

Ukraine

General Information



Population

38 000 000 (World Bank 2022)

41 418 717 (UKRCENSUS 2021)



Immigration

4 997 387 (UN DESA Immigration Stock 2020)

26 361 (UKRSTAT 2020)



Emigration

6 139 144 (UN DESA Emigration Stock 2020)

19 121 (UKRSTAT 2020)



Working-age population

24 990 962 (World Bank 2022)

27 927 758 (UKRCENSUS 2021)



Unemployment rate

9.8 % (World Bank 2021)

10.4 % (UKRSTAT IQ 2021)



GDP

160 502 737 251.1 current prices USD (World Bank 2022)

1 008 562 current prices UAH (UKRSTAT IQ 2021)



Refugees and IDPs

Refugees

2 532 (UNHCR 2023)

1 276 (DMSU mid-2020)

Asylum Seekers

460 (UNHCR 2023)

859 (DMSU mid-2020)

IDPs

5 088 000 (UNHCR 2023)

1 473 650 (MSP mid-2021)



Citizenship

By Birth

No (GLOBALCIT 2022)

By Descent

Yes (GLOBALCIT 2022)

Years of Residency

5 (GLOBALCIT 2022)



Territory

603 550 km² (CIA World Factbook)

Migration Authorities

Responsible Body

Ministry of Interior

Line Ministries

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Social Policy

Agencies

State Migration Service

State Border Guard Service

Security Service

Key Policy Documents

Ukraine's strategy of the state migration policy of Ukraine for the period of 2017-2025

2016 Law on Amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine concerning documents proving citizenship of Ukraine, identity certificate or special status, aimed at liberalization of the visa regime for Ukraine by the EU

2015 Law on ensuring of rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons

2015 Law on external labor migration

2015-2020 Development strategies of the State Border Guard Service

2014 Law on Ensuring Rights and Freedoms of IDPs

2013 On the unified state demographic register and documents confirming the citizenship of Ukraine, identity or special status

2012 Law on the legal status of foreigners and stateless persons

2012 Law on refugees and persons in need of subsidiary protection and asylum

2011 Decree of the President of Ukraine on the Concept of State Migration Policy

2010 Law on border control

2001 Law on citizenship of Ukraine

2001 Law on Immigration

Relevant Publications

Analytical Report 'Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Mapping the Flows and Challenges'

In migration terms, Ukraine is a country of origin, transit and destination. Various factors have influenced the national migration situation: the population decline by ten million people since 1993, socio-economic development, labour market situation, visa liberalization with the EU, the annexation of Crimea and the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. While the net migration rate has been positive since 2005, the population continues to decline, mostly due to natural decrease, and ages rapidly.

According to the [State Statistics Service of Ukraine](#), the outflow in 2020 amounted to 19,121 and the inflow to 26,361 persons. Most flows are regional, between Ukraine and neighbouring CIS countries to the East as well as EU Member States to the West. [CIS countries](#) (Moldova, Belarus and Russia), along with Turkey and India, constitute the top countries of origin of immigrants. Meanwhile, EU member states (i.e. Italy, Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic) along with Russia constitute the main countries of destination.

According to the [World Migration Report 2020](#), Ukraine is one of the top countries of origin of international migrants following India, Mexico, China, Russia, Syria, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Official sources estimate that over [3 million](#) Ukrainians work abroad on a permanent basis and [7 to 9 million](#) temporarily. Almost half ([45%](#)) of all emigrants leave for economic reasons. Ukrainian labour migrants have become the backbone of the Ukrainian economy contributing to some [8 %](#) of the country's GDP through remittances.

While there is no accurate data on the exact number of Ukrainians leaving the country, the number of Ukrainians residing in the EU is constantly growing. In 2019, [over 750,000](#) Ukrainian nationals received first-time residence permits in the EU, thereby constituting a record number. 87% of them were issued for remunerated activities with the lion's share issued by Poland for a period of three to eleven months. Migration flows to Russia, on the other hand, have been steadily declining from close to [1.8 million](#) in 2017 to [1.6 million](#) in 2019 and [790,000 in 2020](#). Meanwhile, the number of Ukrainian nationals who obtained Russian citizenship reached a maximum of [409,549 in 2020](#). The amendments to [Russia's citizenship law](#) passed in 2020 may in part explain this trend. Since 2014, Russia has also been hosting a considerable number of [Ukrainian refugees](#) but the number declined sharply from over 300,000 in 2015 to some 18,000 in 2020.

In 2020, Ukraine hosted over [290,000 immigrants](#). However, the annual number of new permanent residence permits reached a minimum of approximately [12,000](#) for the first time in the past decade. In 2020, some [150,000](#) foreigners stayed temporarily in the country. These are mostly university students and temporary workers. Meanwhile, the number of foreigners and stateless persons officially working in Ukraine is increasing: from [12,400 in 2017](#) to [over 23,400 in 2020](#). Labour migrants are mostly executives and managers with every third heading an enterprise.

Increased immigration, in particular from [Azerbaijan, India, Turkey, Morocco and Nigeria](#), has done little to compensate the significant demographic decline, and Ukraine still lacks a systematic integration policy. The country is equally home to the region's largest number of IDPs, amounting to over [734,000 persons](#) according to UNHCR and over [1.4 million](#) according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. To present, their situation remains an emergency as they continue facing [severe challenges](#), ranging from their socio-economic

Analytical Report 'Ukrainian Labour Migration to the EU'

Analytical Report 'Combating irregular migration and human trafficking in the CIS countries'

Policy Brief 'Countering Human Trafficking: Identifying, Returning and Assisting Victims from Ukraine'

Policy Brief 'Ukraine: First visa-free year since introducing the visa-free regime'

Ukraine Extended Migration Profile 2011

Ukraine Migration Profile 2013

Interview with Katerina Ivaschenko on 'Security issues form and shape migration in Ukraine'

Interview with Tetiana Nikitina from the State Migration Service on Ukraine's involvement in the Prague Process

Background Note 'Migration and Mobility in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: What to expect in times of COVID-19?'

integration to properly addressing their political, legal or psychological needs.

A country of transit, Ukraine is bordering the EU and Schengen area. In recent years, the number of transit migrants crossing the country irregularly has been on the **rise**. At present, Ukraine has concluded readmission agreements with **17 countries**.

Ukraine's demographic decline and continued outflow of labour force create labour shortages and hinder economic growth. In response, the country has been constantly adjusting and improving its migration policies. Enhancing and facilitating the return and reintegration of Ukrainians is one important element of these efforts, as stipulated in the **Strategy of the state migration policy until 2025**, adopted in 2017. The Strategy further identifies **tasks aimed at promoting legal immigration** to Ukraine through developing and setting up a quota system for employment, which shall respond flexibly to labour market needs.

Within the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development of GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova), Ukraine aims to combat irregular migration through proactive information exchange and joint efforts to identify human smugglers and traffickers.

Ukraine contributed actively to the elaboration of the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees but signed neither of them because they did not tackle the issue of IDPs critical to Ukraine.