

# Migration processes and the labor market in the cross-border regions of Siberia and the Far East

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**Abstract.** The article analyzes migration processes in the cross-border regions of Siberia and the Far East. The authors emphasized the importance of labor migration for the demographic and socio-economic state of the country. The authors conclude that the cross-border regions have worse rates of migration increases if compared with other regions of Siberia and the Far East.

**Keywords:** migration, migration processes, migration growth, labor market, population

## 1. Introduction

Labor migration not only affects sustainable development of cross-border regions, but also forms social, demographic, and economic processes that are the main instruments for ensuring national security [1]. In this regard, the study of migration processes seems relevant in the context of the current state of the labor market.

## 2. Materials and Methods

In this paper, the authors analyze certain dynamics of the components of population change; the intensity of the total migration of the population in relative terms (per 1 000 people) in the Russian Federation in 2018. Using statistical materials from Rosstat, the Ministry of Labor of Russia, and the State Labor Inspectorate, the authors analyze migration flows with non-CIS countries and the CIS, the current situation and problems in the labor market.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Migration processes play a special role in the socio-economic and demographic development of Russia. Migration growth partially compensates for the natural decline in the population of Russia. According to the Federal State Statistics Service, the resident population of Russia was 146.8 million people at the beginning of 2019. The population decline by 93.5 thousand people (by 0.06%) occurred in 2018. This is a significant figure compared with 2017, when the population increased by 76.1 thousand people (by 0.05%). Migration growth of 57.2% compensated for the natural population decline in 2018 (Fig. 1).

Resettlement of migrants for permanent residence becomes not only a source of population growth, but it also helps to solve problems of regional economic development in terms of attracting foreign workers in various vocational qualification groups.

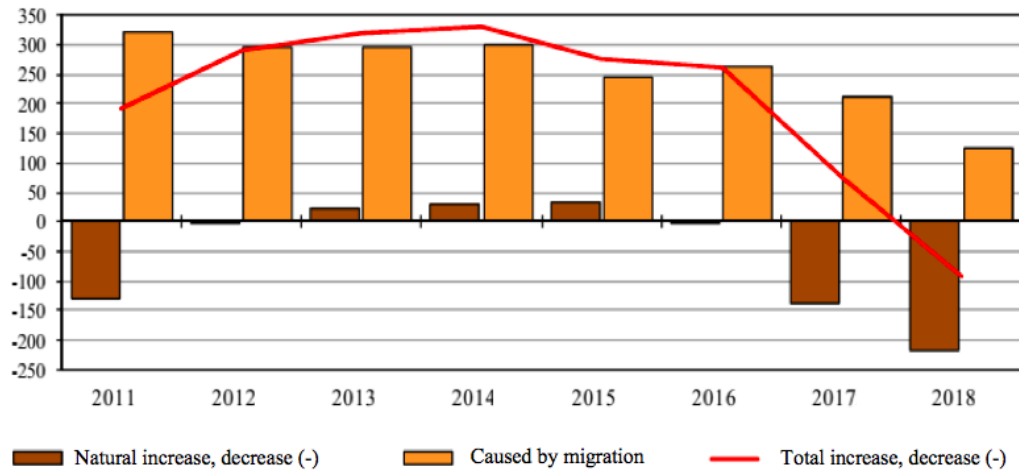


Figure 1. Components of population change (thousand people) [2].

In modern conditions, labor migration of highly qualified workers is an important source of human capital accumulation, ensuring economic growth and sustainable development of cross-border regions.

Many regions of the Siberian and Far Eastern federal districts can be considered as cross-border ones, and they are also the most demanded ones from the perspective of labor migration by foreign citizens, including from CIS countries. The intensity of the general migration of the population in federal districts of the Russian Federation in 2018 is presented in Figure 2.

