

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.11425296

THE ROLE OF KAZAKHSTAN IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: FACTORS OF MOBILITY

Galiya Burakanova¹, Nurlan Baigabylov^{2*}, Dinara Issina³, Baltash Karipov⁴

¹L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University Department Sociology 010008, 2 Satpayev Str., Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan. Email: galiyab@mail.ru Orcid ID: orcid.org/0000-0002-1168-3842

²Dr. Associate Professor Department of Sociology L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University Astana, Kazakhstan. Email: baigabylov_no@enu.kz Orcid ID: 0000-0001-8212-9171

³Department of Sociology L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University PhD student 010008, 2 Satpayev Str., Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan. Email: issinadinara23@gmai.com Orcid ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-2002-9086>

⁴Doctor of Political Sciences Associate Professor Department of History, Geography and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines Kokshetau, Kazakhstan Shokan Ualikhanov University. St. Email: Abai Kunanbayev 76 Orcid ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7157-2418>

Received: 11/11/2025

Accepted: 18/12/2025

Corresponding Author: Nurlan Baigabylov
(baigabylov_no@enu.kz)

ABSTRACT

The article pays particular attention to Kazakhstan's role in international migration, which in recent years has become an important route for migrants, especially Russians, using its territory for temporary stay or further movement to other countries. The study identifies the factors that have influenced the choice of Kazakhstan as a migration destination. Among foreign migrants, IT specialists and entrepreneurs prevail. They note Kazakhstan's well-developed infrastructure but face high rental costs and bureaucratic challenges in processing documentation. Kazakhstan's attraction of foreign specialists has had a positive impact on the economy. In the concluding part of the article, the mobility factors characteristic of Kazakhstan are presented, along with recommendations for optimizing the country's migration policy, including the simplification of bureaucratic procedures, support for entrepreneurship, and regulation of housing costs.

KEYWORDS: Cases, Mobility Factors, Mobilization, Positive and Negative Aspects, Kazakhstan, Russia.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Kazakhstan has become a major channel for population movement from CIS countries, particularly for Russians seeking new countries for peaceful residence. The dynamics and directions of migration processes in CIS countries can be determined based on factors that contribute to the active mobility of migrants, by examining economic conditions, migrants' social activity, cultural and linguistic ties, as well as infrastructure accessibility and employment opportunities. At the beginning of the period under consideration, starting from 2022, Russians preferred moving to countries with convenient transportation links, visa-free regimes, and affordable living costs, such as Armenia, Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, the UAE, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and visa-free countries in Central and South America.

Thus, those who moved to European Union countries, the United States, Israel, and the United Kingdom were mainly individuals who already had visas and the legal ability to reside there for an extended period¹.

At the same time, Kazakhstan attracted migrants due to its geographical proximity, the widespread use of the Russian language in daily life and official contexts, the possibility of entry with a Russian passport, and the simplicity of obtaining temporary residence documents.

In the following year, 2023, a new wave of mass emigration occurred, predominantly among Russian men. According to Forbes, between 600,000 and 1 million people left the country within two weeks².

Most migrants chose neighboring countries that could be entered without a visa or with a Russian passport. The main destinations were Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Georgia³.

According to estimates by the online publication "Bumaga", more than 180,000 people left Russia within a week of the mobilization announcement,

with 98,000 to 100,000 of them heading to Kazakhstan⁴.

The Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan published 2022 statistics on foreigners arriving in the country. The data showed that 1.66 million Russians entered Kazakhstan, while 1.64 million left.

"The arrival and stay of migrants in Kazakhstan are under strict control by the migration service. No foreign citizen can remain in our country without complying with migration legislation. According to statistics, this year, approximately 4.3 million foreigners entered Kazakhstan, and 4.1 million left, including 1.66 million Russian citizens who entered and 1.64 million who departed. Their temporary stay in the country is recorded, with passport details, entry dates, and comprehensive information available for each individual. All migration processes are closely monitored."

For citizens of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states (Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan), the maximum allowed stay in Kazakhstan is 90 days.

According to the migration service, 3,200 Russians were subjected to administrative penalties for overstaying their permitted time in Kazakhstan, out of a total of 45,700 foreign violators⁵.

