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Statistical data collection on migration in Ukraine

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Introduction

This note provides an overview of existing data sources on international migration from and to Ukraine and sets out their main limitations. These sources include population censuses, administrative records, household surveys and data from the state authorities responsible for migration data collection and management. The Ukraine State Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Registration (under the Ministry of Interior) is currently the key authority with respect to the registration of Ukrainian nationals going abroad permanently and for foreign nationals residing in Ukraine. It is also responsible for the issuance of temporary and permanent residence permits and for the granting of citizenship. The Ministry of Social Policy, through its Public Employment Centers, issues work permits. The consular services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are responsible for issuance of visas outside Ukraine and for the registration of Ukrainian nationals residing abroad. It is planned that most of the tasks in the fields of citizenship policy, immigration, registration and asylum will be performed by one institution – the recently re-established State Migration Service of Ukraine.

Flow data sources

The main system of migration data collection in Ukraine is based on the **registration of population by place of residence** (previously known as *propiska*) which records movements to and from Ukraine that are associated with changes of **permanent residence**.

As far as **immigration** is concerned official statistics reported by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine count *inflows from abroad (arrivals)* based on registration of the **place of permanent residence** (*de iure* population) in Ukraine reported by a foreign national or a stateless person to the local Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Registration after moving into a particular place of residence and filling out a registration card. To register his/her place of residence, a foreign national or a stateless person must have an **immigration permit** (which is necessary for obtaining a permanent residence permit) and should provide grounds for registration at a particular address, e.g. a document certifying ownership right or the right to use the flat/house (sales agreement, deed of gift, registered lease agreement, etc.). Due to existing contradictions in legal norms and the lack of incentives for complying strictly with the rules of registration, not all foreign nationals and stateless persons arriving in Ukraine are properly counted in official migration statistics. Furthermore, the year of registration of the place of residence may significantly differ from the true year of arrival in Ukraine.

Foreign nationals who come to Ukraine for temporary stay should, instead, apply for a **temporary residence permit** (under limited conditions, for an extension of stay to remain in Ukraine for more than 90 days from the date of entry),¹ and these are registered in the corresponding **place of stay** (*de facto* population). Temporary registration records are also maintained by the aforementioned Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Registration **but they are not transmitted** to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine and, therefore, are not publicly available.

Alternative data on the total number on migration movements are provided by **crossing-border statistics**. However, they need to be interpreted very carefully as figures refer to the number of moves across the border rather than the number of people crossing the border during a given year and declared purpose of arrival often differs from the real reason, particularly in case of visa-free entry to Ukraine.

¹ To apply for a temporary residence permit in Ukraine, a foreign national should provide the following documents: passport and valid long-term stay visa (issued to individuals entering Ukraine with the purpose of staying for more than 90 days), a completed application form and a photo, documentary proof of address (place of stay) in Ukraine as in the case of permanent residence, the application fee and a letter from the inviting party verified by the respective state body (which is also needed to apply for a long-term visa). Once a foreign national has a residence permit, he/she can reside in Ukraine for as long as it remains valid.

The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine also provides statistics (with limited public access) on the number of **migrants apprehended** for border violations, or those rejected at the border and deported from Ukraine, a list which is subsequently complemented by the data of the Ministry of Interior on the number of irregular migrants apprehended inside Ukraine and the number of detained immigrants in migrant-holding facilities.

The Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy as the authority responsible for issuing work permits and collecting information about employment through its public employment centers, keeps its own statistics on the number of **work permits** issued and the number of foreign nationals and stateless persons working in Ukraine officially. These statistics are available for a wide set of characteristics (including economic sector, educational attainment and duration of employment in Ukraine) but they have been criticised because of low accuracy, given widespread informal employment among immigrants in Ukraine.

As far as **emigration** is concerned, official statistics reflects outflows (departures) of Ukrainian nationals going abroad for **permanent residence** and **long-term stay** based on information provided in their deregistration cards. As emigration for **permanent residence** accounts only for a small part of total emigration from Ukraine and as many emigrants are not interested in deregistration from their place of residence in Ukraine (in particular if they might want to return to Ukraine), official migration statistics greatly underestimate the real scale of emigration. Besides, it distorts up-to-date statistics on the *de jure* and *de facto* population in Ukraine which is compiled on the basis of the Census data taking into account annual data on the balance of births over deaths and the balance of arrivals from abroad over departures abroad.

Statistics from the Ministry of Interior on the number of Ukrainian nationals who were granted **emigration permits** is scant and not publicly available.

Existing **cross-border statistics** for outflows of Ukrainian travelers abroad are even more problematic and limited compared to the same statistics for inflows of foreign travelers.

