

Exploring Labor Migration Patterns: A Study On Uzbek Migrant Workers Abroad

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Abstract: This study explores the various methods employed by labor migrants from Uzbekistan to migrate abroad for employment, both temporarily and permanently. It provides a comprehensive analysis based on data from a survey conducted by official sources. The research reveals the significant presence of Uzbek migrant workers in countries such as the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Turkiye, and Korea, with construction being the primary sector of employment. It also examines the role of the Foreign Labor Migration Agency (FLMA) in facilitating overseas employment and highlights Uzbekistan's efforts to diversify its labor migration destinations amidst growing concerns regarding migrants in Russia. The findings underscore the need for a comprehensive review incorporating data from both Uzbekistan and the receiving countries to understand the full scope of labor migration dynamics.

Keywords: Labor Migration, Employment, Migrants, Abroad, Socio-Economic Landscape, Methods Of Labor Migration..



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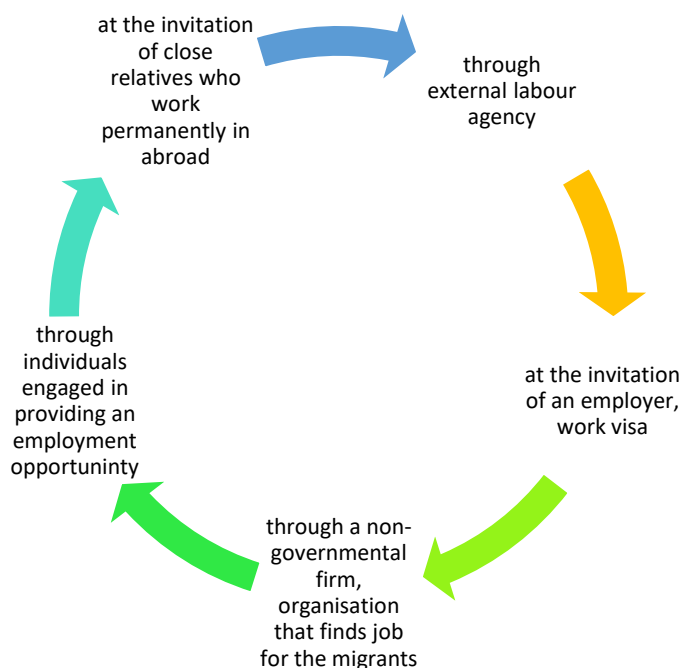
Introduction

Labor migration is a critical component of the socio-economic landscape in Uzbekistan, with a substantial portion of the workforce seeking employment opportunities abroad. This movement is driven by various factors, including economic conditions, job availability, and bilateral agreements between Uzbekistan and receiving countries. The methods labor migrants use to migrate vary, encompassing both formal programs organized by government agencies and informal channels. This paper investigates these methods and provides a detailed overview of the distribution of Uzbek migrant workers across different countries, based on recent data. It also discusses the role of the Foreign Labor Migration Agency (FLMA) under the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan in organizing and facilitating these migrations. Additionally, the study examines Uzbekistan's strategic efforts to diversify its labor migration destinations in response to challenges faced by its migrants, particularly in the Russian Federation.

Methods

Several methods labor migrants use to migrate to another country to work permanently or temporarily. The following figure illustrates the methods that are used for migration to another country by the respondents of the survey that was conducted by Evgeniy Abdullaev.

Figure 1. Main methods of labor migration from Uzbekistan



Source: made by the survey conducted by Evgeniy Abdullaev[1]

Results and Discussion

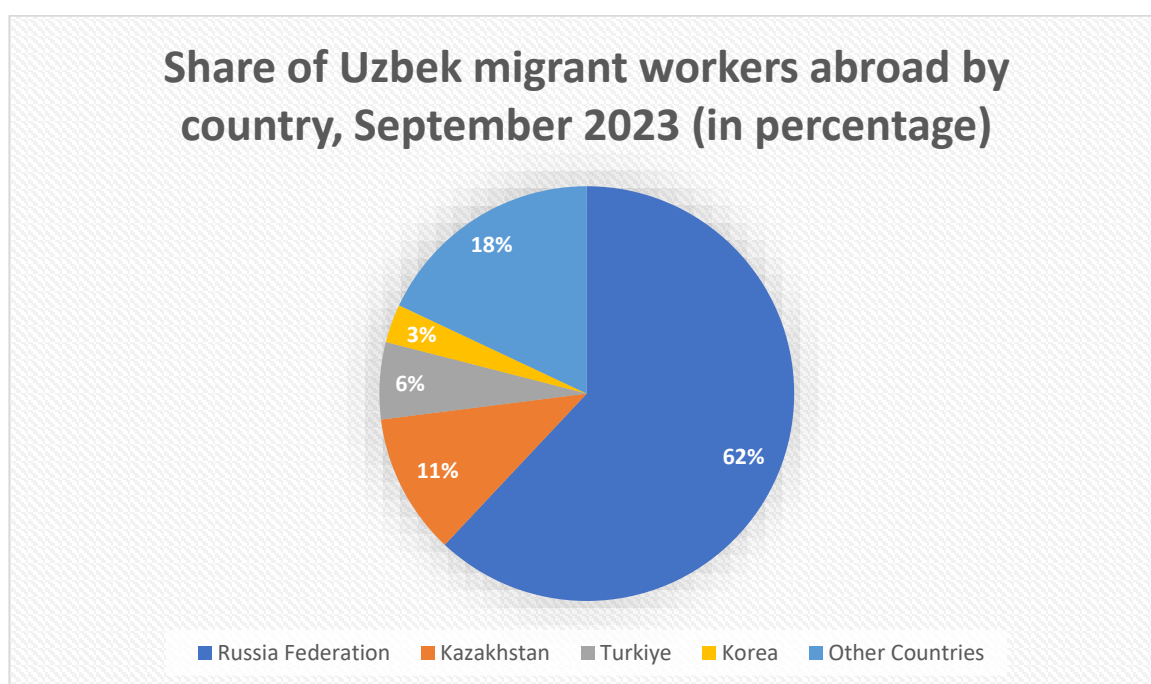
Results and discussion contain the results of research findings and their scientific discussion. Write down scientific findings obtained from the results of the research that has been carried out but must be supported by adequate data. The scientific findings referred to here are not the data obtained from the research. The scientific findings must be explained scientifically including: What are the scientific findings obtained? Why did it happen? Why is the variable trend like that? All these questions must be explained scientifically, not just descriptively, if necessary supported by adequate basic scientific phenomena. In addition, it must also be explained in comparison with the results of other researchers with similar topics. The research results and findings must be able to answer the research hypothesis in the introduction.