According to Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Kazakhstan, Tamara Duissenova, more than 400,000 Russians entered Kazakhstan after the announcement of mobilization in Russia. Meanwhile, just over 320,000 Russian citizens left the country, while around 100,000 remain in Kazakhstan as of now.

The Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs also reported that between September 21 and October 4, 2022, more than 200,000 Russians arrived in the country, while 147,000 departed during the same period⁶.

As reported by *The Bell* in December 2022 and the

¹ Kozhenko, A., Akhmeteli, N., & Atanesyan, G. (2022). Anti-war exodus. Thousands of Russians fled the country after the start of the war with Ukraine. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/russian/features-60682916>

² Kiseleva, M., Safronova, V. (2023). New Russian Emigrants. Who Are They, How Many of Them Are There, and Where Did They Go? BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/russian/features-65686712>

³ Meduza. (2022). At the border of Russia with Georgia, Finland, and Kazakhstan, multi-kilometer queues have formed. Those leaving are being asked about their military service. <https://web.archive.org/web/20220928101921/https://meduza.io/feature/2022/09/22/na-granitse-rossii-s-gruziyey-finlyandiyei->

[i-kazahstanom-voznikli-mnogokilometroyeocheredi-uezzhayuschih-sprashivayut-o-sluzhbe-v-armii](https://www.bbc.com/russian/features-60682916)

⁴ Bumaga. (2022). How many Russians left for Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Finland after the announcement of mobilization? Calculations by "Bumaga". <https://paperpaper.ru/papernews/2022/9/27/skolko-rossiyan-uehali-v-gruziyu-kazah/?s=09>

⁵ Kommersant: Latest News of Russia and the World. (2022). Kazakhstan named the number of Russians who arrived in the republic. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/5572725>

⁶ BusinessOnline. (2022). The number of Russians who left for Kazakhstan after the announcement of mobilization was revealed. <https://www.business-gazeta.ru/news/573770>

Finnish Institute of International Affairs in March 2023, Kazakhstan received the largest number of migrants from Russia – between 100,000 and 146,000

people. These figures illustrate the scale of emigration from Russia during the specified period⁷.

Direction:	The Bell rating:	Finnish Institute of International Affairs rating:
Georgia	112	60
Kazakhstan	100	146
Turkey	78	78,9
Serbia	50	17
Armenia	40	42
Israel	38	35
EU	36	36
Kyrgyzstan	34	34
USA	25	33
Mongolia	7,7	13
Total	from 500	800

Reasons influencing the choice of Kazakhstan as a migration destination for the population of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries:

1. An extensive border that can be crossed using any type of transport.
2. Citizens of CIS countries do not require a visa to travel to or stay in Kazakhstan. Migrants without a temporary residence permit or residence visa can remain in the country for up to 90 days within each 180-day period.
3. Citizens of CIS countries can enter Kazakhstan using their internal passport.
4. Kazakh authorities do not require travel medical insurance. Free medical care is provided only in emergency cases; once the patient's condition stabilizes, all other services are paid.
5. It is possible to open a bank account in a local bank or use cards from other countries, such as Turkey or Belarus. Cash in tenge from "Mir" cards can be withdrawn at VTB ATMs.
6. UnionPay cards are accepted at 80% of ATMs and at almost all retail outlets in Kazakhstan.
7. Prices for food and industrial goods are comparable to those in CIS countries.
8. The Russian language is officially used alongside Kazakh in government organizations and local self-government bodies. It is widely spoken in daily life, and

most of the local population is proficient.

9. The local population is generally friendly towards migrants.

According to data from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Kazakhstan, during Russia's mobilization announcement in 2022, 837,000 Russian citizens entered Kazakhstan, of whom 780,000 later returned to Russia. Currently, 298,000 Russian citizens reside in Kazakhstan, with 30,000 officially employed, while the rest have moved on to other countries⁸.

In 2022, the majority of Russian migrants were socially active individuals who were dissatisfied with the political course of the Russian leadership. A significant portion of them openly opposed the war or participated in anti-war protests, making their return either impossible or dangerous.

Around half of the migrants worked in the IT industry, and most of them spoke English. Over the course of a year, approximately 10% of employees from Russian IT companies left the country⁹.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study applies a case study methodology to examine migration processes from Russia following the mobilization.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, a case is a specific situation or a detailed description of an example of a particular type of situation¹⁰.

