

OUTLINE

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ABOUT MOBILITY TRACKING MATRIX

Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM) is a system based on the IOM's Global Displacement tracking matrix – (DTM), and aims to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. MTM collects and analyzes information about mobility and vulnerabilities of displaced and mobile populations.

This system allows systematically grasp and disseminate the better context and information on the needs of these populations to key decision-makers.¹

OBJECTIVES

The quarterly report is developed by combining secondary data obtained from different sources, including government agencies, international organizations, non-profit entities, and other types of organizations. More specifically, the report on the third quarter of 2023 was derived from data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Bureau of National Statistics, and Border Service of Kazakhstan. The data was compiled through a combination of published sources and direct requests to the partners and government agencies.

1. DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION POLICY

- The President of Kazakhstan, Kasym-Jomart Tokayev, warned of the consequences of drought if preventive measures are not taken. He highlighted that the Central Asia will face severe droughts by 2050 due to the rising temperature. This could cause damage of 1.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per year, resulting in about 5 million environmental migrants.²
- The implementation of the Migration Policy Concept for 2023-2027 was considered at the Government meeting chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Alikhan Smailov. Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Labour and Social Protection Tamara Duisenova noted that the measures taken within the framework of the Concept provided a positive balance of migration for the first time in the last 10 years. Most foreigners from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, China, and Mongolia arrive for permanent residence. At the same time, more foreign citizens with technical, economic, pedagogical, and medical specialties have arrived.³
- Kazakhstan has exempted A-5 category investors from obtaining “foreign labour permits”; such investor visas for the first time have been issued to 76 migrants in 2023.⁴
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection introduced a procedure to simplify the obtaining of residence permits by migrants from the special List of prioritized specialties.⁵

- On 30th of June 2023 the Government approved the procedure for issuing the “Ata Zholy” card for ethnic Kazakhs who are citizens of other countries and have successful business cases abroad. A list of 50 ethnic Kazakhs has been formed as “Ata Zholy” card recipients.⁶
 - From the 1st of July 2023 the Government has adopted new Rules for the issuance of labour permits. Previously, such permits was issued only for one region of the country. The new Rules provide the possibility of issuing a labour permit for more than one region.⁷
 - To ensure the observance of the rights of Kazakhstan migrant workers, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has negotiated the bilateral agreements with the Republic of Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United Kingdom, and other countries.⁸
- The Ministry is looking for mechanisms to include migrant workers from Kazakhstan in the “system of labour permits” of the Republic of Korea. Employment will be carried out through registration on a [dedicated portal](#). In addition, the newly established labour mobility centers will provide assistance with the processing of documents, medical examinations, etc.⁹

¹ [Displacement Tracking Matrix website, 2023](#)
² [International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, 2023](#)
³ [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023](#)
⁴ [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023](#)
⁵ [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023](#)
⁶ [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023](#)
⁷ [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023](#)
⁸ [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023](#)
⁹ [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023](#)
¹⁰ [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023](#)

2. MIGRATION INFLOW AND OUTFLOW

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan reported a total of 4,482,427 migrant arrivals and 4,533,933 migrant outflows in the third quarter of 2023.¹⁰

Of the total number of those who entered the country, 90 per cent (4,034,184 migrants) of total arrivals accounted for CIS member states – 43.5 per cent (1,753,689 migrants) from Uzbekistan, 28.6 per cent (1,154,493 migrants) from the Russian Federation, 18.5 per cent (748,123 migrants) from Kyrgyzstan, and 9.2 per cent (370,851 migrants) from Tajikistan.¹¹

Other 448,243 arrivals accounted for non-CIS countries of origin: 29.3 per cent from China (131,203 migrants), 7.4 per cent (33,109 migrants) from India, 5.4 per cent from Republic of Türkiye (24,076 migrants), 4.1 per cent (18,321 migrants) from Germany, and 3.9 per cent (17,304 migrants) from Belarus.

