

Russian Federation

The net migration inflow to the Russian Federation stood at 270 000 persons in 2014, according to official Rosstat statistics. While net immigration was lower than in 2013 (when it stood at 296 000), the gross migration inflow and outflow were both higher in 2014 than in 2013. The migration inflow in 2014 reached 578 000, an increase of 20% over the 2013 level. Immigrants in 2014 mainly came from other CIS countries: Uzbekistan (131 000 persons), followed by Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Among non-CIS countries, People's Republic of China was the main origin of immigrants (11 000 persons). As in 2013, immigrants from Uzbekistan accounted for one-quarter of the entire inflow. At 308 000 persons, the migration outflow was particularly high in 2014, likely because foreign workers whose registration expires are counted as emigrants. The outflow was mainly directed to the CIS countries of Uzbekistan (94 000), Tajikistan (35 000) and Ukraine (30 000), and to China (9 000). The highest net inflow from any country came from Ukraine (80 000).

According to the Federal Migration Service, 322 000 temporary residence permits were issued in 2014 and 140 000 permanent ones. Almost 80% of residence permits went to nationals of the following five countries: Ukraine (147 000), Uzbekistan (61 000), Kazakhstan (56 000), Armenia (46 000) and Tajikistan (37 000). At the end of 2014, the Russian Federation counted a total of 890 000 residence permit holders, 20% more than in 2013. The same CIS countries that dominated the inflow also accounted for around 70% of the stock.

Temporary labour migration continued to grow in 2014. After 2.9 million in 2013, more than 3.7 million permissions to work were issued in 2014. About 1.3 million foreigners obtained regular work permits, mostly based on quotas. Work permits issued on a quota-free basis numbered 159 000 in 2014, an increase of 22% since 2013. The number of special permits for highly-skilled workers rose strongly to 34 000. Most highly-skilled workers entered with visas, coming from countries such as China, Viet Nam, Turkey, and the Philippines. Approximately 2.4 million citizens of countries with visa-free entry purchased patents (licenses) to work in private households, a 55% increase over 2013 that might reflect comparatively simple procedures for patents. Among all incoming temporary labour migrants, those from Uzbekistan alone accounted for almost 40%, followed by those from Tajikistan (18%), Ukraine (12%), Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova (about 7% each). Sizeable numbers of migrant workers also came from non-CIS

countries, such as China (85 000), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (33 000) and Turkey (32 000).

The stock of foreign students in Russian tertiary education reached 221 000 in the academic year 2014/2015, the highest level since 2009. Nearly four-fifths were students from CIS countries, mainly Kazakhstan (56 000), Ukraine (20 000), Belarus (18 000), and Turkmenistan (18 000).

Close to 160 000 persons were naturalised in 2014. The majority benefited from simplified procedures available in particular to former USSR citizens and the Russian diaspora. While most naturalisations still occurred under a repatriation programme (34% in 2014), naturalisations of spouses of Russian citizens have become the second largest category (17% in 2014). Amendments to citizenship laws in 2014 simplified the naturalisation of native Russian speakers, investors and entrepreneurs. A requirement of three years of work experience in the Russian Federation was introduced for applicants who graduated from Russian educational institutions. Another special law provided Russian citizenship to permanent residents of Crimea, unless they opt out.

The conflict in Ukraine led large numbers of Ukrainian residents to cross into the Russian Federation in 2014. More than 267 000 persons applied for temporary protection in 2014, almost 100 times more than in 2013. Russian migration policy in 2014 was focused mainly on the management of this inflow, classified by the Russian Federation as humanitarian migrants. A decree facilitated support for this group, and asylum applications from Ukrainian nationals were fast-tracked with a three-day processing limit instead of three months. An obligation to undergo medical clearance within ten days of admission was introduced. Changes to the repatriation programme allow for the participation of persons classified as refugees from Ukraine.

Since January 2015, all migrant workers who enjoy visa-free entry have been required to obtain a patent instead of a work permit. This patent can be associated with considerable monthly fees. With the exception of highly-skilled migrants and nationals of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, foreign workers must provide a health insurance certificate and pass a Russian language test.

For further information

www.fms.gov.ru

www.fms.gov.ru/government_services

www.mid.ru

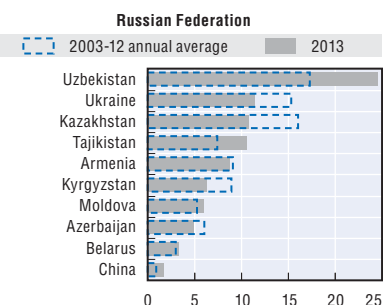
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Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Migration flows (foreigners)	2005	2010	2012	2013	Average		Level ('000)
					2003-07	2008-12	2013
National definition							
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	1.2	1.3	2.9	3.4	1.3	2.1	482.2
Outflows	0.5	0.2	0.9	1.3	0.5	0.4	186.4
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution				
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2012	2013	2012	2013			
Work	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2005	2012	2013	Average			
				2008-12			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	35.7			
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	1 285.1			
Inflows of asylum seekers	2005	2010	2012	2013	Average		Level
					2003-07	2008-12	2013
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1 962
Components of population growth	2005	2010	2012	2013	Average		Level ('000)
					2003-07	2008-12	2013
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	-5.0	..	..	..	-4.1	..	..
Natural increase	-5.9	..	..	..	-5.1	..	..
Net migration	0.8	..	..	..	0.8	..	..
Stocks of immigrants	2005	2010	2012	2013	Average		Level ('000)
					2003-07	2008-12	2013
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	..	7.8	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	..	0.5	0.4	0.5	..	..	716
Naturalisations	2005	2010	2012	2013	Average		Level
					2003-07	2008-12	2013
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>	..	..	..	18.9	3.1	19.6	117 381
Labour market outcomes	2005	2010	2012	2013	Average		
					2003-07	2008-12	
Employment/population ratio							
Native-born men	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born men	..	..	..	..	..	..
Native-born women	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born women	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unemployment rate							
Native-born men	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born men	..	..	..	..	..	..
Native-born women	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born women	..	..	..	..	..	..

Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners



Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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