The case study method is a structured

⁷ Zavadskaya, M. (2023). The war-induced exodus from Russia a security problem or a convenient political bogey? FIIA Briefing Paper. Finnish Institute of International Affairs. https://www.fia.fi/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/bp358_margarita_war-induced-exodus-from-russia.pdf

⁸ Kutubaeva, A. (2024). Ulus Media: How will Kazakhstan respond to the influx of Russians in the event of another mobilization?

<https://ulysmidia.kz/news/38197-kak-otreagiruiut-vlasti-kazakhstana-na-vozmozhnyi-naplyv-mobilizovannykh-rossiian/>

⁹ Kasyanchuk, D. (2022). How many Russians left the country in 2022 and did not return. <https://thebell.io/skolko-rossiyan-v-2022-godu-uekhalo-iz-strany-i-ne-vernulos>

¹⁰ Oxford learner's dictionaries. Oxford University Press. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/case_1?q=CASE

examination of a single event or a group of interconnected events aimed at describing and explaining the phenomenon under consideration (Zucker, 2009)¹¹.

Depending on the number of cases examined, the following types of studies can be distinguished (Yin, 2009):

- **Single case study** – a study that analyzes a single specific case of a phenomenon.
- **Multiple case study** – a study that includes an analysis of several cases of the given phenomenon.

A multiple case study allows for the identification of migrants' professions, making it possible to classify cases accordingly.

Cases can be classified as follows:

- **By time and place** (Creswell, 2003) – the study is limited to a specific time period and geographic area. In our case, the study focuses on the year 2022 and covers Russia and Kazakhstan.
- **By time and activity** (Stake, 1995) – specific processes and their timelines are analyzed. The cases explore activities related to programmers and entrepreneurs.
- **By formulation and context** (Miles, Huberman, 1994) – the study examines the impact of the conditions that led to the emergence and development of the case. External and internal factors influencing the cases' emergence and their dynamics¹². Migrants most often choose Georgia, Armenia, Turkey, and Kazakhstan for relocation. Among those heading to these countries are IT specialists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and representatives of creative professions¹³.

The case study method involves specific procedures for presenting the phenomena under investigation, focusing on the analysis of facts, results, and the causes of a situation, with particular emphasis on context.

When studying large data sets, individual facts may become "invisible," and variables take center stage in the research.

Typically, the sample should be defined before identifying correlations between variables. Once established, the sample of facts is rarely altered during the research process.

When working with large samples, facts (understood as observations) must belong to the same population, allowing them to be described in terms of representativeness (Ragin, 2000)

In this study, a set of cases was defined, based on which relevant events were selected. The total number of identical cases amounted to 40, and after filtering for similar information, 10 cases were chosen.

In these cases, facts are clearly identified and specifically selected based on their significance. Moreover, the set of examined facts may be reasonably adjusted during the research process. This flexibility in selecting and adjusting the number of cases is maintained throughout all stages of the study.

The primary outcome of the research is the confirmation of key theoretical principles (Ragin, 2000)¹⁴.

The study focuses on facts related to a specific class of phenomena. Among the 10 similar cases, all migrants work in the IT sector as programmers, which confirms the research findings.

Profession plays a crucial role in migration.

Table 1

Programmers			
Number of cases:	Positive facts	Negative facts	Perspective (forecast)

¹¹ Zucker, D. (2009). «How to Do Case Study Research». Teaching Research Methods in the Humanities and Social Sciences. (edited by M. Gardner, B. Kawulich, C. Wagner). Surry, UK: Ashgate Publishing. http://scholarworks.umass.edu/nursing_faculty_pubs/2.

¹² K. Case Study Research. Design and Methods (4th edition). Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, 2009. 240 p. (Applied social research methods. Vol. 5)

¹³ RFI. (2022). The situation is dangerous, those who want to leave – leave! Against the backdrop of war and sanctions, residents of Russia are moving to Kazakhstan. <https://www.rfi.fr/ru/центральная-азия/20220401-ситуация-опасная-кто-хочет-уезжать-уезжайте-на-фоне-войны-и-санкций-жители-россии-едут-в-казахстан>

