

CAUSES OF MIGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

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Abstract

Migration is a process with multi dimensions, which ambiguously effects on various components and individual parameters of the economic life of the host society. Furthermore, direction and intensity of this influence may be importantly different in each concrete case. Due to the specific of immigration, evaluation of its results is difficult task, which requires comprehensive and balanced analysis. It was traditionally considered that immigration provides host society with lost labor recourses and it significantly contributes in their economic development.

Migrants often settle within their home region. However, a significant part of international migration takes place over long distances and, in particular, from emerging market and developing economies toward advanced economies.

A major reason why people migrate is income differences between origin and destination countries. Richer countries attract more immigrants, especially from countries with younger populations. There is difficulty to evaluate effect of immigration on economic. This is impact on tax incomes and expenses of government. On one side, immigrants pay taxes, helping cover the cost of government. On the other side, they impose costs on the government, because their cars need roads to drive on, their children need schools to study in, and so on. Because many immigrants earn low wages and hence pay low taxes, some estimates suggest that immigrants cost more in additional spending than they pay in.

Despite the above international policy coordination is needed to tackle the challenges from refugee migration. This includes sharing the costs from hosting refugees and fostering their integration with emerging and developing economies, such as language training and easier validation of professional titles, can help build even better outcomes from immigration in recipient countries.

Keywords: War, labor migration, former international students as labor migrants, unemployment, specialization of agricultural production, protected schemes, increase of incomes.

Introduction

Flexibility and efficiency of labor market is one of the basic factor of sustainable development of social – economic system. Social and economic shocks have serious influence on dynamic of processes of employment and as a result, on the development of economic system. Economic crisis and pandemic has exacerbated employment issues in the labor market and indicated on the inevitability of the process of digitalization of communications, it significantly changed organizations and technologies in professional activities.

Accordingly, migration is a process with multi dimensions, which ambiguously effects on various components and individual parameters of the economic life of the host society. Furthermore, direction and intensity of this influence may be importantly different in each concrete case. Due to the specific of immigration, evaluation of its results is difficult task, which requires comprehensive and balanced analysis. It was traditionally considered that immigration provides host society with lost labor recourses and it significantly contributes in their economic development. Migration processes exist in the whole world and it has multi pectoral orientation, but clearly determined centers were established on labor market in which basic labor recourses are flowing. Migrants often settle within their home region. However, a significant part of international migration takes place over long distances and, in particular, from emerging market and developing economies toward advanced economies.

1. Main economic reasons of migration

In this topic I will discuss about main economic causes of migration and its impact on advanced economies, refugee immigration to developing countries, and former international students as an important source of labor migration.

1. Wars mainly explain migration between emerging and developing economies, is a more localized phenomenon, as vulnerable populations leave home suddenly with few resources and travel to a safe destination, usually close to the home country. Emerging and developing economies are therefore both the origin and the main destination of refugees.

Responding to the refugee crisis from Ukraine Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, which started on 24 February 2022, generated a historic mass flight. OECD countries responded swiftly, granting immigration concessions to Ukrainian nationals, such as visa exemptions, extended stays or prioritisation of immigration applications. The Council of the European Union enacted, for the first time, the Temporary Protection Directive, which provides a set of harmonised rights for the beneficiaries in all EU Member States. Non-EU OECD countries also took, to varying degrees, measures to facilitate the entry and stay of Ukrainian people fleeing the war.

In middle days of September of 2022, in the countries of European Union and OECD, there was marked 5 million individual refugees from Ukraine, from which 4 million were registered at schemes of temporary security or similar national security in Europe.

2. A major reason why people migrate is income differences between origin and destination countries. In middle days of September of 2022, in the countries of European Union and OECD, there was marked 5 million individual refugees from Ukraine, from which 4 million were registered at schemes of temporary security or similar national security in Europe.

