Disclaimer: The facts and views contained in this publication, which is provided for information purposes only, do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

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The IOM Mission in Ukraine was established in 1996, when Ukraine was an observer state of IOM. In 2001, Ukraine requested membership in IOM, which was formalized with the Ukrainian Parliament’s ratification of the IOM Constitution in 2002. Over the 20 years of its presence in Ukraine, IOM has assisted about half a million migrants, potential migrants, IDPs, victims of trafficking, and other vulnerable groups, directly or through its project partners.
FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present you the third edition of ‘Migration in Ukraine: Facts and Figures’. With this publication, the IOM Mission in Ukraine intends to provide you with an updated compilation of statistics and an overview of the most prevailing migration trends.

While this overview can only serve as an introduction to the complex and often interrelated topic of migration issues in Ukraine, we have tried to the extent possible, to put the facts and figures in context and to highlight how the relevant trends have evolved over time. In line with IOM’s overall mandate, this overview aims at advancing the understanding of the opportunities and challenges of migration in the Ukrainian context. Maximizing those opportunities and minimizing the challenges accompanied with migratory movements are the guiding principles of all activities and programmes IOM Ukraine is engaged in.

In doing so, the IOM Mission in Ukraine continues supporting conflict-affected people, fighting trafficking in human beings, assisting the Government in dealing with irregular migration and migration management, and creating migrant-inclusive health practices and policies. At the same time, IOM Ukraine engages in fostering the links between migration and development, promoting the benefits of cultural diversity and integration of migrants, as well as counteracting xenophobia and intolerance.

This overview is a dynamic document, which we will continue to update on a regular basis, and thus, we welcome any comments, advice and new data, which you might have and that may help to improve further this document in the future.

Manfred Profazi
Chief of Mission, IOM Mission in Ukraine
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INTRODUCTION

Significant geopolitical transformations impact each and every aspect of life of Ukrainian society, including migration. The intensity, nature and direction of migration of the Ukrainian population changed dramatically after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the country opened up to the world and its citizens could fully exercise the right of freedom of movement. The signing of the Association Agreement and the path towards a visa-free regime between Ukraine and the EU led to a series of important reforms in the field of migration management. However, the annexation of Crimea and the conflict in the Donbas triggered massive displacement, exacerbated a deep economic crisis and fed into the intensification of labour migration.

I. KEY STATISTICS ON UKRAINE

Area – 603,500 sq. km

Population – 42.7 million as of 1 January 2016 (excluding the annexed territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol city).

1.1. Economy and welfare

Zero GDP growth recorded in 2013 was followed by a reduction (by 6.6% in 2014 and 9.9% in 2015) due to the conflict in the eastern Ukraine, and the fall of commodity prices in the global market.

Pic. 1. Ukraine’s annual real GDP, 2010-2015, year over year percentage change

Source: World Bank
The conflict in the industrial region of the country led to a significant reduction in industrial production (by 13.1% in 2015), while necessitating additional budget expenditures for the armed forces and law enforcement and infrastructure rehabilitation.

Inflation in Ukraine is high. While in 2013, consumer prices increased by only half a percentage point, inflation galloped to 25% in 2014 and skyrocketed a further 43% in 2015\(^1\).

At the same time, the average real wage in 2014 was 94% of the 2013 level, and in 2015 it comprised 80% year-over-year. It grew from UAH 3,480 in 2014 to UAH 4,195 in 2015, but because of dramatic devaluation of the national currency, in hard currency equivalent it actually dropped from USD 292 in 2014 to USD 192 in 2015.

![Pic. 2. Annual average real wage in Ukraine, 2010-2015, year over year percentage change](image_url)

In December 2015, the average number of employees in Ukraine was 7.8 million, which was 600,000 less than in December 2014. The number of unemployed persons reached 1.6 million, or 9% of the economically active population. Unemployment amongst people up to 25 years of age was more than twice as high, at 22%\(^2\).

The level of absolute poverty increased rapidly from 3.3% in 2014 to 5.8% in 2015\(^3\).

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2 State Employment Service of Ukraine


1.2. Demographics

The population of Ukraine, which in 1993 was 52 million people, has decreased by nearly 20 per cent or approximately 10 million people mainly due to negative trends in natural reproduction. In 2010-2015, the natural reduction averaged over 160,000 people per year. According to the forecast, if the birth, life expectancy and migration rates remain unchanged, in 2050, Ukraine’s population will be 32 million people. The share of people over 60 will increase by 50%.

