



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Mission in Ukraine

MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL



MIGRATION IN UKRAINE FACTS & FIGURES



SEPTEMBER 2011

FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

With 'Migration in Ukraine: Facts and Figures', the Ukraine Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) intends to provide you with a compilation of migration trends and statistics.

While this short overview can only provide an introduction to the complex and often inter-related 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. This appears even more important given the often limited information available.

In line with IOM's overall mandate, this fact sheet 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 the Mission is engaged in.

In doing so, the IOM Mission in Ukraine continues 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 exploring and promoting regular channels for Ukrainian labour migrants, integrating ethnic minorities, promoting the benefits of cultural diversity, and counteracting xenophobia.

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

*Manfred Profazi
Chief of Mission,
IOM Mission in Ukraine*

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. It works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage

social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

IOM has been operating in Ukraine since 1996, assisting the Government in dealing with the challenging aspects of migration and promoting the positive contributions of migrants to society. IOM works in the areas of Counter-Trafficking in Human Beings, Immigration and Border Management, Labour and Facilitated Migration, Migrant Health and Migration Movement Management.

General Information

UKRAINE: Middle Income Country

• **Population (as of 1 July 2011): 45.7 million**¹
Ukraine is the 29th biggest country in the world.

• **Population growth (average %, 2000-2011): -0.7 annually**²
The population of Ukraine is shrinking by 330,000 per year.

• **Ratio of economically active to economically inactive population (2010): 1.75:1**³
There is an increasing burden on the productive part of the population to support the upbringing and pensions of the economically dependent. This directly impacts financial expenditures on social security.

• **Unemployment rate according to the ILO methodology (average 2010): 8% of labour force**⁴
The unemployment rate rose from 6.8% in 2006 to 8.1% in 2010. In 2010, 545,000 Ukrainian

citizens were recorded as unemployed. If employment abroad was impossible, the unemployment rate in Ukraine in 2008 is estimated to have been 1.5 times higher⁵. Immigration can be seen as a viable alternative to reduce pressure on the local labour market.

• **GDP (2010): USD 136.8 billion**⁶ **in current prices**
In 2008, Ukraine's economy was ranked 45th in the world according to GDP (nominal). However, as a result of the economic crisis the country's GDP contracted by 15% in 2009, with fixed investments falling by 46%. Since October 2008, the national currency Hryvnia has lost about 40% of its value against the US Dollar⁷ (as of 2011).

• **Foreign direct investment (2010): USD 5.5 billion**⁸
The net foreign direct investment (FDI) in Ukraine increased by nearly 11% in 2010 from 2009 (USD 5 billion)⁹.

Emigration

Stock of emigrants*:

6.5 million¹⁰ (expatriate Ukrainians according to the census of the population of the foreign countries where they reside).

*Persons, who reside not in the countries of their origin.

Stock of emigrants as percentage of population:
14.4%.

Top destination countries: the Russian Federation, Germany, the United States, Israel, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland.

Immigration

Stock of immigrants:

1. **198,325** (number of immigrants registered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in 2010)¹¹

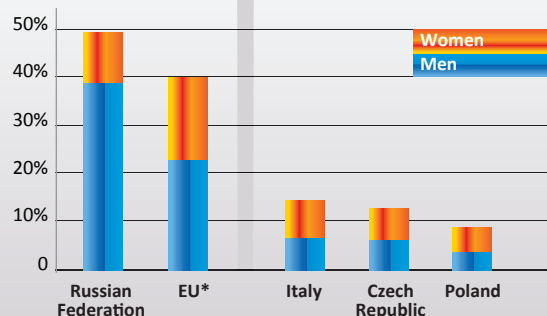
2. **5.3 million*** (residents of Ukraine born abroad, according to the census of the population in 2001)¹²

*92% of them arrived from post-Soviet area, and 85% - before the USSR breakup, in other words they were internal migrants then.

Top countries of origin: the Russian Federation, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan.