Richer countries attract more immigrants, especially from countries with younger populations. The majority of labor migrants do not have stable job in their native countries. Countries with lower per capita income experience more emigration, but only if they are not too poor. This suggests that people get trapped in poverty since they are deprived of the resources needed to overcome migration costs. At the same time, we should not forget that the costs of migration include geographical and linguistic barriers, which together explain a large share of the variation of migration flows.

The truly heroic age of labor mobility was in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In a global economy newly integrated by railroads, steamships, and telegraph cables, and not yet subject to many legal restrictions on migration, tens of millions of people moved long distances in search of a better life. Chinese people moved to Southeast Asia and California, while Indian people moved to Africa and the Caribbean; in addition, a substantial number of Japanese people moved to Brazil. However, the greatest migration involved people from the periphery of Europe—from Scandinavia, Ireland, Italy, and Eastern Europe—who moved to places where land was abundant and wages were high: the United States, Canada, Argentina, and Australia.

In case of non-existence of migration, difference of salaries between countries may be cause by differences in land resources related to technology or labor. If the workforce moves from their native countries to a foreign country. This movement will reduce the Home labor force and thus raise the real wage in Home, while increasing the labor force and reducing the real wage in Foreign. If there are no obstacles to labor movement, this process will continue until the real wage rates are equalized.

It is important to distinguish three points should be noted about this redistribution of the world's labor force:

1. It leads to a convergence of real wage rates. Real wages rise in Home and fall in

Foreign.

2. It increases the world's output as a whole.

3. Despite this gain, some people are hurt by the change. Those who would originally have worked in Home receive higher real wages, but those who would originally have worked in Foreign receive lower

real wages. Landowners in Foreign benefit from the larger labor supply, but landowners in Home are made worse off.

This process cause the kind of real wage convergence.

Table shows real wages in 1870, and the change in these wages up to the eve of World War I¹.

	Real Wage, 1870 (U.S. = 100)	Percentage Increase in Real Wage, 1870–1913
Destination Countries		
Argentina	53	51
Australia	110	1
Canada	86	121
United States	100	47
Origin Countries		
Ireland	43	84
Italy	23	112
Norway	24	193
Sweden	24	250

As the table shows, at the beginning of the period, real wages were much higher in the destination than in the origin countries. Over the next four decades real wages rose in all countries, but they increased much more rapidly in the origin than in the destination countries, suggesting that migration actually did move the world toward wage equalization.

The share of immigrants in the U.S. population has varied greatly over the past two centuries. At the turn of the 20th century, the number of foreign-born U.S. residents increased dramatically due to vast immigration from Eastern and Southern Europe. Tight restrictions on immigration imposed in the 1920s brought an end to this era, and by the 1960s immigrants were a minor factor on the American scene. A new wave of immigration began around 1970, this time with most immigrants coming from Latin America and Asia. Although the share of immigrants has been steadily increasing ever since, it is still below the levels reached during the first wave of immigration. The most direct effect is that immigration has expanded the work force. As of 2014, foreignborn workers make up 16.7 percent of the U.S. labor

It was followed by the fact that MERCOSUR is the largest grouping in South America (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, and Chile and Bolivia as associate members). According to agreement of Asunson in labor relationship, the principle of free movement of labor force in the MERCOSUR countries was implemented and thus a labor market with a capacity of more than 210 million human resources was created. All countries of region faced to problem such as: unemployment, depreciation of labor force and "social dumping". Countries involved in MERCOSUR are different not only with their economic development, but also with their tradition, culture, demography and level of education of population. It definitely has impact on new labor market.

