

## **Specific Aspects and Dynamics of internal Migration in Russia**

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For many decades migration in Russia played significant role in development of the country, especially of its Siberian and Far East territories. In last 20 years, the directional flows of population underwent considerable changes, as by virtue of the changing geopolitical situation, as for a number of social and economic reasons.

The purpose of the study was to analyze the internal migration in Russian Federation, and in particular, the trends in the regional and interregional population movement, and the factors contributing to the intensity and direction of migration flows. The inputs to the analysis were the official statistical data for population movements, with the consideration of the demographic and socio-economic factors, for the period 1990-2010. The data sets partitioned by year are published by Federal State Statistics Service, [www.gks.ru](http://www.gks.ru).

The predominant component of the migratory movements is an internal migration, which accounts for 80% of all migration in Russia. The character and scale of these migratory flows varies significantly among regions. By the early 2000's, today's picture of migratory exchange between regions in Russia was formed. Nearly all Siberia and all Russian Far East lose their population in migratory exchange with regions of Central, North-Western, and Urals Federal Districts.

Thus, for example, in 2009, only 18 out of 80 regions, included in analysis, increased their population in interregional exchange. Among these regions the leading positions hold, predictably, the Moscow region (+7.46 people per 1000 people of permanent population), St. Petersburg (+7.16), Moscow (+7.14), the Krasnodar region (+4.11; for this region, the population growth is stimulated by forthcoming Sochi Winter Olympics 2014). The regions in Russia loosing most in interregional population exchange (per 1000 people of permanent population), are: Chukotka (-18.11), the Magadan region (-12.22), Murmansk region (-9.77) and Republic of Komi (-9.18). The Chechen Republic was excluded from the analysis due to the lack of reliable statistics for this period.

Immigration, mostly from CIS, barely covers the population loss due to natural causes for European part of the country only. For Russia as a whole, an immigration inflow covers only three quarters of the population loss due to below-replacement fertility.

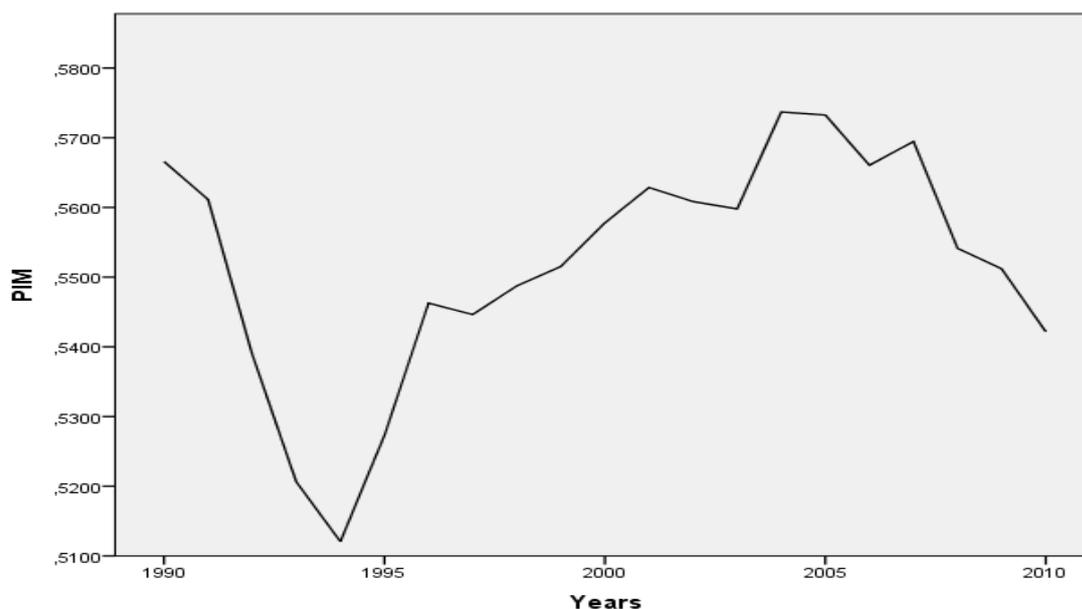
The migration activity of Russians significantly decreased during the last decade. While in 2000 regional and interregional migration flows were at 2.3 million people a year, by 2010 this figure has decreased to 1.7 million. The decline in the internal migration flows was not only attributable to the relaxation of social tensions. The point is that inside the country the migration resource is almost exhausted.

