

## Womens Emigration from Russia Factors, Trends, Geography

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**Abstract:** The study analyzes the problem of women's emigration from Russia. Geography of women's departure from Russia is quite varied. Regionally the dynamics of women's emigration from Russia has significant differences. There are both the leading regions on level of women's emigration and the regions where women do not participate in immigration processes. However, it is extremely difficult to observe real potential stakes of Russian women's departure to one or another country. Firstly, they can come over from one country to another. And secondly, there is illegal migration, in which Russian women are actively involved and flows of which cannot be observed. Therefore, there is the need to analyze not only Russian but also international statistics. The study has analyzed the dynamics of women's emigration abroad, the age pattern of emigration flows. It has also revealed the regional specific features of women's emigration from Russia. The study has determined the leading regions on level of women's emigration abroad and also the regions where women are poorly involved in emigration processes. Moreover, it has presented the classification of the regions by intensity of women's departure from the regions abroad. The study has determined the main directions of women's emigration from Russia and the countries which are most attractive for women leaving a country. It has analyzed the sectors of employment of Russian women abroad. It has determined migration threats. Human trafficking is the most dangerous. The channels of recruitment of women are various but traditional. Firstly, they are presented by all sorts of job advertisements abroad. That means that recruitment of women today is not connected with their secret stealing. Slave merchants use victim's trustfulness and their poor knowledge of the laws of their own country and a country of destination. Going into the system of international human trafficking, women and girls are almost always subjected to sexual exploitation. The study presents the methods of recruitment of Russian women and the recommendations on combating human trafficking. The given data are the official statistics, namely, "tip of the iceberg". At the same time, many women are abroad illegally or semi-legally. That means that they form illegal migration, hidden from official statistical accounting. The stakes of this migration are difficult for being estimated. It is only approximately possible using the substituted data.

**Key words:** Women's emigration from Russia, geography of women's departure from Russia, Russian women's employment abroad, trafficking in women, trafficking

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### INTRODUCTION

The stakes of foreign emigration from the Russian Federation have significantly increased after the Soviet collapse. And not only men but also women are actively involved in migration processes. Even though in the last few years the rate of traveling abroad women has decreased to 30%, the total number is still large (93 thousand people in 2014). External women's emigration causes negative demographic consequences connected with losses of the population which can be divided into direct (women downsizing) and indirect (reducing the birth rate). Therefore, the study of the problems of women's emigration abroad in the complicated demographic situation is very important. The study

outcomes can be used in long-term planning of the socio-economic and demographic development of a country and its regions.

### THE STAKES AND THE AGE PATTERN OF WOMEN'S EMIGRATION FROM RUSSIA

Now a days in Russia there are two main sources of statistical data to estimate the stakes of women's emigration abroad. The first source is the data of the Federal State Statistics Service on permanent migration. They are quite full but do not take into account illegal immigration. The second source is the data of the Federal Migration Service on labor migration. They contain information about the number of patents and work permits

issued to foreign citizens who plans to work in the country's territory and about the number of Russian citizens who left a country to work abroad. It is obvious that these data do not contain information on foreigners, arriving in a country and Russian citizens, leaving this country with non-employment goals (for example, tourism, family visits, education and so on).

According to the data from these two sources, Russian women are quite actively involved in migration processes. Thus, from 2008-2014 the migration turnover of women did not fall below 100,000 people and since 2010 there was the steady increase of this figure which in 2014 reached 312407 people. That means that the stakes of women's migration trend to upward. The share of women in the total migration turnover in 2014 was 35.2%.

The analysis of women's emigration data shows that in 2004 the share of women among those who left abroad for permanent place of residence was 53%. Among temporary labor migrants in early 2000s the share of them varied from 7-16%. Now a days, according to the Federal State Statistics Service statistical data, the share of women among emigrants leaving their countries for place of permanent in other countries has slightly decreased and in 2014 was 30%. How is it possible to emigrate to Turkey. In 2014 among temporary labor migrants their share has decreased to 5%. In this context, if the number of women going abroad for permanent place of residence from 2009-2014 has been steadily increasing (from 17333 people in 2009-92,774 people in 2014), then the number of women going abroad to work from 2011-2014 has been reducing (from 7373 people in 2011-3178 people in 2014).