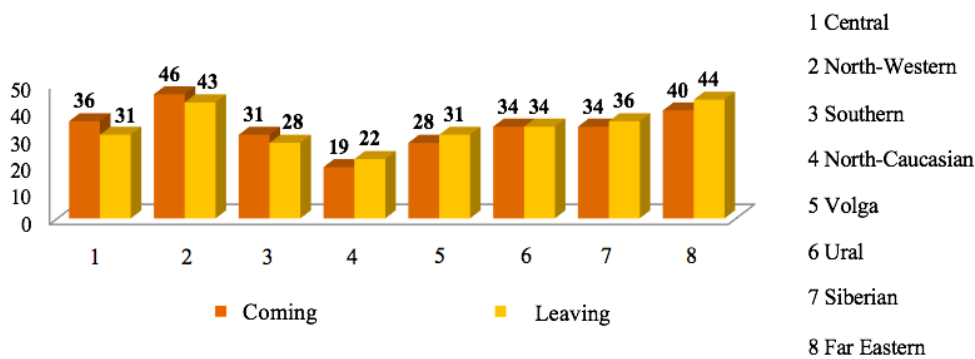


Figure 2. Intensity of the total migration in federal districts of the Russian Federation in 2018 (per 1000 people) [3].

According to statistics from Rosstat, the number of migrants who migrated to Russia increased by 160.8 thousand people (3.8%) in 2018 (if compared to the previous year). Such a migration growth of the Russian population decreased by 87.0 thousand people (41.1%). This happened as a result of a reduction in the number of arrivals in Russia and an increase in the number of departures beyond its borders. At the same time, the number of arrivals decreased by 23.3 thousand people (4.0%), mainly due to immigrants from foreign countries by 9.9 thousand people (15.3%). As for those who left, their number increased by 63.6 thousand people (16.9%), including those who left for the CIS countries by 60.9 thousand people (19.0%).

Thus, in 2018, a decrease in migration growth is observed with almost all CIS countries. An increase in migration growth is observed only with Turkmenistan (+ 2.7%), Armenia (+ 2.6%) and Azerbaijan (+ 1.6%) in comparison with the previous year.

Table 1 presents migration flows of cross-border regions of Siberia and the Far East with non-CIS countries and the CIS for 2018.

**Table 1.** Migration flows with non-CIS countries and the CIS in 2018 (people) [4].

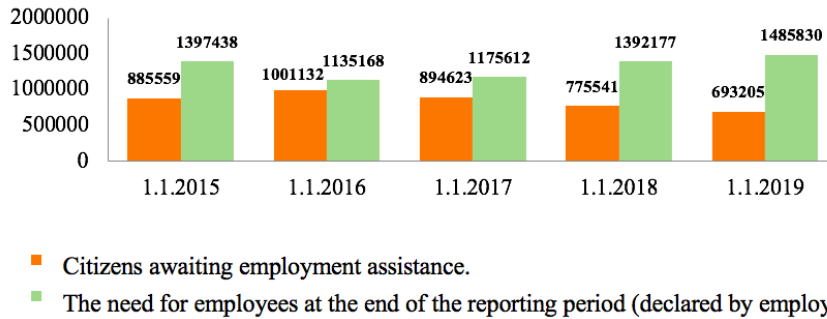
Regions	Non-CIS countries	CIS countries
	migration increases (+) or decreases (-)	migration increases (+) or decreases (-)
<b>Russian Federation</b>	<b>-4199</b>	<b>+129083</b>
<b>Cross-border regions</b>	<b>-3262</b>	<b>+9180</b>
Altai Republic	-7	+133
Tyva Republic	+6	+113
Altai region	-91	+1426
Irkutsk region	-11	-538
Novosibirsk region	-455	+5707
Omsk region	+60	+846
Republic of Buryatia	-39	-374
Transbaikal region	-4	+11
Primorsky region	-956	+1087
Khabarovsk region	-1337	+576
Amur region	-411	+185
Jewish Autonomous Region	-17	+8
<b>Other regions</b>	<b>-924</b>	<b>+14133</b>
Republic of Khakassia	-37	-97
Krasnoyarsk region	-743	+4657
Kemerovo region	-98	+3608
Tomsk region	-57	+1153
Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)	+73	+2165
Kamchatka region	-49	+2106
Magadan region	-3	-582
Sakhalin region	-19	+1081
Chukotka Autonomous Region	+9	+42

As Table 1 shows, the migration increases from the CIS countries to the cross-border regions of Siberia and the Far East amounted to more than 9 thousand people. The Novosibirsk region, Altai region, and Primorsky region occupy the leading positions in the list of regions of the Siberian and Far Eastern Federal Districts in migration flows from the CIS countries. At the same time, there is a significant migration decline in the population in non-CIS countries in some cross-border regions of Siberia and the Far East (Primorsky and Khabarovsk regions). In the regions of Siberia and the Far East that are not related to cross-border ones, the scale of migration losses to non-CIS countries is lower, and the migration increase from the CIS countries is higher compared to cross-border regions.