![Pic. 3. Forecast of the Ukrainian population given the current birth, life expectancy and migration rates based on the 2011 data, million persons](source)

II. INTERNAL MIGRATION

2.1. Aspects of internal movement

After Ukraine’s proclaimed independence in 1991, the volume of internal migration significantly reduced due to the disappearance of the organized movement and recruitment of the labour force typical in Soviet times, the commercialization of education, growth of housing prices, and difficulties with employment. While immediately prior to the breakup of the Soviet Union, 3 million people undertook internal migration, it has currently dropped below one million persons. According to the State Statistics Service, in 2015, only 12 out of every one thousand Ukrainians changed their place of residence⁴. However, documented internal movement still outstrips international migration 10 times over.

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⁴ Calculations made on the basis of available administrative data on the change of residence registration
The movement between the country and the city dominates internal migration. The rural population is declining due to the outflow of young people to the city.

Kyiv city and Kyiv Region are major recipients of interregional migration. In the 2000’s, the population of the capital grew by 20,000 people per year due to an influx from other regions. Due to the current crisis, the migration growth decreased (14,400 in 2014, about 12,000 in 2015), but remained the highest in Ukraine. However, this data refers only to officially registered resettlements and is not including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

People are also largely involved in internal labour migration, non-related to daily or weekly return to the places of permanent residence. This migration envisages performing seasonal, rotational, and even longer work in the capital and the largest industrial centres.

According to the latest data obtained during the study conducted by IOM in 2014-2015, the number of internal migrant workers in Ukraine exceeds 1.6 million, reaching 9% of the economically active population, and internal labour migration may soon increase by about 50%.

According to other sociological studies, for 55% of the internal migrant workers their job is permanent, for the vast majority it is their only job. However, only 20% of the surveyed internal migrant workers are officially employed. The others are working as part of verbal agreements, or consider themselves to be self-employed.

2.2. Internally displaced persons

Since 2014, the annexation of Crimea and military operations in the Donbas has been the driver for massive forced internal migration in Ukraine. According to the Interdepartmental Coordination Headquarters on Social Security of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), as of July 2016, 1.029 million persons were displaced from the non-government controlled areas to other regions of Ukraine, including 1,007,112 persons from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, 22,459 people from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol city, with 170,581 children and 495,093 disabled and elderly among them.

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7 Interdepartmental Coordination Headquarters reports. http://www.dsns.gov.ua/ua/Mizhvidomchyi-koordinaciynyi-shtab.html
However, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, which registers IDPs as a prerequisite for the provision of social support, the number of displaced persons is higher and as of July 2016 comprised 1.774 million persons. The Interdepartmental Coordination Headquarters provided the following information on the accommodation of IDPs. Most of them were accommodated in the Luhansk (275,000), Kharkiv (191,000), Donetsk (120,000), Dnipropetrovsk (81,000), Zaporizhia (69,000), Kyiv (51,000) regions and Kyiv city (39,000). The smallest number of IDPs was accommodated in the Ternopil (2,500), Chernivtsi (3,000), Rivne (3,000), Zakarpattia (4,000), Ivano-Frankivsk (4,000) and Volyn (5,000) regions.

Thus, most IDPs reside in places closest to the regions of previous residence, which indicates their intention to return to the abandoned homes. However, according to sociologists, about one-third of IDPs intend to become permanent residents of other regions of Ukraine.

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A study conducted by IOM with the support of the Government of Japan\textsuperscript{10} showed that IDPs are seen primarily as an additional development resource in places of their current residence. The local population sees new opportunities to be derived from the increase in social activity facilitated by newly-arrived persons; the opening of new businesses and a strong motivation to succeed; the introduction of higher requirements for the range and quality of goods and services; the interest in jobs not popular among the locals, and consequent cheapening of the production costs of goods.

### III. Migration from Ukraine

#### 3.1. Increasing international mobility of the population

After Ukraine gained independence, the cross-border mobility of Ukraine’s population grew rapidly primarily due to the crossings of the western border. In 2013, i.e. before the annexation of Crimea and the conflict in eastern Ukraine, the number of Ukrainians’ trips to Poland for the first time exceeded the number of trips to Russia.