Labour Migration

FIGURE 1. MAIN DESTINATION COUNTRIES OF UKRAINIAN LABOUR MIGRANTS WITH GENDER DISTRIBUTION (2005 - 2008)¹³

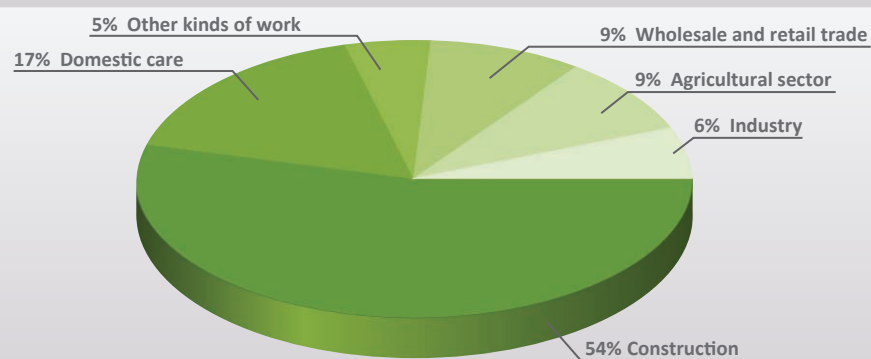


*top six EU countries: Italy, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Spain, Portugal.

FIGURE 2. GENDER BREAKDOWN OF UKRAINIAN LABOUR MIGRANTS¹⁴

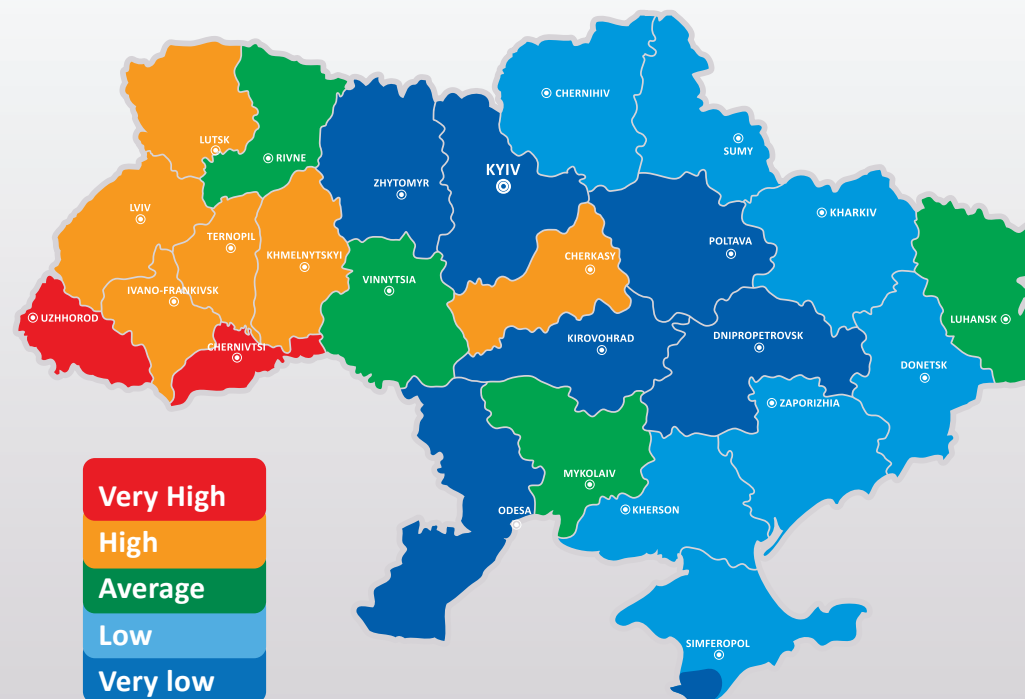


FIGURE 3. MAIN EMPLOYMENT AREAS OF UKRAINIAN LABOUR MIGRANTS¹⁵



The dominant types of economic activity among Ukrainian labour migrants are construction, more prevalent among men, and domestic care, more common among women. It is estimated that approximately one quarter of all migrants are working abroad with an irregular status¹⁶.

