KAZAKHSTAN

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS SURVEY
MAY 2024 - ROUND 4

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
MOBILITY TRACKING MATRIX (MTM)

Funded by
the European Union

IOM
UN MIGRATION

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Disclaimer

This report is part of the outputs under the European Union funded project “Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)” and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) project, "Labour Migration Programme -Central Asia". This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the aforementioned donors.

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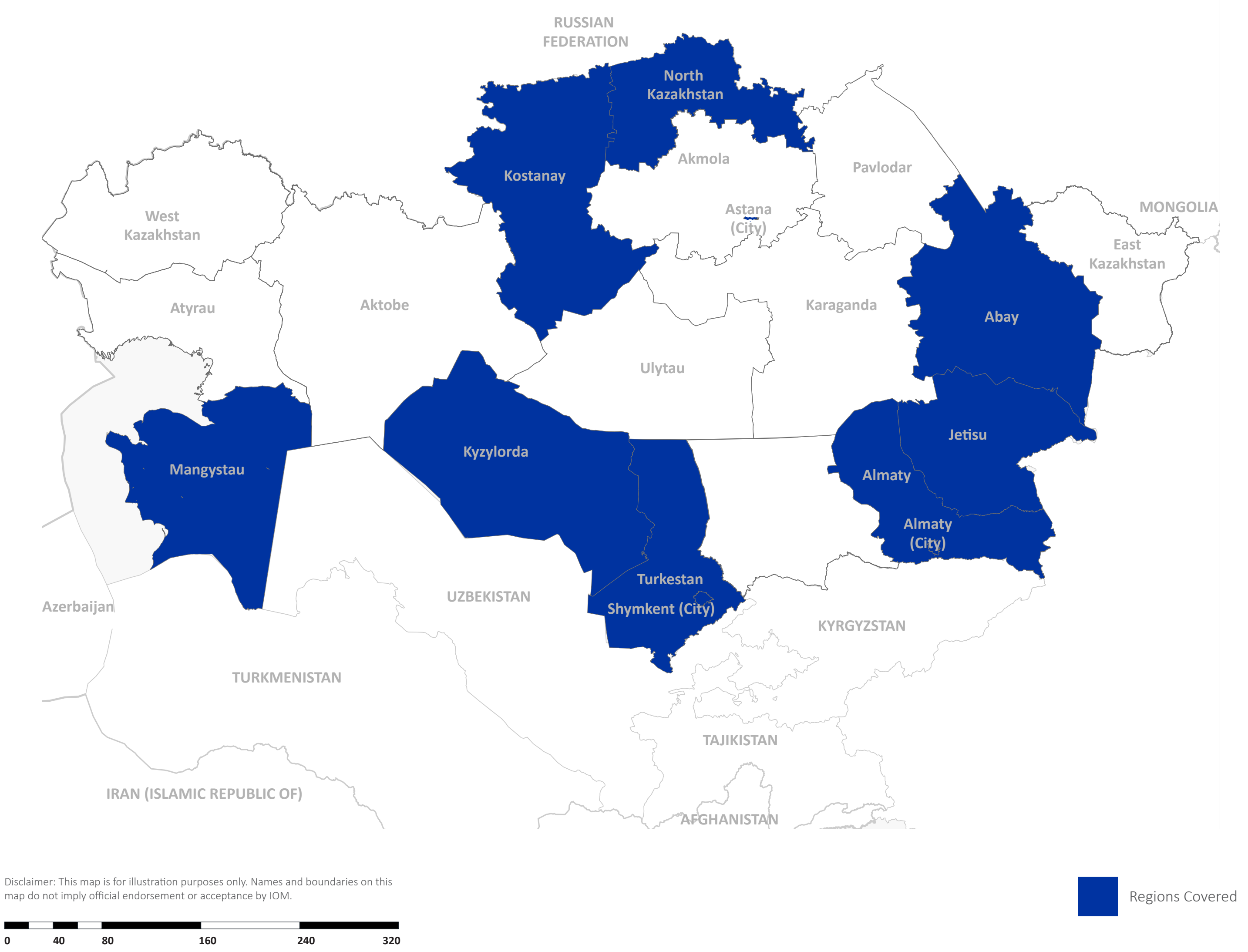
ABOUT MTM

The Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM) is a system that tracks and monitors population mobility. MTM is adapted to the context in Kazakhstan based on IOM's Global Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology[1]. DTM is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process, and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile population groups, whether on-site or en route. MTM completed its first round of the international migrant workers survey in February 2023, the second round in May 2023, the third round in February 2024, and the fourth round in May 2024. MTM enables IOM and its partners to maximize resources, set priorities, and deliver better-targeted, evidence-based, mobility-sensitive, and sustainable humanitarian and development programming.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



1. *DTM Methodological framework. Retrieved from:* *https://dtm.iom.int/about/methodological-framework*

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

7 Regions
3 cities
covered

1,845
international migrant workers interviewed

33%
international migrant workers with lower secondary education

34%
international migrant workers working without written contract

47%
primary breadwinner for the family

20%
do not have access to health services

In the forth round (April- May 2024) of the international migrant workers survey conducted across seven regions and three cities, 1,845 international migrant workers were interviewed. Key findings reveal that 33 per cent of respondents had attained only a lower secondary education, and nearly half identified themselves as the primary breadwinners for their families. A notable 40 per cent reported not receiving pension payments, while 73 per cent lacked access to annual leave. Employment insecurity was also evident, with 34 per cent working without formal contracts, and 41 per cent paying rent for their accommodation. For 55 per cent, the high cost of rent was a significant financial strain. The majority, 39 per cent, were employed in the construction sector. While 86 per cent stated they had sufficient resources to cover essential goods, 20 per cent lacked access to health services. Additionally, 44 per cent of respondents sent more than half of their income in remittances to their families, highlighting their role as key financial supporters.

METHODOLOGY

The international migrant workers survey was carried out through individual interviews with randomly selected migrant workers in various locations (seven regions and three cities). To secure informed consent, 15 enumerators (five men, then women) utilized the snowball method, engaging potential respondents. These interviews were digitally recorded on tablets and uploaded to the KoBo server. The questionnaire aimed to ascertain the presence, mobility, and demographic profile of international migrant workers, thereby reflecting the gender composition of each country.

Selection of survey locations was informed by the findings of the IOM's Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) on international migrant workers. The survey questionnaire drew upon IOM's previous studies in Central Asia and consultations with both internal and external experts. It covered a range of topics including socio-economic profiles, migration experiences, employment status, remittances, as well as identifying needs and vulnerabilities.

All interviews were conducted anonymously, adhering to IOM's Data Protection Principles[2] throughout the data collection cycle. Collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Akimats (local municipal bodies), and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan facilitated data collection. For consistency, the study adopted IOM's definition of a migrant worker as outlined in the IOM Glossary[3].

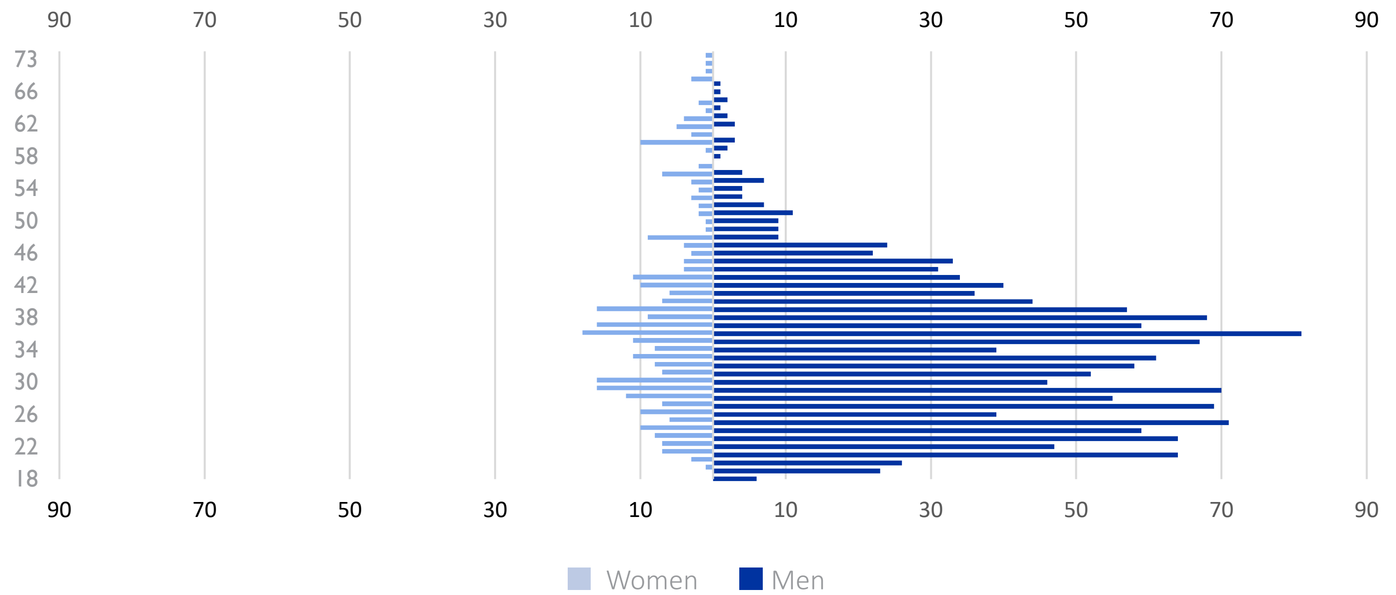
2. IOM Data Protection Principles. Retrieved from: https://www.iom.int/data-protection
3. IOM Glossary. Retrieved from: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF MIGRANT WORKERS