Since the beginning of the conflict, there has been a general decrease in the number of trips abroad, especially in the number of trips to Russia. In 2014, Ukrainians travelled abroad almost 30% less than in 2013. At the same time, the number of trips to the EU continued to grow, increasing from 10.5 million in 2014 to 12.5 million in 2015.

\[\text{Pic. 5. Number of state border crossings by Ukrainian citizens exiting Ukraine in 2003-2015, million times}\]

\[\begin{array}{cccccccccccc}
\text{Year} & \text{Poland} & \text{Russian Federation} & \text{Other countries} \\
2003 & 6.22 & 4.71 & 4.16 \\
2004 & 7.02 & 4.17 & 3.89 \\
2005 & 7.67 & 6.22 & 4.71 \\
2006 & 8.72 & 7.02 & 5.81 \\
2007 & 9.52 & 7.67 & 6.22 \\
2008 & 10.5 & 8.72 & 7.02 \\
2009 & 11 & 9.52 & 8.17 \\
2010 & 11.5 & 10.5 & 8.72 \\
2011 & 12 & 11.5 & 9.52 \\
2012 & 12.5 & 12 & 10.5 \\
2013 & 12.7 & 12.2 & 10.7 \\
2014 & 13 & 12.7 & 11.2 \\
2015 & 13.2 & 13 & 11.7 \\
\end{array}\]

\[\text{Source: State Border Guard Service of Ukraine}\]

In the course of the EU-Ukraine visa liberalization dialogue, visa processing for Ukrainians was facilitated and simplified, and the number of Schengen visas issued to the citizens of Ukraine increased. While in 2010 Ukrainians obtained 1.28 million Schengen visas, they received nearly 300,000 more in 2013 (1.56 million). Approximately 39% of these were multiple entry visas\textsuperscript{11}. In 2014, the share of multiple entry visas issued to Ukrainians increased to 52.4%, and in 2015 reached a historical maximum of 56.8%\textsuperscript{12}. This partly explains the first reduction in the number of issued Schengen visas since the mid-2000s – Ukrainians obtained 1.35 million Schengen visas in 2014, and only 1.19 million in 2015.

Another reason for the reduction of the number of visas is the increase in the number of visa refusals. In 2010, the share of refusals was 3.83%, but it dropped to 1.85% in 2013. During the conflict, it began to grow again, with a 1.97% rate of refusal in 2014, and 3.4% share of denials in 2015.

The intensification of the cross-border mobility of Ukrainians towards the EU is facilitated by the agreements on small border traffic, signed with Hungary in 2007, Poland and Slovakia in 2008, and Romania in 2014. Under these agreements, the citizens residing in the border zone can travel to neighbouring countries without visas, entering their territory to a distance from 30 km (Poland) to 50 km (other countries). According to a survey of international passengers, the residents of the 30-kilometre border zone perform up to 65% of border crossings with Poland\textsuperscript{13}.

The number of Ukrainians residing in the EU is constantly growing. In 2015, there were 905,200 of them. They constituted over 6% of all foreigners from third countries in the European Union. The majority of Ukrainians reside in Italy (238,000), Poland (336,000), Germany (112,000), the Czech Republic (113,000), and Spain (84,000).


In 2015, Ukrainians obtained 493,000 first EU residence permits which is by 50% more than in 2014. The majority of these permits (87%) were issued in Poland. Almost all of them were short-term (3-12 months) and issued for the performance of seasonal work. Employment was the main purpose of arrival of Ukrainian citizens to the EU. Seventy-six (76%) per cent of stay permits were issued to Ukrainians in connection with paid employment, while all citizens of third countries obtained about one-third of such permits.

### 3.2. Labour migration

Ukrainian’s first opportunity to enjoy the right to freedom of movement coincided with the deep structural transformation of the economy, accompanied by falling living standards and increased unemployment. Due to the degradation of the free healthcare and education systems, the population had to cover these expenses itself. In the absence of a developed credit system, those willing to start a business needed start-up capital. The transition to a market economy created a new consumer demand for high cost products like housing, cars, and household appliances. This stimulated labour migration, which in the late 1990’s became a mass phenomenon and a source of income for many families.

According to the study conducted under the IOM project in 2014-2015, about 700,000 Ukrainian citizens were working abroad.  

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According to the same study, the majority of Ukrainian migrant workers are men, over 40% are 30-44 years old; most migrants come from the Western regions of the country. Forty-one (41%) per cent of migrant workers have a secondary or vocational education, 36% have a higher education.

