



**2019**

# MIGRATION IN UKRAINE

FACTS AND FIGURES

## CONTENT

---

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>I. Key statistics on Ukraine</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1. Economy and welfare .....	3
1.2. Demographics .....	4
<b>II. Internal migration</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.1. Characteristics of internal migration .....	5
2.2. Internally displaced persons .....	6
<b>III. Migration from Ukraine</b> .....	<b>7</b>
3.1. Increasing international mobility of the population .....	7
3.2. Labour migration .....	7
3.3. Educational migration .....	9
3.4. Asylum seekers .....	9
3.5. Emigration and the Ukrainian diaspora .....	10
<b>IV. Migration and development</b> .....	<b>11</b>
4.1. Migration impact on Ukraine .....	11
4.2. Migrant remittances to Ukraine .....	11
<b>V. Migration to Ukraine</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>VI. Irregular migration</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>VII. Human trafficking</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>VIII. Migration management</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>IX. Migration statistics</b> .....	<b>17</b>

---

**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).

**Edited by** Olena Malynovska, Senior Researcher at the National Institute for Strategic Studies, Kyiv, Ukraine.

© All rights reserved, IOM Ukraine (2019)

## INTRODUCTION

Current migration processes in Ukraine are influenced by a number of important factors, including the annexation of Crimea and the conflict in the east of Ukraine along with the economic recession they caused; launch of important reforms, which, however, have not turned to be thoroughgoing and consistent enough; progress in the European and Euro-Atlantic integration, including introduction of the visa-free regime with the EU in 2017; migration experience and diversified migration networks that have been developed due to multi-year active participation of Ukrainians in labour migration abroad.

Due to certain improvement of the economic situation in 2016–2018 and the society’s adaptation to crisis conditions, the volume of external migration of Ukrainians has stabilized, but it still remains high. However, the country is not quite attractive to immigrants. In the context of unfavourable demographic trends, an outflow of the population may hinder economic development. Ukraine will continue lagging behind its neighbours in terms of welfare in the mid-term. Consequently, external migration will continue and can even increase in case of intensification of military actions in the east of the country and destabilization of internal situation.

## I. KEY STATISTICS ON UKRAINE



**603.5** sq. km  
the area



**41.9** million the population (present)  
as of 1 October 2019 (excluding the annexed territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol)

**53.7%** women **46.3%** men



**71.1** %  
urban population



**71.76** years  
life expectancy at birth (2018)

**76.72** years **66.89** years



**99.97** % literacy rate  
(for people aged 15+)



**0.751** the Human Development Index  
(with a rank of 88th among 189 countries of the world based on the 2017 data)

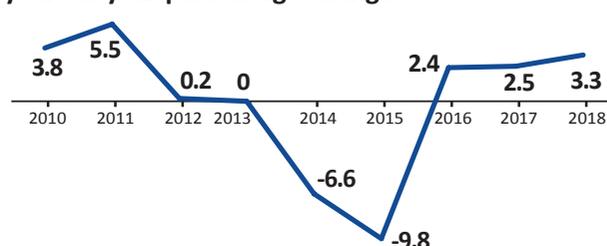


**0.701** the Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index  
(with a rank of 69th among 151 countries of the world based on the 2017 data)

### 1.1. Economy and welfare

Following the recession in 2014–2015 caused by the annexation of Crimea and the conflict in the east of Ukraine, the country’s economy has been gradually recovering (fig. 1).

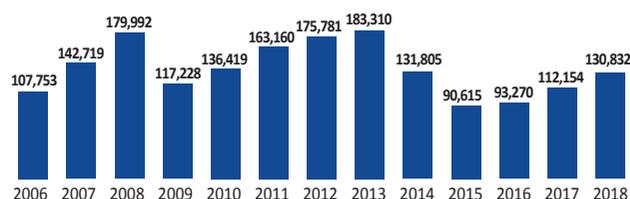
**Fig. 1. Ukraine’s real GDP in 2010–2018, year-on-year percentage change**



Source: World Bank, [data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?end=2018&locations=UA&start=2010](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?end=2018&locations=UA&start=2010)

The GDP increase can be primarily attributed to domestic trade and construction as well as to agribusiness. However, given a substantial drop (by 13.1% in 2015), industrial production has been recovering quite slowly (0.4% in 2017, 1.6% in 2018). The country’s GDP has not reached the 2013 level so far (fig. 2).

**Fig. 2. Ukraine’s GDP, USD million**



Source: Minfin, <https://index.minfin.com.ua/economy/gdp/>

Economic development is hindered by overdependence on exports, lack of investment and low productive capacity. Some barriers to entrepreneurship remain. In the 2018 Doing Business report by the World Bank, Ukraine ranked 71st, which is much lower than top CEE countries, such as Russia (31st place), Poland (33rd place), the Czech Republic (35th place).

Amid economic revival, the labour market shows an upward trend. The number of the employed has increased, the unemployment rate has been reducing (fig. 3), including youth unemployment. However, around 1.6 million Ukrainians remain unemployed.

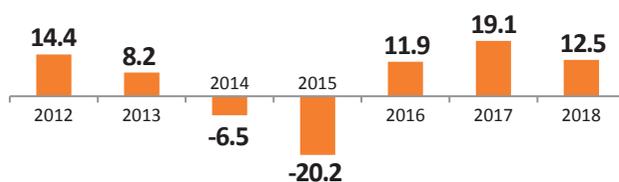
**Fig. 3. Unemployment rate (based on the ILO methodology)**



Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine, [http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2009/rp/rp\\_reg/reg\\_u/arh\\_rbn\\_u.htm](http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2009/rp/rp_reg/reg_u/arh_rbn_u.htm)

The improvement of the situation led to an increase in the incomes of the population. The real wage, which plunged due to the conflict in the east, is gradually growing (fig. 4).

**Fig. 4. Average monthly real wage in 2010–2018, year-on-year percentage change**



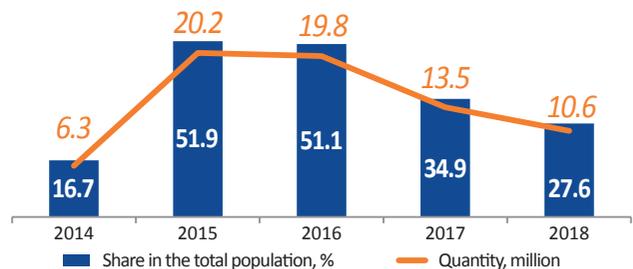
Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine, [http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2005/gdn/tznr/tznr\\_u/tznr\\_u\\_bez.htm](http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2005/gdn/tznr/tznr_u/tznr_u_bez.htm)

However, the average wage in Ukraine remains one of the lowest in Europe (UAH 10,687 in September 2019, or around EUR 396). Remuneration still deeply varies by the type of economic activity and by region. Therefore, the wage increase rate is not high enough for a large share of the employed. In addition, despite stabilization of inflation processes (the inflation rate, which was 43.3%

in 2015, dropped down to 9.8% in 2018, and was 4.3% during 10 months in 2019), the wage increase is partially offset by the price increase for low-income population.

While the income of more than a half of Ukrainians was below an actual subsistence rate in 2015–2016, this figure was 27.6 per cent in 2018. However, over 10 million people live below the poverty line (fig. 5).

**Fig. 5. Population with a monthly per capita income lower than an actual minimum subsistence rate**

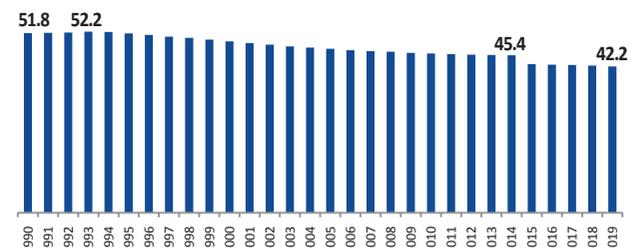


Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine, [http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2007/gdvdg\\_rik/dvdg\\_u/duf2010\\_u.htm](http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2007/gdvdg_rik/dvdg_u/duf2010_u.htm)

## 1.2. Demographics

The population of Ukraine, which was 52 million people in 1993, is decreasing (fig. 6), mainly due to a low birth rate (the total fertility rate is lower than 1.4 per woman). The prevalence of the number of deaths over the number of live births has been increasing since 2013 and reached 251,780 in 2018 (158,700 in 2013, 166,800 in 2014, 183,000 in 2015, 186,600 in 2016, 210,000 in 2017).

