

Study of migration using the results of the 2010 population census round in CIS countries: analysis of results

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Abstract

Population censuses within the Round 2010 have been conducted in 9 out of 11 CIS member states. Questions, related to migration have been integral part of all these censuses programs. The results of analysis of censuses results clearly demonstrated the problem of comparability of data on migration between the countries of the Commonwealth. Bilateral comparison of migration flows (“mirror statistics”) implies that data on migration are expected to be collected about the same cohorts of migrating persons – statistics on their arrivals in receiving countries, and statistics on departures - in sending countries. Theoretically these figures should be quite close to each other by their quantity. In practice, differences between quantities of migration flows in the pairs of sending/receiving countries in some cases are quite significant. The main reasons for that are: Long (5 years) time lapse between conducting of national censuses in CIS countries (from 2009 through 2014); Differences in categories of population being interviewed on migration related questions: in one group of countries data have been collected on people changed their places (countries) of permanent residence, while in other group of countries censuses questionnaires included questions about temporary residing and temporary absent persons. Differences in formulation of questions and in methodology of registration and accounting of different categories of migrants.

Keywords: Population Censuses; CIS; Migration Research; fourth keyword.

1. Introduction

The main part of the external migration in the CIS member states occurs within the Commonwealth – it accounts for almost 85% of the migration turnover in these countries. In this regard, the importance of migratory statistics increases, including population censuses as a source of information that allows to get the volumes and characteristics of migration. According to programs of national population censuses, all the countries of CIS, which carried out censuses of the 2010 round, investigated migration. At present CIS STAT is summarizing the results of the 2010 population census round in CIS countries and is reviewing their methodologies.

2. General information about the census CIS

2010 round population censuses were conducted in nine out of eleven CIS countries¹. The difference between the dates when the 2010 round of national censuses was conducted was as much as five years.

Table 1 - Dates of conducting the 2010 population census round in CIS countries

Year	Country	Date
2009	Azerbaijan	April 13 to 22
	Belarus	October 14 to 24
	Kazakhstan	February 25 to March 6
	Kyrgyzstan	March 24 to April 2
2010	Tajikistan	September 21 to 30
	Russia	October 14 to 25
2011	Armenia	October 12 to 21
2012	Turkmenistan	December 15 to 26
2014	Moldova	May 12 to 25

¹ As of August 2014, Ukraine and Uzbekistan have not conducted a population census for the 2010 round. Uzbekistan conducted in 2012 a sample social and demographic survey.

According to the estimates of CIS STAT approximately 80% of the total population of CIS countries was enumerated².

Table 2 - Estimated permanent population according to census rounds 2000 and 2010, thousands of people

Country	Round 2000	Round 2010	(+)/(-)
Azerbaijan	7,953.4	8,922.4	+969.0
Armenia	3,213.0	3,018.9	-194.1
Belarus	10,045.2	9,503.8	-541.4
Kazakhstan	14,981.3	16,009.6	+1028.3
Kyrgyzstan	4,822.9	5,362.8	+539.9
Moldova	3,383.3		
Russia	145,166.7	142,856.5	-2,310.2
Tajikistan	6,127.5	7,564.5	+1,437.0
Turkmenistan	4,437.6 ³		
Uzbekistan			
Ukraine	4,8240.9		

All CIS countries conduct population censuses on the basis of either laws on population census, or laws on statistics that contain legal norms for the population census. They are conducted in compliance with international recommendations, in consistency with the previous rounds and with the account for the national needs in information.

Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan conducted their censuses with a 10 year interval between each census, while the Russian Federation had a 8 year interval from the earlier census; Turkmenistan had a full count census for the first time in its new history in the 2000 round (in 1995 only a sample social and demographic survey was conducted).

All CIS countries conducted population censuses for the 2010 round using traditional method of questioning by interviewers. In some cases data from administrative sources were used. The countries did not use sampling for the purposes of taking their population census⁴.

In Soviet history population censuses traditionally estimated two categories of population: permanent population and present population. In the 2000 round most of the CIS countries switched to estimating only the permanent population; this approach has been preserved in the 2010 round. All countries used a single definition of the permanent population: that being in residence for 12 months and more.

In view of migration processes in their countries Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan estimated present population as well.