The main countries of destination for Ukrainian labour migrants are Poland, Russian Federation, Czech Republic, and Italy.
The sectors of employment of the Ukrainian migrant workers are primarily construction (men) and domestic care (women), as well as the service sector and agriculture.


Due to the military conflict and a deep economic crisis, the pro-emigration sentiment is growing among the population. The attempts to solve problems by finding a job abroad are facilitated by Ukrainians’ labour migration experience, and powerful migration networks that emerged in recent decades. A survey commissioned by IOM in the spring of 2015 showed that 8% of Ukrainians plan to find a job abroad soon or have already found it. According to a similar survey in 2011, their share was 6%.

15 Survey on Migration and Human Trafficking: Ukraine, 2015: http://www.iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/pres_gfk_iom2015_ukraine_eng_fin_3_2.pdf (Conducted in March – February 2015 by GfK Ukraine, commissioned by IOM Mission in Ukraine. 2,087 persons aged over 15 were interviewed in the government-controlled area)
Increased labour migration is accompanied by a nascent reorientation of flows from east (to Russia) to west (to the EU). According to the same survey, the share of potential migrant workers from Ukraine seeking work in Russia decreased from 18% in 2011 to 12% in 2015. At the same time, the attractiveness of Poland increased from 7% in 2006, when the first similar study was conducted, to 30% in 2015\textsuperscript{16}.

However, according to a study of migrant monetary flows to Ukraine and their impact on the development of the country, carried out by IOM in 2014-2015, the majority of potential migrants planning short-term trips for the purpose of earning intend to go to Russia, and for potential long-term migrants, planning to stay abroad for over a year, Russia is the second destination country after Poland\textsuperscript{17}.

According to the same study, there are changes in the structure of labour migration from Ukraine, namely the volume of long-term migration; youth, women, urban residents, people from northern, central and eastern Ukraine are increasingly involved in migration\textsuperscript{18}.

### 3.3. Educational migration

According to UNESCO, in 2000 – 2012, the number of Ukrainian students abroad increased by more than four times and reached 37,000. The main growth was in the countries to which the labour migration flows from Ukraine have been directed.

Over the past two years, the growth of the number of Ukrainians who went to study abroad accelerated. According to the annual monitoring of the number of Ukrainian citizens studying full-time in foreign universities, conducted by the analytical centre CEDOS (covering 34 countries), in the 2013/2014 academic year, 47,724 citizens of Ukraine were studying abroad\textsuperscript{19}. The majority of them were studying in Poland (15,000), Germany (9,000), Russia (6,000), Canada (2,000), Czech Republic (2,000), Italy (1,900), the USA (1,500), Spain (1,400), France (1,300), and the UK (1,000).

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\textsuperscript{18} Ibid

\textsuperscript{19} Stadny E. The number of Ukrainian Students Abroad. http://www.cedos.org.ua/uk/osvita/56
3.4. Asylum seekers

The annexation of Crimea and military actions in the Donbas in 2014-2015, spurred not only internal, but also external forced migration. The number of applications for asylum submitted by the citizens of Ukraine in the EU countries in 2015 surpassed 22,000, over 33% more than in 2014, and over 20 times more than in 2013. Most of the applications were submitted in Italy, Germany, Spain, and Poland. However, the number of applications submitted by Ukrainians was only 1.7% of all applications for asylum submitted in the EU. Moreover, only a few Ukrainians received positive responses to their appeals. In 2015, 415 citizens of Ukraine received refugee status in the EU, and an additional form of asylum for humanitarian considerations was granted to 1,150 persons20.

Many forced migrants from the conflict zone left for Russia, due to, inter alia, geographical proximity, family ties, socio-cultural or political affinities. According to the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation, in 2015, 2.5 million citizens of Ukraine were registered in Russia. This is almost one million more Ukrainians than were registered as of 1 January 201421. At the end of 2015, 273 citizens of Ukraine were granted refugee status in Russia and 311,000 were granted temporary asylum22.