**Fig. 6. Ukraine's population in 1990–2019 as of the 1st of January of the relevant year, million**

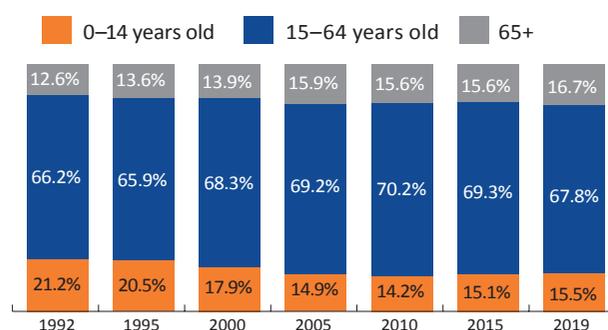


(2002 — based on the results of the 2001 census, 2014–2019 — excluding the non-government-controlled territories of Crimea and the Donbas)

Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine, <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>

The decrease in the population is accompanied by its ageing. The median age of the population, which was 35 years in 1990, 37.7 years in 2000, 39.3 years in 2010, reached 41.1 years as of 1 January 2019. The old-age dependency ratio (population aged 65+ years) is growing and as of 1 January reached 16.7 per cent, exceeding the child (under 14 years old) dependency ratio which is 15.5 per cent (fig. 7).

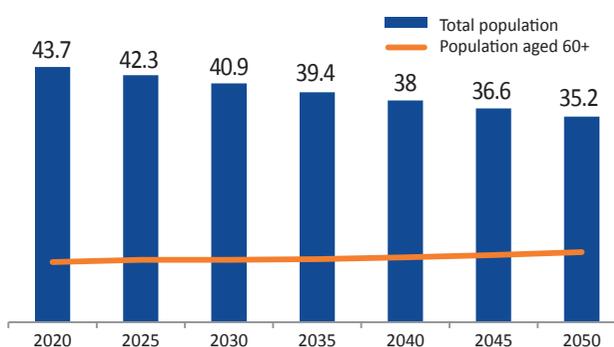
**Fig. 7. Population distribution by age (%)**



Source: Demographic Yearbook "Population of Ukraine, 2018", [http://database.ukrcensus.gov.ua/PXWEB2007/ukr/publ\\_new1/2019/publ2019.asp](http://database.ukrcensus.gov.ua/PXWEB2007/ukr/publ_new1/2019/publ2019.asp)

According to projections, the population of Ukraine will have decreased to 35.2 million by 2050, persons aged over 60 will have accounted for 34 per cent by 2050 (fig. 8).

**Fig. 8. Ukraine's population forecast based on the 2019 data (whole territory), million people**



Source: World Population Prospects — Population Division — United Nations, <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Probabilistic/Population/>

## II. INTERNAL MIGRATION

### 2.1. Characteristics of internal migration

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, each year over half a million Ukrainians change their place of residence. However, this figure is based on the data provided by registration bodies and covers only movements where persons registered a change of the place of residence. However, according to sociological data, at least 12 per cent of adult Ukrainians<sup>1</sup>, or even 15 to 30 per cent in big cities as some estimates suggest<sup>2</sup>, don't live in their registered place of residence. Therefore, internal migration is much more active than statistics suggest.

People mainly go to cities. Remote rural areas become more and more depopulated. In 2001–2019, each year

an average of 19 villages disappeared from the map of Ukraine (in the 1990s, average of 11 villages per year). Rural population is decreasing, mainly due to labour and educational migration of youth.

In parallel, urban population is growing. As many as 66.7 per cent of Ukrainians lived in cities according to the 1989 census; there were 67.2 per cent of them according to the 2001 census, and 71.1 per cent as of 1 January 2019. Kyiv, the capital, and regions with the largest cities in Ukraine — Dnipro, Kharkiv, Odesa and Lviv — traditionally have a migration surplus. They have top educational institutions where young people go to study, higher labour demand and remuneration.

The increase in the number of residents due to internal migration slowed down in the capital, while it speeded up in Kyiv Region due to mass residential construction in satellite towns, where housing prices are substantially lower. In 2018, the migration surplus in Kyiv was 13,900 persons, while it was 27,100 in Kyiv Region, which is twice as high. During the eight months of 2019, the migration surplus in Kyiv was nine times lower than in Kyiv Region (2,000 as compared to 17,900). However, each day almost 30 per cent of

1 Registering Domiciles in Ukraine: How the system affects Ukrainians. A sociological survey, Kyiv, CEDOS Think Tank, 2018.

2 Внутрішня міграція: куди їдуть українці в пошуках кращого життя [Internal migration: Where Ukrainians go to seek better life], <https://ukr.segodnya.ua/economics/enews/vnutrennyaya-migraciya-kuda-edut-ukraincy-v-poiskah-luchshey-zhizni-1118542.html>

population in Kyiv Region, or around half a million employees, commute to work in the capital<sup>3</sup>. Such shuttle migration can be also observed in agglomerations around other big cities.

According to the results of the annual sociological monitoring which is conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, in 2018, each fifth employed Ukrainian national had a job in another settlement of the country. The share of such persons is growing as it was 16.3 per cent in 2013. In parallel, the share of persons who work where they reside is decreasing. People who come from the western regions (17.8%) and from villages (20.7%) more often work beyond their place of residence<sup>4</sup>.

## 2.2. Internally displaced persons

The annexation of Crimea and the conflict in eastern Ukraine led to numerous induced displacements,

especially during the first three years of the conflict. Displacement from non-government-controlled territories has slightly stabilized since 2017, and the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has remained around 1.5 million persons with some fluctuations. In October 2019, 1.4 million IDPs were registered by social protection bodies.

Most of them are located in Donetsk Region (up to half a million) and Luhansk Region (up to 300,000) as well as in Kyiv and Kyiv Region (up to 200,000 in aggregate). The number of IDPs is also high in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia regions (fig. 9).