Movement of work force between labor markets of different countries is based on difference of national economic potential and it depends on migration possibilities of regions. We should consider possibility of migration as availability of migration resources, which are represented in donor countries and they are potentially directed toward the countries which receive migration. Migration capacity depends not only on the capacity of the donor countries, but also on the required scale and desired structure of migrants for the attractive country, as well as on the acceptable conditions of their reception. As a result of import of labor resources, immigrants increase earning and productivity in a shower and moderate term. Receiver country takes cheap work force and prepared specialists, as a result economic increase is accelerated and dynamic of state budget is positive. In developed economies 1 percentage point increase in the inflow of immigrants relative to total employment increases output by almost 1 percent by the fifth year. That's because native and immigrant workers bring to the labor market a diverse set of skills, which complement each other and increase productivity. Also even modest productivity

¹ Jeffrey G. Williamson, „The Evolution of Global Labor Markets Since 1930; Background Evidence and Hypotheses,“ *Explorations in Economic History* 32 (1995), pp. 141–196.

increases from immigration benefits the average income of natives. At the same time, the increased concentration of non-indigenous population in the territory has a negative impact on social and not only social relations in the host countries.

One widely cited estimate is that average wages in the United States are 3 percent lower than they would be in the absence of immigration. However, comparisons of average wages can be misleading. Immigrant workers are much more likely than native-born workers to have low levels of education. In 2006, 28 percent of the immigrant labor force had not completed high school or its equivalent, compared with only 6 percent of native-born workers. Accordingly, workforce with different levels of education is different costs for enterprise and they cannot easily replace each other. As a result, most estimates suggest that immigration has actually raised the wages of native-born Americans. Any negative effects on wages fall on less-educated Americans. There is, however, considerable dispute among economists about how large these negative wage effects are, with estimates ranging from an 8 percent decline to much smaller numbers. America's gross domestic product—the total value of all goods and services produced here—is clearly larger because of immigrant workers.

However, the positive impact of productivity is not visible for refugee immigration to emerging market and developing economies. This reflects the difficulties that these migrants face in integrating into local labor markets.

However, the share of migrants in the world's population has hovered around 3 percent over the past 60 years. Quantity of migrants are increased with more than 120 million from 1990 till today. Due to crisis caused by COVID - 19 of 2020, Migratory flows were temporarily stopped abruptly. The forcibly interrupted social relations caused by the pandemic and the resulting deformations have left their mark on the entire system of human relations. Less immigration and high unemployment in destination economies would hurt origin countries, especially poorer ones, that rely significantly on the remittances that migrant workers send back home.

After a record decrease in 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis, permanent-type migration to OECD countries bounced back by 22% in 2021. OECD countries received 4.8 million new permanent-type immigrants, but still more than half a million fewer than in 2019. First data suggest that the increase in permanent migration flows continued in 2022. Family migration increased by 40% in 2021 and remained the largest category of inflows, labor migration - by 45% and the number of new asylum applications to OECD countries rose by 28% in 2021, to above 1 million. The main origin countries were Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Syria.

The United States remained the largest recipient of permanent immigrants in 2021 (834 000), 43% more than in 2020, and 19% less than in 2019. The population in emerging market and developing economies will continue to rise over the next 30 years and migration pressures toward advanced economies are likely to increase.

3. Former international students are an important feeder for labour migration in many countries. During their studies, between one in three and one in four international students work in the EU, the United Kingdom and the United States, about one in two in Australia and nine in ten in Japan.

In 2020, there were 4.4 million international students enrolled in the OECD, accounting for on average 10% of all tertiary students. The most important receiving countries are the United States (22% of all international students), the United Kingdom (13%) and Australia (10%). While the destinations of international students have diversified over the past decade, the main origin countries remain China and India.

Over the past decade, almost all OECD countries implemented wide-ranging policies to retain international students after completion of their degree, but the retention of international students varies greatly. Five years after initial admission, more than 60% of international students who obtained a permit for study reasons in 2015 were still present in Canada and Germany, around half in Australia, Estonia and New Zealand, and around two in five in France and Japan. The share of students remaining was below 15% in Denmark, Slovenia, Italy and Norway.

Transition from study permits accounted for a large share of total admissions for work in 2019, especially in France (52%), Italy (46%) and Japan (37%). In the United States 57%. International

students who remain in the host country post-study have long-term employment rates that are on par with those of labour migrants and well above those of migrants overall.