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21 Data on foreign nationals in the territory of the RF. https://гувм.мвд.рф/about/activity/stats/Statistics/Svedenija_v_otnoshenii_inostrannih_grazh/item/5858
3.5. Emigration and the Ukrainian Diaspora

There are from 8.2 million (according to the foreign countries’ census) to 20 million (according to various estimates) people of Ukrainian origin living abroad. The first wave of Ukrainian emigration dates back to the late XIX – early XX century, which was a period of mass emigration of Europeans overseas. Up to 10% of the population of western Ukraine, then part of Austria-Hungary, left for the New World. From the Ukrainian territories, which were part of the Russian Empire, the settlers went to the East; their number in the 1895-1913 was at least 1.6 million people. The second wave of emigration occurred during the interwar period. As a result of the setback of the national liberation revolution of 1917-1920, economic emigration was accompanied by the political emigration. Within the USSR, an involuntary migration was prominent in the context of the development of the remote areas. Thus, at least one million of Ukraine’s dispossessed peasants were expelled during collectivization to other areas of the USSR. The Second World War and its aftermath caused a third wave of emigration. Westward, it was almost entirely political. Eastward, it consisted of several components: forced evacuation and wartime fleeing; repressive deportation of the opponents of the Soviet regime and the “unreliable” population from the territory annexed by the USSR that forms part of today’s western Ukraine (in 1939-1940, up to one million people were deported, in 1944-1952 – more than 200,000 people); and the organized direction of the labour force for the development of the virgin lands, natural resources of Siberia and the Russian Far East. The fourth wave of emigration occurred at the end of the XX century and was primarily socio-economic in nature. As a result of the fourth migration wave, the old diasporas were greatly enriched. New diasporas were formed in the countries where previously there were almost no Ukrainians, particularly in southern Europe.

![Pic. 11. Ukrainian Diaspora, million people](source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine)
IV. Migration and development

4.1. The impact of migration on Ukraine

Migration movements of the recent decades contributed to the spread of European values in Ukraine, creating a society which is open to the world and able to introduce innovations.

Labour migration reduces tensions in the labour market. If there were no employment opportunities abroad, the number of the unemployed would have more than doubled\(^{23}\).

According to various surveys, the wages of migrant workers abroad are three to four times higher than the average wage in Ukraine. The funds earned by labour migrants are mainly used for consumption, which improves the quality of life of families of migrants, reduces poverty and stimulates economic development. According to the study of migrant monetary flows to Ukraine and their impact on the development of the country conducted by IOM in 2014-2015, migrants’ remittances to Ukraine accounted for nearly half of the budget of households with long-term migrant workers, and 60% of the budget of households with short-term migrant workers\(^{24}\).

According to the same study, nearly one in five long-term migrants expressed investment intentions, preferring to invest in their local communities in Ukraine and in sectors such as construction, tourism, and retail trade.

Pic. 12. Intentions of the Ukrainian migrant workers to invest in Ukraine depending on the country of destination, 2014-2015

Source: IOM survey of households and migrant workers


\(^{24}\) Migration as an Enabler of Development in Ukraine. – K: IOM, 2016
According to the findings of the researchers, based on the economic and mathematical modelling, without the transfers, Ukraine would have lost 7.1% of its economic potential. Consumption would drop by 18% and household income – by 14-21%.

However, external migration poses certain risks for development. It leads to the loss of population of the most active age with a high level of education, contributes to the birth-rate decrease and acceleration of the aging of population.

4.2. Migrant remittances to Ukraine

According to the study of migrant monetary flows to Ukraine and their impact on the development of the country conducted by IOM in 2014-2015, two-thirds of migrants transferred money to Ukraine in 2014. On average, they transferred about 4,300 USD per year. The amount of money transfers calculated on the basis of the study constituted 2.8 billion USD. Besides money, migrant workers also made transfers in kind, which amounted to 100 million USD per year. The total amount of remittances in 2014 constituted almost 2.9 billion USD.

Table 1. The volume and channels of private remittances to Ukraine in 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>HH with short-term migrants</th>
<th>HH with long-term migrants</th>
<th>HH without migrants</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official channels</td>
<td>$268,542,000</td>
<td>$794,770,000</td>
<td>$306,008,000</td>
<td>$1,369,320,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brought in person/through intermediaries</td>
<td>$438,148,000</td>
<td>$896,230,000</td>
<td>$67,172,000</td>
<td>$1,401,550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$706,690,000</td>
<td>$1,691,000,000</td>
<td>$373,180,000</td>
<td>$2,770,870,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IOM survey of households and migrant workers

More than half, namely 53% of total remittances in 2014, were transferred through informal channels.

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According to the same IOM study, about 40% of the total amount of remittances of migrants in 2014 was spent on consumption. About 20% of remittances were invested, primarily in the construction, purchase or renovation of housing. Over 40% of the remittances were saved.