Data of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine on Ukrainian workers who were **temporarily** (i.e. for a defined term) **employed abroad** during a given year through the licensed employment agencies grossly underestimate total labour emigration from Ukraine and do not take into account the employment of Ukrainian sailors recruited by foreign shipping companies

Stock data sources

The primary data source on the stock of foreign nationals, stateless persons and foreign-born population is the **population census** which was carried out in Ukraine in December 2001. Despite near universal coverage of population, it is unlikely to pick up irregular immigrants who usually conceal themselves from local authorities. On the other hand, it overestimates the number of **immigrants** residing in Ukraine (defined on the place-of-birth approach) since residents of Ukraine that were born in the other republics of the former Soviet Union before its dissolution have been classified as international migrants although in fact they are internal migrants. The largest drawback of migration statistics based on the census data is its obsolescence due to omission of important migration events which took place after the most recent census in 2001.

Although there is no unique and reliable data source on the stock of **emigrants** from Ukraine residing abroad, one of the most frequently mentioned sources is information about Ukrainian nationals registered in the **consulates** abroad which is collected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on request.

Additional data sources

Specific datasets

The other data sources on international migration in Ukraine which supplement the existing migration statistics are:

- statistics on the number of foreign students in Ukraine based on the reporting of all accredited higher-educational institutions to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine at the beginning of the academic year;
- statistics of the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine on refugees and asylum seekers;
- statistics on victims of trafficking assisted by International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ukraine.

Ad hoc surveys

Several *ad hoc* surveys which collect data on migration (predominantly labour emigration) have been carried out in Ukraine. The Modular Population Survey on Labour Migration Issues carried out by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine in cooperation with the Ukrainian Centre for Social Reforms, the Open Ukraine Foundation, IOM, and the World Bank in May-June 2008 employed the nationally representative combined sample of non-institutional households used in the monthly Labour Force Survey and quarterly Household Budget Survey: 22,099 households and 48,054 individuals of working age.² The next survey with a nationally representative sample within the new EU-ILO project “Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skills Dimensions” is scheduled for 2012. The European Training Foundation (ETF) provided technical and financial support for a smaller survey of returning and potential migrants in 2007: there were 1,086 potential and 1,014 returning migrants in the sample. IOM supported Human trafficking surveys in 2006 and 2008 with about 1,300 individuals in the sample.

Qualitative surveys

As to qualitative data, there are many studies conducted by sociological agencies and NGOs. For example, the International Charitable Foundation “Caritas Ukraine” carried out, in 2007-2008 together with the Ethnology Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine individual and focus group interviews of labour emigrants from Ukraine in Russia and six European countries (Poland, Greece, Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic and Ireland) as well as migration experts from NGOs, authorities and religious organizations in these destination countries. The International Women’s Rights Centre “La Strada-Ukraine” together with the Human Rights Defence Centre (Greece) developed a qualitative study of labour emigration from Ukraine on the back of the economic and financial crisis based on interviews with Ukrainian migrant workers living in Greece and Greek migration experts as well as migrants returning from Greece to Ukraine (in 2009-2010).

² The monthly Basic Labor Force Survey does not provide information on labour migration (neither emigration nor immigration) in Ukraine.

Conclusion

Despite the existence of the various data sources on international migration in Ukraine mentioned above, official migration statistics lack comprehensiveness and comparability. Due to the lack of a centralized mechanism for the gathering of migration data, poor coordination between the state agencies responsible for migration-related issues and constant changes in the management of migration in Ukraine, there are no unified consolidated statistics on the numbers and profiles of various categories of emigrants and immigrants such as permanent vs. temporary (with various periods of stay), regular vs. irregular, labour migrants vs. students vs. family members vs. refugees and asylum seekers vs. victims of human trafficking, etc. Moreover, different terms and notions such as ‘migrants’, ‘foreign nationals’, ‘foreign-born individuals’, ‘foreign students’, ‘labour migrants’ and ‘ethnic minorities’ are often mixed up and used interchangeably. Such situations distort public perceptions about migration in part because of various myths about emigration from Ukraine and immigration to Ukraine and prevents researchers from carrying out a rigorous analysis of international migration, its costs and benefits for Ukraine and receiving countries.