The majority of survey respondents (83%)[4] were men, with women comprising the remaining 17 per cent[4]. On average, male respondents were 33 years old, slightly younger than their female counterparts, who had an average age of 38 years old. In comparison to the third round of survey, there has been a slight decrease in female participation by 2 per cent. There was also a notable increase in the average age of female respondents from 36 years old to 38 years old.

The majority of migrant workers interviewed were married (55%), with singles comprising 31 per cent, divorced individuals at 10 per cent, and widowed at 3 per cent. Engaged migrants made up less than 1 per cent of the recorded population at the time of the survey.

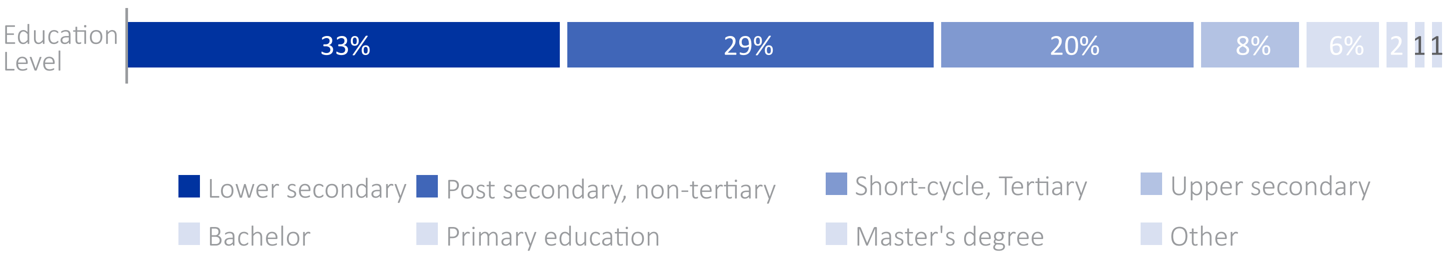
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATION (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)



EDUCATION

Thirty-three per cent of the respondents held lower secondary education (30% female and 34% male), followed by 29 per cent of respondents who had completed post-secondary non-tertiary education (19% female and 30% male). Twenty per cent of respondents had completed upper-secondary education (23% females and 19% males), 8 per cent had completed a bachelor’s degree (8% female and 8% male), 6 per cent had completed short-cycle tertiary education (11% females and 6% males), 2 per cent had completed primary education (7% females and 1% males), and 1 per cent had completed a master's degree (1% females and 1% males).