The level of savings largely exceeds the amount of remittances and constitutes about 4 billion USD. Their purposes include the purchase of real estate, durable goods and education of children. Another important purpose includes contingencies and risks, which reflects the current instability in Ukraine and the economic downturn associated with it.

### Table 2. The amount of annual savings of Ukrainian households with and without migrants, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HH type</th>
<th>Total HH</th>
<th>Share</th>
<th>Annual savings of the HH</th>
<th>Total savings of the HH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HH with short-term migrants</td>
<td>229,296</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$ 898</td>
<td>$ 0.2 bln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH with long-term migrants – in Ukraine</td>
<td>390,408</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>$ 1,022$</td>
<td>$ 0.4 bln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH without migrants</td>
<td>12,868,296</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>$ 421</td>
<td>$ 5.4 bln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All HH</td>
<td>13,488,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$ 447</td>
<td>$ 6 bln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH with long-term migrants - abroad</td>
<td>390,408</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>$ 10,560</td>
<td>$ 4 bln</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IOM survey of households and migrant workers
The migrant workers’ remittances constitute the largest share of private transfers to Ukraine and are recorded by the National Bank during the calculation of the balance of payments. According to the NBU, the amount of private remittances, which reached a peak in 2013, dropped by 24% in 2014. In 2015, the amount of remittances was 20.6% smaller than in the previous year. Despite this, given the rapid economic decline, the share of remittances in GDP reached almost 5% in 2014, and in 2015 it was 5.7%.

In 2010-2012, the amount of private transfers from abroad was comparable to the amount of foreign direct investment, and in 2013 and 2014, significantly exceeded it. In some regions, the migrants became major investors. For example, Ternopil Region in 2013 received only 4 million USD of foreign direct investment, and remittances to the region, according to the NBU, amounted to about 612 million USD, or 153 times more²⁹.

V. Migration to Ukraine

The conflict in eastern Ukraine, the economic crisis and decline in the living standards reduced the attractiveness of the country for immigrants. In 2014-2015, foreign nationals visited Ukraine twice less frequently than in 2013.

The number of issued permits for immigration decreased from 22,00-23,000 in 2010-2012 to 16,600 in 2015.

The number of immigrants in Ukraine (i.e. foreign nationals residing based on permanent residence permits) is 250,000 people, or slightly more than half a per cent of the population. As a result of the events of 2014-2015, the number of immigrants decreased.

The citizens of post-Soviet states comprise the largest share of immigrants (80%). More than half of them obtained permanent residence permits on the basis of close family ties with the citizens of Ukraine.

**Pic. 15. The number of foreign nationals that have permanent residence permits in Ukraine, 2001-2015, thousand people**

![Graph showing the number of foreign nationals with permanent residence permits in Ukraine from 2001 to 2015.](source)

Seventy-five thousand and two hundred (75,200) foreign nationals reside in Ukraine on the basis of temporary residence permits as of 2016, which is about a quarter less than in 2010. These are mainly foreign students and employees, the number of which has dipped given the deep economic crisis.

**Pic. 16. The number of foreign nationals temporarily employed in Ukraine on the basis of the work permits as of the end of the year, 2010-2015, thousand people**

![Graph showing the number of foreign nationals temporarily employed in Ukraine from 2010 to 2015.](source)

Immigrant workers are mainly executives and managers (63% in 2015), engaged in the wholesale and retail trade (23%) and processing industry (17%). The majority of them are citizens of Russia (19%), Turkey (11%), Poland (6%), Belarus (5%), and Germany (4%).
Before the crisis, the number of foreign students in Ukraine grew steadily and in 2013 reached almost 70,000, with the majority of them studying medicine and pharmacology. Nearly half of foreign students are citizens of CIS countries. However, due to the conflict in the east of Ukraine, the numbers of educational migrants started to decline.

**Pic. 17. Foreign students in Ukraine, 2000-2016, thousand people**

![Bar chart showing foreign students in Ukraine, 2000-2016, thousand people](source)

**Pic. 18. Citizenship of foreign students according to the 2015/16 academic year, persons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>1,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>2,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>2,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>2,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>2,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>3,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>3,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>6,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>10,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>10,265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Ukrainian State Centre for International Education*
A separate group of foreign nationals in Ukraine are refugees and persons provided with complementary protection. The introduction of the complementary protection in 2011, a tense situation in Afghanistan, the traditional country of origin for the majority of refugees in Ukraine, and the war in Syria led to a moderate increase in the number of refugees and applicants for asylum and additional protection in 2012-2015. Citizens of Afghanistan and Syria are the most frequent asylum applicants in Ukraine. However, the number of refugees in Ukraine remains low.