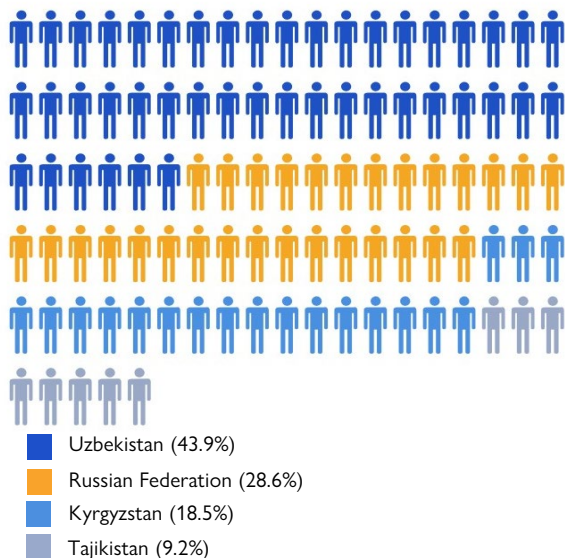
Of the total number of those who departed the country, 4,080,540 of total departures accounted for CIS member states – 43.5 per cent to Uzbekistan (1,774,200 migrants), 29.6 per cent to the Russian Federation (1,209,912 migrants), 18.3 per cent to Kyrgyzstan (744,948 migrants), and 8.9 per cent to Tajikistan (363,519 migrants).¹²

Four hundred fifty-three thousand departures accounted for non-CIS countries: 27.9 per cent to China (126,524 migrants), 6.2 per cent to India (24,195 migrants), 5.3 per cent to Republic of Türkiye (24,076 migrants), 4.5 per cent to Germany (20,431 migrants), and 3.6 per cent (16,426 migrants) to Belarus.¹³

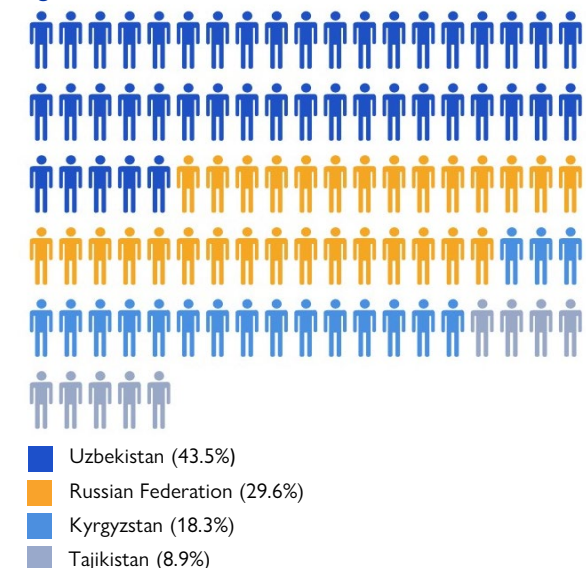
There is a visible upward trend in the number of migrants from India. In the last quarter of 2022, the number of migrant arrivals hardly exceeded 0.1 per cent and it started to grow from the first quarter of 2023 with 3.3 per cent or 16,500 arrivals from India. The third quarter showed a double increase to 7.4 per cent.¹⁴

The reason could be the increasing attractiveness of Kazakhstan as a tourist and economic destination amidst a 14-day visa-free stay and cheap flight availability. Since August 2023, an Indian low-cost airline, “IndiGo,” started flights to Kazakhstan on the route Delhi-Almaty with a frequency of three flights per week. As the Civil Aviation Committee stated, the entry of a low-cost carrier into Kazakhstan's international transport market will have a positive impact on the availability of air tickets and increase of people's mobility, which will contribute to the development of trade, business, tourism, and cultural co-operation between countries.¹⁵