While student migration can be of great benefit, the delegation of a gatekeeping role to higher education institutions, and the growing share of economic migration comprised by former students, still carry a number of risks, including distorting migration regulation and undermining labour market regulations.

Across OECD countries, international students made up 5% of students enrolled at bachelor's, 14% at master's, and 24%² at the doctoral level in the academic year 2020. In 2020, 29% of international students in OECD countries remained in the same broader geographical region.

In the OECD as a whole, direct export revenues from international students increased in nominal terms from over EUR 50 billion in 2010 to over EUR 110 billion in 2019.

2. Assessment of the impact of migration on the economy and the policy of Georgia

There is difficulty in estimating the impact of immigration on the economy. However, it's seemingly undeniably positive economic effect is diminishing more and more now when negative social – political results of immigration clearly are clearly shown in countries and regions where migrants arrive and which mostly results from its characteristics and there is clearly shown:

- Increased threat of terrorism;
- Erosion of national identity and racism;
- The growth of ethnic conflicts and political extremism;
- Increase of exploitation between migrant workers and entrepreneurs that is marked by decrease of salaries;
- Outflow of national currency in the form of exports or transfers of funds by migrants;
- Arising additional problems, which are related to the social protection of migrants, increase of level of crime;
- The growth of the shadow economy sector in the absence of formal employment opportunities for migrants;
- Loss of trained cheap immigrant specialists upon return to their home countries;
- Reduction of wages among the indigenous population (at places where local workers compete to emigrants);
- Increase of social expenses;
- Slowing of economic increase and etc.

Similarly to other countries of the World, factors causing emigration and immigration in Georgia are also complex and related to economic, social and political changes and also people's individual decisions. In history of Georgia, there was a period when main reasons of emigration were unstable situation existing in the country and circumstances regarding safety. However, later economic and social factors played significant role, namely:

- Unemployment existing in the villages caused massive migration of village population in the cities / towns, also their emigration abroad. Problem gets more severe by the fact that specific share of teenagers (until 16 years old) is annually reduced and specific share of older people (over 60 years old) is annually increased among population of village, that's why indicator of natural increase in absolute majority of villages is below zero;
- Important economic differences of life level,
- Migrants' desires to improve their families' standard of living by moving to a new place of residence or traveling abroad to earn money;
- Networks of expatriates abroad;
- Better possibilities to gain education in developed countries.

As a result, migration processes in our country caused social conversions, namely deformation of age and gender structure, natural decrease of population and effect of “brain drain”.

² Migration flows bounced back in 2021

<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/30fe16d2-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/30fe16d2-en> [L.s. 1.03.2023].

Efficiency of labor recourses are revealed by determination of unemployment level, that is characteristic for quality of correct usage of labor recourses. It is true that unemployment was reduced with 6.6 % for last 10 years in case of Georgia (according to data of 2010 – 2021) and it is 20.6 % according to data of 2021, but compared to the world unemployment rate (6.18 %) of the same year, it is three times more. Additionally, the problem of low income level affects all categories of employees. Although the average monthly nominal salary of employees in the economy improved in some areas, but its value is still low – 1360 Gel³, when this value is 2570 Euro⁴ in Europe, it is 4176 \$⁵ in the USA. At the same time, during pandemic, in 2019 -2021, unemployment was still increased with 3 % that causes process of labor immigration. As a result, we got a type of population reproduction characterized by a low birth rate, increase of death and negative saldo of migration 2021 – (-25 966)⁶ people and increase in the volume of remittances, that is more with 133.2 5 (2022 – 535, 3 mln USD dollar) compared to indicators of previous year⁷ and it is an important source of livelihood for a large part of immigrant families. At the same time, remittances make a great contribution to the development of human capital, as they are mostly used for health care and education.

According to the data of the National Statistical Service of Georgia under condition of 1st January of 2022, quantity of population of Georgia amounts 36886 and 99 974 of them are emigrants, which is more with 34.6 % compared to data of previous year and 88.6 % of them working age population (15-64 age group).