**Pic. 19. Recognized refugees residing in Ukraine in 1997-2015, including persons provided with complementary protection**

![Graph showing the number of recognized refugees in Ukraine from 1997 to 2015.](source)

**Pic. 20. Applications for refugee status and positive decisions, 2001-2015**

![Graph showing the number of applications for refugee status and positive decisions in Ukraine from 2001 to 2015.](source)
5.1. Integration of migrants

In 2013-2014, IOM conducted a study on integration, hate crimes and discrimination of various categories of migrants: 300 foreign nationals (resident immigrants, refugees and foreign students) as well as experts were interviewed in six cities of Ukraine and relevant state statistics and regulations were analyzed.

According to this study, more than half of the foreign nationals were planning to stay in Ukraine for permanent residence, and only one-fifth clearly had no intention to do so. However, the state policy on the integration of immigrants is in its nascent stages, and the survey indicated a low level of respondents’ awareness about available state programmes.

There are serious problems related to the employment of immigrants. In particular, nearly two-thirds of the respondents believed that it was harder for foreign nationals to find a job than for the local residents. Although most respondents were employed, only 40% of them were employed officially; over half of the entrepreneurs officially registered their activity.

The level of education of foreign nationals is rather high: more than three quarters of the respondents had higher, incomplete higher and vocational education; however, only one in ten of them spoke Ukrainian and less than half – Russian. There is a significant shortage of language courses for foreign nationals.

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Most foreign nationals had to rent accommodation. However, as a rule, they could not obtain residence registration because homeowners were not willing to register foreign nationals in their homes. The lack of registration greatly complicated the access of foreign nationals to the education, healthcare, and administrative services. The survey also showed that foreign nationals often paid a higher price for housing than local residents; half of the respondents indicated that homeowners preferred to provide rental services to Ukrainians.

The immigrants mostly actively communicate with the locals and consider their attitude to be friendly. However, more than a quarter of the respondents, mostly those belonging to visible minorities, reported experiencing hostility from the law enforcement officials, civil servants and ordinary citizens because of their ethnic origin or religious affiliation.

Survey results indicate a low level of migrants’ confidence in the law enforcement bodies. Thus, they do not always inform law enforcement officials on the cases of intolerance. This does not facilitate support of their physical and psychological security and, therefore, their integration.

Source: IOM Study on Integration, Hate crimes and Discrimination of Different Categories of Migrants, 2013-2014
VI. Irregular migration

Ukraine is simultaneously the country of origin, transit and destination for irregular migrants. The violations of the rules of stay in the countries of destination by Ukrainians are usually associated with the work without concluding employment agreements and obtaining relevant permits, as well as exceeding the period of stay. These phenomena were particularly widespread during the labour migration in the late 1990’s. However, over time a significant share of Ukrainian migrants were able to regulate their legal status. The share of migrants without proper status, according to the mass survey of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, decreased from 25.6% in 2008 to 20.4% in 2012. However, a GFK-Ukraine study commissioned by IOM in 2015 indicated that, perhaps as a result of the economic crisis, the irregular migration increased again: 41% of migrant workers were not officially employed.

According to the European Border Agency Frontex, the number of citizens of Ukraine detained at the EU borders increased from 12,472 in 2013 to 16,744 in 2014, and 17,096 in 2015. At the same time, the number of Ukrainians expelled from the EU increased from 7,763 in 2013 to 9,582 in 2014, and 15,010 in 2015. However, Ukrainians accounted for less than one per cent of the detained at the EU borders and 8.6% of those expelled from its territory.

According to Frontex, the number of Ukrainian irregular migrants, despite the conflict and the large number of IDPs, remained at a very low level because Ukrainians travel through legal

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channels, and Ukraine ensures proper control at the western border, despite the relocation of some border guard service personnel to the conflict zone in the East.33

The situation with irregular migration of foreign nationals to and through Ukraine is quite moderate. However, during 2014-2015, there was an increase in the number of detected irregular migrants both at the borders of Ukraine and within the state. The number of attempts to illegally cross the border almost doubled in 2015 in comparison with 2014.