MAP 4. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF UKRAINIAN LABOUR MIGRANTS BY REGIONS OF ORIGIN¹⁷

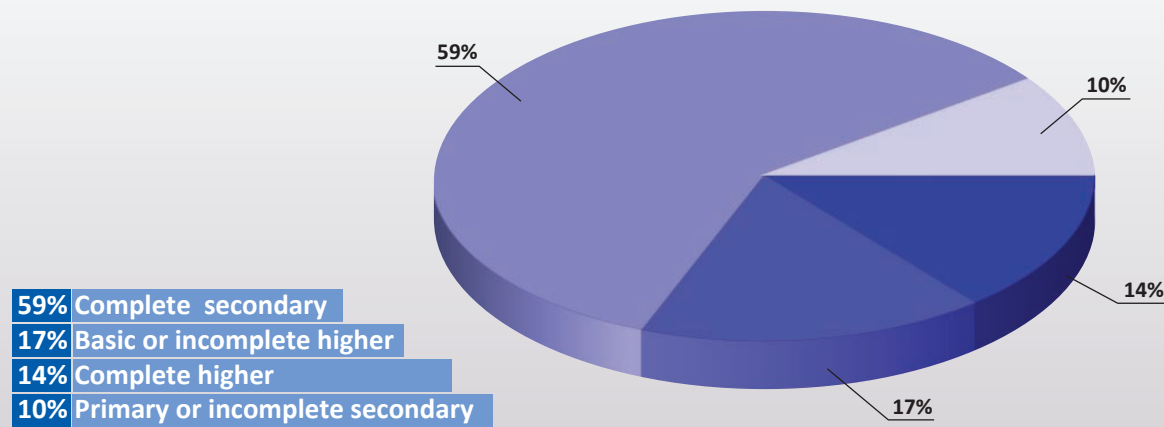


The degree of economic divergence between Ukraine's regions is significant. For instance, per capita income in the Donetsk Region is USD 683 (in the first quarter of 2011), which is 20% higher than the average income in Ukraine (USD 550), while the income in the Chernivtsi Region (USD 352) is 37% less than the average. These economic disparities and asymmetric development paths between the regions have to be perceived as one of the factors explaining the current geographical distribution pattern¹⁸ (see Map 4). Other key factors include EU border proximity, established migration networks, and cultural ties.

Education

Ukrainian labour migration, at least to a certain extent, can be characterized by 'brain waste', in light of the existing mismatch between migrants' skills and occupied positions¹⁹. Only few of the migrants manage to find jobs abroad corresponding to their qualification levels, regardless of their education, almost all of them are working in low skilled jobs²⁰. This disparity is further evidenced when data on migrants' areas of employment abroad (see Figure 3) are juxtaposed with their education level (see Figure 5).

FIGURE 5. EDUCATION LEVEL OF UKRAINIAN LABOUR MIGRANTS²¹



Demographics

The population development of Ukraine is characterized by demographic decline. Between 1991 and 2010 the total population declined from 51.7 million to 45.9 million, reflecting a sharp decline in birth rate and a negative migration balance. This trend is expected to continue, implying that the overall population will decline by another 10 million until 2050. By 2050, nearly half of the population will be more than 45 years old²².

