

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

ECE Work Session on Migration Statistics
(Geneva, 25-27 March 1997)

Forecast of migration processes and the population of the Russian Federation for the period up to the year 2010 (Summary)

Submitted by the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Statistics (Goskomstat of Russia)

1. For a long time, external migration into/out of Russia has not affected substantially the total change in the number of its inhabitants since the main factor has remained the natural growth. The excess of number of people entering the country over the number of people leaving it settled in the mid 70s. Within the period between the Censuses 1979 and 1989 the migration gain through population movements between the former republics of the USSR was, on average, 180 thousand a year, and its share in the overall population growth did not exceed 20 percent.
2. Over the next years, due to sharp decrease in the birth rate and increase in the death rate, significance of migration for population dynamics rose steeply: in 1990-1991 its share made up almost a third of the total population growth, and in 1992-1995, positive migration balance compensated in high degree - 70 percent on average - the negative natural population growth. For 1996 and, as estimated, 1997, compensation of the loss through the natural decrease by the migration gain do not exceed 50 percent.
3. Over the recent years, for most of the Russian regions, migration has been a population growth factor - for 60 areas, inflow has exceeded outflow. Population inflow into Central, Povolzhsky, North Caucasian economic regions has been rising. The regions recently losing population - Volgo-Vyatsky, Centralno-Chernozyomny, Uralsky have become steadily gaining the population. Meanwhile, the North regions of the European part of Russia have continued losing the population since late 80s. This loss was particularly significant in 1991-1994 when, under conditions of transition to the market, many enterprises of coal and ore mining, logging, and wood processing, mineral prospecting, and other industries, was put in difficult finance situation. Migration out of these areas has also been stimulated by disintegration of the USSR, as repatriation of citizens (mainly to Ukraine and Belarus) has started.
4. Changes occurring over the several last years in political and economic life of Russia and the countries, former republics of the USSR determine, to great extent, trends in development of the modern migration processes.
5. Complication of forecasting the migration in the modern conditions is that its future dynamics does not, in high degree, continue the past dynamics. In these conditions the scenario approach is only possible, and it is such the scenario method that is used today in forecasting the migration.
6. A scenario is a system of hypotheses and assumptions concerning the future development of the country, and expected influence of future social and economic changes on migration behavior of the population. For that reason, developing a detailed forecast scenario is the most important element of migration forecasting.
7. Prospective calculations of the population of Russia for the period up to the year 2010 made by Goskomstat of Russia have been based on two variants of the population migration forecast.
8. Both variants have assumed continuing repatriation of the ethnic Russian and Russian-speaking population to Russia.

9. According to the first one, the migration gain through exchange of population with the CIS and Baltic countries will comprise 4.6 million people.
10. The second one has assumed that the population inflow from the CIS and Baltic countries would be less intensive, and the total migration gain will comprise 3.1 million people.
11. As for migration out of the former USSR, one scenario has been considered. It has been assumed that the migration would mainly have ethnic character and, by 2010, would have not exceeded 90 thousand people.
12. The overall migration gain, with account of 1997-2010 flows, has projected by the first forecast variant to be of 3.6 million people, and of 2.0 million by the second one.
13. Calculations of the estimated population for the period up to 2010 have been made in four variants which have accounted not only various prerequisites for migration but also the natural change of the population. The calculations have shown that the trends to decrease of the total population will continue to remain.
14. Decrease of the population, according to the variants, might comprise 3.5 to 12.5 million people. The decline will occur due to excess of deaths over births, which will be remaining over the all forecast period. The gain through migration will not compensate the natural decrease of the population of the Russian Federation.