EDUCATION BACKGROUND BY EDUCATION LEVEL (%)

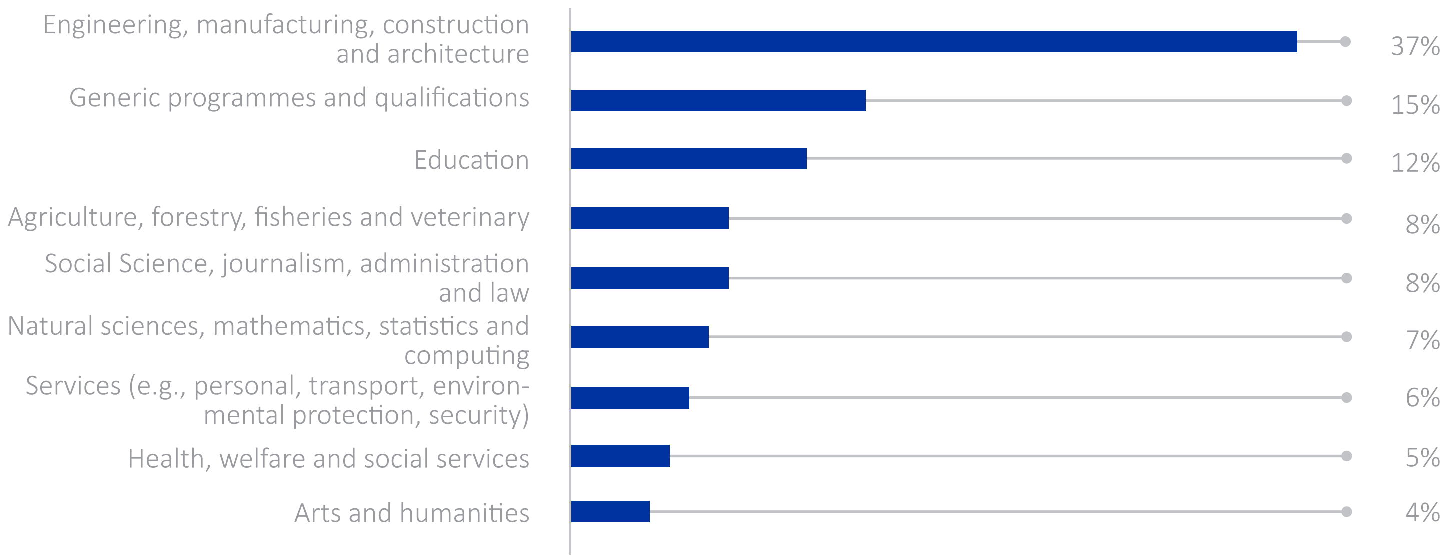


4. Out of the 1,845 surveyed respondents 1,525 (83%) were men and 320 (17%) were women.

When respondents were asked about their field of education, 35 per cent[5] provided answers. The reported fields of education included engineering, manufacturing, and construction (37%), generic programs and qualifications (15%), education (12%), agriculture, forestry, and fisheries (8%), social sciences and journalism (8%), natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics (7%), services (personal, transport, environmental protection, security) (6%), health and welfare (5%), as well as arts and humanities (4%).

Among female respondents, the majority were in the field of education (33%), followed by health, welfare, and social services (14%), social sciences, journalism, administration and law (12%), and arts and humanities (12%). Conversely, the majority of male respondents were in engineering, manufacturing, construction, and architecture (41%), generic programs and qualifications (17%), education (8%), and agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and veterinary sciences (8%).

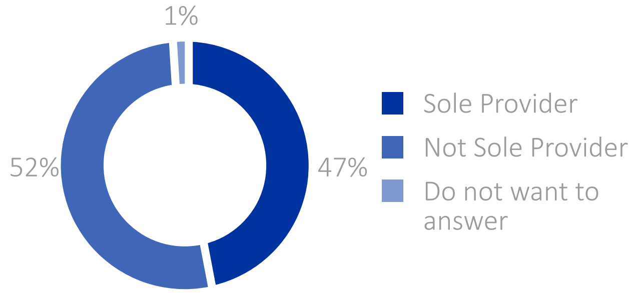
FIELDS OF EDUCATION (%)[5]