Manuscripts can be written in Indonesian or English with a maximum of 20 pages including figures and tables. Manuscripts must be written according to this article template in camera ready form. The article must be written in A4 size (210 x 297 mm) and with a format of 3 cm left margin, 3 cm right margin, 3 cm bottom margin, and 3 cm top margin. The manuscript must be written in Times New Roman typeface with a font size of 12 pt, single-spaced, and in a one-column format (except for the article title, author name, and abstract). The distance between columns is 1 cm.

Foreign words or terms are italicized. It is best to avoid using foreign terms for Indonesian-language articles. A new paragraph starts 1.15 cm from the left margin, while there is no space between paragraphs. The number of existing Uzbek migrant workers abroad is highly variable

depending on the availability of work opportunities and seasonal jobs in the receiving countries . According to the last published public data, as of September 1, 2023, the number of Uzbek migrant workers working abroad reached almost 2.1 million people. The main part of labor migrants from Uzbekistan is in the Russian Federation (62%, 1 million 300 thousand people), followed by 223 thousand (11) in Kazakhstan, 113.1 thousand (6) in the Republic of Turkey, 113.1 thousand (6) in the Republic of Korea 66.8 thousand (3%) and 379.9 thousand (18%) labor migrants were registered in other countries. Among these migrant workers, 521,800 (24.6%) were women and 1,596,000 (75.4%) were men. Most of the migrant workers (52.7%) worked in the construction sector. Most of the labor migrates to the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. The following figure illustrates how many percentages of labor migrants go to which countries.

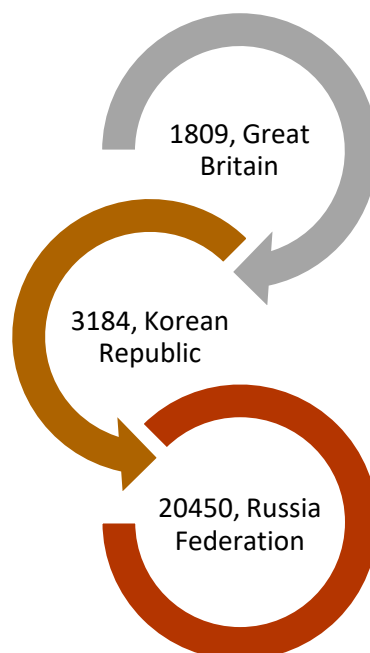
Figure2. Share of Uzbek migrant workers abroad by country, September 2023 (percentage)



Source: made by the authors based on data provided by the IOM(2023), [2].

In January-August 2023, 28,207 people were helped to find work abroad through the programs of sending them to work abroad organized by the Foreign Labor Migration Agency (FLMA) under the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Most of them went to the Russian Federation (20,450 people), the Republic of Korea (3,184 people) and Great Britain (1,809 people) for employment. According to the research of the Caspian Policy Center (CSPC), the Uzbek side is actively exploring the possibilities of diversifying the countries of labor migration due to growing concerns about Uzbek migrants in the Russian Federation (Ozat, 2023). Uzbekistan is expected to expand bilateral cooperation with several countries on labor migration, including Great Britain, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Turkey, and Japan, and create a basis for cooperation with new countries such as Canada and Sweden.

Figure 3. Number of persons sent abroad through the FLMA's overseas employment programs, January-August 2023 (absolute numbers)



Source: made by the authors based on data provided by the FLMA. [3]

Observations that were conducted by the International Organization for Migration (2023) show that the other main destinations for Uzbek migrants are Kazakhstan, the Republic of Turkiye, and the Republic of Korea, with a small number of migrants going to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United States of America (USA) and countries of the European Union (EU) for labor migration, education and other purposes. It is worth noting that the statistical data provided by the receiving countries on the number of Uzbek migrants may differ from the statistical data provided by the relevant official organizations of Uzbekistan due to differences in the methodology and approach used. Therefore, in a more comprehensive review of these processes, it is of particular importance to supplement the statistical data provided by the relevant official organizations of Uzbekistan with the official statistical data of the national statistical offices of the receiving countries.

Conclusion

The study highlights the significant scale and complexity of labor migration from Uzbekistan, with a large number of migrants working primarily in Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkiye, and Korea. The data underscores the dominance of the construction sector in employing these workers. The role of the FLMA is pivotal in managing and supporting overseas employment, demonstrating the Uzbek government's proactive stance in labor migration management. Furthermore, Uzbekistan's initiatives to diversify its labor migration destinations reflect a strategic response to geopolitical and socio-economic challenges. To enhance the understanding and management of labor migration, it is crucial to integrate statistical data from both Uzbek authorities and the national statistical offices of receiving countries. This comprehensive approach will help in formulating effective policies and programs that

safeguard the interests of Uzbek labor migrants and optimize the benefits of labor migration for the country's development.

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