¹⁴ Ragin C.(2000). Fuzzy-Set Social Science. Chicago Press. 370 p

1	<p>There are quite a lot of Russians here. Russian is the second official language. There is no negativity towards Russians. The document processing system is well organized. Almost everything is done in one place – the Public Service Center.</p>	<p>Poor internet connection. Environmental situation. Low wages. Overpriced housing and rent.</p>	<p>We plan to leave this year and are currently considering several countries for relocation.</p>
2	<p>After spending several days in Kazakhstan, he has not encountered any hostility.</p>	-	<p>He plans to stay in Almaty.</p>
3	<p>In Astana, everything felt familiar – high-rise buildings, nature.</p>	<p>The hardest part of emigration is the feeling of not belonging, especially when it's forced – when the comfort of living in your own apartment is lost, when there was no time to save enough money or get a visa.</p>	<p>I try not to think about returning because it brings up many different emotions, from sadness and pain to anger.</p>
4	<p>For an IT specialist working remotely, it's a good place to live. People in stores are friendly. I haven't noticed any problems or negative attitudes. In Almaty, everyone I spoke with spoke Russian fluently. There is no language barrier. I'm quite happy that when I wake up in the morning, I can look out the window and see beautiful mountains.</p>	-	<p>It's quite possible that I will move from Kazakhstan as well. Or I might work for a European or American company while living in Kazakhstan.</p>
5	<p>I like everything in Kazakhstan: the infrastructure, the prices for everything. Prices here are much lower than in our country, and that's definitely a plus. All stores are open, there are no sanctions, meaning complete freedom, which is also a big advantage for us. We have hardly encountered any Russophobia – everyone we've met has been very friendly and willing to help.</p>	<p>What I can't get used to is the endless bureaucracy.</p>	<p>Right now, we are preparing to apply for a residence permit, but we are still gradually figuring everything out.</p>
6	<p>At the same time, the difference in food prices isn't that big – about 30%. The exception is bread and baked goods, which are very cheap in Kazakhstan. High-speed internet is well developed here, and mobile internet is also fast in the city center. I was pleasantly surprised by the attitude of Kazakhstan's public officials. Kazakhs greet you politely, ask if you have relatives in the country, and request you to fill out a migration card. The process of obtaining an individual identification number takes only 10 minutes.</p>	<p>However, salaries in Kazakhstan are quite low. In Uralsk, for example, the average income ranges from 20,000 to 28,000 rubles. "Apartment rental prices have skyrocketed!" Finding a place for less than 50,000 rubles per month has become nearly impossible. Taxi drivers overcharge, aggressively offering a ride to the city for "only" 5,000 rubles. At one point, I thought we were going to get beaten up just for refusing, but thankfully, volunteers helped us out. That was the scariest experience – imagine having three cars following you, with drivers persistently trying to get you in and demanding money.</p>	<p>I realized how much I missed my family and how hard it was to be away from them. Bringing them to Kazakhstan was impossible, so I decided to return.</p>

7	The locals have no negativity towards newcomers; they recommended places to eat and explained how to behave on the streets.	However, getting a local bank card turned out to be difficult, as only one bank issues multi-currency cards. We had to stand in line for six hours, but in the end, we couldn't get one. The apartment is located almost in the city center. However, the owner rented it out in terrible condition – dirty, with peeling wallpaper and no bed linen.	He is not planning to settle in Kazakhstan permanently. He intends to move to Southeast Asia and then to Europe.
8	Some bank cards can be used for payments through a mobile app. We did not encounter any negative attitudes from the locals. We obtained our IIN at a local sports complex, where 30 service windows, an electronic queue, and a free notary were organized. The queue was huge, but we received the document in about an hour and a half.	-	Young people continue to work remotely for Russian companies. They do not plan to stay in Kazakhstan for long. "To stay for more than a month, you need to register, and we are not planning to do that," Andrey clarified. According to him, the group will next fly to Turkey or Thailand and stay there for a while.
9	We never encountered rudeness or refusal of service. People here are just as friendly as in the north.	Overall, Aktau is a decent place, but there are issues with the water supply. The situation depends on the district and the floor – cold water pressure is insufficient in some areas.	Kazakhstan is a good place, but we still miss home.
10	The people of Almaty help newcomers; no one remains indifferent. Almaty is a city with a mild climate and great opportunities.	Landlords have sharply increased rental prices, which has affected the local population. There were challenges in the new place, but they were the same as any migrant faces when moving to another country – lack of knowledge about local laws and regulations.	Currently, Yevgeny works for an IT company in Almaty that collaborates with the Commonwealth of Independent States. According to him, he has no plans to move elsewhere.