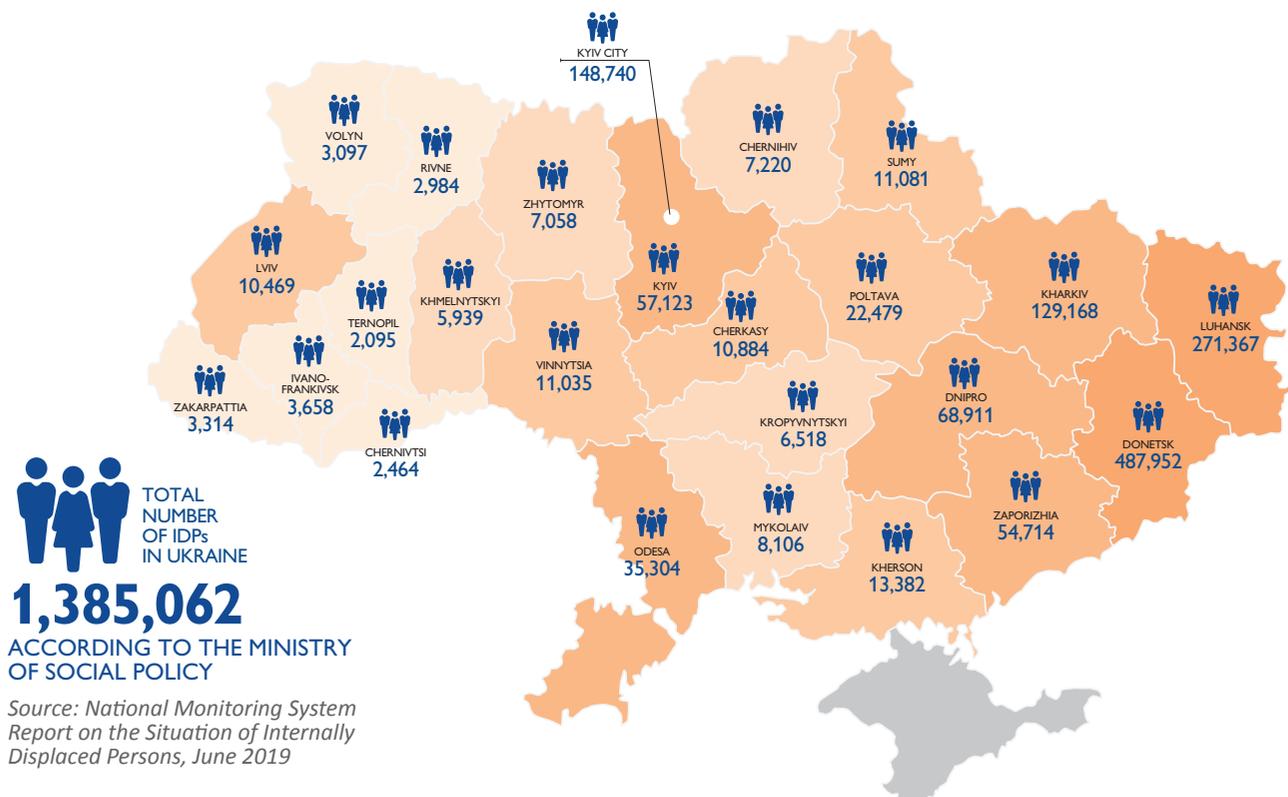
According to the National Monitoring System Report on the Situation of IDPs<sup>5</sup>, the average per capita income of IDP households is one third lower than the average value in Ukraine, it is also lower than the actual subsistence level that is calculated by the Ministry of Social Policy, therefore, a lot of IDPs have to rely on state support. The most pressing problem of IDPs is lack of own housing. IDPs' employment rate is gradually growing. However, according to the monitoring data from June 2019, it

3 Українське суспільство: міграційний вимір. – К., Національна академія наук України, 2018. – С.151 [Ukrainian society: Migration aspect, Kyiv, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 2018, p. 151]

4 Українське суспільство: моніторинг соціальних змін. Вип. 5 (19). – К., 2018. – С.495 [Ukrainian society: Monitoring of social changes, issue 5 (19), Kyiv, 2018, p. 495.]

5 Since March 2016, the IOM conducts quarterly survey that covers around two and a half thousand IDPs by personal interviewing and over 4 thousand by telephone interviewing.

Fig. 9 Distribution of IDPs in the territory of Ukraine



was 46 per cent, which is nine percentage points lower than for Ukraine's general population<sup>6</sup>.

These factors are the biggest barrier to the integration of IDPs into host communities. However, the surveys show that the share of IDPs who do not intend to go back to their former homes even after the end of the conflict is steadily growing. There were 34 per cent of them in June 2019.

IDPs mostly do not intend to go abroad, mainly due to

6 National Monitoring System Report on the Situation of Internally Displaced Persons. June 2019 [http://iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/nms\\_round\\_14\\_ukr\\_web.pdf](http://iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/nms_round_14_ukr_web.pdf)

their demographic structure with a large share of seniors and families with children. During the survey in June 2019, only one per cent of respondents told that they found a job abroad and would leave the country soon, another five per cent reported their intention to search for a job abroad.

However, migration intentions of persons affected by the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk regions are growing, especially those of young people<sup>7</sup>.

7 Migration tendency in eastern Ukraine: negative trends in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. [https://www.scoreforpeace.org/files/publication/pub\\_file//Migration2018\\_UA.pdf](https://www.scoreforpeace.org/files/publication/pub_file//Migration2018_UA.pdf)

## III. MIGRATION FROM UKRAINE

### 3.1. Increasing international mobility of the population

Granting a visa-free regime with the EU to Ukraine in 2017 contributed to intensification of cross-border mobility of the population. In June 2017 — June 2019, border guard bodies registered 42.6 million crossings of the EU border by Ukrainians, where 9.2 million were based on biometric passports, including almost 3 million visa free crossings. During the second year of the visa-free regime (June 2018 — June 2019), Ukrainian citizens made 2.35 million visa-free visits to the EU, which is 4.2 times more than during the first year (June 2017 — June 2018)<sup>8</sup>.

According to the results of the annual sociological monitoring, conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences, only during the first year of the visa-free regime, 18 per cent of adult population used the opportunity to visit the EU, where 7.6 per cent travelled, 5.4 per cent visited friends and relatives, 4.7 per cent searched for a job, 0.5 per cent went studying, 1.1 per cent visited professional events (exhibitions, conferences). Mostly young people aged below 30 and persons with higher education travelled to Europe without visas. People living in western Ukraine travelled abroad without visas twice as often as Ukraine's general population<sup>9</sup>.

The number of Ukrainian migrants is growing in Europe. According to Eurostat, the number of residence permits

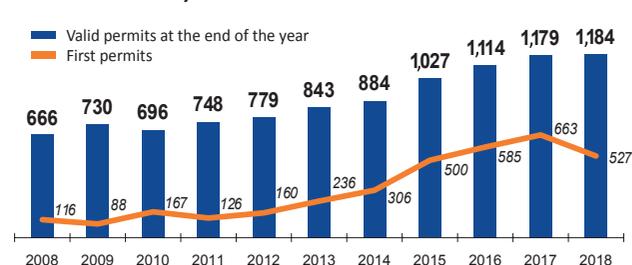
8 За два роки безвізу українці понад 40 млн разів відвідали ЄС | Українська правда [During the two years of the visa-free regime, Ukrainians visited the EU over 40 million times | Ukrainska Pravda] <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2019/06/11/7217754/>

9 Українське суспільство: моніторинг соціальних змін. Вип. 5 (19). - К., 2018 [Ukrainian society: Monitoring of social changes, issue 5 (19), Kyiv, 2018]

for Ukrainians in the EU-28 as valid as of the end of the year has doubled during the last decade and was around 1.2 million in 2018 (fig. 10). The largest number of Ukrainians lived in Poland (442,000), Italy (234,000), the Czech Republic (132,000), Germany (121,000) and Spain (92,000).

The number of first residence permits, which was rapidly growing in 2013–2017, decreased in 2018, but is the highest amid other countries of origin of migrants (527,000). Most of them (78%) were issued in Poland. Almost 90 per cent of such permits are short-term (3 to 12 months) and were issued in connection with paid employment (65%).

**Fig. 10. Number of the EU first residence permits and valid residence permits at the end of the year for Ukrainians, thousand**



Source: Eurostat: Asylum and Managed Migration, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database>

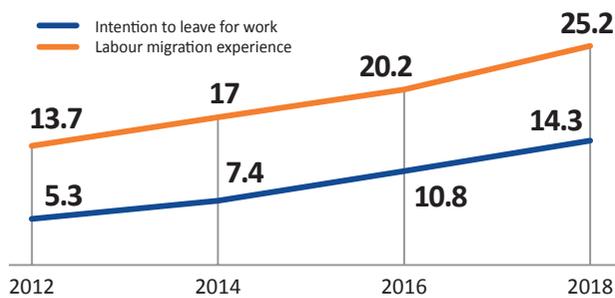
### 3.2. Labour migration

The key reason for external labour migration of Ukrainians is difficulties related to finding a job with a decent pay at home. During the last five years, economic factors of migration have been bolstered by political and security factors, which has resulted in a rapid intensi-

fication of migration intentions of the population and increased migration intensity.

According to the results of the annual sociological monitoring, conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences, in response to the question “Do you or your family members have an experience of temporary working abroad?”, 13.7 per cent answered “yes” in 2012, and 25.2 per cent gave the same answer in 2018. However, 7.4 per cent reported that they intended to go soon to work abroad in 2014 as compared to 14.3 per cent in 2018 (fig. 11).