The analysis of the age pattern of women's emigration from Russia shows that women mainly of working age leave our country. However, if from 2008-2011 their share in the total number of women going abroad was about 70%, then in 2012 it has sharply increased and in 2014 was over 80%. At the same time, the share of women younger working age and past working age in the total number of emigrants has been decreasing during the considered period. In this context, if the share of girls younger working age has slightly reduced (from 11% in 2008 to 7% in 2014), the share of women of past working age has decreased by a factor of 2 (from 22% in 2008-12% in 2014).

Girls and women being 20-29 of age are mostly among migrants. Moreover, the largest number of them is a group being 25-29 of age. This situation testifies that among women leaving our country persons of not just working age but of active reproductive age are uppermost. It is an indirect feature of that fact that women with professional education more often leave a country Ryazantsev and Tkachenko (2010).

## **REGIONAL SPECIFIC FEATURES OF WOMEN'S EMIGRATION FROM RUSSIA**

Emigration flows are very inhomogeneously distributed over a country. There are both "departure centers" (mainly in Moscow and St. Petersburg) and the regions the population of which is weakly involved in immigration processes (Nenets Autonomous District). There is greater contrast between the regions in the analysis of women's emigration. Thus, the number of women who went abroad from 2009-2014 with an eye to 100,000 women living in the Federal District varies from 7 people, who left the North Caucasus Federal District in 201-330 people, who left the North-West Federal District.

In general, the analysis of the data on Federal Districts (there is no data on the Crimean Federal District) has showed that in almost all regions from 2009-2014 there was the increasing number of women who went abroad with an eye to 100,000 women living in the Federal District. The only exception was the North Caucasian Federal District, where from 2009-2011 the number of women, who went abroad with an eye to 10,000 women, living in the Federal District, has been decreasing from 12-7 people.

From 2009-2011 the number of women, who went abroad with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region, was the largest in the Far East Federal District. Over three years their number has increased by 12 persons from 36 people in 2009-48 people in 2011. The critical was 2012. In this year not only the value of this figure has greatly increased due to changes in the rules of statistical accounting of migrants but also a "leader" according to the figure of external women's emigration has changed. Then it was became the Northwestern Federal District from which in 2012 85 women with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region have emigrated abroad and in 2014 this figure has increased to 330 people.

During the whole considered period from 2009-2014 the minimal level of women's external emigration was observed in the North Caucasian Federal District. In 2009, only 12 women with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the Federal District went abroad in 2014 this figure has increased to 50 people that is >6 times less than in the leading North West Federal District. Such small values of this figure can be explained by special mentality of the population of the region where family traditions and values are strong and the main role of a woman is to be domestic goddess.

The more detailed analysis of women's emigration from the Russian Federation abroad has showed the strong differentiation of regions on its level. Thus, "value's dispersion" of the figure on the number of

women who went abroad from the regions with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region in 2014 was from 2 people in the Republic of Tuva to 600 people in St. Petersburg. Thus, the regions of the country can be grouped according to the number of women, who went abroad with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region. There are the following six groups of the regions according to the figure of women's emigration:

- The first group is presented by the regions with the low level of women's emigration, the regions from which >10 women with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region have emigrated
- The second group is presented by the regions with the low level of women's emigration, the regions from which from 11-50 women with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region have emigrated
- The third group is presented by the regions with the lower than average level of women's emigration, the regions from which from 51-100 women with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region have emigrated
- The fourth group is presented by the regions with the average level of women's emigration, the regions from which from 101-200 women with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region have emigrated
- The fifth group is presented by the regions with the above average level of women's emigration, the regions from which from 201-300 women with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region have migrated
- The sixth group is presented by the regions with the high level of women's emigration, the regions from which >300 women with an eye to 100,000 women, living in the region have emigrated

Thus, the intensity of women's departure from the regions of a country is different and depends on socio-economic, mental, natural and geographical and climatic factors.