According to Table 1, the majority of migrants work as programmers.

Respondents highlighted several positive aspects: they did not encounter Russophobia, Kazakhs are hospitable, and Russian is the second official language, which makes communication easier. The infrastructure is well-developed, and the use of computer technologies in public service centers (electronic government) significantly simplifies access to government services.

However, respondents also mentioned several

challenges: low salaries, high rental costs, environmental issues in cities, and excessive bureaucracy.

According to the Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan, the average salary in the country for the first quarter of 2022 was 285,433 tenge¹⁵.

In Russia, the average salary for December 2022 was 504 rubles per month, which is equivalent to 317,395 tenge¹⁶. Thus, the average salary in Russia is 31,962 tenge higher than in Kazakhstan.

The average salary in Kazakhstan is insufficient

¹⁵ Tengrinews. (2022). The average salary has increased in Kazakhstan. https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/srednyaya-zarplata-vyirosla-v-kazahstane-475010/

¹⁶ Territorial body of the Federal State Statistics Service for the Kaliningrad Region. (2023). Average monthly wage in 2022. https://39.rosstat.gov.ru/publications_2/document/199903#:~:text=D0%A1%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0

%BC%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%8F%D1%87%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%8F%20%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%8F%20%D0%B7%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B1%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%8F%20%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B0%20%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B1%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2,%2D%20%D0%BD%D0%B0%2034%2C2%25

for a comfortable life for migrants. At a level of 285,433 tenge, coupled with rising housing costs and daily expenses, many newcomers face financial difficulties and cannot afford the necessary level of comfort.

According to booking services, since the start of

mobilization in Russia, rental prices in Kazakhstan have increased by 25% due to the massive influx of Russians. Demand for short-term rentals surged 32 times after the mobilization was announced in Russia¹⁷.

Table 2

Entrepreneurs:			
Number of cases:	Positive facts	Negative facts	Perspective (forecast)
1	Kazakhstan has great potential for gastronomic and eco-tourism. The people here are hospitable. For me, the symbiosis of infrastructure, food, people, and inner energy is very important, and I found all of that here.	-	He is currently living in Greece.
2	We met a huge number of wonderful people here who helped us open a lounge bar.	I checked the prices for coffee beans in Almaty, and they shocked me. Doing business while staying profitable is expensive. We decided to close in Kazakhstan because the business didn't take off.	Currently, we live and work in Serbia.
3	I knew there wouldn't be a language barrier. It was the most reasonable option for future travels since there are direct flights from Astana and Almaty to many countries.	During this period, realtors made a fortune, as the average commission was 30%, and apartment prices doubled.	We are not planning to apply for a residence permit.
4	The ability to work with Instagram and SWIFT. One advantage of Kazakhstan is that you can enter with a Russian passport. That was one of the reasons I chose to come here.	I miss St. Petersburg, my friends, and my family. It's quite painful that I can only see them now through a WhatsApp video call.	-

The description of positive and negative aspects in case studies about the country indicates that Kazakhstan has become a popular destination for entrepreneurs due to its proximity and the absence of a language barrier. Russian migrants have chosen Kazakhstan for starting businesses or temporary residence, considering it the most accessible and convenient country for migration.

Entrepreneurial case studies highlight that Kazakhstan attracts people with its nature, hospitality, and well-developed infrastructure. Locals support entrepreneurs, and the country is convenient for travel and digital business.

However, the cases also reveal that high housing costs make running a business quite challenging. Some entrepreneurs are closing their companies due

to financial losses, and many Russians experience homesickness.

For the first time since February 2022, Kazakhstan's Bureau of National Statistics recorded a decline in the number of companies with Russian ownership. In July 2022 alone, 13 Russian companies ceased operations in Kazakhstan.

