

# INTERNAL MIGRATION DYNAMICS AND LABOR FORCE CHALLENGES IN KAZAKHSTAN

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## Keywords

*Internal migration, Labor force, Challenges, Kazakhstan, Demography*

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## Abstract

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This study examines the dynamics of internal migration and its impact on labor force challenges in Kazakhstan. Internal migration plays a crucial role in shaping demographic patterns and labor market dynamics in different regions of the country. By analyzing data on internal migration flows and labor force trends, this study aims to shed light on the factors driving internal migration and its implications for the labor market. The findings suggest that internal migration in Kazakhstan is influenced by various factors, including economic opportunities, demographic trends, and government policies. Internal migrants often face challenges in accessing employment, housing, and social services, which can impact their well-being and integration into the labor market. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that considers the needs of internal migrants and promotes inclusive growth across regions. By understanding the dynamics of internal migration and its impact on the labor force, policymakers can develop effective strategies to address labor market challenges and promote sustainable development in Kazakhstan.

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## Introduction

Internal migration plays a significant role in reducing demographic disparities and balancing labor force issues in some regions, as well as solving employment problems in other regions and reducing urban congestion. The migration processes in the Republic are influenced by various factors, including external (international) migration and internal migration of the population. Kazakhstan does not stand aside in this regard. According to the Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 2251 of November 30, 2009), migration in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan is divided into the following main types:

- for educational purposes;
- for employment purposes;
- for family reunification purposes;
- for historical homeland purposes;
- for obtaining citizenship purposes;
- based on humanitarian and political reasons;
- for tourism purposes.

The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on migration regarding the population's migration provides for the regulation of public relations in the field of migration in order to clarify the legal, economic, and social foundations of migration processes.

The Law "On the Population's Migration in the Republic of Kazakhstan" (Law No. 477-IV of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated

2011) establishes the fundamental rights and obligations of migrants within the country. The main purpose of the Law is to "protect the rights and interests of migrants and ensure the orderly internal migration of migrants within the Republic."

Furthermore, the Law defines "internal migrants" as individuals (permanent or temporary, voluntary or forced) who move from one state to another and within the state. In its conceptual apparatus, the Law identifies "displaced persons" as internal migrants who are guided by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to send notifications to designated areas.

According to Article 50 of the Law, internal migrants in Kazakhstan are: 1) those who have sent notifications to designated areas with their consent; 2) those who move independently. The Law on the migration of the population in relation to internal migrants indicates that in the study of norms of migration legislation, emphasis should be placed not only on the abundance of norms in the legal field but also on the specifics of the regulatory enhancement of legal regulation, indicating the existence of norms in the legal field. Thus, when interpreting the Law, Article 51 of the Law specifies the main rights and obligations of internal migrants.

The rights of internal migrants include: 1) the right to residence and settlement in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan in cases provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan; 2) protection from

forced eviction from their place of residence or temporary stay; 3) participation in the social support measures provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the population's employment; 4) assistance in finding employment. The obligations of internal migrants include: 1) registration with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the prescribed manner for permanent or temporary residence in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan; 2) compliance with the state support measures for internal migrants specified by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan for participation in employment in places outside their place of permanent or temporary residence within the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan before the expiration of the specified period.

Internal migrants are granted rights under the law that are common to all citizens of the country, as well as the obligation to register their place of residence and temporary stay. The unique norms of the law that support migrants are found in the 10th article, which is dedicated to assisting migrants. According to Article 52 of the Law, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan sets the regional quota for accepting migrants based on the country's and regions' economic and social development plans. The quota for accepting migrants is determined by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in accordance with the instructions of the representative body for migration issues and local executive bodies. The participation of migrants in

social support measures provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the population's employment is ensured. In other words, these norms are part of other legislative norms.

The law on migration issues defines the "Social Assistance - State Support Measures" as part of the regulatory framework for addressing labor migration issues, including the representation of the competent authority and local executive bodies in the country's and regions' economic and social development plans. In particular, when fully implemented, the norms regarding the internal migration issues of the population indicate the need for a comprehensive study of the norms of normative legal acts in the field of labor migration, indicating the presence of shortcomings in the regulatory enhancement of legal regulation in normative legal acts.

