FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present you the second edition of ‘Migration in Ukraine: Facts and Figures’. With this publication, the Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ukraine intends to provide you with an updated compilation of statistics and an overview of migration trends.

While this short overview can only serve as an introduction to the complex and often inter-related topic of migration issues in Ukraine, we have tried to the extent possible, to put the facts and figures in context and to highlight how the relevant trends have evolved over time. This appears even more important given the often limited information available.

In line with IOM’s overall mandate, this fact sheet aims at advancing the understanding of the opportunities and challenges of migration in the Ukrainian context. Maximizing those opportunities and minimizing the challenges accompanied with migratory movements are the guiding principles of all activities and programmes the Mission is engaged in.

In doing so, the IOM Mission in Ukraine continues fighting trafficking in human beings, assisting the Government in dealing with irregular migration and migration management, and creating migrant-inclusive health practices and policies. At the same time, IOM Ukraine engages in exploring and promoting regular channels for Ukrainian labour migrants, integrating ethnic minorities, promoting the benefits of cultural diversity, and counteracting xenophobia.

This overview is a dynamic document, which will be updated on a regular basis, and thus, we welcome any comments, advice and new data, which you might have and that may help to improve this document in the future.

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Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners to promote humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. With 151 member states and 12 states holding observer status, IOM has its offices in over 100 countries.

The IOM Mission in Ukraine was established in 1996, when Ukraine became an observer state of the Organization. In 2001, Ukraine requested membership in IOM, which was formalized with the Ukrainian Parliament’s ratification in 2002.

Over 17 years of work in Ukraine, IOM has assisted more than 300,000 migrants (Ukrainians and nationals of other countries), potential migrants, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups, directly or through its project partners.

**UKRAINE: Middle Income Country**

- **Population (2012): 45.5 million**
  
  Ukraine is the 29th biggest country in the world.

- **Population growth (average %, 2000–2012): –0.6 annually**.
  
  From 2000–2012, the population of Ukraine declined by 4 mln people. This process has slowed: the natural population decline coefficient in 2012 was –3.1 per 1,000 people compared to –7.6 per 1,000 people in 2000.

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (2012): USD 176.308 billion in current prices or USD 3,870 per capita**.

- **Unemployment rate according to the International Labour Organization methodology (average 2012): 7.5% of the population aged 15 and 70**.
  
  If employment abroad was not possible, the unemployment rate in Ukraine in 2008 was estimated to have been 1.5 times higher.

- **Net Migration Rate (2010–2015): –0.2 migrants/1,000 population**.

- **Human Development Index (HDI)**:
  
  78 of 186 countries in 2012.

\(^a\)A composite statistic of life expectancy, education and income
Migration from Ukraine

- 204,000 residence permits were issued to nationals of Ukraine by EU member states in 2011. Ukrainian citizens comprise the largest group among the third-country nationals holding such permits in the EU. However, the majority of these permits are short-term (up to a year), and 156,000 of them were issued by Poland for seasonal employments. In 2012, Ukrainians formed the fifth biggest group among third-country nationals staying in the EU, after the citizens of Turkey (2.3 mln), Morocco (1.9 mln), Albania and China.

- According to the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation, as of mid-2013, there were 1.4 mln Ukrainian citizens temporarily or permanently staying in Russia. 127,800 of these Ukrainians were holders of work permits, comprising 11% of the foreign labour force in the Russian Federation.

- In 2011–2012, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoI) of Ukraine issued documents for 12,000 citizens of Ukraine who left the country for permanent residence abroad.

- Top destination countries: the Russian Federation, Germany, Israel, the United States, Belarus, the Czech Republic.

Labour Migration

Between January 2010 and June 2012, 1.2 million people, or 3.4% of the population between 15 and 70, were working or searching for employment abroad, according to a study conducted by the State Statistics Service and the Institute of Demography and Social Studies within an EU-funded project implemented by ILO and IOM.

![Figure 1. Main Destination Countries of Ukrainian Labour Migrants (2010–2012)](image-url)
Since the conduct of a similar study in 2008, labour migration patterns have stayed rather stable. The balance between Ukrainian migrants working in Russia and the EU is close to 50/50, with men comprising about two-thirds of all labour migrants.

Among Ukrainian labour migrants working abroad in 2010–2012, 38% had residence and work permits, 13% had work permits, 24% had temporary registration, 17% had no legal status and 4% stayed in other countries with only tourist visas.
Economic differences between Ukraine’s regions are significant. For instance, per capita income in Donetsk Region was USD 683 in the first quarter of 2011, which was 20% higher than the average income of USD 550 for all of Ukraine. The average income in Chernivtsi Region was USD 352, 37% less than the country average.

This is one of the factors behind the current geographical distribution pattern of source regions for labour migration (see Map 4). Other key factors include border proximity, established migration networks, and cultural ties.

Only some migrants manage to find jobs abroad corresponding to their qualification levels. Regardless of their education, most migrants are working in low-skilled jobs. Due to the existing mismatch between migrants’ skills and occupied positions abroad, Ukrainian labour migration, at least to a certain extent, can be qualified as “brain drain”. This disparity is further evidenced when data on migrants’ areas of employment abroad (see Figure 3) are juxtaposed with their education level (see Figure 5).
A survey of 150 Ukrainian migrants going to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA was conducted by IOM Ukraine in September–October 2011. One hundred and fifty randomly selected persons were interviewed. The poll demonstrated gender and age differences concerning intentions to emigrate.

Emigrants to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and USA were predominantly aged under 30 (64%), female (64%), held higher education (56%), and intended to emigrate permanently (25%).