According to Kazakh economist A. Beisembayev, the reason for business closures in the country is that no one is truly allowed to expand unless they belong to a specific clan. The so-called "old Kazakhstan" has not disappeared, and dismantling the established system will take at least ten years, given the current lack of political will from the country's leadership. Naturally, when an outsider enters the market, local business circles are not ready to compete and prefer

¹⁷ Inbusiness.kz Media hounding "Atameken business". (2022). The demand for short-term housing rental in Kazakhstan increased 32 times after the mobilization announcement in Russia. <https://www.inbusiness.kz/ru/news/v-32-raza-vyros->

spros-na-posutochnuyu-arendu-zhilya-v-kazahstane-posle-obyavleniya-v-rossii-mobilizacii

to use any means to push them out¹⁸.

To determine external conditions and factors influencing the case situation and shaping its development, a STEEPL analysis is used.

The STEEPL analysis of migration to Kazakhstan (see Table 3) considers both the positive and negative factors described in the case studies¹⁹.

Table 3

S – Sociocultural Factors	Friendly attitude from locals, no signs of Russophobia. The Russian language is widely spoken and serves as the second official language. Support and assistance from locals, including recommendations and advice.	A sense of alienation and discomfort for some migrants, especially those forced to emigrate. Nostalgia and longing for home, family, and friends. Lack of knowledge of local laws and regulations causes difficulties.
T – Technological Factors	Almaty has well-developed high-speed internet. Opportunity to work remotely for Russian and international companies.	Some regions have poor internet connectivity. Difficulties in obtaining bank cards (long queues, limited choice of banks).
E – Economic Factors	In some aspects, prices are lower than in Russia (e.g., bread and pastries). Opportunity to work with international payment systems (SWIFT, Instagram).	Low wages compared to Russia. High housing prices, with landlords significantly overcharging. High business costs and expensive raw materials, such as coffee beans.
E – Environmental Factors	-	Poor environmental conditions in some cities. Water supply issues in certain areas (example Aktau).
P – Political Factors	The possibility of entry with a Russian passport. Polite attitude from government officials.	Lengthy bureaucratic process for obtaining a residence permit and other documents.
L – Legal Factors	Russian migrants can stay in Kazakhstan without a visa for up to 90 days.	Russian migrants can stay in Kazakhstan without a visa for up to 90 days. For long-term residence, they must obtain the necessary documents and acquire Kazakh citizenship. Difficulties in legalizing business activities.

Kazakhstan offers relatively comfortable living and working conditions for migrants, especially for IT specialists and remote workers. However, issues such as high housing prices, bureaucracy, low wages, and environmental concerns remain unresolved. Overall, migrants note the hospitality of the local population, but for long-term residence, it is essential to consider the country's legislation and economic situation.

Legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan Regarding Migrants

Kazakhstan's migration legislation has undergone certain changes following the announcement of mobilization in Russia. According to the **Law "On Population Migration" No. 477-IV of**

2011, entry and temporary residence are regulated by standard rules, including the requirement for registration in case of long-term stay.

Government Decree No. 148 regulates migration control procedures, including the registration and duration of stay for immigrants²⁰.

Before the mobilization, migration processes followed a standard procedure: Russian citizens could stay in Kazakhstan visa-free for up to 90 days under agreements within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). For longer stays, they were required to obtain a temporary residence permit²¹.

After the announcement of mobilization in Russia, Kazakhstan significantly simplified migration procedures for Russian citizens. Due to the

¹⁸ Waiskopf, A. (2024). For the first time since 2022, a decrease in the number of companies with Russian participation registered in Kazakhstan has been recorded. Experts note that Russians are leaving for both economic and political reasons. DW. <https://www.dw.com/ru/pocemu-rossijskie-kompanii-uhodatiz-kazahstana/a-70078686>

¹⁹ PESTLE analysis tool. (2007). <http://rapidbi.com/the-pestle-analysis-tool>

²⁰ Adilet. Information and legal system of regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2011). Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Population Migration". <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z1100000477>

²¹ Adilet. (2012). Information and legal system of regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan. On the approval of the Rules for the entry and stay of immigrants in the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as their departure from the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Rules for the implementation of migration control, as well as the registration of foreigners and stateless persons who illegally cross the State border of the Republic of Kazakhstan, illegally stay on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as persons who are banned from entering the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan. <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1200000148>

increasing flow of migrants, the conditions for registration and extension of stay in Kazakhstan were expanded. Russians were allowed to remain for a longer period without the need to submit additional documents.

There was also a temporary relaxation of labor migration requirements, making it easier for Russians to find employment. These changes aimed to improve conditions for Russian migrants, facilitating their adaptation and reducing administrative barriers amid political instability in Russia.