**Fig. 11. Response to the question as regards intentions to go to work abroad and labour migration experience, both personal experience and that of family members, %**



Source: Українське суспільство: моніторинг соціальних змін. - Вип. 5 (19). - К., 2018 [Ukrainian society: Monitoring of social changes, issue 5 (19), Kyiv, 2018]

In order to assess the scope and study the characteristics of labour migration of Ukrainians abroad, the State Statistics Service of Ukraine conducted large-scale surveys (over 20,000 households) in 2008, 2012 and 2017<sup>10</sup>. According to the findings, 1.5 million people in 2008, which is 5.1 per cent of the employable population, 1.2 million in 2012, which is 3.4 per cent of citizens aged 15 to 70,

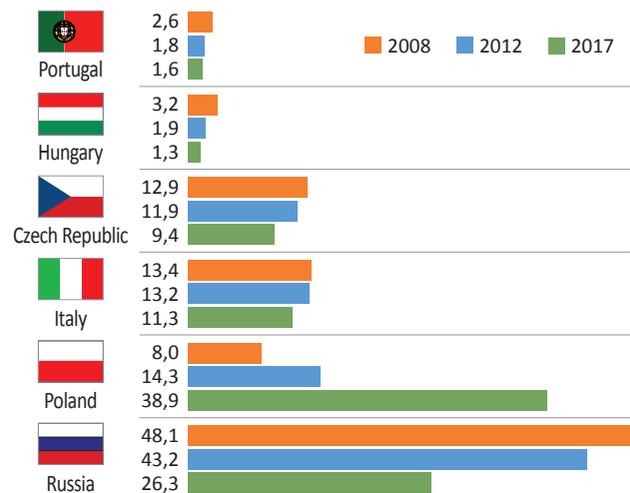
10 Зовнішня трудова міграція населення України/ Український центр соціальних реформ. Державний комітет статистики України. – К., 2009. – 118 с. [External labour migration of Ukraine’s population, Ukrainian Centre for Social Reforms, State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, Kyiv, 2009, 118 pages]; Міжнародна організація праці, Державна служба статистики України, Інститут демографії та соціальних досліджень НАНУ, 2012. – 96 с. [Report on the Methodology, Organization and Results of a Modular Sample Survey on Labour Migration in Ukraine, Kyiv, International Organization for Migration, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, Institute of Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 2012, 96 pages]; Зовнішня трудова міграція (за результатами модульного вибіркового обстеження). Статистичний бюлетень. – К.: Державна служба статистики України, 2017. – 36 с. [External labour migration (based on the results of a modular sample survey), Bulletin of Statistics, Kyiv, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2017, 36 pages]

1.3 million in 2017, which is 4.5 per cent of the population of the relevant age (excluding the population in the non-government-controlled territories) at least once went to work abroad during 2.5 years before the survey.

However, these studies did not cover migrants who moved abroad as a family. In addition, cross-border commuters were excluded. Given that, the actual number of labour migrants is higher. In experts’ opinion, 3 million is the most probable estimate of the number of Ukrainians who worked abroad at a certain moment of time<sup>11</sup>.

Destination countries for labour migrants from Ukraine mostly include neighbouring countries (Russian Federation, Poland, the Czech Republic) as well as Southern European countries (Italy, Spain, Portugal) (fig. 12). The comparison of three studies by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine shows that the migration flow has switched from the eastern direction, i.e. Russia, which used to be popular in the past, towards the western one, i.e. the EU, mainly Poland.

**Fig. 12. Destination countries for labour migrants according to the findings of the studies by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine**



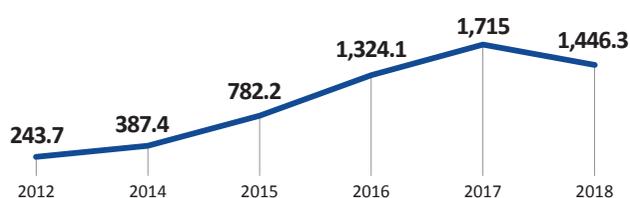
Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine

Poland has become the main destination country for labour migrants from Ukraine due to the procedure introduced in Poland in 2008, whereby Ukrainians can work during six months in a calendar year without an employment permit pursuant to an employer’s declaration registered by the local government (fig. 13). The num-

11 Лібанова Е.М. Зовнішні трудові міграції українців: масштаби, причини, наслідки // Демографія та соціальна економіка. – 2018. – № 2(33) [Libanova, E. M. External labour migration of Ukrainians: scope, causes, consequences // Demography and Social Economy, 2018, No. 2(33)]

ber of Ukrainians employed in the Polish economy at a certain moment of time is estimated at 900,000 persons. According to the estimates of the National Bank of Poland, they have added 11 per cent of the country's GDP growth during the last five years<sup>12</sup>.

**Fig. 13. Number of registered Polish employers' declarations of intention to employ a citizen of Ukraine in 2012–2018, thousand**



Source: Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Poland, <https://archiwum.mpips.gov.pl/analizy-i-raporty/cudzoziemcy-pracujacy-w-polsce-statystyki/>

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, around 70 per cent of migrants are from western Ukraine. However, participation of people from the centre, the south and the east of Ukraine in migration is gradually increasing.

Two thirds of migrants are men. Most migrants have got a secondary education (64% according to the 2017 study by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine). However, the share of persons with a university degree and undergraduates is growing (33.5% in 2017 as compared to 30.5% in 2012).

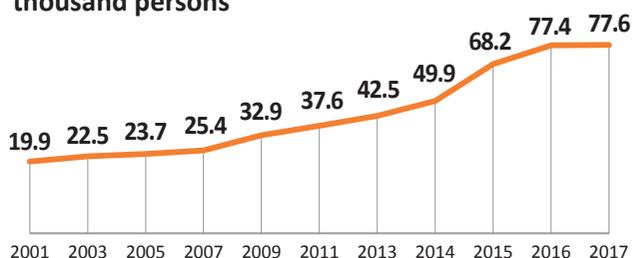
The main sectors of employment of migrants abroad include construction (men) and domestic care (women). At the same time, employment in industry is increasing.

The most popular pattern of migration behaviour is temporary, circular migration. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the duration of 57 per cent of labour trips is less than three months.

### 3.3. Educational migration

According to UNESCO, the number of Ukrainian students abroad increased; it has almost doubled since 2013 and has reached 77,600 (fig. 14). Due to stabilization of the situation in the country, this process has slowed down.

**Fig. 14. Number of Ukrainian students abroad, thousand persons**



Source: UNESCO. Education: Inbound internationally mobile students by country of origin, <http://data.uis.unesco.org/Index.aspx?queryid=171#>

In 2017, the largest number of Ukrainian students (34,700) studied in Poland. The number of Ukrainian students in Russia decreased, but still remained high (15,300). Germany ranked the third in terms of the number of Ukrainian students (6,100).

Young people often wish to study abroad to open their way to the international labour market. According to the findings of the 2018 web survey of over 1,000 Ukrainians who studied in Poland, only 6 per cent of them intended to come back to Ukraine after graduation<sup>13</sup>.

The growth of educational migration is an indirect proof of reunification of families of Ukrainian labour migrants in their countries of stay. Apparently, it has attributed to a surge in the number of Ukrainian students in the countries with numerous Ukrainian communities that have been established due to labour migration. For example, only 40 Ukrainians studied in Italian higher institutions (HEIs) in 2000, while there were 2,800 of them, or 70 times more, in 2017.