FIGURE 6. POPULATION DECLINE IN UKRAINE 2010–2050²³

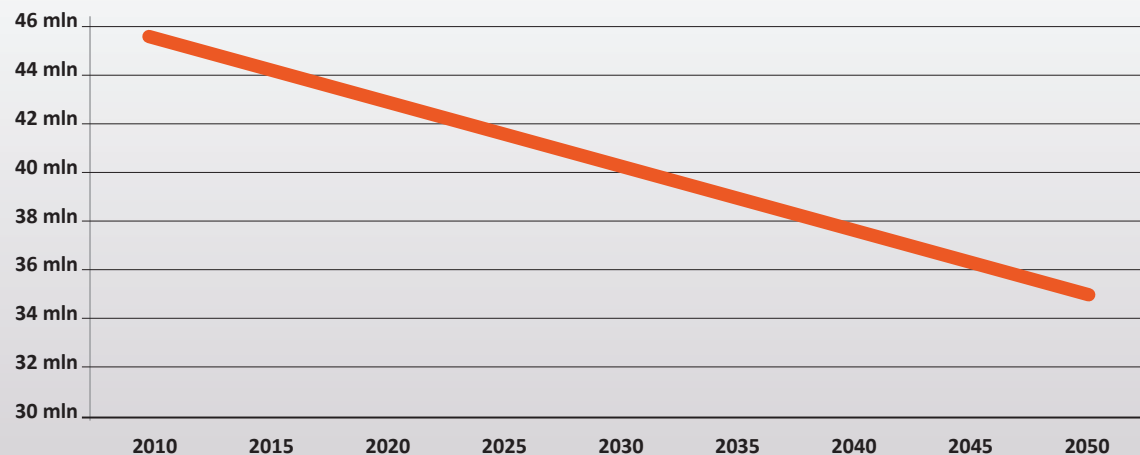
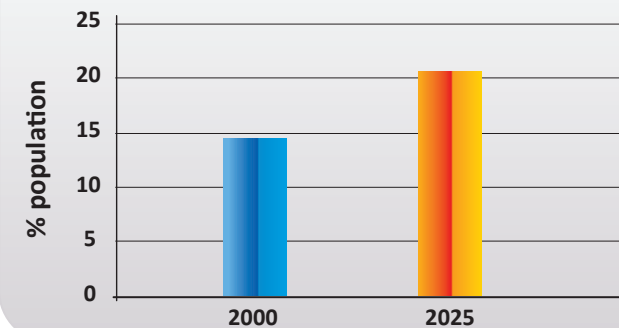


FIGURE 7. THE PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGED 65+ (2000 & 2025)²⁴



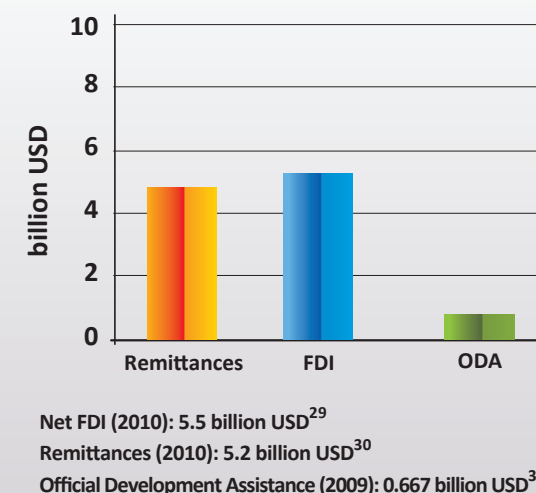
Aging is an inevitable demographic trend and Ukraine is projected to experience an increase in the percentage of Ukrainians of retirement age (aged 65 or over) from 14% to 20.5%²⁴. This development will have significant consequences for the labour force, who will have to support the growing number of pensioners and people in need of health care.

Unemployment and Migration

Migrant-non-migrant wage differential: the average migrant wage abroad was USD 820²⁵ in 2008, which was almost 3 times higher than the average salary in Ukraine (USD 281²⁶). The main migration push factors for Ukrainian labour migrants are the improvement of their living standards and the prospect of higher salaries (over 56%); whilst unemployment is a marginal variable (less than 7%)²⁷. However income differentials are not the sole motivation factor for migration; the decision process includes non-fiscal variables such as social preferences and cultural values²⁸.

Migrant Monetary Transfers to Ukraine (Remittances)

FIGURE 8.