Emigrants by country of current residence

Country of usual residence	Total
Russia	19 195
Greece	14 048
Turkey	9 922
Italy	9 612
Germany	6 259
USa	5 021
Total	99 974

At this time Georgia is experiencing the demographic crisis mentioned above and it is a supplier of cheap labor migration resources, which is so necessary for the sustainable development of our economy.

Beside this, the share of imported products in the volume of the grocery basket consumed in the country is increasing year by year, that substantially delays development of local agriculture manufacturing and terminaiton of labor migration.

Accordingly, effective management of migration is a formula with two tasks for solving demographic and unemployment problems for Georgian politics. It is also an important instrument for getting closer to European Union because labor market is integral part of social system and significant component of economic system. Economic increase of concrete territory is exactly depended on efficiency and balance of the market. Both the government and socio-economic regulatory measures have a complex effect on the labor market. Development of labor market is directly depended on demanding of labor and providing of labor. During the process of functioning of labor market, there is created interdependent equilibrium between the level of employment and the level of wages due to temporary balance between mentioned factors. Under these conditions, labor supply is directly proportional to the wage level.

That's why proper planning and management of the migration politics in our country began in 1997 during the period of President Eduard Shevardnadze, when there was created first document „ On

³ Households Incomes, <https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/50/households-income> [L.s. 1.03.2023].

⁴ Average Monthly Salary in European Union 2022 <https://www.reinisfischer.com/average-monthly-salary-european-union-2022> [L.s. 1.03.2023].

⁵America: Rankings by Country of Average Monthly Net Salary (After Tax) (Salaries And Financing) https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_price_rankings?displayCurrency=USD&itemId=105®ion=019 [L.s. 1.03.2023].

⁶Migration, <https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/322/migration> [L.s. 1.03.2023].

⁷ money-transfers, National Bank of Georgia <https://nbg.gov.ge/en/page/money-transfers> [L.s. 1.03.2023].

conception of migration politics of Georgia". Subsequently, the 2013-2015 and 2016-2020 migration⁸ strategies became a strategic documents for Georgia. They were developed on the basis of accumulated experience and taking reality of that time into consideration (there are meant the Association Agreement and Visa Liberalization Acting Plan). However, existing regulatory framework turned out to be insufficient, as a large number of migrants could not be registered and counted. It is true that new rules were important steps forward, but they could not solve bulk of problems, such as massive illegal migration and acceptance of working permission.

Despite of this, our government is not passive observer of political circumstances regarding movements occurred in the field of global and local migration and changes relating to them. As a result, in 2021-2030 strategy of migration⁹ was developed and its aim is the following:

formulate the state's concrete interests in the field, adjust the 'migration and development' policy to them, and, by applying successful international practice, develop its own system aimed at addressing the challenges faced by the world community.

3. Difficulties of formation of labor market and ways to solve them

At the time of discussing about labor market and assessment of its impact on labor migration, it should be mentioned that thesis of classical theories do not give possibility to describe interaction between potential migrants and employers because this approach does not take into account the regulations on the behavior of migrants while moving.

According to the theory of marginal productivity developed by representatives of the neoclassical direction, in which cost of goods is determined by their marginal utility on the basis of subjective evaluation of necessities of an individual person. Under these provisions, government regulation is not a necessary tool to ensure full employment. At the same time, regulation about provision for flexible response of wages to market needs according to supply and demand makes it possible to take into account impact of dynamic of migration of population on development of labor market. Supporters of neoclassical school supposed that amount of salaries is one of the main regulatory mechanisms of labor market and increase of salary causes more expenses on enterprise and decrease of working places. It was also noted that along with the decrease in production costs, the price of the product decreases and the purchasing power of the population increases. As a result, additional demand is arisen which supports expanding of manufacture and employment.