### 3.4. Asylum seekers

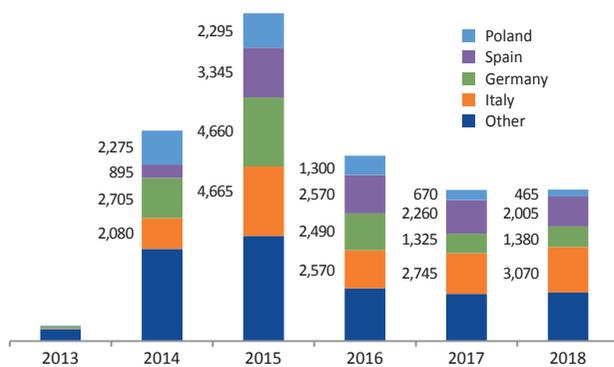
The annexation of Crimea and military actions in the Donbas caused both internal and external involuntary migration in 2014–2015. The number of asylum applications submitted by citizens of Ukraine in the EU countries exceeded 22,000 in 2015, which was 20 times more than in 2013 (fig. 15). In the following years, the number of applications submitted gradually declined and amounted to 10,200 in 2018, which can be attributed to stabilization of the situation in the country. Most asylum applications were filed in the EU countries with a large number of Ukrainian labour migrants.

12 Ukrainian immigrants add 11% of Polish GDP growth. – <https://notesfrompoland.com/2019/10/31/ukrainian-immigrants-add-11-of-polish-gdp-growth/>

13 Ukrainian Students in Poland: Policies of Engagement, Integration, Students' Motivation and Plans — <https://cedos.org.ua/en/articles/ukrainski-studenty-v-polshchi-polityky-zaluchennia-intehratsii-ta-motyvatsiia-i-plany-studentiv>

Due to geographical proximity, family ties and pro-Russian sentiments of a part of people living in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, most involuntary migrants left for Russia. In 2015, 2.5 million Ukrainian citizens were registered in the Russian Federation, or almost a million more than as of 1 January 2014.<sup>14</sup> As of 1 January 2016, there were 311,000 of Ukrainian citizens who were granted temporary asylum. In mid-2019, there were 60,000 of them. Their number has decreased due to their return to their former homes and obtaining residence permits in Russia. In 2014–2018, 265,000 Ukrainian citizens participated in the programme for voluntary relocation to the Russian Federation (32.8% of all participants); most of them applied for the programme while staying in the territory of Russia.

**Fig. 15. Number of asylum applications submitted by Ukrainian citizens in the EU-28**



Source: Eurostat: Asylum and first-time asylum applications by citizenship, age and sex, [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr\\_asydcfst&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_asydcfst&lang=en)

### 3.5. Emigration and the Ukrainian diaspora

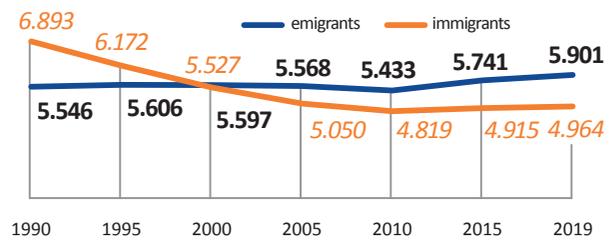
As a result of four waves of economic, political and repressive emigration, being an important tool of subjugation of the discontented in the times of the Soviet totalitarian regime, a numerous Ukrainian diaspora settled abroad, in particular in Russia (1.9 million persons who claimed that they were Ukrainians according to the 2010 census), Canada (around 1.4 million according to the 2016 data), the USA (977,500 persons of Ukrainian descent in the first, second and third generations according to the 2015 data), Moldova (282,000 according to the 2014 census, excluding Transnistria), Kazakhstan (271,000 according to the estimates as of 1 January 2019).

According to the calculations of the UN Population Division based on the data of censuses and demographic statistics

14 Сведения в отношении иностранных граждан, находящихся на территории РФ [Information on foreigners staying in the territory of the Russian Federation] [http://www.fms.gov.ru/about/activity/stats/Statistics/Svedeniya\\_v\\_otnoshenii\\_inostrannih\\_grazh](http://www.fms.gov.ru/about/activity/stats/Statistics/Svedeniya_v_otnoshenii_inostrannih_grazh)

of the Member States, the number of emigrants, i.e. people who were born in Ukraine, but live in other countries of the world, was almost 6 million persons in 2019, while the number of immigrants, i.e. people living in Ukraine, who were born abroad, was around 5 million (fig. 16).

**Fig. 16. Number of emigrants from Ukraine and immigrants living in its territory, million persons**

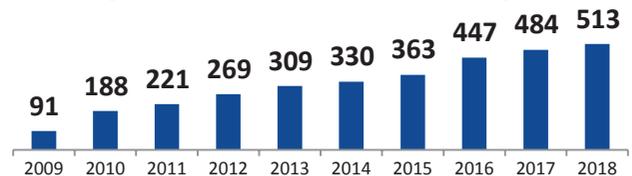


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division (2019). International Migrant Stock 2019 (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2019)

Most migrants live in the territory of post-Soviet countries and had moved before the USSR collapsed, i.e. they were internal migrants at that time. However, the number of Ukrainian migrants is increasing in the main destination countries for labour migrants as a part of temporary labour migration evolves into permanent migration. While there were 8,000 migrants from Ukraine in the Czech Republic in 1990, there were 110,000 of them in 2019, i.e. 22 times more. The relevant figures are 403 persons and 94,300 for Spain, i.e. 233 times more, and 206 persons and 246,400 for Italy, i.e. 1,000 times more<sup>15</sup>.

According to Eurostat, the number of Ukrainian citizens with a long-term migrant status in the EU is rapidly growing (fig. 17). More and more Ukrainians become citizens of their countries of stay. In 2017 alone, 3,400 were naturalized in Germany, 2,700 in Italy, 2,400 in Poland, around 2,000 in Portugal, 1,200 in the Czech Republic<sup>16</sup>.

**Fig. 17. Number of Ukrainian citizens with a long-term migrant status in the EU, thousand persons**



Source: Eurostat: Long-term residents by citizenship on 31 December of each year

15 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division (2019). International Migrant Stock 2019 (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2019).

16 Eurostat - Data Explorer. - <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

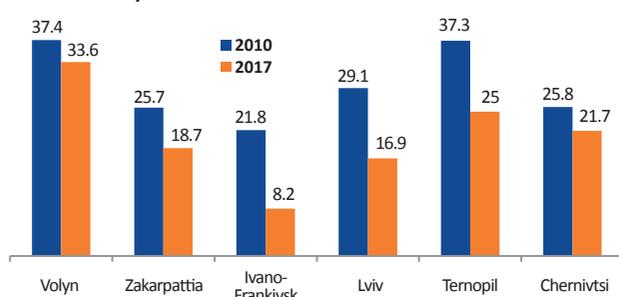
## IV. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### 4.1. Migration impact on Ukraine

Migration impact on Ukraine is multifaceted. It heightens the depopulation threat, leads to a loss of some labour and intellectual potential and, consequently, may turn into a factor that thwarts economic development. Even today a shortage of employees is observed in almost all types of activity, mostly in construction (it was reported by a half of construction companies surveyed) and in industry<sup>17</sup>.

However, according to the calculations of researchers, in absence of migration, the unemployment rate would be 36.7 per cent higher<sup>18</sup>. Working abroad is a source of important professional and life experience. The income from employment abroad helps improve the quality of life of migrants' households. In particular, while relative poverty index (lower than 75% of median total expenses) increased in 2010–2017, it reduced in western regions, where labour migration abroad is high (fig. 18). Increased consumer demand can contribute to economic development.

**Fig. 18. Relative poverty index in western regions of Ukraine, %**



Source: Ukrainian Society: Migration Dimension. National Report, Kyiv, 2019, p. 45.