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
Ukrainian Population Census.	State Statistics Service of Ukraine.	Population census covers both permanent residents , i.e. those registered in a place of residence (<i>de iure</i> population) and temporary stayers , i.e. those registered in a place of stay (<i>de facto</i> population). The starting point in defining is the division of the <i>de jure</i> population into those individuals who have lived in their current place of residence continuously since their birth (a break of up to 12 months is allowed) and migrants. Accordingly, international migrants are individuals who moved for reasons of permanent residence in Ukraine from foreign states.	a. <i>De jure</i> and <i>de facto</i> population by citizenship, age group, sex and urban/rural divide; b. <i>De jure</i> population by place of birth, sex and urban/rural divide; c. Foreign and stateless persons by ethnicity group, gender and urban/rural divide d. International migrants by the major origin countries and the duration of continuous stay in their permanent place of residence in Ukraine; e. International migrants (defined by the country of birth/ change of residence between 1989 and 2001/ duration of stay in the current place of residence of less than a year) by origin FSU countries and destination region of residence in Ukraine.	Universal data collection.	(+) Reliable data source with universal coverage; (-) No information about migration events which took place after the most recent census in 2001; (-) No publicly available data on international migration by sex, age, educational attainment, economic activity and other important characteristics; (-) Census is unlikely to pick up irregular immigrants who usually conceal themselves from local authorities; (-) Residents of Ukraine who were born in the other republics of the former Soviet Union before its dissolution are also considered international migrants (94% of all stock of international migrants).
Main info: Primary source; stock data					
Periodicity: roughly every 10 years. The next census is scheduled for 2012					

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
<p>Registration of population at the place of residence (previously known as <i>propiska</i>).</p> <p>Main info: Primary source; flow data</p> <p>Periodicity: Continuous registration;</p>	State Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Registration of Individuals at the Ministry of Interior (data collection); State Statistics Service of Ukraine (data processing and dissemination)	The definition 'arrivals' is used. Arrivals include people who register in a place of permanent residence, i.e. <i>de iure</i> population. Arrivals from abroad are defined according to registration cards filled out by persons entering the migration-defining area in Ukraine from abroad. To be registered, a foreign citizen or a stateless person must have an immigration permit and should provide grounds for registration at a particular accommodation (registered address), e.g. an authorization to occupy an apartment/house, a property certificate, a tenancy contract, etc. (alternatively, he/she needs an agreement from the owner in case of private ownership or of all adults already registered in the apartment /house in case of state/ communal ownership).	Monthly and annual number of arrivals from abroad by country of previous residence.	Data collection based on registration cards filled out by persons arriving from a given place of residence, maintained at the municipal level	(+) Up-to-date statistical information which is publicly available; (-) Only legal and permanent migration related to the change of permanent residence are covered; (-) No info on the place where foreign nationals and stateless persons living temporarily in Ukraine stay; (-) No data by sex, age, educational attainment, economic activity and other important characteristics; (-) The year of registration may significantly differ from the true year of arrival.

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
<p>Crossing-border statistics</p> <p>Main info: Primary source; flow data.</p> <p>Periodicity: Continuous registration (aggregated by year).</p>	State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.	Persons crossing the state border including visitors.	Number of arriving foreign nationals and stateless persons ordered by the main purpose of visit (business trip/ private visit/ organized tourism/ education/ employment/ immigration (permanent residence)/ cultural and sport event, religious and other reasons) and country of origin.	Data collection based on immigration cards, visas and passport control.	(+) Universal coverage of target population throughout Ukraine; (-) No detailed data by sex, age, educational attainment, economic activity and other important characteristics; (-) Information is about the number of moves across the border rather than about the number of people crossing the border during a given year; (-) Declared purpose of arrival may differ significantly from the actual one.
<p>Current records of the Ministry of Interior (supposed to be kept by the newly created State Migration Service of Ukraine).</p> <p>Main info: Primary data; stock and flow data</p> <p>Periodicity: continuous registration</p>	State Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Registration of Individuals at the Ministry of Interior.	<p>Temporary stayers: foreign nationals and stateless persons;</p> <p>Permanent residents: immigrants, defined as a foreign citizen or a stateless person who obtained an immigration permit and arrived in Ukraine for permanent residence, or, while staying in Ukraine on legal grounds obtained an immigration permit and remained in Ukraine for reasons of permanent</p>	<p>a. Number of registered foreign nationals broken down for the purpose of stay in Ukraine or status (business/ tourism/ private/ education/ employment/ immigration (permanent residence)/ cultural and sport events, other/ religious activity/ transit/ refugee);</p> <p>b. Number of registered foreign nationals by</p>	Data collection based on registration of foreign nationals staying in Ukraine on legal grounds who applied for <ol style="list-style-type: none"> an extension of stay before the expiration of 90 days from the date of any foreign national's entry into Ukraine, a temporary residence permit, an immigration permit, and for citizenship; stock. Besides, the statistics of the Ministry of Interior	(+) The only data source on immigration to Ukraine and the number of foreign nationals residing in Ukraine; (-) Data are not publicly available; (-) Data prepared on request are not disaggregated as requested and are provided with time lag; (-) No data on immigration by sex, age, educational attainment, etc; (-) No data on duration of stay in Ukraine.