Part of economists scale for small countries is, to specialize in the production and export of a limited range of products and to import other goods. Import-substituting industrialization eliminates this option by focusing industrial production on the domestic market. Those who criticize import-substituting industrialization also argue that it has aggravated other problems, such as income inequality, migration and unemployment.

In order to solve a problem in Georgia, we should determine the best area for the distribution of plants for individual villages, the best natural conditions for the organization of animal husbandry and taking into account them, we should make the correct specialization of agricultural production and the formation of rational measures of farming with the help of special structures (ministries of agriculture and finance) to be able to introduce schemes protected by the state and delimit the priority agricultural crops for the state that will cause employment of the able-bodied population and income growth. Higher incomes in emerging market and developing economies will reduce migration pressures.

Other pressures explored as alternative scenarios will also impact migration. For instance, climate change is expected to lead to a significant increase in internal and regional migration in emerging market and developing economies. At the same time, suggest that its impact on migration toward advanced economies is less clear-cut, given that lower incomes in many poorer countries may "trap" more individuals in their region of origin.

⁸ Migration Strategy of Georgia 2016-2020, https://migration.commission.ge/files/migration_strategy_2016-2020.pdf [L.s. 1.03.2023].

⁹ Migration Strategy of Georgia 2021-2030, https://migration.commission.ge/files/ms30_eng_web2.pdf [L.s. 1.03.2023].

For creation and development of labor market in Georgia, it is necessary to develop a migration policy, about which we discussed in the topic, as well as to attract and employ qualified specialists, to form conception of social – economic development of Georgia in order to maximally increase incomes using the resources that our country has, taking into account the natural-climatic-geographical factors.

Development of labor market will decrease migration flows if programs are developed with potential migrants, taking into account their education, qualification level, language skills and personal characteristics in order to attract high-quality labor resources necessary for sustainable economic growth.

Optimization of current migration processes on labor market, implementation of development programs and events will give Georgia the basis to implement the following:

- Measures to reduce unemployment and to provide economic development of country;
- Control of dynamic of educational and scientific migration;
- Management of labor migration at the time of social-economic risks, uncertainty and crisis conditions;
- Maintenance of returning labor-employment;
- Reduction of migration of qualified specialists, who are involved in foreign scientific organizations in order to implement perspective joint projects.
- Attracting foreign scientists to work on scientific projects.

Conclusion

It should be mentioned that on one side, migration has one benefit for host countries and it gives migrants possibility for better life. But, it also has possibility to arise problems in the area of distribution of tax revenue and government expenditure, because local workers may have economic loss in certain segments of market, at least temporarily. Therefore, tax and labor market policies should be used to support incomes and retrain local populations facing labor market difficulties. On one side, immigrants pay taxes, helping cover the cost of government. On the other side, they impose costs on the government, because their cars need roads to drive on, their children need schools to study in, and so on. Because many immigrants earn low wages and hence pay low taxes, some estimates suggest that immigrants cost more in additional spending than they pay in.

Despite the above international policy coordination is needed to tackle the challenges from refugee migration. This includes sharing the costs from hosting refugees and fostering their integration with emerging and developing economies, such as language training and easier validation of professional titles, can help build even better outcomes from immigration in recipient countries.

Finally, and most importantly for the analysis of future migration pressures, the population size of the source country is the main driver of migration flows. Scientists suppose that mobility of population will increase by volume and their social and cultural characteristics will become much more diverse because migration processes are the result of the entry of national economies into global relations and they can be seen as a stimulus for further social transformations in both host and origin countries.

it may be helpful to recall what Swiss author Max Frisch once said about the effects of immigration into his own country, which at one point relied heavily on workers from other countries: “We asked for labor, but people came.”¹⁰

¹⁰ Hanson, G., „Challenges for Immigration Policy,” in C. Fred Bergsten, ed The united states and the World Economy: Foreign Economic Policy for the Next Decade, Washington, D.C : Institute for International Economics, 2005, pp. 343-372.

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