Migrant inflow from CIS member states



Migrant outflow to CIS member states

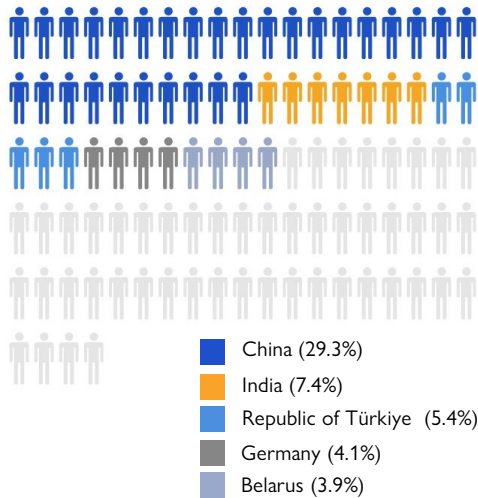


9 Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2023
10 Ibid
11 Ibid
12 Ibid
13 Ibid

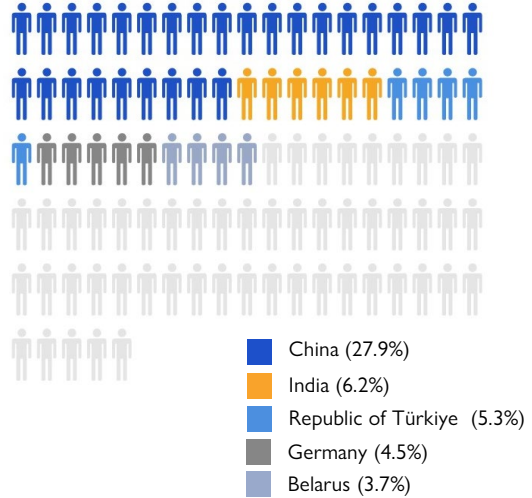
14 Ibid
15 [Civil Aviation Committee, 2023](#)

* The information on nationality provided in this report is based on the nationality declared by migrants as reported by the Kazakhstan authorities.

Migrant inflow from non-CIS member states



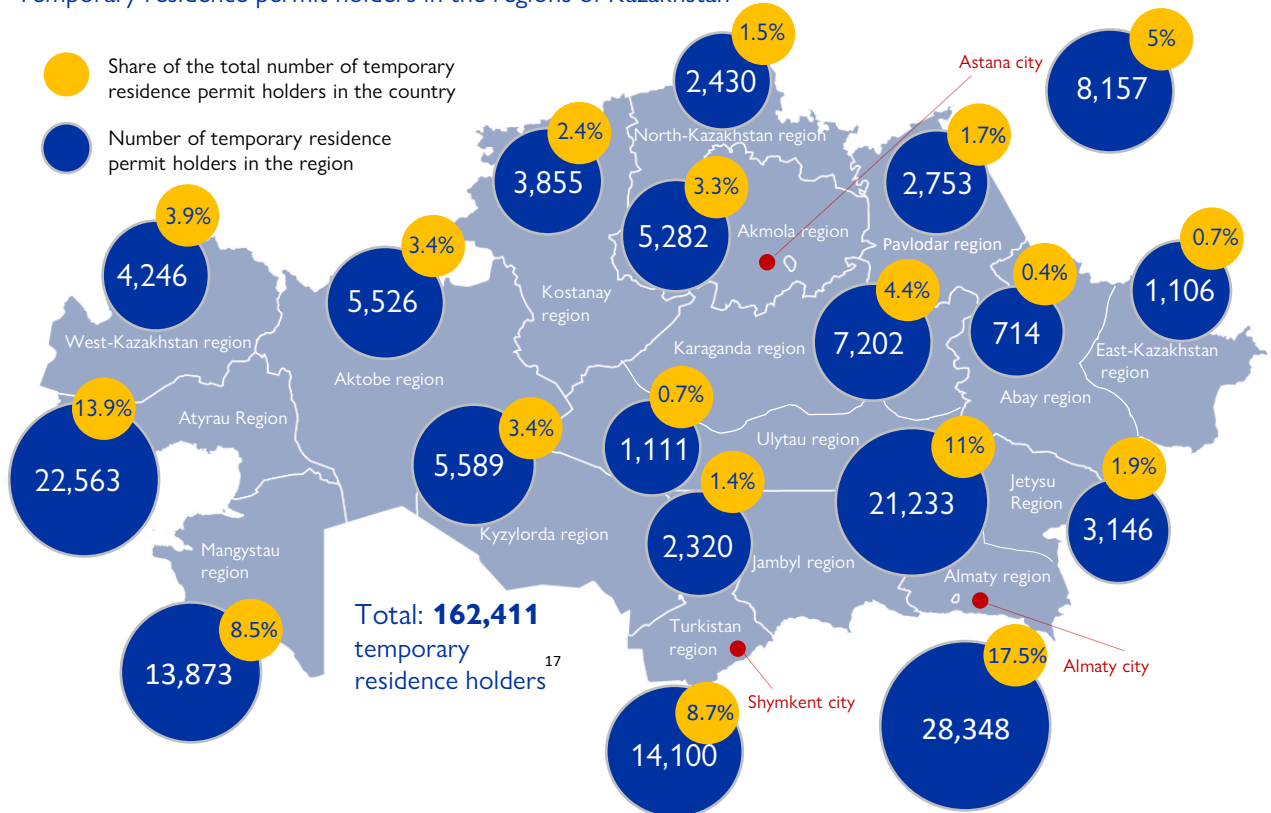
Migrant outflow to non-CIS member states



3. TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS

This data shows the number of migrants in the regions of Kazakhstan who received temporary residence permit in the third quarter of 2023. The biggest share of migrant workers was located in Almaty city (17.5%), followed by Atyrau region (13.9%), Almaty region (11%), Shymkent city (8.7%), and Mangystau region (8.5%). The smallest share of temporary residence permit holders were residing in Abay region (0.4%), Ulytau and East Kazakhstan regions (both 0.7%).¹⁶

Temporary residence permit holders in the regions of Kazakhstan



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be free of error, nor do they imply a judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.

¹⁶ Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2023

¹⁷ Ibid

4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS

From January until September 2023, the number of permanent residence permit holders reached 19,136 in the country.¹⁸

The majority of them are nationals of CIS countries (16,833 migrants): 55.5 per cent (9,352 migrants) from the Russian Federation, 27.4 per cent (4,607 migrants) from Uzbekistan, 5.2 per cent (883 migrants) from Turkmenistan, 5.1 per cent (864 migrants) from Kyrgyzstan, and 2.7 per cent (464 migrants) from Tajikistan. Among this number, 635 were children under 18 years old.¹⁹ 9,948 migrants from CIS countries terminated permanent residence and left the country. The majority were from the Russian Federation (92.8%) and 3,562 were migrant children.²⁰

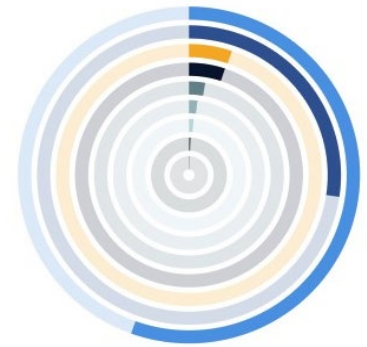
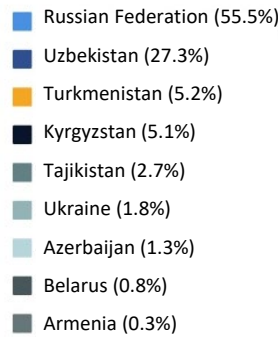
The migration balance with the CIS countries is positive (plus 6,885 migrants). More migrants from that area tend to obtain permanent residence permits and fewer decide to leave the country.²¹

2,300 permanent residence permit holders were accounted for non-CIS countries: 22.7 per cent (524 migrants) from China, 13.4 per cent (400 migrants) from Mongolia, 10 per cent (231 migrants) from Germany, 9.6 per cent (221 migrants) from Republic of Türkiye.²²