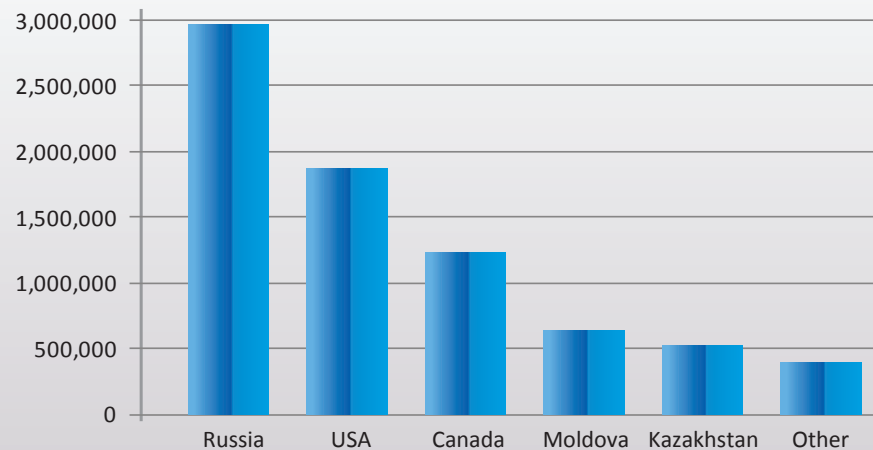


Remittances to Ukraine are nearly equivalent to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and almost eight times higher than Official Development Assistance (ODA). Hypothetical models estimate that the Ukrainian economy would have lost about 7% of its potential without the stimulating effects of migrant transfers³² and that a 10% increase in per capita remittances leads to a 3.5% decline in the share of people living in poverty³³. The biggest share of remittances is used for living expenses (73%) and consumer goods (26%), whilst only 3.3% are used for setting up a business³⁴. One per cent reduction in transaction costs raises recorded remittances by 14-23%³⁵.

Ukraine receives the largest shares of remittances from Russia, United States, Germany, Greece, Italy, and the United Kingdom³⁶, which indicates that it is not only Ukrainian labour migrants making transfers but also the diaspora (see diaspora chart below).

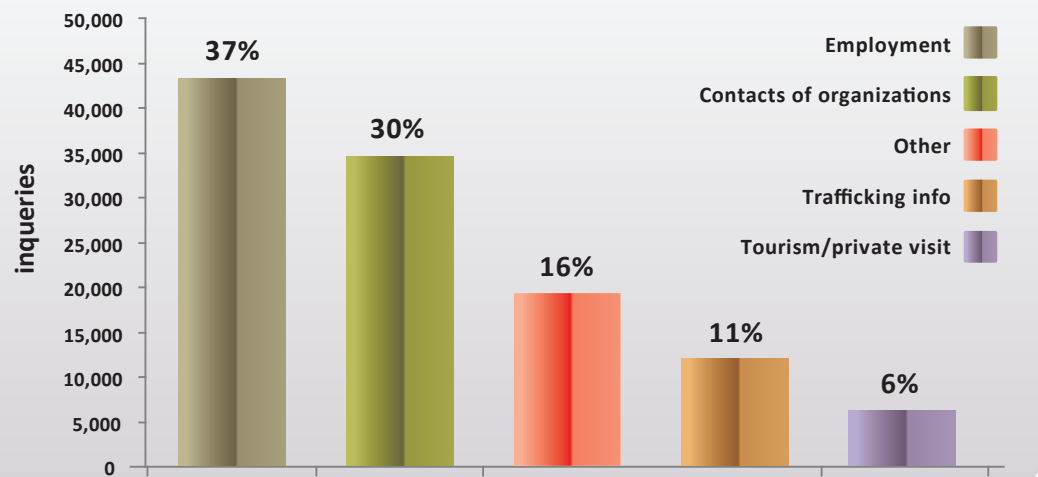
Ukrainian Diaspora

FIGURE 9. UKRAINIAN DIASPORA (STOCK, 2009)³⁷



Ukraine has one of the largest diaspora in the world, many of them maintaining cultural and economic linkages with the homeland.

