/. Results of the 2010 census on migration will be published in December 2012; Statistical registration forms (http://www.gks.ru/); Statistical registration forms (http://www.fms.gov.ru/); CBDUIG (http://www.fms.gov.ru/); Crossing border statistics: annual data on border-crossings is included in the Rosstat annual bulletin 'Population and Migration in the Russian Federation'. Detailed data on apprehensions at border-crossing points is not published); Current records of foreign students; aggregated data is annually published in the Rosstat Statistical Yearbook (Rossiiskiy Statisticheskiy Ejegodnik); Criminality statistics: published monthly on the MVD site, see http://www.mvd.ru/userfiles/iyul_2011.pdf; Consular records: data is not available.