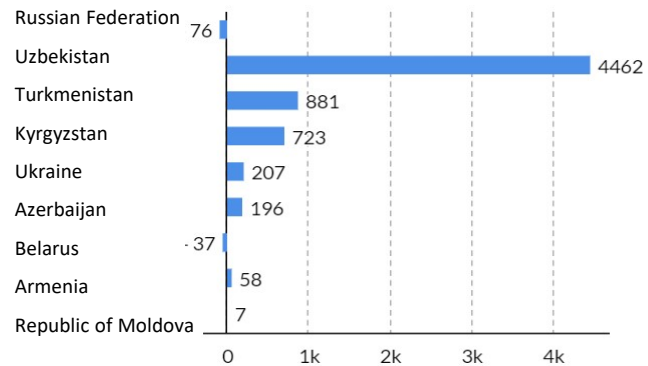
2,784 migrants from non-CIS countries terminated their permanent residence and left the country. The majority were from Germany (64.47%), the United States of America (USA) (11.27%), and Poland (8.2%).²³

The migration balance with the non-CIS countries is negative (minus 481 migrants).²⁴

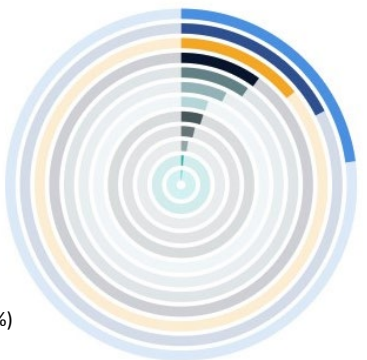
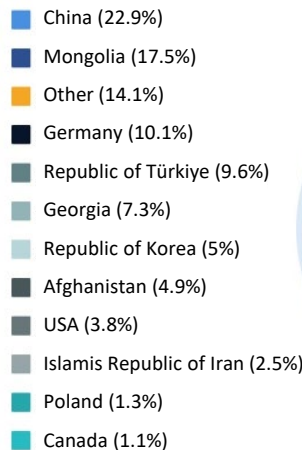
Permanent residence permit holders from CIS countries



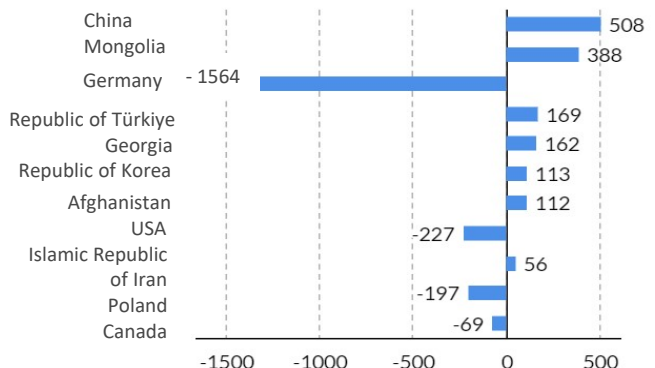
Migration balance from CIS countries



Permanent residence permit holders from non-CIS countries



Migration balance from non-CIS countries



¹⁸ Bureau of National Statistics, 2023

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Ibid

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ibid

5. LABOUR MIGRATION

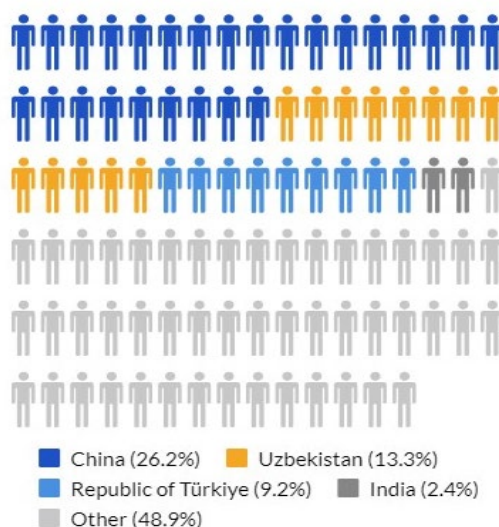
The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection reported 14,571 migrants are working in Kazakhstan as of September 1, 2023.²⁵