FIGURE 9. INFORMATION OF MOST INTEREST TO POTENTIAL MIGRANTS FROM UKRAINE (2006-2011)*



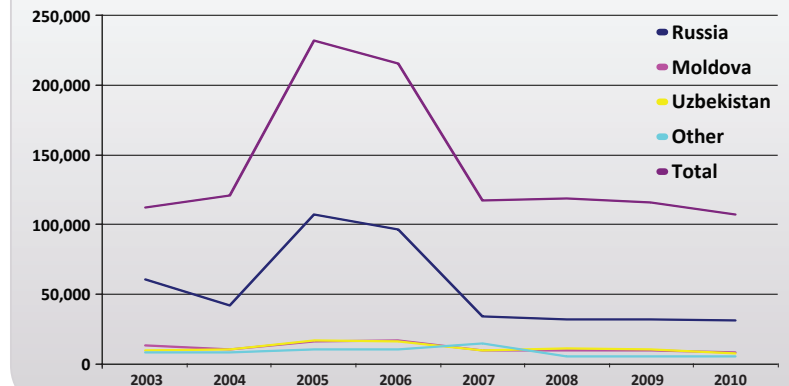
*Based on the data collected by a network of Centres for Migrant Advice; most potential migrants are interested in employment abroad and contact information of supporting organizations.

Foreigners Residing in Ukraine

The presented statistics refer only to registered foreign nationals in Ukraine, whilst the real figure is believed to be higher. The overall trend demonstrates a consistent decrease since 2006.

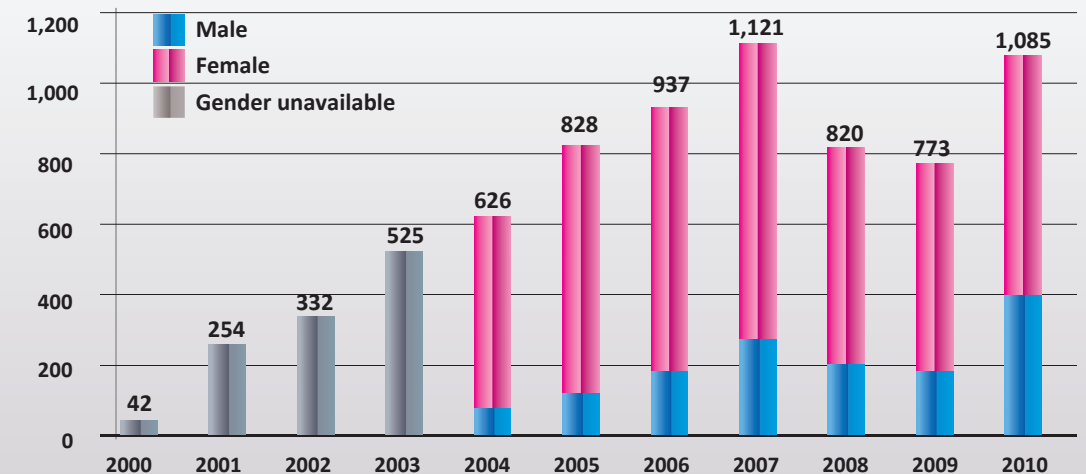
Students comprise an important segment among the foreign population in Ukraine. According to the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports the number of foreign students has been constantly rising – almost 47,000 foreign students were studying in Ukraine in 2010, which represents an 56% rise relative to the figures for 2002 (22,022).