Despite the demand for these regions among the migrant population, there are many problems in the Russian labor market concerning issues such as discrimination in finding employment, compliance with labor laws, wage payments “in envelope,” etc. Assessing the current situation in the labor market, we would like to note the growing stated employers’ need for employees from 2016 to the present (Fig. 3).

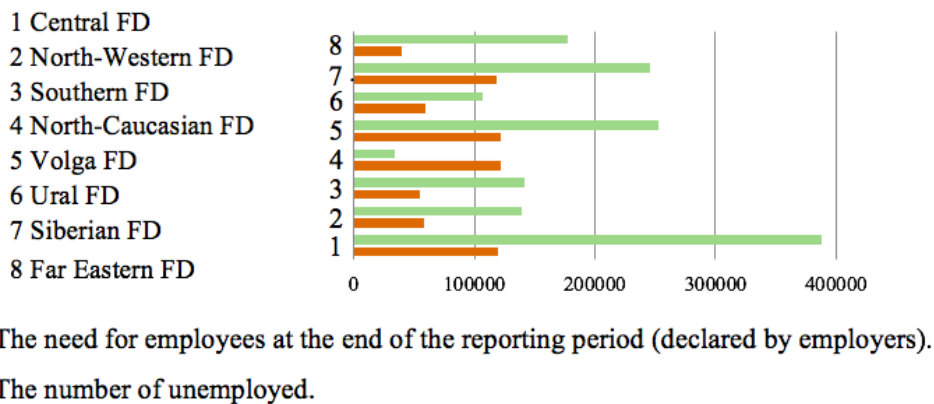
The number of citizens awaiting assistance in finding employment through the employment service has declined by more than 30% over the period 2016-2018. At the same time, the need for an employee declared by employers increased. On the one hand, this can be explained by the deteriorating demographic situation in the country due to the reducing population of working age. According to the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, the size of the workforce declined by more than half a million people (521 thousand) only in 2017. On the other hand, this can be explained by the high turnover of staff, which is related, inter alia, to the fact that the employer cannot provide the necessary working conditions in accordance with the requests of employees. Thus, within the framework of labor relations, various labor situations arise between employees and employers, affecting their main interests. These include the most common issues

related to wages and dismissal, as well as other related to changes in working conditions; employees' responsibilities; working conditions of individual citizens; rest time; working time; labor protection; employers' responsibility; hiring and other issues.



**Figure 3.** The situation on the labor market according to the Federal Service for Labor and Employment (created by the authors on the basis of data from the Ministry of Labor of Russia [5]).

For the purpose of this study, the authors analyzed the appeals of citizens on sections of labor legislation; the official data of the State Labor Inspectorate were used in this [6]. It has been established that wages and dismissal occupy the “leading” positions (34% and 31%, respectively) in the number of emerging issues and appeals to the labor inspectorate in all subjects of the Russian Federation for the period 2013-2018. Despite this, the Siberian and Far Eastern Federal Districts (along with the Central and Volga Federal Districts) are among those districts that have the greatest need for workers (Fig. 4).



**Figure 4.** The number of unemployed and vacancies according to the Federal Service for Labor and Employment on January 1, 2019 (created by the authors on the basis of data from the Ministry of Labor of Russia [5]).

**4. Conclusion**

Our study did not reveal the migration attractiveness of the cross-border regions of Siberia and the Far East. The main factor contributing to the high value of migration growth is the high level of urbanization of the population. Today, the proportion of urban residents of the Novosibirsk, Kemerovo, and Krasnoyarsk regions is higher than the average for Russia. The attractiveness of these regions includes such factors as: a developed social infrastructure; transport accessibility; a developed housing market; investment attractiveness, and much more.

**5. Acknowledgments**

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