

MIGRATION IN RUSSIA IN Q1 2015

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Against Q1 2014, global migration registered significant adjustments. The number of both new arrivals and departures went up, moreover, the latter increased more. Russia registered migration loss with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Sharp growth of incomers was registered from Ukraine. Migrants from that country currently secure major share of migrant growth in Russia. For the number of incomers Ukraine has overtaken countries of Central Asia taken together. From 1 January 2015, procedure for attracting labor migrants from visa-free countries to Russia has changed significantly. For foreigners employed by legal entities work permits were abolished and patents were introduced. Analysts consider transition to patents as an instrument which will help to simplify legalization and will be an anticorruption measure as well. The volume of transfers from Russia declined significantly. In Q1 2015, nearly half the amount was transferred to CIS member states against Q1 2014. Average amount of wire transfer fell below \$200 for the first time since 2006.

In 2014, statistical service registered stabilization of migrant flows. In Q1 2015, migration growth was observed again: the overall number of movements went up from 928,500 in January–March 2014 to 1,035,600 for the same period 2015. Domestic migration increased from 822,100 to 904,700 persons (by 10%). In Q1 2015, the number of arrivals from other countries went up from 106,400 to 130,900 persons, respectively; departures went up from 65,800 in 2014 to 88,400 in 2015. Migration growth can only partly be ascribed to the incorporation of data related to the Crimean Federal Okrug because the number of arrivals there in 2015 constituted 9,100 and departures – 7,300 persons.

The reason for continued migration growth remains unclear: the effect of changed registering methodology introduced by Rosstat in 2011 (development of data not only about migrants registered at their place of residence but at a place where they stay for a period less than 9 months) should have been exhausted. In Q1 2015, both the number of registered at the new place of residence amounting 541,600 persons against 489,000 in Q1 2014 and the number registered at the place of stay for various periods of time increased.

In comparison with 2014, global migration underwent significant changes (Table 1). Both the number of arrivals and departures went up, moreover, the latter grew faster. Migration growth has changed lit-

Table 1

MIGRATION OF THE POPULATION OF RUSSIA WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, 2014 AND 2015, Q1, THOUSAND PERSONS

	Arrived			Departed			Migration growth (loss)	
	2014	2015	2015 to 2014, %	2014	2015	2015 to 2014, %	2014	2015
Global migration, total	106.4	130.9	123.0	65.8	88.4	134.3	40.6	42.5
Migration with CIS countries	95.5	119.6	125.2	57.3	76.8	134.0	38.2	42.8
Azerbaijan	5.8	5.2	89.7	2.9	3.5	120.7	2.9	1.7
Armenia	9	10.6	117.8	5.2	6.2	119.2	3.8	4.4
Belarus	4.7	4.5	95.7	2.2	3.9	177.3	2.5	0.7
Kazakhstan	11.7	14.5	123.9	3.1	6.2	200.0	8.6	8.2
Kirgizia	6.2	5.5	88.7	3.1	4.3	138.7	3.1	1.2
Republic of Moldova	5.9	7.3	123.7	3.1	4.1	132.3	2.8	3.2
Tajikistan	10.3	9.2	89.3	7.6	10.2	134.2	2.7	-1.0
Turkmenistan	0.9	1.1	122.2	0.3	0.5	166.7	0.6	0.6
Uzbekistan	28.1	17.8	63.3	22.3	28.6	128.3	5.8	-10.8
Ukraine	12.9	43.9	340.3	7.4	9.4	127.0	5.5	34.5
Migration with other countries	10.9	11.3	103.7	8.5	11.6	136.5	2.4	-0.3

Note: Data for 2014 does not include Crimean FO.

Source: Rosstat, current registration.

tle but its components changed. Small migration outflow renewed to the countries of far abroad. However, it is very strange but in Russia, they observe migration loss with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Arrivals from those countries as well as from Kirgizia and Belorussia declined and departures grew. Allegedly, growth of the number of departures is the result of fast increase of the number of arrivals during previous years who registered at the place of temporary residence for 1 to 3 year. This year their residence registration expires and they automatically fall in the number of departed from Russia. The number of registered for a period from 9 months to 1 year shrank (temporary migrants usually register for this period). Meanwhile, the number of registered at the place of residence practically remained unchanged.