FIGURE 11. NUMBER OF FOREIGN CITIZENS REGISTERED IN UKRAINE (2003-2010)³⁸



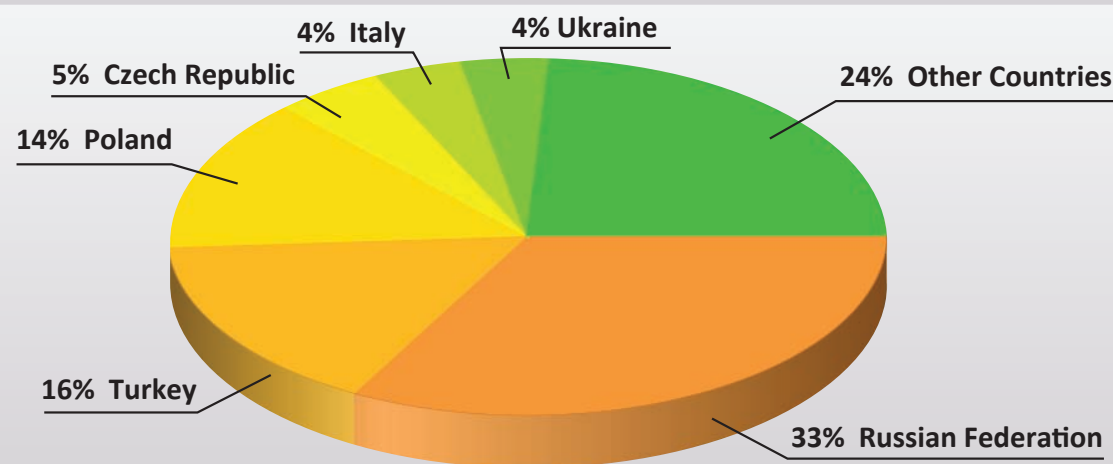
Trafficking in Human Beings

FIGURE 12. VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ASSISTED BY IOM IN UKRAINE (2000-2010)



Ukraine remains one of the main countries of origin for victims of trafficking (VoTs). Out of the estimated 110,000 Ukrainian citizens who have become VoTs since 1991 (average 5,500/annum)³⁹, IOM identified/assisted 7% (over 7,500). Numerous new trends are emerging, including an increase in labour exploitation; the risk group for trafficking expanding from young women (15-24) to women and men of all ages; a rise in the number of identified child victims; and an increasing number of foreign VoTs.

FIGURE 13. TOP DESTINATIONS OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING* (2000-2010)⁴⁰



*Victims of trafficking assisted by IOM Ukraine

Irregular Migration

In recent years, Ukraine has witnessed a shifting trend in main countries of origin of irregular migrants detected at the border, with dominant nationalities changing from Asia to the newly independent states (CIS region).

FIGURE 14. NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF MIGRANTS WHO WERE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER UKRAINE, INCLUDING IRREGULAR MIGRANTS (2005 - 2010)⁴¹

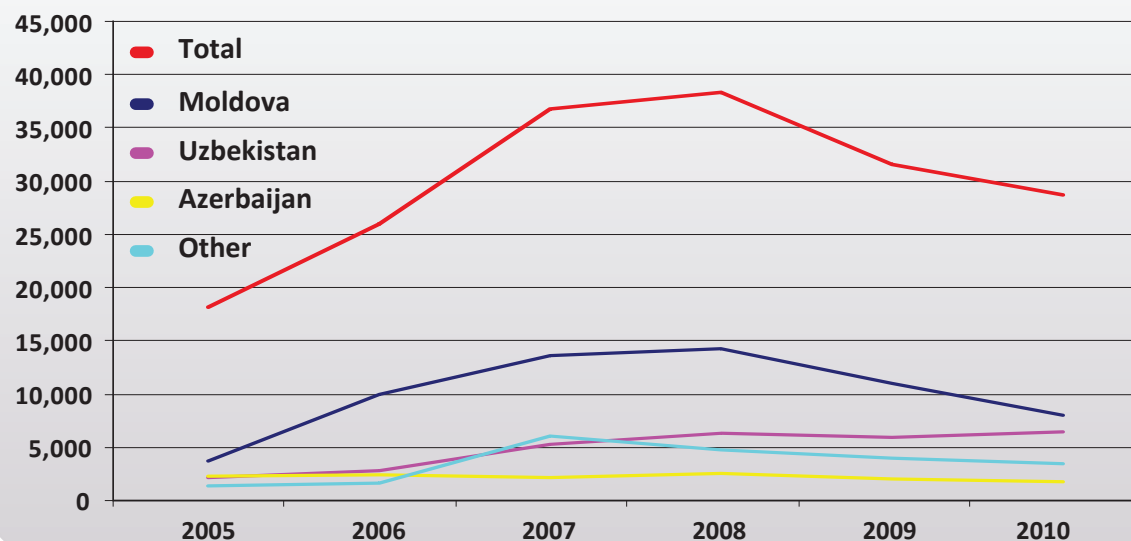
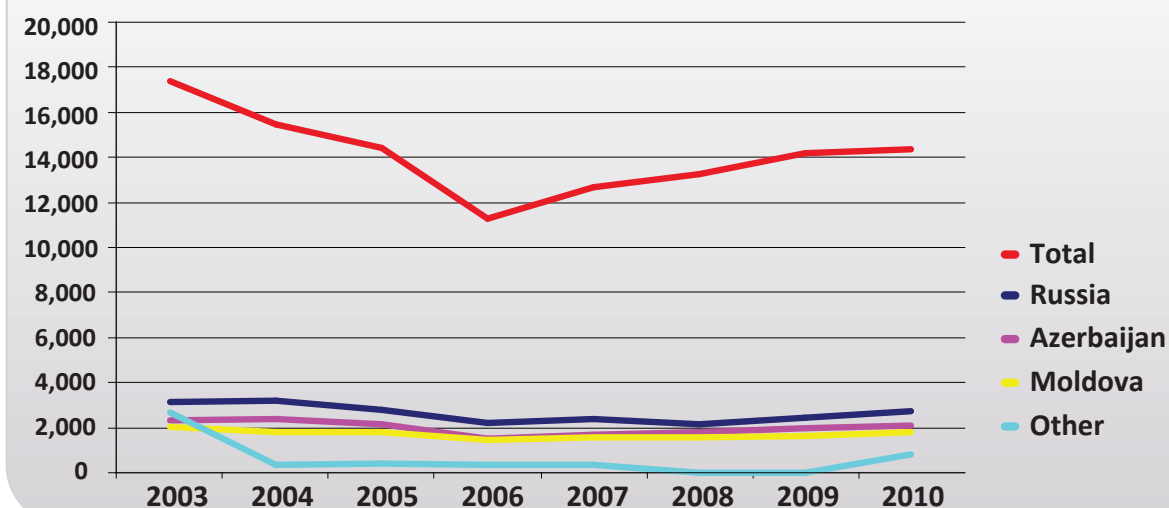