Table 3 - Present and permanent population, thousands of people

Country	Year	Population		Difference between present and permanent population	
		present	permanent	total	as % of the permanent population
Armenia	2011	2,871.8	3,018.9	-147.1	4.9
Kyrgyzstan	2009	5,107.7	5,362.8	-255.1	4.8
Tajikistan	2010	7,099.3	7,564.5	-465.2	6.1

² Moldova and Turkmenistan have not yet published official results of population census.

³ 1995

⁴ In the Russian Federation in the previous round of population census a sampling method was used: 75% were enumerated using short questionnaires (11 questions) and 25% by using long questionnaires (26 questions).

3. Study of migration

The programs of national population censuses included the most important issues of the social and demographic processes in CIS countries. They involved obtaining the geographical distribution of the population, demographic, socio-economic, ethno-linguistic and educational characteristics of the population, the structure of households and families, as well as their living conditions.

A population census provides information on external and internal migration, and on the citizenships of people. In accordance with the programs for national population censuses CIS countries paid much attention to the subject of migration (Annexes 1 and 2); the list of questions related to migration was expanded (e.g. many countries included questions on residence abroad and the year of arrival in the country and on commuting).

All CIS countries, in compliance with the recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for conducting population and housing Censuses, included in their census programs questions on the place of birth, country of citizenship, previous place of permanent residence, and the date of arrival at the current place of residence. These questions relate to the main recommended variables.

Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Turkmenistan used an **expanded version** of the questionnaire and obtained data on the year and month of arrival to the current place of permanent residence, and of the previous place of permanent residence;

Azerbaijan, Russia, and Tajikistan used a **shorter version** asking questions on the place of permanent residence a year before the census dates.

Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova in addition asked questions on the reasons for changing place of permanent residence (an additional variable).

After obtaining information on the length of residence it was possible for countries to publish data on the numbers of people who arrived at the place of permanent residence during various time intervals, including those who resided in the place which was not their place of birth.

It is interesting to compare data on the intensity of internal migration occurring during the one year before the census, the so called active migration. However it is necessary to take into account different census dates and different social and economic conditions as factors impacting the migration mobility of populations

Table 4 - Migrants who changed their places of permanent residence within 5 or more years (by previous place of residence, thousands of people)

Country	Total population	Arrived at the place of permanent residence	of which:				
			Changed place of residence within the country		Arrived from CIS and other countries		
			total	% of the population	from CIS countries	from other countries	% of the population
Changed place of residence during life time							
Azerbaijan	8,922.4	1,196.5	955.4	10.7	235.6	5.5	2.7
Armenia	3,018.9	769.5	520.3	17.2	191.8		6.3
Kyrgyzstan	5,362.8	1,340.9	1,093.3	20.4	215.0	15.2	4.3
Tajikistan	7,564.5	594.0	549.9	7.9	37.8	6.3	0.6
Changed place of residence during the 10 years between censuses							
Kazakhstan	16,009.6	5,976.2	2,381.2	14.9	542.8	107.9	4.1
Changes place of residence during the 5 years before the census							
Belarus	9,503.8	457.7	406.1	4.2	32.1	7.1	0.4

Table 5 - Migrants who changed places of permanent residence within one year before the census (by previous place of residence, thousands of people)

Country	Total population	Arrived to the place of permanent residence	of which:				
			Changed place of residence within the country		Arrived from CIS and other countries		
			total	% of the population	from CIS countries	from other countries	% of the population
Azerbaijan	8,922.4	67.1	60.9	0.7	6.2		0.1
Kazakhstan	16,009.6	426.1	344.6	2.2	66.2	15.3	0.5
Russia	140,960.1 ⁵	3,095.3	2,618.7	1.9	202.5	32.4	0.2
Tajikistan	7,564.5	103.5	95.8	1.2	6.3	1.4	0.1

The results of the censuses demonstrate that the percentages of non-citizens permanently residing in respective CIS countries are insignificant. As the number of migrants who are citizens of other countries is predominately those of CIS countries; their share varies from 58% in Tajikistan to 89% in Belarus.

Table 6 - Percentage of Non-CIS citizens in the permanent populations

Azerbaijan	Armenia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Russia ⁶	Tajikistan
0.13	0.74	1.33	0.63	0.57	0.48	0.1

Usually questions on migration are aimed at estimating immigration as it is more difficult to estimate emigration within a population census. Emigration can partially be estimated with the help of questions on duration and reasons for absence of some of the household members reported by the available household members at the time of enumeration. As sometimes all household members go abroad and there is no one to provide information on them, it is difficult to ensure comprehensive information on emigration on the basis of census results.