### 4.2. Migrant remittances to Ukraine

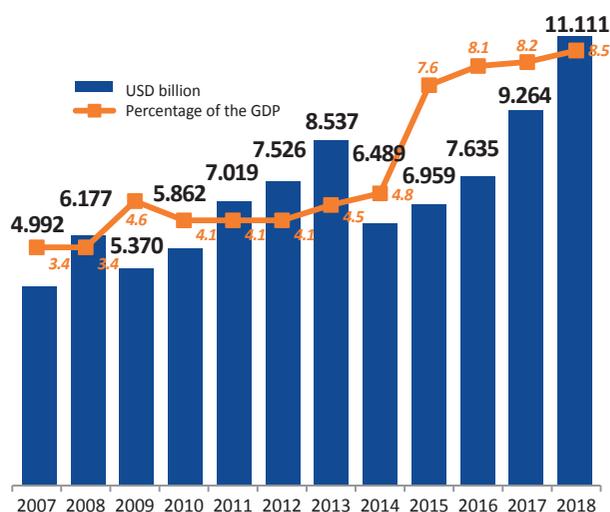
According to the National Bank of Ukraine that determines the amount of private remittances when calculating the country's balance of payments, remit-

tances volume was steadily growing (except for the period of the global financial and economic recession) and exceeded USD 8.5 billion in 2013. However, in 2014, the amount of remittances dropped (by 24%) as a result of security, political and economic problems in Ukraine and its financial system failure. A certain improvement in the internal situation and intensification of external labour migration again resulted in an increase in the amount of private remittances (fig. 19) up to USD 11.1 billion in 2018, which is 8.5 per cent of the country's GDP. The amount of remittances was more than four times higher than the amount of direct foreign investment.

While in the past the main country of origin of remittances was Russian Federation, where one third of remittances originated, its share had been reducing for the last five years and was below 10 per cent (USD 1.09 billion) in 2018. In contrast, 32.8 per cent (USD 3.6 billion) of total remittances came from Poland in 2018. The amount of remittances from the Czech Republic almost doubled as compared to the previous year (7.6% of total remittances, or USD 846 million).

Informal channels, i.e. transfers of cash and values from one household to another, accounted for 14 per cent of total remittances in 2013 and for almost a half of them in 2018.

**Fig. 19. Private remittances to Ukraine in 2007–2018**



Source: National Bank of Ukraine, <https://bank.gov.ua/doccatalog/document?id=19208355>

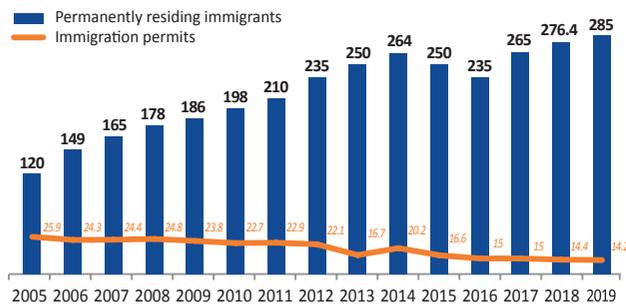
17 Inflation Report. National Bank of Ukraine, July 2019 [https://old.bank.gov.ua/control/uk/publish/article?art\\_id=99977784&cat\\_id=742185](https://old.bank.gov.ua/control/uk/publish/article?art_id=99977784&cat_id=742185)

18 Позняк А.В. Трудовая эмиграция в Украине как фактор развития рынка труда [Pozniak, A. V. Labour emigration in Ukraine as a labour market growth driver] <http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/2010/0405/analit05.php>

## V. MIGRATION TO UKRAINE

A foreigner needs to obtain an immigration permit to be eligible for permanent residence in Ukraine. From 22,000 to 25,000 of such permits were issued on an annual basis, but since 2014 their number has reduced and amounted only to 14,200 in 2019. About 285,000 foreigners, or less than 0.7 per cent of the population, reside permanently in Ukraine (fig. 20).

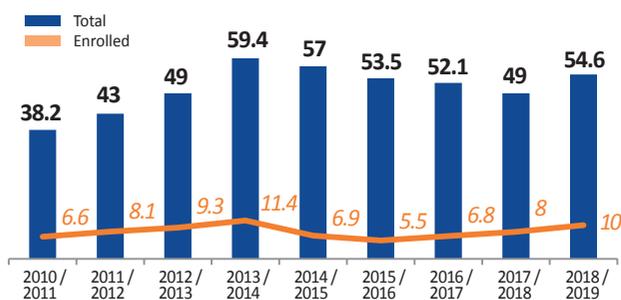
**Fig. 20. Number of foreigners who permanently reside in Ukraine and immigration permits issued, thousand persons**



Source: State Migration Service of Ukraine

Some foreigners temporarily stay in Ukraine; there were 133,000 of them as of 31 December 2019. These are mostly students of Ukrainian universities and temporary workers. After a decline, which can be attributed to a complicated security and economic situation, the number of foreign students in the country's universities started growing again and amounted to almost 55,000 in 2018/2019 academic year (fig. 21). Most of them were citizens of India (19.7%), Morocco (9.9%), Azerbaijan (8.2%) and Tajikistan (5.3%). The most popular field is medicine and pharmacology.

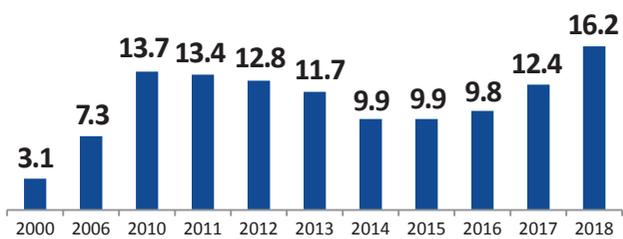
**Fig. 21. Foreign students in Ukrainian universities, thousand persons**



Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine Education, [http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat\\_u/publosvita\\_u.htm](http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat_u/publosvita_u.htm)

In 2018, the State Employment Service, which issues employment permits to foreigners, registered 16,000 foreign employees (fig. 22). Labour migrants are mostly executives and managers, employed in trade and repair, industry, information and telecommunication sector. In 2018, the largest number of them came from Turkey (around 3,000), Russia (1,600), China and Belarus (around 1,000 each).

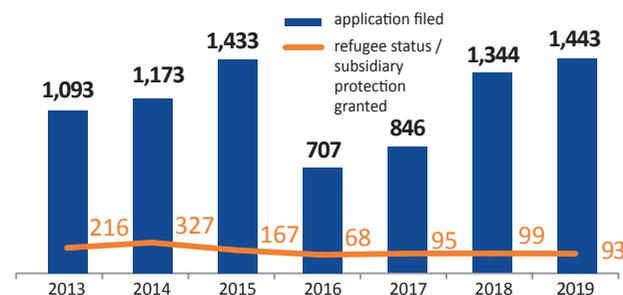
**Fig. 22. Number of foreigners temporarily employed in Ukraine under employment permits as of the end of the year, thousand persons**



Source: Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

Another group of foreigners in Ukraine includes refugees and persons who were granted subsidiary protection. In December 2019, there were 2,096 foreigners with this status in the country. Most of them are from Afghanistan (985 persons) and Syria (446 persons) as well as from some of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, namely from Armenia (188 persons) and the Russian Federation (135 persons). In 2019, 1,443 applications for international protection were filed, 93 decisions granting a refugee status or subsidiary protection were issued (fig. 23).

**Fig. 23. Number of applications for international protection and positive decisions issued (in 2014–2019, refugee status and subsidiary protection taken together)**



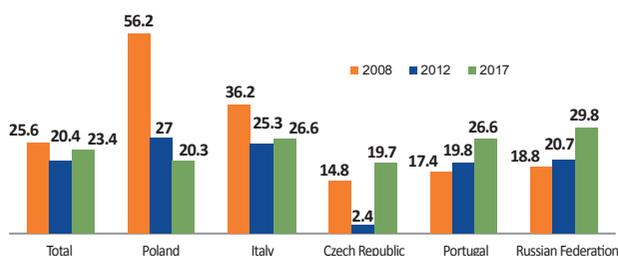
Source: State Migration Service of Ukraine

## VI. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Two dimensions of irregular migration can be observed in Ukraine. First, some Ukrainian citizens who go to work abroad stay there or engage in paid activities without relevant permits and documents. Second, the territory of Ukraine is used for illegal transfer to the European countries.

According to the findings of the 2017 labour migration survey by the State Statistics Service, almost each fourth Ukrainian labour migrant worked abroad with no legal status or under a tourist visa only, which is three percentage points higher than in 2008 (fig. 25).