		residence. An immigration permit is necessary to get a permanent residence permit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. country of origin; Number of foreign nationals holding temporary residence permits in Ukraine by country of origin; d. Number of registered immigrants: total, by country of origin, and within immigration quota vs. over the quota; e. Number of persons granted the Ukrainian citizenship by previous citizenship; f. Number of irregular migrants detected / detained by the institutions of the Ministry of Interior. 	on detected irregular migrants and criminal statistics among foreign nationals.	
State Statistical Monitoring of Higher Educational Institutions	State Statistics Service of Ukraine.	Foreign students at higher educational institutions. Foreign students are foreign nationals admitted under special permits or visas allowing them to undertake a course of study in an accredited Ukrainian higher educational institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Number of foreign students by the level of accreditation of higher educational institutions (I-II vs. III-IV) and regions in Ukraine; b. Number of foreign students by the level of accreditation of higher educational institutions (I-II vs. III-IV), ownership type and the 	Data collection based on reporting of all accredited higher educational institutions with two statistical forms on the number and composition of students in the beginning of an academic year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (+) Universal coverage of target population throughout Ukraine; (+) Reliable and publicly available information; (-) Foreign students form only a small proportion of foreign communities in the country.
Main info: Primary source; stock and flow data					

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<p>Periodicity: Continuous registration</p>			<p>responsible Ministry (State Agency) for state-owned institutions;</p> <p>c. Number of foreign students by the level of accreditation of higher educational institutions (I-II vs. III-IV) and the origin country – total number of students, number of first-year students, number of graduates.</p>		
<p>State Statistical Monitoring of Enterprises, Organizations and Private Entrepreneurs having the license on employment of foreign nationals in Ukraine</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and Public Employment Service.</p>	<p>Temporary labour immigrants defined as foreign nationals and stateless persons employed in Ukraine for a defined term through the licensed employment agencies.</p>	<p>Annual number of issued work permits to foreign nationals;</p> <p>Annual number of temporary labour immigrants ordered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 27 administrative regions in Ukraine; b. origin countries; c. categories of the employed (migrants employees vs. seasonal workers vs. frontier workers vs. trainees working for hire vs. persons employed with contractor's agreement); d. sex and age e. educational attainment; f. duration of employment in Ukraine; g. occupation group (white-collar vs. blue-collar vs. unskilled); h. economic sector (type of economic activity). 	<p>Data collection based on reporting of all licensed firms at two statistical forms on labour migration and reporting of local employment centers.</p>	<p>(+) Universal coverage of target population throughout Ukraine;</p> <p>(+) A wide set of characteristics available;</p> <p>(-) Only regular labour migrants employed through the licensed employment agencies are covered. Hence, total labour migration is largely underestimated and its main characteristics are biased.</p>
<p>Main info: Primary source; stock and flow data.</p>					
<p>Periodicity: Continuous registration (aggregated by year).</p>					

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
Consular Records	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.	Ukrainian nationals registered in consulates , i.e. Ukrainian nationals who went abroad for a temporary stay (for employment, studies or medical treatment) or a permanent residence and are registered in the consulates abroad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total number of Ukrainian nationals registered in the consulates (stock) by host countries; b. Number of Ukrainian nationals newly registered in the consulates (flow) by host countries; c. Number of deported Ukrainian nationals by host countries. 		(+) Records can cover migrants living in developing countries where population statistics are of poor quality and coverage; (+) Records can cover some irregular migrants who might wish to be in order with their home country's authorities; (-) Data are not regularly collected by the Ministry and not publicly available; (-) The number of registered Ukrainian nationals is largely underestimated given the lack of obligation to be registered in the Consulate; (-) No detailed information, for example, about the purpose of stay abroad and individual characteristics (sex, age, educational attainments, etc.).
Main info: Secondary data (aggregated from statistics of all Ukrainian consulates); stock and flow.					
Periodicity: continuous registration					
Modular Population Survey on Labour Migration Issues	State Statistics Service of Ukraine (fieldwork), Ukrainian Centre for Social Reforms (processing and presentation of results), the	Labour emigrants , defined as individuals of working age (women 15-54 years, men 15-59 years) who have been	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Many important characteristics of migrants (current and returning) such as sex, age, educational 	Sample based on a nationally representative combined sample of non-institutional households used in the monthly Labour Force	(+) A wide set of characteristics available; (+) Micro-level data may be used for inferential statistics methods;