All countries (with the exception of Russia) included questions on individuals who are temporarily absent at the place of their permanent residence on the date of the census, as well as on the duration and reasons of their absence (Annex 2). In Russia, marks of temporary absence, duration and reasons for absence were inserted when filling out the list of residents which was a non-machine readable document and was not used in automated data processing for generating census results.

In all countries temporary residents were interviewed. A special question was used including the reason for the arrival (except for Tajikistan). In Russia, to interview temporary residents (less than 12 months) a special enumeration form with small number of questions was used. This form was used to enumerate 489 thousand people, of which 65% reported that work was the reason for their arrival.

It should be noted that it is very difficult to enumerate labor migrants, especially short-term ones, as many of them are without work permits and try to avoid enumeration.

4. Conclusions

In general, CIS countries used common approaches to enumerating migrants using the population census. However, such basic definitions as what is "migration" and a "migrant" are not consistent, and although they are close, there are still some differences in the meaning.

To study migration on the basis of the results of the 2020 round of the population census it will be necessary to bring the census dates in CIS countries closer together, and to agree on common definitions of "migration" and "migrant". This is important for migration analysis within the countries and between

⁵ Private households. Besides, 901.2 thousand people did not indicate the territory.

⁶ Percentage of those who answered the question on citizenship; 4.1 million people did not answer this question

CIS countries; the latter is a key activity of interstate cooperation. It is likely this could be undertaken within the framework of the Single Economic Space of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia.

In view of rather intensive migration flows between some CIS countries, it appears especially important to compare the results of censuses. This will make it possible to estimate migration flows between partner countries, in particular labor migration.

In the course of preparations for the 2010 population census rounds in CIS countries, the Council of the Heads of Statistical Services of the CIS made a decision to establish a Coordination Council for conducting the 2010 population census in CIS countries with the participation of representatives from national statistical services. As a result, the tabular layouts for interstate data exchange and the publication of the results of the 2010 population census round were approved.

At present, on the website of the CIS Statistical Committee (<http://www.cisstat.org>) the following data on the 2010 population census round are presented and can be compared with previous rounds:

- The permanent population (starting from the 1959 census);
- The permanent population of the countries' capitals (starting from 1989 census);
- The permanent population by sex and age (2000 and 2010 rounds);
- Number of households and their average size (2000 and 2010 rounds);
- Number of households with children under 18 (2000 and 2010 rounds);
- Population by education level (2000 and 2010 rounds);
- Ethnic composition of CIS countries (2000 and 2010 rounds);
- Permanent population by citizenship (2000 and 2010 rounds);
- Migrants by duration of stay in the place of permanent residence and by previous place of residence (2000 and 2010 rounds).

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Annex 1 - Geographic and Migration Characteristics in the 2010 Round of Population Censuses

		Azer- bajjan	Armenia	Belarus	Kazakh- stan	Kyrgyz- stan	Moldova	Russia	Tajikis- tan	Turkme- nistan
1	Permanent residence in this settlement	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2	Since when living in this settlement	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3	Temporary residence	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	- aim of arrival, of which for work	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
4	Temporary absence	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
5	Was the previous place of residence within the territory of this state?	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
	If not, then									
	- indicate the country from which you came to this state for permanent residence	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
	- aim of arrival in the country for permanent residence	●	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	○
6	Name of region, city or other state, in which you were living for a certain period of time before the conduct of the census	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	- one year before the census	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	- longer period	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
7	Location of work (name of city, region, country)	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	○
8	Reason for migration	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	○	○

Annex 2 - Information on the people temporarily absent from the territory of state (Information was registered by means of inquiry of members of the households)

		Azer- bajjan	Armenia	Belarus	Kazakh- stan	Kyrgyz- stan	Moldova	Russia	Tajikis- tan	Turkme- nistan
1.	Persons temporarily absent from the place of their permanent residence	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
	- period of absence	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●
	- reason of absence, of which work	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●

● - the question is envisaged in the census questionnaire

○ - the question is not envisaged in the census questionnaire