In 2015 against 2014, sharp growth of arrivals from Ukraine is observed. Migration from this country ensures the major share of migration growth in Russia. For the number of arrivals, Ukraine has overtaken the Central Asian countries taken together. In Q1 2015, 58,800 persons received temporary asylum and practically all of them are from Ukraine. Overall for early April 2015, over 330,000 persons received temporary asylum and 180,000 persons received permission for temporary residence.¹

In early 2015, directions of migration flows in Russia remained unchanged. Most attractive for migrants remain Moscow, Moscow region and Krasnodar Krai as well as Crimean FO, Tyumen and Novosibirsk regions. Volga district, North Caucasus, Siberian and Far Eastern Federal Okrugs continue losing population due to migration outflow.

Labor migration

From 1 January 2015, procedure for attracting labor migrants for visa-free countries to Russia has again changed significantly. Foreigners employed by legal entities work permits were abolished and patents were introduced. Experts consider transition to patents as an instrument which will help to simplify legalization and will become an anticorruption measure. However, as it happens, its introduction was accompanied by an ill-conceived procedure and attachment of a number of additional mechanisms and conditions.

In particular, labor migrants now must have not only voluntary medical insurance policy and a certificate confirming free of illnesses, but a certificate confirming knowledge of the Russian language, history of Russia and basic legislation.² In case of medical insurance policy is compulsory in many countries of Europe

and this measure is designed to protect regional budgets from provision of free medical care to migrants and simultaneously provide them some social guarantees. Examination on Russian language for migrants³ who do not seek long-term residence and naturalization (permission for provisional residence, residence permit or citizenship) seems to be an excessive requirement, moreover when conditions for mass language education of foreigners are absent.

Monthly price of a patent significantly differs from region to region:

- part of RF subjects did not set regional coefficients and they do not have set by the federal law price (Rb 1,568.4). As a rule, it is true of the regions which are not popular among migrants (Ivanovo, Kostroma, Kurgan, Zabaykalsky Krai, Karachay-Cherkessk Republic, Karelia, etc. over all 34 regions);
- the price of patent in remaining regions is within Rb 2,038.92 in Orel oblast to Rb 7,056.2 in Republic of Sakha and Rb 8,000 in Sakhalin oblast;
- in Moscow and Moscow region patent costs Rb 4,000 and in St Petersburg and Leningrad region Rb 3,000. By setting this threshold not low and which is far from the maximum authorities give to understand that capitol regions will not be able to cope without migrants in certain sectors of the economy.

General lump sum cost of legalization in Moscow according to experts' calculations constitutes between Rb 16,000 to Rb 20,000 and then Rb 4,000 monthly. In the wake of inflation, ruble depreciation, reduction of migrants' income due to the crisis as well as tougher migration control, most likely will result in the fact that more and more migrants from the CIS countries will be thinking about the economic expediency of working in Russia.

During January-February 2015, this issue was negatively affected by mess with issuance of certificates as well as validity of patents issued in 2014. FZ № 56 "On Introduction of Changes in Article 13-2 of the Federal Law 'On Legal Status of Foreign citizens in the Russian Federation and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation'" which allows to extend the validity of 'old' patents was signed only in early March. According to the law, the head of the RF subject which issued in 2014 more than 300,000 patents has the right to turn to the FMS of Russia with a request to extend the

overall list numbers including compulsory foreign passport 8 positions.

³ Highly qualified specialists who finished school before 1 September 1991 and students arriving to Russia to study and wishing to earn additional money. Certificate's life is 5 years.

¹ Interfax, 23 April 2015.