#### **GEOGRAPHY OF WOMEN'S OMEN DEPARTURE FROM RUSSIA ABROAD**

According to expert estimates, by now there are several steady directions of women's departure from Russia such as West European asian, Middle Eastern, American. The data analysis of the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development shows that the most attractive countries for female immigrants from Russia are Germany and Spain. In 2013, the number of immigrants from Russia to these countries was respectively 31.4 thousand and 8.8 thousand people. The

share of women in the total number of immigrants was about 60%. From 2002-2006, the flow of migrants from Russia to Korea was quite numerous. However, in 2012 it has decreased to 2.7 thousand people per year and the share of women was 40%. Since, 2009 the number of migrants from Russia to France began to increase. In 2013 their number was 4.3 thousand people. The share of women in this flow was maximal-68% (or 2.9 thousand people). It should be noted that the statistics presented in the mentioned countries considers permanent migration. Moreover, the statistical data of Germany considers refugee migrants (Ryazantsev and Tkachenko, 2010).

Emigration to the United States is one more steady trend of migration. According to the US State Department in Russia in 2014 in the US Embassies there were >3.5 thousand immigrant visas were issued (Ryazantsev and Sivoplyasova, 2014).

The Mid-Eastern direction of emigration from Russia by the close of the 20 at the beginning of the 21 th century became very popular. As a rule, Russian women emigrate to Turkey. Thus, according to the [zagrاندok.ru](http://zagrاندok.ru), the number of Russian citizens in Turkey is <50,000 people (Ryazantsev and Sivoplyasova, 2015). Considering the fact that in most countries the share of women among migrants is around 50%, the number of Russian women, living in Turkey is more than 25,000 people.

The Asian direction (mainly emigration to China) became popular because of educational, labor and matrimonial migration. Russian citizens not only of working but past working age emigrate to permanent place of residence in China. Moreover, in China it is extremely prestigious to have a Russian wife. Therefore, bridegrooms from China are active members of the Russian "market of brides".

#### **THE SECTORS OF EMPLOYMENT OF RUSSIAN WOMEN ABROAD**

Russian women, looking for a job abroad, chose the sector of employment in keeping with their professional preferences. However, not always they can get a job according to their occupation. There are many reasons for this. The main ones are poor knowledge of language, necessity for proficiency testing and so on. Therefore, Russian women have to agree for more low-skilled and low-paid jobs as a rule, in the household sector (nurses, sisters, governesses and so on).

At the same time, highly qualified women with second-language skills can claim their professional status development abroad. Women labor migrants are more actively engaged to the sectors of information and communications technologies, education and health. The

important sector of employment of Russian women is the sector of recreation services. Migration legislation of some countries such as Switzerland, Canada, South Korea and Japan provides for the issuance of special visas which allow to work in this sector. Women, leaving a country to work as singers, dancers, waitresses, get a visa.

However, it should be noted that women, working in the sector of recreation services, run the hazard of going into the system of trafficking. Moreover, they work by fraud and then forced to work in disorderly houses. In general, the following groups of the sectors of female immigrants' employment from Russia:

- Public services (lower staff of hotels, hospitals, restaurants, salesmen and so on)
- House services (nurses, sisters, governesses, housekeepers and so on)
- Recreation services (dancers in restaurants, participants in show-programs and so on)
- Medical-health services (massages therapies, sauna and so on)
- Sex services
- Self-employment based on the management of their own business-professional employment (IT-services, education, health)
- Social and cultural services (interpreters, social workers, tourism and so on)
- Industrial production (seamstresses and so on)

#### **RUSSIAN WOMEN IN THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING**

Women's migration is always attended by some risk to go into the system of international trafficking. The matter is that women are the most vulnerable group of population, more trustful and is easily hood winked. According to the International Labour Organisation data, from 2002-2011 20.9 million people all over the world were subjected to labor exploitation. Women and girls presented 55% of them. And 98% of them were subjected to sexual exploitation. According to the law enforcement agencies in 2012 the Russian Federation there were 3635 crimes anyhow connected with human trafficking. The 1142 crimes of them (31.4%) are connected with the involvement in prostitution and prostitution organization.