Kazakhstan is currently discussing changes to deportation rules for foreigners. Proposals include simplifying the registration process for long-term visitors, strengthening penalties for fake registrations, and accelerated deportation for repeat offenders.

According to Aslan Atalykov, Deputy Chairman of the Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan, a package of amendments was adopted in May 2024, introducing changes to 7 codes and 13 laws, including the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners²².

New legislation prohibits the entry and stays of foreign nationals who have committed serious crimes, such as terrorism or offenses against children. Authorities plan to strengthen control through advanced computer technologies and strictly regulated procedures.

This approach demonstrates Kazakhstan's commitment to enhancing security measures aimed at protecting its citizens. The tightening of entry and residency controls for foreign nationals with serious criminal records also reflects the government's effort to improve the national security system and mitigate potential risks.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A case study analysis indicates that Kazakhstan plays a significant role as a migration route for the population of CIS countries, particularly for Russians. The main mobility factors influencing the choice of Kazakhstan include geographical proximity, the absence of a visa regime, the possibility of entry with an internal passport, and the widespread use of the Russian language. However, many migrants considered the country only as a temporary refuge before moving on to other destinations.

The analysis also reveals that most migrants belong to socially active professional groups, such as IT specialists, entrepreneurs, and representatives of creative industries. Case studies highlight several positive aspects of Kazakhstan: favorable living conditions, polite and hospitable local population, and well-developed infrastructure. At the same time, significant challenges exist, including low wages, high rental costs, bureaucratic barriers, and environmental issues in certain regions.

From an economic perspective, migration presents a dual reality: on one hand, the influx of skilled professionals positively affects the IT sector and trade; on the other hand, rising real estate and rental prices generate social tension among the local population. An analysis of entrepreneurial activity further identifies difficulties faced by foreign business owners in Kazakhstan, including high competition and the need to adapt to local regulatory requirements.

According to the Kazakh Migration Service, most Russian migrants have already left the country, confirming forecasts that migration was primarily temporary. The main reasons for their departure were economic difficulties, bureaucratic obstacles, and the lack of prospects for long-term integration.

To improve the management of migration processes, Kazakhstan is recommended to simplify bureaucratic procedures for registration and employment, particularly for highly skilled specialists and entrepreneurs. Additionally, mechanisms to regulate rental prices should be introduced to prevent sharp increases in housing costs due to growing demand. Creating a favorable business environment through tax incentives and advisory support can help attract investment and maintain economic activity among migrants.

Kazakhstan should also expand integration programs, such as Kazakh language courses, social adaptation initiatives, and professional retraining programs, to help migrants assimilate more effectively and increase their competitiveness in the local labor market. Improving infrastructure and digitizing government services can further reduce bureaucratic barriers and accelerate document processing.

Regular monitoring and tracking of migration flows are necessary to adjust policies promptly and minimize potential socio-economic risks. Overall, Kazakhstan remains a key player in migration

²² Shashkina, A. (2024). The rules for the deportation of foreigners may be changed in Kazakhstan. Tengrinews.

https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/pravila-deportatsii-inostrantsev-mogut-izmenit-v-kazahstane-548624

processes and continues to serve an important role as a migration route.

This research was financially supported by the Science

Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan (grant No. AP23486745 'Social transformation in family and marriage relations: Ethnic context in Kazakhstan society')