By type of economic activity, the majority of migrants work in the following spheres:

- construction – 4,986 migrants (34%),
- agriculture, forestry, and fishery – 1,867 migrants (12.7%),
- mining and quarrying – 1,359 migrants (9.3%),
- manufacturing industry – 1,219 migrants (8.3%),
- professional, scientific, and technical activities – 901 migrants (6%).²⁶

The majority of migrant workers are from China – 3,771 migrants (26.2%), Uzbekistan – 2,002 migrants (13.3%), Republic of Türkiye – 1,370 migrants (9.2%), and India – 1,363 migrants (9.4%). One thousand four hundred twenty-four employers in Kazakhstan hired migrant workers.²⁷

Migrant workers in Kazakhstan



6. REMITTANCES

6.1. Remittance outflows from Kazakhstan

The volume of remittances sent from Kazakhstan was estimated to be over 280.6 billion Kazakhstani tenge (KZT) or 594 million (USD) (considering the average currency for Jul-Sep 2023 - 1 USD = 472.5 KZT) in the third quarter of 2023.²⁸

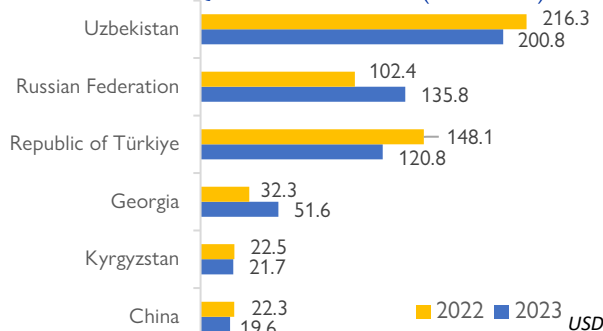
Q3 2023	The amount of remittances sent from Kazakhstan
July	88.6 billion KZT (187.5 million USD)
August	98.8 billion KZT (209.1 million USD)
September	93.2 billion KZT (197.2 million USD)

The average volume of remittances outflow per month for the third quarter of 2023 was 72.82 billion KZT (154.1 million USD), which is 22.3 per cent less than in the same period of 2022 – 94.6 billion KZT (198.5 million USD), considering the average currency for Jul-Sep 2022 - 1 USD = 476.5 KZT.³⁰

Top 5 receiver countries of remittances from Kazakhstan

Country	The amount of remittances ³¹	Total share
Uzbekistan	94.9 billion KZT (200,8 million USD)	33.8%
Russian Federation	64.2 billion KZT (135.8 million USD)	22.9%
Republic of Türkiye	57.1 billion KZT (120.8 million USD)	20.3%
Georgia	24.4 billion KZT (51.6 million USD)	8.7%
Kyrgyzstan	10.3 billion KZT (21.7 million USD)	3.7%

The comparison of remittances transferred from Kazakhstan in Q3 2023 and 2022 (in million)



²⁵ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ National Bank, 2023

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid

The comparison analysis demonstrates that the overall volume of remittances sent abroad slightly deviates downward compared to the previous year, except for remittances sent to the Russian Federation (+24.6 per cent) and Georgia (+59.7 per cent).³²

6.2. Remittance inflows to Kazakhstan

In the third quarter of 2023, the volume of remittances sent to Kazakhstan was over 70.7 billion KZT or 149.7 million USD.³³