² As well as migration card with the aim of arrival is "Work", application and registration at the place of temporary stay. The

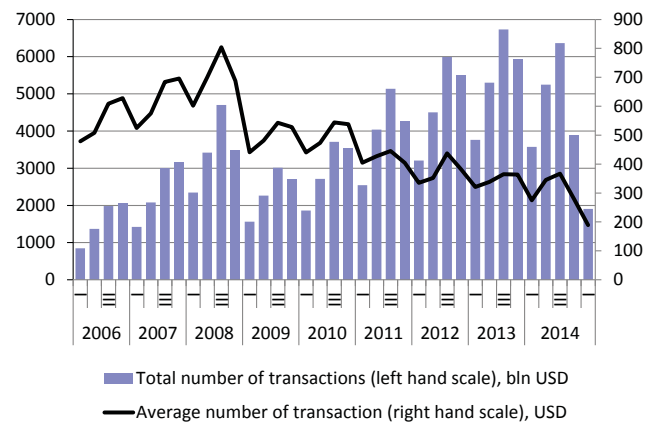
validity of patents issued in 2014 for the period to be paid but not more than 12 months from the date of granting such a document to labor migrant. Thus, the law was aimed, first of all, at regulating situation in Moscow where the only migration center (Sakharovo) which makes out approval documents commencing with 2015 did not cope with the flow of immigrants.

The overall number of migrants working on patents for five months 2015 decreased against the same period 2014 by 16.6 pp. and constituted 857,700 persons. Taking account that last year by this moment 555,500 migrants worked on work permits (now they remained valid solely for the migrants from the visa-required countries numbering 104,300 persons) total reduction of the number of legal migrants working on patents and work permits constituted nearly 40 p.p. Nearly the same situation exists with work permits for highly qualified and qualified specialists. Options aimed at a more extended and permanent stay in Russia (permission for temporary residence, residence permit and citizenship) remained constant or even demonstrated positive development. We think that first of all this is linked with the fact that the documents which now fall in statistical reporting were issued much before, in 2014, they incorporate Ukrainian component.¹

Comparing two crisis of 2009–2010 and the current one, it should be noted that against the current tightening of migration legislation in part of kicking out and deportation of foreign migrants who violated rule of stay and employment in Russia², the current crisis negatively affected the flow of migrants to a greater extent: the number of foreign work force in Russia in 2009 fell against 2008 by 8.3 p.p., solely from CIS by 7.6 p.p.; in 2010 against 2009 – by 26.2 and 24.2 p.p.,

1 See in detail Karachurina L.B. Migration in Russia. Russian economy in 2014. Trends and Outlooks. (Issue 36). / [V. Mau et al. Ed by Sinelnikov-Murylev S.G. (ed in chief), Radygin A.D.]; Gaidar Institute for Economic Policy. Moscow, Gaidar Institute Publishers, 2015. Section 5.2, pp. 315-331

2 Corresponding federal laws were adopted in 2013.



Source: RF Central Bank.

Fig. 1. Wire transfers from Russia to the CIS countries according to statistics of cross-border transactions conducted by individuals, Q1 2006 – Q1 2015

respectively. For 5 months 2015, the value of the fall for all categories of foreign works constituted 39.4 p.p.

Significantly fell the volume of wire transfers from Russia. In Q1 2015 against Q1 2014, only half the amount was transferred to the CIS countries, average amount of wire transfer fell below \$200 for the first time since 2006 (Fig. 1). Changes of the currency rates and contraction of transfer potential became a serious shock for the economy of dependent countries, first of all, Tajikistan, Kirgizia and Moldova³. Moreover, transfers represent assistance to the budgets of those countries and directly to the families and, first of all, are directed to current household expenses⁴.

3 Migration and Development Brief. The World Bank. April 11. 2014, p. 3.

4 According to the data of questionnaires of physical persons who do wire transfers carried out by credit organizations through the RF Central Bank in February 2014 nearly 68% of wire transfers were directed to current household expenses. The RF Central Bank. http://www.cbr.ru/statistics/?Prtd=svs&ch=Par_17101#ChckedItem