The channels of recruitment of women are various but traditional. Firstly, it is all sorts of offers of work abroad. Firstly, they are presented by all sorts of job advertisements abroad. That means that recruitment of women today is not connected with their secret

stealing. Slave merchants use victim's trustingness and their poor knowledge of the laws of their own country and a country of destination. Secondly, this recruitment is realized through firms, companies, agencies. They operate both in the countries of departure and the countries of destination. They can be both employment agencies, namely, legal organizations, the purpose of which is to help seekers to find a job abroad and travel agencies, fashion model schools, talent agencies and so on, namely, legal firms, the primary activity of which is not employment but they do it.

Thirdly, many women go to find a job abroad at the invitation of incident acquaintances (both men and women). Fourthly, one of the ways of women's removal abroad and the involvement them into international trafficking is the activity of matrimonial agencies and the distribution of matrimonial advertisements. Such agencies are not required to obtain licenses and that does not allow to manage their activity well (Dowall, 1994).

Human trafficking is the latent crime and in this regard, difficult to punishment. If the matter is about international trafficking, then the process of victim's finding, getting out of imprisonment and also punishment of guilty persons is complicated by the fact that women are recruited in one country and a crime is committed on the territory of the other. Moreover, there is the problem of agreement when women go to a country for the purpose of legal employment but then they are subjected to deception and fall into the hands of traffickers. Also, the process of the proof of a crime is complicated by former bond-maid's unwillingness to give evidence against their "owners". Girls can be ashamed of being bond-maid and often want to forget about what happened. Besides, it is difficult to protect women, who are subjected to labor and sexual exploitation abroad because they are in a country illegally and the documents are selected by traffickers. Therefore, to reveal the fact of crime and punishment of guilty persons, efforts of one country are not enough. It is necessary to fix relationships between law enforcement agencies of different countries in order to prevent trafficking.

Also, the implementation of act on promoting public awareness about the threats while looking for a job abroad, increasing knowledge of law, especially in the field of migration law, increasing information accessibility on non-commercial organization's activities involved in combating human trafficking, development of relationships between Russian embassies and Russian citizens abroad, branching of specialized centers and shelters for victims of trafficking can reduce the stakes of human trafficking, especially trafficking in women.

## **CONCLUSION**

In summary, it should be noted the following conclusions:

- Despite the fact that the share of women in Russian migration flows is gradually decreased, the number of women who go abroad from Russia for permanent place of residence is annually increased
- Most often women and girls of the most active reproductive age leave Russia
- Regionally the dynamics of women's emigration from Russia has significant differences. There are both the leading regions on level of women's emigration (St. Petersburg) and the regions where women do not participate in immigration processes (Republic of Tuva)
- The most attractive for Russian female emigrants are such countries as Germany, Spain, France, the USA, Turkey and China
- Looking for a job in a country of destination, women and girls often do low-skilled jobs (especially if they are not educated and do not know a language) or becomes the members of sex industry. However, having highly qualified skills and proving the educational status in a host country and also knowing a language, Russian women more often hold positions in the field of information and communications technologies, education and healthcare

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Leaving Russia, women and girls are often subjected to be involved in the system of international trafficking. In most cases, they become sex slaves. Therefore, it is necessary to manage continuous work on promoting Russian women awareness about possible threats connected with international migration. Moreover, it is necessary to fix relationships between law enforcement agencies in different countries to improve the crime solving rate.

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