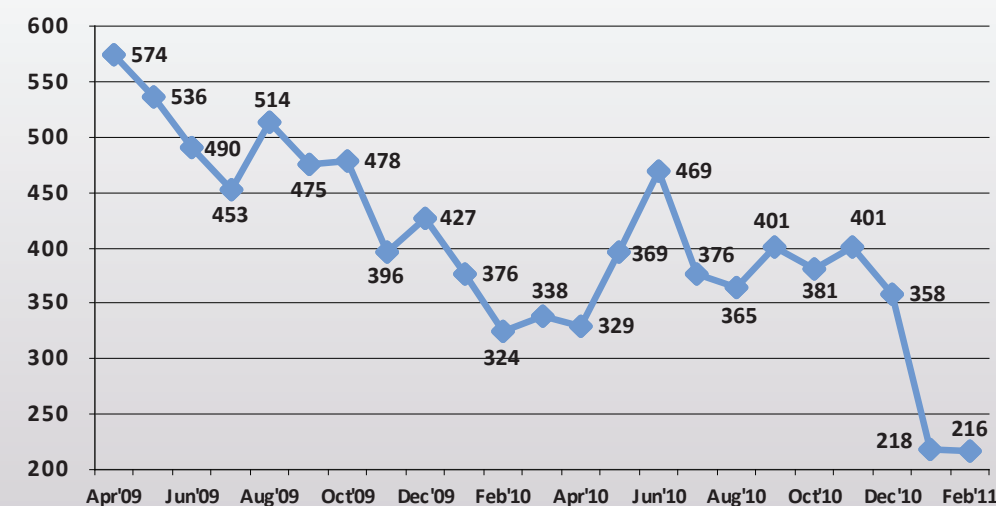
FIGURE 15. IRREGULAR MIGRANTS APPREHENDED INSIDE UKRAINE (2003-2010)⁴²



Irregular migrants apprehended inside the country make up almost 50% of those detected at the border, which indicates a need for an integrated migration management approach shifting beyond a border control focus.

Detention

FIGURE 16. IRREGULAR MIGRANTS DETAINED IN UKRAINE (2009-2011)⁴³



Since 2009 the general trend signifies a decrease in the number of irregular migrants in detention, which is linked to the declining number of non-CIS (mainly Asian) third country nationals entering Ukraine irregularly.

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We are interested in your opinion — please provide your comments to this Facts & Figures brochure (iomkiev@iom.int).