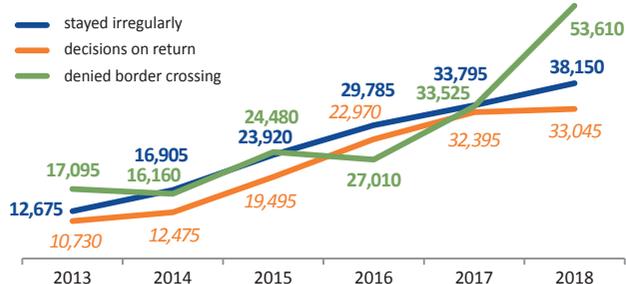
**Fig. 24. Irregular labour migrants (including those working under tourist visas) based on the findings of the surveys of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine in 2008, 2012, 2017, %**



Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine

Aggravation of the problem is also confirmed by the EU data on Ukrainian citizens that violated the migration law of their countries of stay (fig. 25).

**Fig. 25. Number of Ukrainian citizens with an irregular status, who were detected in the EU, subject to decisions on return and denied entry to the EU, persons**

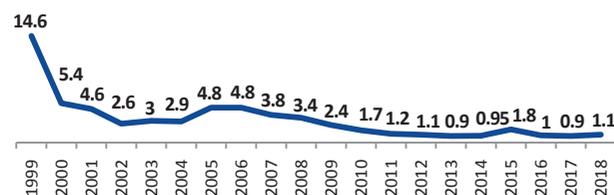


Source: Eurostat: Enforcement of migration legislation, [ec.europa.eu/Eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database](http://ec.europa.eu/Eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database)

However, according to the findings of several waves of migration and human trafficking surveys commissioned by IOM, while having doubled during the crisis, the share of Ukrainian migrants irregularly working abroad reduced by ten percentage points and stabilized at the pre-crisis level in 2019 as compared to 2017<sup>19</sup>.

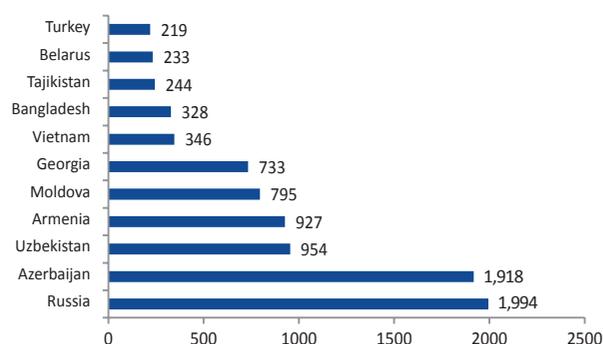
The issue of irregular migration of foreigners to and via Ukraine remains relevant, though it is under control. In 2018, 1,100 persons who attempted to illegally cross the state border were detained; 11,100 of irregular migrants were detected in Ukraine, 92 per cent of whom violated the period of stay (fig. 26, 27).

**Fig. 26. Number of irregular migrants detained for illegal state border crossing, thousand people**



Source: State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

**Fig. 27. Number of irregular migrants detected by the State Migration Service in Ukraine in 2018 by country of citizenship, persons**



Source: State Migration Service of Ukraine

19 Human Trafficking Survey: Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

## VII. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ukraine is a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficking in men, women and children. The problem of internal human trafficking is also intensifying.

According to the estimates based on periodic migration and human trafficking surveys commissioned by IOM, 260,000 of Ukrainians could have suffered from human trafficking during the period from 1991.

The IOM Mission in Ukraine has been providing assistance to persons who suffered from human trafficking since 2000. From January 2000 until December 2019, 16,607 victims received complex reintegration sup-

port, including legal, medical, psychological, financial and educational assistance.

An increase in the human trafficking risks as related to labour migration intensification is proven by both the IOM data and the data provided by public authorities as regards the number of crimes detected, the number of criminal cases with court verdicts delivered as well as the number of persons who were officially granted a status of a human trafficking victim under the Law of Ukraine “On Countering Human Trafficking” (tables 1, 2).

Fig. 28. Number of victims who were assisted by the IOM (2000–2019)

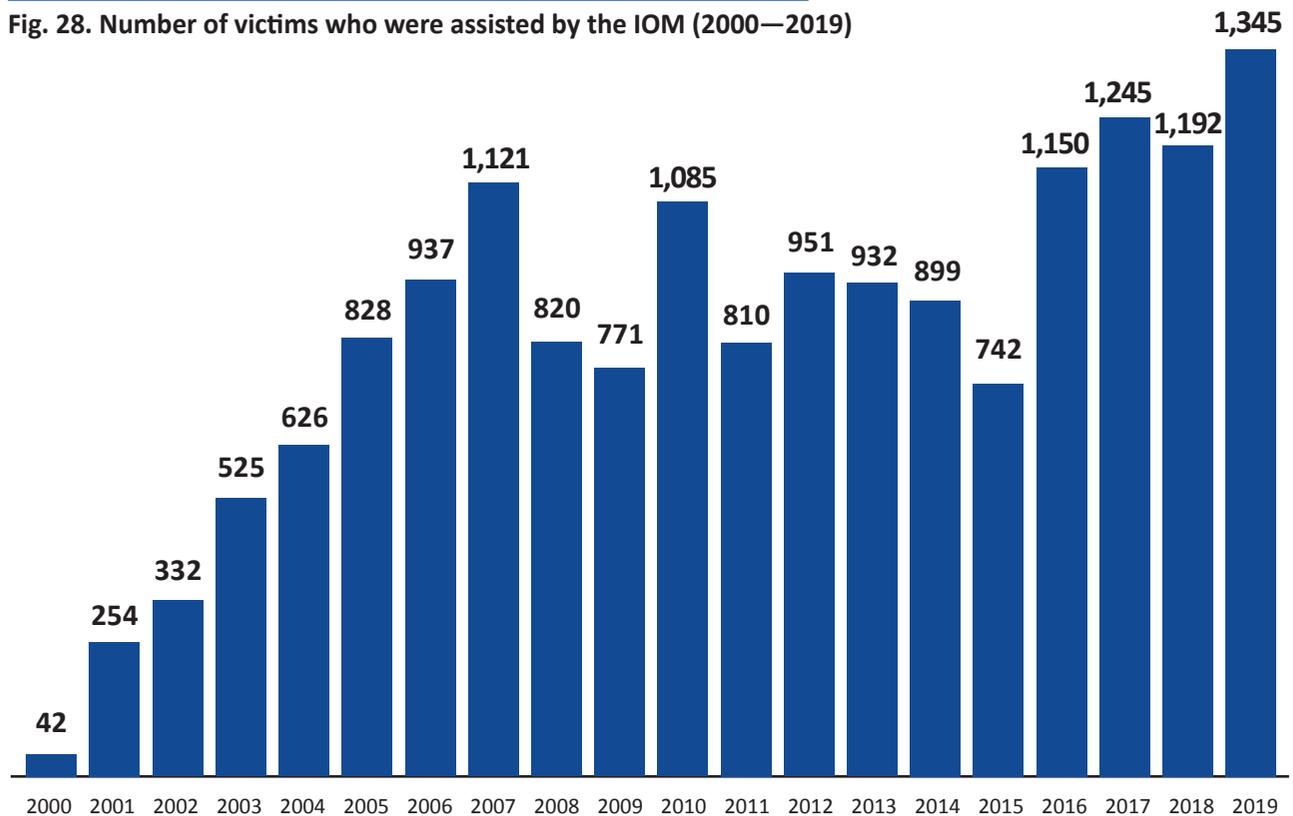


Table 1. Number of crimes registered by the MoI of Ukraine and number of criminal cases with verdicts delivered by Ukrainian courts under Art. 149 (previously, Art. 124-1) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine from 1998 till December 2019

Year	1998–2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of registered crimes	2,624	257	197	162	130	109	111	115	346	291	306
Number of court verdicts (Art. 149)	489	85	106	96	64	29	23	28	23	29	36

Sources: State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, MoI of Ukraine

**Table 2. Official status of a human trafficking victim (September 2012 – December 2019)**

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Number of statuses	13	41	27	83	110	198	221	185	878

Source: Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

Most the former victims of trafficking assisted by IOM are persons who were subjected to labour exploitation — 90 per cent and more during the last seven years in a row. A half of victims are men.