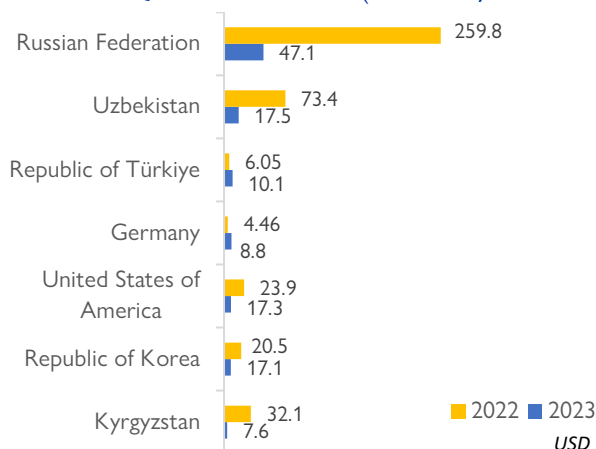
Q3 2023	The amount of remittances sent to Kazakhstan
July	24.1 billion KZT (51 million USD)
August	22.12 billion KZT (46.8 million USD)
September	24.4 billion KZT (51.6 million USD)

The average volume of remittances per month received from abroad for the third quarter of 2023 was 23.56 billion KZT (49.9 million USD) which is 69.3 per cent less than in the same period of 2022 (76.73 billion KZT or 162.5 million USD).³⁵

Top 5 in terms of money received from abroad

Country	The amount of remittances sent from Kazakhstan	Total share
Russian Federation	22.3 billion KZT (47.1 million USD)	31.5%
Uzbekistan	8.3 billion KZT (17.5 million USD)	11.7%
Republic of Korea	8.1 billion KZT (17.1 million USD)	11.42%
United States of America	8.2 billion KZT (17.3 million USD)	11.6%
Republic of Türkiye	4.8 billion KZT (10.1 million USD)	6.7%
China	4.2 billion KZT (8.8 million USD)	5.9%

The comparison of remittances received from abroad in Q3 2023 and 2022 (in million USD)



As predicted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the Middle East and Central Asia in its May 2023 report, cross-border remittances and migrant inflows in Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, will decline significantly in 2023 compared to 2022 due to a range of global and domestic factors, including faster monetary tightening in advanced economies, the lagged impact of domestic tightening, and the decline in global energy prices. As a result, the decline in remittances and services exports might lead to a deterioration in the current account balances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.³⁷

In addition, the inflationary pressure in Kazakhstan will remain elevated against the background of high wage growth. At the same time, the country continues to import significant inflation from the Russian Federation against the backdrop of ruble devaluation by more than 20 per cent. This decline in the value of the ruble also decreases the amount of remittances sent from the Russian Federation.³⁸

³² [National Bank, 2023](#)

³³ [Ibid](#)

³⁴ [Ibid](#)

³⁵ [Ibid](#)

³⁶ [Ibid](#)

³⁷ [International Monetary Fund, 2023](#)

³⁸ [Ibid](#)

CONCLUSION

The Quarterly Compilation Report on the migration situation in Kazakhstan shows the following trends:

➔ The leading countries with the largest migrant flow remain as in previous years - Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation. The positive migration balance shows that more migrants from the CIS countries tend to obtain permanent residence permits while fewer decide to leave the country.

➔ Migrants from China, India, and the Republic of Türkiye are the majority from non-CIS countries arriving in the third quarter. In contrast with the previous year, arrivals from India doubled and overtook migrants from the Republic of Türkiye by the number. This might be due to the availability of cheap flights and the increasing attractiveness of Kazakhstan as a tourist, educational, and business destination.

➔ However, Indian citizens usually leave the country after a 14-day free visa stay, unlike citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who have a positive migration balance and tend to apply for both a residence permit and a temporary residence permit.

➔ The remittances sent from Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation and Georgia increased compared to other countries. Unlike the slight decrease in remittances sent from Kazakhstan, the remittances received from abroad decreased drastically. The IMF noted a decline in remittances inflow to Central Asia, driven by a range of global and domestic factors, mainly related to growth projections in major trading partner countries, as well as private transfers and migrant inflows from the Russian Federation.³⁹

³⁹ [International Monetary Fund, 2023](#)

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International Organization for Migration (IOM), December 2023. Quarterly Compilation Report (July – September 2023). For more information on terms and conditions of DTM information products, please refer to: <https://dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions>.

Publisher:

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