Several measures have been taken to address the significant challenges related to internal migration from rural to urban areas in Kazakhstan, such as ensuring the implementation of certain measures aimed at reducing the burden on internal migrants. However, these measures are not explicitly regulated in the migration law. Specifically, teachers' special circumstances, such as their support for rural areas, assistance to migrants, social protection, etc., require compliance with specific legal regulations, rather than internal migration regulations. Therefore, internal migration processes are complex and specific to the volume of specific legal regulations.

Generalizing migration studies in Kazakhstan allows for the discussion of several types of internal migration: economic, ecological, return migration, social, demographic, labor, ethnic, and illegal. New types of migration have also emerged: commercial – short-term labor migration and shuttle trade schemes; forced repatriations, refugees from conflict zones.

The core deformation of internal migration processes (the spread of repatriation processes, ethnic migration) is related to the socio-psychological and ethnic consolidation of the population following the collapse of the USSR. Migration has mitigated conflicting influences and demonstrated the coherence of the emerging and disappearing stages.

Today, factors contributing to changes in the internal migration of the population in the Republic have been identified: the diversification of the country's economy becomes more tangible. international and social relations; economic deterioration in the country. The main reasons for the non-titular population's internal migration are as follows:

- the consequences of the socio-political life of the country after the collapse of the USSR, the loss of socio-psychological and ethnic self-identity, the general acceptance of future opportunities for their children, and future prospects;
- the spread of marginalization due to economic conditions in the country;

Factors contributing to the transformation of the geopolitical situation, changes in the social situation of the population, the change in the role of ethnic groups, and their adaptation to unsecured ethnic minorities (ethnic motives) and diasporas (migration, motives for establishing relationships), changes in their political life. The decrease in internal migration rates is also significant due to the decrease in migrations of minorities and other non-indigenous ethnic groups, which is still significant. The general solution to the internal migration issue in Kazakhstan today lies in the voluntary movement of people who have been separated from society due to changes in its development and role, as well as migration from one place to another.

In recent years, the uniqueness of the emigration process of Kazakhs lies in their traditional social support system and the presence of representatives of indigenous peoples in their composition, regardless of their place of birth or ethno-cultural background.

Recent years have seen the emergence of indicators affecting internal migration: the attractiveness of moving from rural to urban areas, the development of temporary labor migration, and the impact of economic factors. However, the ongoing, particularly delicate, uncertain economic and political reforms could potentially lead Kazakhstan to a transit state, where people might seek a way out through emigration, primarily due to forced internal migration. A comprehensive migration policy is needed.

The analysis of extensive statistical materials and the results of sociological studies have made it possible to demonstrate the social significance of internal migration processes in Kazakhstan. The main issues and ways of regulating internal migration in Kazakhstan are diverse and interconnected. Firstly, it is necessary to expand the legal framework in the field of migration and integrate it into international legal practice.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the recent dynamics of emigration among Kazakhs highlight the importance of their traditional social support structures and the inclusion of indigenous representatives within their migrant communities, irrespective of their birthplace or ethno-cultural background. This unique aspect of Kazakh emigration underscores the resilience and adaptability of their social fabric in the face of migration challenges.

The factors influencing internal migration in Kazakhstan, such as the allure of urban life, the growth of temporary labor migration, and economic pressures, are indicative of broader societal shifts. However, the ongoing economic and political reforms, while necessary for development, present uncertainties that could lead Kazakhstan into a transitional phase, potentially prompting increased emigration as a response to forced internal migration. Thus, it is imperative for Kazakhstan to develop a comprehensive migration policy that addresses the complexities of internal migration dynamics.

The analysis of extensive statistical data and sociological studies underscores the significant social implications of internal migration in Kazakhstan. To effectively manage internal migration, Kazakhstan must address a range of interconnected issues. This includes the expansion of the legal framework governing migration to align with international standards, ensuring the protection of migrant rights and integration practices.

In essence, Kazakhstan stands at a critical juncture regarding its internal migration dynamics. By recognizing and addressing the unique challenges and opportunities presented by its migration trends, Kazakhstan can develop policies that promote social cohesion, economic growth, and sustainable development.

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