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<p>Main info: Estimates; Household survey</p>	<p>Open Ukraine Foundation, International Organization for Migration, and the World Bank (financial and technical support).</p>	<p>abroad for employment at least once from January 2005 to the interview date in May-June 2008. Cross-border commuters are not taken into account.</p>	<p>attainment, origin region, reason for employment abroad, occupation and economic sector before/during employment abroad, intention to stay abroad longer, intention to return to Ukraine or re-migrate, destination country, frequency of trips and duration of employment abroad;</p>	<p>Survey and quarterly Household Budget Survey.</p>	<p>(-) Absence of a longitudinal structure (-) Estimates of the number of labour emigrants are much lower than those estimated by experts and the Ministry of Labour.</p>
<p>Periodicity: <i>Ad hoc</i> (2008).</p>			<p>b. Some basic information on remittances and their spending by households.</p>		
<p>Registration of population at the place of residence (previously known as <i>propiska</i>).</p>	<p>State Department of Citizenship, Immigration and Registration of Individuals at the Ministry of Interior (data collection), State Statistics Service of Ukraine (data processing and dissemination).</p>	<p>The definition 'departures' is used. Departures abroad are defined according to deregistration cards filled out by persons leaving Ukraine for a permanent settlement abroad.</p>	<p>Monthly and annual number of departures to abroad by destination country.</p>	<p>Data collection based on registration cards filled out by persons departing from a given place of residence, maintained at the municipal level.</p>	<p>(+) Up-to-date statistical information which is publicly available; (-) Only legal and permanent migration related to the change of permanent residence are covered; (-) No data by sex, age, educational attainment, economic activity and other important characteristics; (-) The year of deregistration may significantly differ from the true year of departure.</p>
<p>Main info: Primary source; flow data</p>					
<p>Periodicity: Continuous registration</p>					

State Statistical Monitoring of Enterprises, Organizations and Private Entrepreneurs having the license on employment of foreign nationals in Ukraine	Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and Public Employment Service.	Temporary labour emigrants defined as Ukrainian workers employed abroad for a defined term through the licensed employment agencies.	Annual number of temporary labour emigrants ordered by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27 administrative regions in Ukraine; destination countries; categories of the employed (migrants employees vs. seasonal workers vs. frontier workers vs. trainees working for hire vs. persons employed with contractor's agreement); sex and age; educational attainment; duration of employment abroad; occupation group (white-collar vs. blue-collar vs. unskilled); economic sector (type of economic activity). 	Data collection based on reporting of all licensed firms at two statistical forms on labour migration and reporting of local employment centers.	(+) Universal coverage of target population throughout Ukraine; (+) A wide set of characteristics available; (-) Only regular labour migrants employed through the licensed employment agencies are covered. For example, the majority of such emigrants are sailors recruited by foreign shipping companies. Hence, total labour migration is largely underestimated and its main characteristics are biased.
Main info: Primary source; stock and flow data					
Periodicity: Continuous registration (aggregated by year).					
Crossing-border statistics	State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.	Persons crossing the state border including visitors.	Number of departures of Ukrainian nationals by origin countries (groups of countries).	Data collection based on immigration cards, visas and passport control.	(+)Universal coverage of target population throughout Ukraine; (-) No detailed data by sex, age, educational attainment, economic activity and other important characteristics; (-) Information is about the number of moves across the border rather than about the number of people crossing the border during a given year; (-) Declared purpose of departure may differ significantly from the actual one.
Main info: Primary source; flow data					
Periodicity: Continuous registration (aggregated by year).					

Data accessibility: Population Census: published in the special statistical editions “Population migration according to the Population Census-2001” and “Population of Ukraine by place of birth and citizenship”, and some data on-line (<http://2001.ukrcensus.gov.ua/results/migration/>) are easily accessible. Other data could potentially be retrieved from the raw data; Registration of population at the place of residence: published data on-line (www.ukrstat.gov.ua) and in many statistical bulletins and yearbooks; Crossing-border statistics: basic data are published data on-line (www.ukrstat.gov.ua). Other data should be available on request; Current records of the Ministry of Interior: upon request; State Statistical Monitoring of Higher Educational Institutions: basic information is published in the special statistical edition “Main indicators of the activity of higher educational institutions”; State Statistical Monitoring of Enterprises, Organizations and Private Entrepreneurs: data for 2001-2007 are published in the statistical and analytical bulletin “Labour market of Ukraine in 2007”; Consular Records: upon request; Modular Population Survey on Labour Migration Issues: main results are published in the report “International labour migration of the Ukrainian population”.