REFERENCES

- Adilet. (2012). Information and legal system of regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan. On the approval of the Rules for the entry and stay of immigrants in the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as their departure from the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Rules for the implementation of migration control, as well as the registration of foreigners and stateless persons who illegally cross the State border of the Republic of Kazakhstan, illegally stay on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as persons who are banned from entering the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan. <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1200000148>
- Adilet. Information and legal system of regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (2011). Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Population Migration". <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z1100000477>
- Bumaga. (2022). How many Russians left for Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Finland after the announcement of mobilization? Calculations by "Bumaga". <https://paperpaper.ru/papernews/2022/9/27/skolko-rossiyan-uehali-v-gruziyu-kazah/?s=09>
- Business Online. (2022). The number of Russians who left for Kazakhstan after the announcement of mobilization was revealed. <https://www.business-gazeta.ru/news/573770>
- Inbusiness.kz Media hounding "Atameken business". (2022). The demand for short-term housing rental in Kazakhstan increased 32 times after the mobilization announcement in Russia. <https://www.inbusiness.kz/ru/news/v-32-raza-vyros-spros-na-posutochnuyu-arendu-zhilya-v-kazahstane-posle-obyavleniya-v-rossii-mobilizacii>
- Iskakova, M. (2023). A decrease in the relocation of Russian companies has been recorded in Kazakhstan. ProSud.kz. <https://prosud.kz/news/snizhenie-relokacii-rossijskih-kompanij-zafiksirovano-v-kazahstane/>
- K. Case Study Research. Design and Methods (4th edition). Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, 2009. 240 p. (Applied social research methods. Vol. 5)
- Kasyanchuk, D. (2022). How many Russians left the country in 2022 and did not return. <https://thebell.io/skolko-rossiyan-v-2022-godu-uekhalo-iz-strany-i-ne-vernulos>
- Kiseleva, M., Safronova, V. (2023). New Russian Emigrants. Who Are They, How Many of Them Are There, and Where Did They Go? BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/russian/features-65686712>
- Kommersant: Latest News of Russia and the World. (2022). Kazakhstan named the number of Russians who arrived in the republic. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/5572725>
- Kozhenko, A., Akhmeteli, N., & Atanesyan, G. (2022). Anti-war exodus. Thousands of Russians fled the country after the start of the war with Ukraine. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/russian/features-60682916>
- Kutubaeva, A. (2024). Ulus Media: How will Kazakhstan respond to the influx of Russians in the event of another mobilization? <https://ulymedia.kz/news/38197-kak-otreagiruiut-vlasti-kazahstana-na-vozmozhnyi-naplyv-mobilizovannykh-rossiian/>
- Meduza. (2022). At the border of Russia with Georgia, Finland, and Kazakhstan, multi-kilometer queues have formed. Those leaving are being asked about their military service. <https://web.archive.org/web/20220928101921/https://meduza.io/feature/2022/09/22/na-granitse-rossii-s-gruziyei-finlyandiei-i-kazahstanom-voznikli-mnogokilometrovyeocheredi-uezzhayuschih-sprashivayut-o-sluzhbe-v-armii>
- Oxford learner's dictionaries. Oxford University Press. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/case_1?q=CASE
- PESTLE analysis tool. (2007). <http://rapidbi.com/the-pestle-analysis-tool>
- Ragin C. (2000). Fuzzy-Set Social Science. Chicago Press. 370 p
- RFI. (2022). The situation is dangerous, those who want to leave – leave! Against the backdrop of war and sanctions, residents of Russia are moving to Kazakhstan. <https://www.rfi.fr/ru/центральная-азия/20220401-ситуация-опасная-кто-хочет-уезжать-уезжайте-на-фоне-войны-и-санкций-жители-россии-едут-в-казахстан>
- Shashkina, A. (2024). The rules for the deportation of foreigners may be changed in Kazakhstan. Tengrinews. https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/pravila-deportatsii-inostrantsev-mogut-izmenit-v-

- [kazahstane-548624](#)
Tengrinews. (2022). The average salary has increased in Kazakhstan. https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/srednyaya-zarplata-vyiroslo-v-kazahstane-475010/
- Territorial body of the Federal State Statistics Service for the Kaliningrad Region. (2023). Average monthly wage in 2022.
- Waiskopf, A. (2024). For the first time since 2022, a decrease in the number of companies with Russian participation registered in Kazakhstan has been recorded. Experts note that Russians are leaving for both economic and political reasons. DW. <https://www.dw.com/ru/pocemu-rossijskie-kompanii-uhodat-iz-kazahstana/a-70078686>
- Zavadskaya, M. (2023). The war-induced exodus from Russia a security problem or a convenient political bogey? FIIA Briefing Paper. Finnish Institute of International Affairs. https://www.fiaa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/bp358_margarita_war-induced-exodus-from-russia.pdf
- Zucker, D. (2009). «How to Do Case Study Research». Teaching Research Methods in the Humanities and Social Sciences. (edited by M. Gardner, B. Kawulich, C. Wagner). Surry, UK: Ashgate Publishing. http://scholarworks.umass.edu/nursing_faculty_pubs/2.