On average, the shortening of a distance between departure and arrival regions could be defined as well-established trend. The exception is Far Eastern Federal District, where migration to Central Federal District (CFD) accounts for more than 30% of all interregional movements.

The percentage and direction of the intraregional movements did not change significantly for the last decade (from 65% to 70% in different regions). The prevailing outflows were those from the countryside and small single-industry cities to the bigger cities, where there are considerably higher demand for labour, higher wages and a lot more opportunities for self-realization. The level of urbanization does not change significantly during the last years as the pace of urbanization has slowed in many parts of the country.

Changes in the proportion of intraregional movements in internal migration are shown in fig. 1. The turbulent times of economic reforms in the middle of 1990's are characterized by decreasing of the percentage of intraregional movements, from 56 to 51%. By the early 2000's these figures have risen to 55-57%, the increase was due to stabilization of social and economic situation. Crisis of 2008 intensified the intraregional movements.

Analysis of the interregional migration flows for 2000 - 2009 revealed the following patterns. The population of Central Federal District seems to be the most inactive in interregional movements. In 2000, 80.1% of migrants changed their residence region *inside* Central Federal District, and by the 2009 this figure has risen to 82.7%. At the same time, CFD "delivers" migrants to other regions only to a minor extent, most active to North-West and Volga Federal Districts. On the other hand, Far Eastern Federal District "donates" all others, especially Siberian and Central Federal District (in 2009 they account for 11.8% and 9.4% of all internal migration, or 30.7% and 24.4% of interregional migration, respectively).



**Fig. 1.** Changes in the proportion of intraregional movements (PIM) in internal migration

It's possible to distinguish the following dominant streams of migration exchanges during the periods being analysed: Far East → central regions of country and Siberia, North-West → central regions of Russia, South regions → central regions of Russia, Ural ↔ Volga (nearly equal for both sides). As result of such polarization of migration flows the only district that can make up its natural population loss by an internal migration (and by immigration from CIS) is Central Federal District. Accumulating the majority of migrants, Moscow and Moscow Region traditionally exhibited the most steady migration increase during the last decade: in 2010 – 7.5 and 9.1 newcomers per 1000 for Moscow and Moscow Region respectively.

The sex-age structure of migration underwent a transformation during the last two decades. The two most salient characteristics have been a rise in average age of migrants and the predominance of women among them (53% - 54% on average, mostly through the women of retirement ages). Analysis of the educational level of migrants revealed the lost of high-educated specialists by the donor regions. According to official statistics, for example, Primorsky Region lost 5792 high-educated specialists for the period 2005-2009. The replacement immigration from CIS leads to the lowering of average educational level of regional population.

Migration activity is influenced by many factors which are different for departure and arrival regions. For accepting regions the most important are the average household incomes, quality of medical services, the number of students in higher education (corresponding coefficients of correlation for arrival - 0.51, 0.74 and 0.64). Macroeconomic variables (such as Gross Regional Product) are less important, as for departure regions, as for arrival regions: on

average, coefficient of correlation with migration intensity – 0.43. For donor regions there are close connections between intensity of migration for changing residence with crime rate in region (as expelling factors; correlation coefficients are negative).

Current migration situation in Russia has a major impact on the country development. The characteristic features of migration in Russia are: geographic maldistribution of population, the working-age population outflow from Siberian and Far Eastern regions to the central parts of Russia, an increasing role of international migration, including the labour one.

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