The survey confirmed that mostly young and educated Ukrainians leave the country for permanent residence abroad. According to the received data, future emigrants were mainly employed in the areas of education, culture, science, retail and services in Ukraine, or were students.
The prevailing reasons of emigration to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and USA are family reunification and permanent residence, while emigration to EU and Russia is mostly labour-oriented (see figure 7).

Historically, Ukraine has one of the largest diasporas in the world, with many of its members maintaining cultural and economic linkages with their homeland. The size of the Ukrainian diaspora is estimated at between 12 and 20 million, depending on which definition of “diaspora” is applied.
The total stock of immigrants, who were staying in Ukraine with a residence permit as of 2012, comprised 230,891.

The number of immigrants has been steadily increasing since 2008, by 10,000–15,000 persons annually.

Top countries of origin are the Russian Federation, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Kyiv International Insitute of Sociology conducted a poll for the Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia in 2011. About 400 migrants, representatives of 10 ethnic groups aged over 18, were interviewed in all the regions of Ukraine.

- 51% have higher education
- 81% are permanently and legally living in Ukraine
- 10% are students or temporary labour migrants and 9% have irregular status or are asylum seekers
- 74% are employed
- 56% are officially employed (14% are private entrepreneurs)
- 15% claim that their relatives or friends could also move to Ukraine
- 80% fluently communicate with the locals in Russian or Ukrainian
- 12% speak only their native language
- 66% of migrants’ children study at local schools
- 91% have good friends among the locals
- 93% enjoy freedom in their religious practices in Ukraine

The highest number of foreigners holding work permits in Ukraine was recorded in 2008, at a time of increased economic activity. However, due to the first wave of the global financial crisis, this number began to decline sharply and now remains steadily at around 8,000.
The population development of Ukraine is characterized by demographic decline. Between 1991 and 2012, the total population declined by more than seven million, reflecting a sharp decline in birth rate and a negative migration balance. This trend is expected to continue, implying that the overall population will decline by another 10 million by 2050. Moreover, by 2050, it is estimated that nearly half of the population will be more than 45 years old. By 2050, the share of the population aged over 60 will grow by 50%, and the share of population aged over 80 will more than triple over the same period of time.

Fertility rate: 1.29 children born/woman (2012)
The amount of private remittances transferred to Ukraine in 2012 is estimated at around USD 7.5 billion, which is equal to 4% of Ukraine’s GDP in the same year\textsuperscript{31}.

**Figure 12. Private Transfers to Ukraine Compared to Investments (2012)**

- Remittances (2012):
  - USD 7.5 billion\textsuperscript{32}
- Net Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) (2012):
  - USD 6 billion\textsuperscript{33}

There is a continuous increase in the amount of remittances to Ukraine since 2001, except for 2009 (see Figure 13). Hypothetical models estimate that the Ukrainian economy would have lost about 7% of its potential without the stimulating effects of migrant transfers\textsuperscript{34} and that a 10% increase in per capita remittances leads to a 3.5% decline in the share of people living in poverty\textsuperscript{35}. The biggest share of remittances is used for living expenses (73%) and consumer goods (26%), whilst only 3.3% are used for setting up a business\textsuperscript{36}. A one per cent reduction in transaction costs raises recorded remittances by 14–23%, according to estimates\textsuperscript{37}. Ukraine receives the largest shares of remittances from Ukrainian migrants residing in Russia, the United States, Germany, Greece, Italy, and the United Kingdom\textsuperscript{38}, which indicates that it is not only Ukrainian labour migrants supporting their families but also the members of the diaspora.

**Figure 13. Migrant Remittance Inflow (USD million) to Ukraine (2001–2012)\textsuperscript{39}**

\[ \text{USD 7.5 billion} \]

\[ \text{USD 6 billion} \]
Ukraine remains one of the main countries of origin of victims of trafficking in Europe. Out of the estimated 120,000 Ukrainian citizens who have been trafficked since 1991, IOM has identified and assisted more than 9,000 victims. Numerous new trends are emerging, including an increase in labour exploitation; the risk group for trafficking expanding from young women between 15–24 years to women and men of all ages; a significant number of unidentified child victims in state care; and an increasing number of foreigners being exploited in Ukraine.

Along with being a country of origin of trafficking in human beings, Ukraine is also increasingly becoming a country of destination for persons trafficked internationally. There is also a rise in internal trafficking in Ukraine.
There was a stable number of apprehensions for violations of rules of stay in 2005–2011 (approximately 12,000–14,000), while the number of cross-border apprehensions has been steadily regressing since 2006.

In recent years, Ukraine has witnessed a shifting trend in main countries of origin of irregular migrants detected at the border, with dominant nationalities changing from Asia to the newly independent states (CIS region).
**Diaspora** — refers to any people or ethnic population that leave their traditional ethnic homelands, being dispersed throughout other parts of the world.

**Emigrant** — a person undertaking an emigration.

**Emigration** — the act of departing or exiting from one state with a view to settle in another.

**Immigrant** — a person undertaking an immigration.

**Immigration** — a process by which non-nationals move into a country for the purpose of settlement.

**Irregular Migrant** — someone who, owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country.

**Irregular Migration** — movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries.

**Labour Migration** — movement of persons from their home state to another state for the purpose of employment.

**Migrant Worker** — a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.

**Migration** — a process of moving, either across an international border, or within a state.

**Remittances** — monies earned or acquired by non-nationals that are transferred back to their country of origin.

**Trafficking in Human Beings** — the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.
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We are interested in your opinion. If you have any comments, please contact us at iomkiev@iom.int