A half of the victims assisted by IOM in 2002–2019 suffered from human trafficking in Russia, 14 per cent were trafficked to Poland, and 8 per cent were exploited in Turkey. Victims in Ukraine accounted for 8 per cent. The share of those who suffered in the Rus-

sian Federation is gradually reducing as compared to the EU member states, which corresponds to a change in labour migration directions.

Most victims were involved in human trafficking through personal contacts back at home. However, recently Ukrainians have often become involved in human trafficking while being abroad (according to the IOM, 17% of cases detected in 2019, 19% in 2018, 12% in 2017, as compared to 3% in 2016).

## VIII. MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Fundamental rights in the area of migration are enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine and include the freedom of movement, non-discrimination and equality before the law. The migration law comprises the Laws of Ukraine “On Citizenship of Ukraine”, “On Freedom of Movement and Free Choice of Place of Residence in Ukraine”, “On the Procedure of Exit from Ukraine and Entry into Ukraine of the Citizens of Ukraine”, “On External Labour Migration”, “On the Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons”, “On Immigration”, “On Refugees and Persons Seeking Subsidiary or Temporary Protection”, “On Ukrainians Abroad”, “On Countering Human Trafficking”, “On Securing Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons” as well as regulations approved by the Government. They include the State Migration Policy Strategy of Ukraine for the Period until 2025 (2017)<sup>20</sup>, which determines key objectives of the state migration policy and ways to achieve them.

Key international law documents on human rights protection, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed by Ukraine as a founding member of the UN, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the European Convention on Hu-

man Rights as transposed in 1997, are aimed at protecting the rights of all people, including migrants. In the field of migration, Ukraine is a party to multilateral and bilateral international agreements, including the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking Protocols to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers, the CIS Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and Their Family Members.

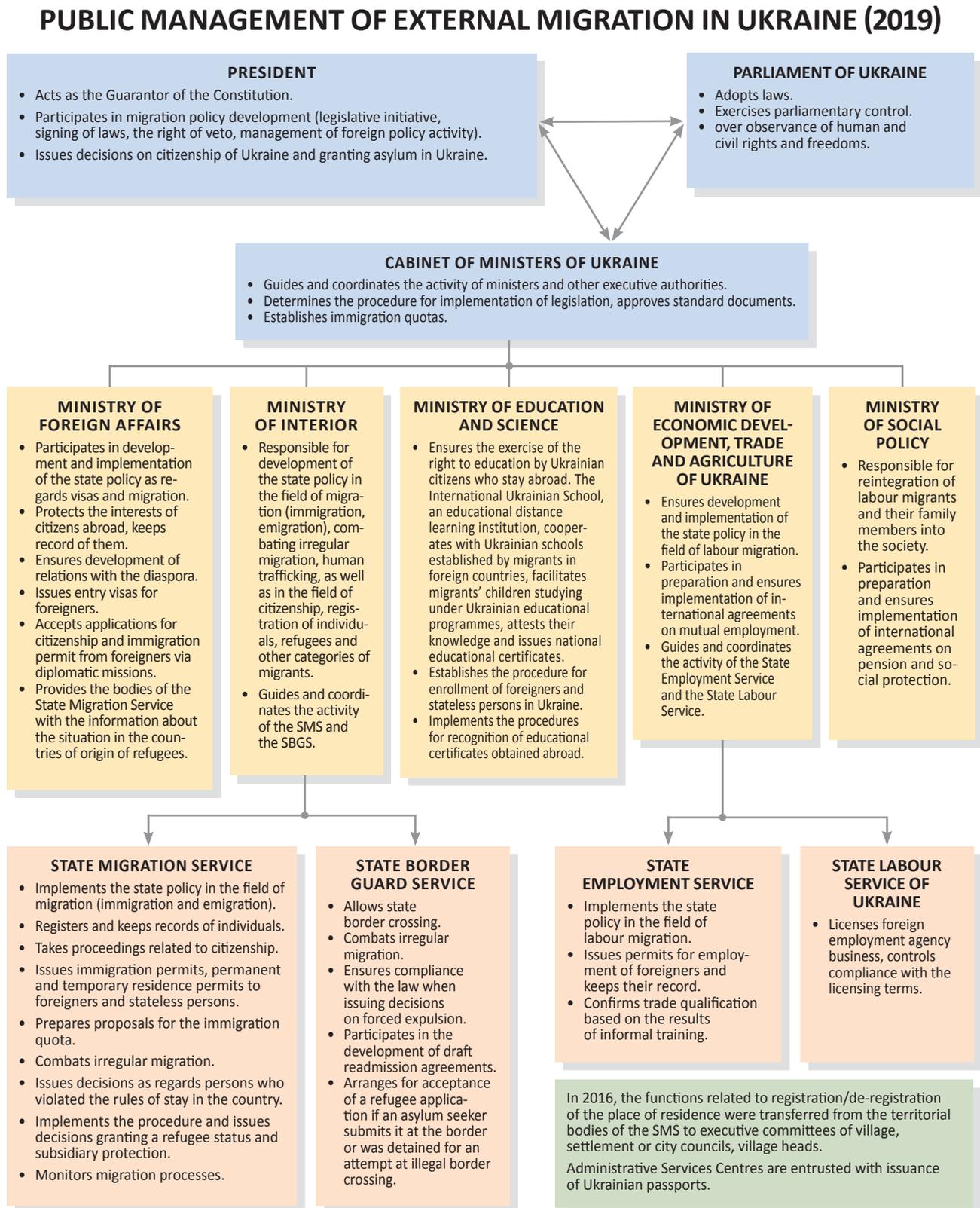
There are bilateral agreements on employment (with Spain, Poland, Portugal, Baltic countries, Israel, Vietnam and certain post-Soviet countries) and on pension and social protection (with Spain, Poland, Portugal, Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and others).

Ukraine entered into the Agreement on Readmission with the EU (entered into force on 1 January 2010), and has relevant bilateral agreements with some countries of the world (Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Denmark, Vietnam, Iceland, Latvia, Moldova, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Hungary, Uzbekistan, Switzerland).

Several public authorities perform managerial functions in the field of migration (fig. 29).

20 On Approval of the State Migration Policy Strategy of Ukraine for the Period till 2025. Ordinance of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 12 July 2017 No. 482-p — <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/main/482-2017-%D1%80>

Fig. 29. Responsibilities of public authorities in the field of migration



## XI. MIGRATION STATISTICS

---

A well-developed migration data collection system operates in Ukraine. Its main sources include ongoing migration records, censuses, household surveys, and administrative data. A number of state registers were established, which cover certain population groups and contain data that potentially can be used for the purpose of obtaining additional information on migration. However, migration data deficiencies include lack of comparability to both international data and administrative data of different agencies, underrecording or double recording of migrants is also a problem.

In order to ensure a reliable statistical and factual basis required for making adequate political decisions in the field of migration, it is necessary to:

- include a set of questions related to migration (permanent, labour, circular migration) in the 2020 Census;
- add standardized migration modules to the household and work force surveys to collect

information on labour migration of citizens abroad, reintegration of returnees, a level of immigrant integration;

- ensure compliance of the migration data collected and published in Ukraine with the UN recommendations on migration statistics and with the indicators used by Eurostat;
- identify opportunities to use new sources of statistics, such as state registers containing data on the population, big data;
- intensify cooperation among agencies to achieve comparability of administrative data;
- strengthen the role of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine in terms of coordination and methodological support for the activity of units of executive authorities that are responsible for administrative data on migration;
- develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for migration data improvement for the purpose of achieving these objectives.







## CONTACTS:

 8 Mykhailivska St., Kyiv 01001, Ukraine

 +38 044 568 5015

 iomkiev@iom.int

 ukraine.iom.int

 facebook.com/IOMUkraine

 instagram.com/iomukraine