The increase in quantitative indicators of the fight against irregular migration is related to the strengthening of border and immigration control in Ukraine, which is natural in the context of the conflict. Also significant is the fact that due to the considerable strengthening of migration control in the EU, new routes are being identified for the movement of irregular migrants, including through Ukraine. The increase in the number of irregular migrants is also related to the strengthening of migration control in the Russian Federation.

In 2015, the largest group of migrants detained at the Ukrainian border consisted of citizens of Afghanistan (37%), and Syria (11%). The citizens of Moldova accounted for 7%, Georgia – 6%, Iraq – 5%, Somalia – 5%.

The number of potential irregular migrants who were denied entry to Ukraine also increased. They were primarily the citizens of former Soviet states, namely Uzbekistan (25%), Tajikistan (20%), Azerbaijan (12%), Moldova (10%), Kyrgyzstan (9%), Georgia (8%), Armenia (6%), and Russia (3%).

33 Frontex. Annual risk analysis 2015.
In 2015, the State Migration Service of Ukraine detected more than 5,100 irregular migrants, compared to 3,100 in 2014. The largest group consisted of the citizens of Russia – 29%. The citizens of Azerbaijan constituted 12%, Uzbekistan – 9%, Georgia – 6%, Moldova – 5%, Armenia – 5%, and Afghanistan and China – 3% each.

Throughout 2015, the State Border Guard Service, under the EU-Ukraine readmission agreement, accepted 499 persons, including 258 citizens of Ukraine (52%), 49 citizens of the CIS countries (10%), other states –192 (38 %), in particular at the border with Poland – 267 persons (53%), Romania – 112 (23%), Slovakia – 96 (19%), and Hungary – 24 (5%).

**VII. Human trafficking**

Ukraine is a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficking in men, women and children. Also, there is an increasing problem of internal human trafficking.

According to IOM estimates\(^{34}\), 40,000 Ukrainians have been trafficked abroad in 2012-2014, which, combined with the estimations done before 2012, totals to 160,000 trafficked persons from Ukraine since 1991.

Given the economic crisis and the decline of welfare, the risks of exposure to human trafficking have increased: 21% of potential migrant workers from Ukraine would agree, in order to work in another country, to cross the border illegally, to work in a closed/locked facility or to give their passports to the employer. The similar 2011 survey found only 14% of potential migrant workers willing to accept risky or questionable employment abroad\(^{35}\).

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\(^{34}\) Survey on Migration and Human Trafficking: Ukraine, 2015  
http://www.iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/pres_gfk_iom2015_ukraine_eng_fin_3_2.pdf  
\(^{35}\) Ibid.
The number of crimes registered by the MIA of Ukraine and the number of criminal cases with sentences considered in the courts of Ukraine under Art. 149 (previously Art.124-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of registered crimes</td>
<td>1,288</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>257</td>
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<td>162</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>109</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of court verdicts</td>
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<td>83</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
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</tbody>
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Sources: State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, MIA of Ukraine

In 2012, Ukraine introduced the official status of victim of trafficking, which ensures state assistance to such persons.

Table 4. Number of VoTs with the official status receiving assistance from the Government (September 2012 – June 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of VoT statuses granted</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

The IOM Mission in Ukraine has been providing assistance to victims of human trafficking since 2000. From January 2000 to June 2016, comprehensive reintegration assistance was provided to 12,186 victims, including legal, medical, psychological, financial, educational and other assistance, depending on individual needs.

The largest share of recipients of IOM’s assistance over recent years consists of persons that experienced labour exploitation (90%), and almost half of them are men. In 2015, the same as in 2014, the majority of victims (52%) were young people under 35 years; 73% of victims had a vocational or higher education; 57% came from regional centres (although until 2014, the majority were from rural areas), which reflects the general deterioration of the economic situation in Ukraine.

Forty-six (46%) per cent of recipients of assistance in 2010-2015 suffered from human trafficking in Russia, 13% – in Poland, 13% – in other EU states, and 11% – in Turkey. Six (6%) per cent of victims assisted by IOM Ukraine were trafficked within the country.
Pic. 27. The number of victims of human trafficking provided with IOM assistance, persons (2000 – June 2016)

Pic. 28. The main countries of destination of victims of human trafficking provided with IOM assistance in 2010-2015, persons