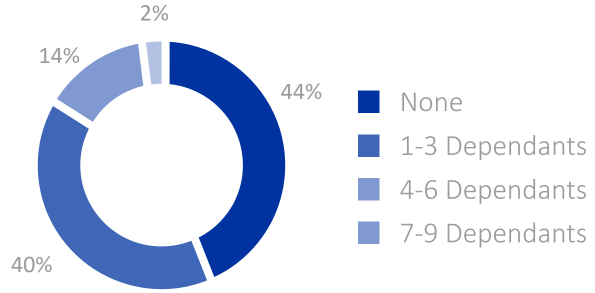
VULNERABILITIES

Almost half of the respondents (47%) confirmed that they were the primary or sole providers for their households, while 52 per cent indicated otherwise. Only 1 per cent of respondents declined to answer this question. In terms of the number of dependants at home, 44 per cent indicated that they had no dependants at all, 40 per cent reported having one to three dependants, 14 per cent stated they had four to six dependants, and only 2 per cent reported having seven to nine dependants and less than 1 per cent indicated having more than nine dependants.

SOLE OR MAIN PROVIDER FOR HOUSEHOLD (%)



NUMBER OF DEPENDANTS (%)



5. Only the respondents who had completed post-secondary non-tertiary education and short-cycle tertiary education (646 respondents comprising 35% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about their fields of education.

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

The majority of respondents migrated from Uzbekistan, accounting for 63 per cent of the total. Significant numbers also came from the Russian Federation (14%), Tajikistan (10%), Turkmenistan (4%), Kyrgyzstan (4%), and other countries (13%). Compared to the previous round of data collection, there has been a slight increase in the overall number of international migrant workers from these countries.

Kazakhstan's strategic location, economic growth, and political stability make it an attractive destination for workers from neighbouring countries seeking better opportunities and living conditions.

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN (ABSOLUTE NUMBER, %)

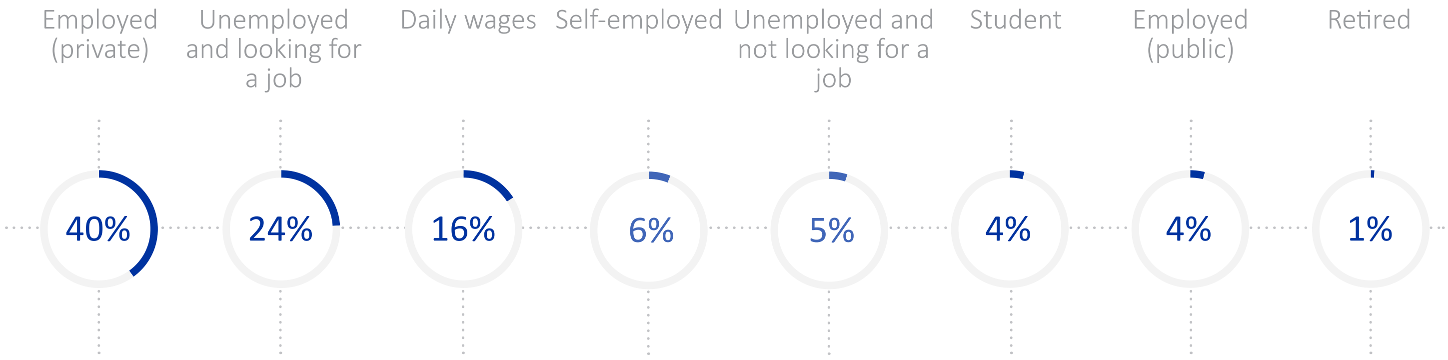
Number	Country	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Uzbekistan	1,168	63%
2	Russian Federation	254	14%
3	Tajikistan	187	10%
4	Turkmenistan	70	4%
5	Kyrgyzstan	65	4%

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO MIGRATION

When asked about their employment status prior to migration, 40 per cent of respondents reported being employed in the private sector. Meanwhile, 24 per cent were unemployed but actively seeking work in their home country. Additionally, 16 per cent were engaged in daily wage jobs, 6 per cent were self-employed, and 5 per cent were unemployed and not seeking work. Furthermore, 4 per cent identified as students, another 4 per cent were employed in the public sector, and 1 per cent were retired.

These data highlights the diverse employment backgrounds of the respondents before they migrated. The significant proportion of individuals employed in the private sector suggests that many had stable jobs but were likely seeking better opportunities abroad. The high percentage of those actively seeking work indicates a strong motivation to improve their economic situation.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS BEFORE MIGRATION TO KAZAKHSTAN (%)

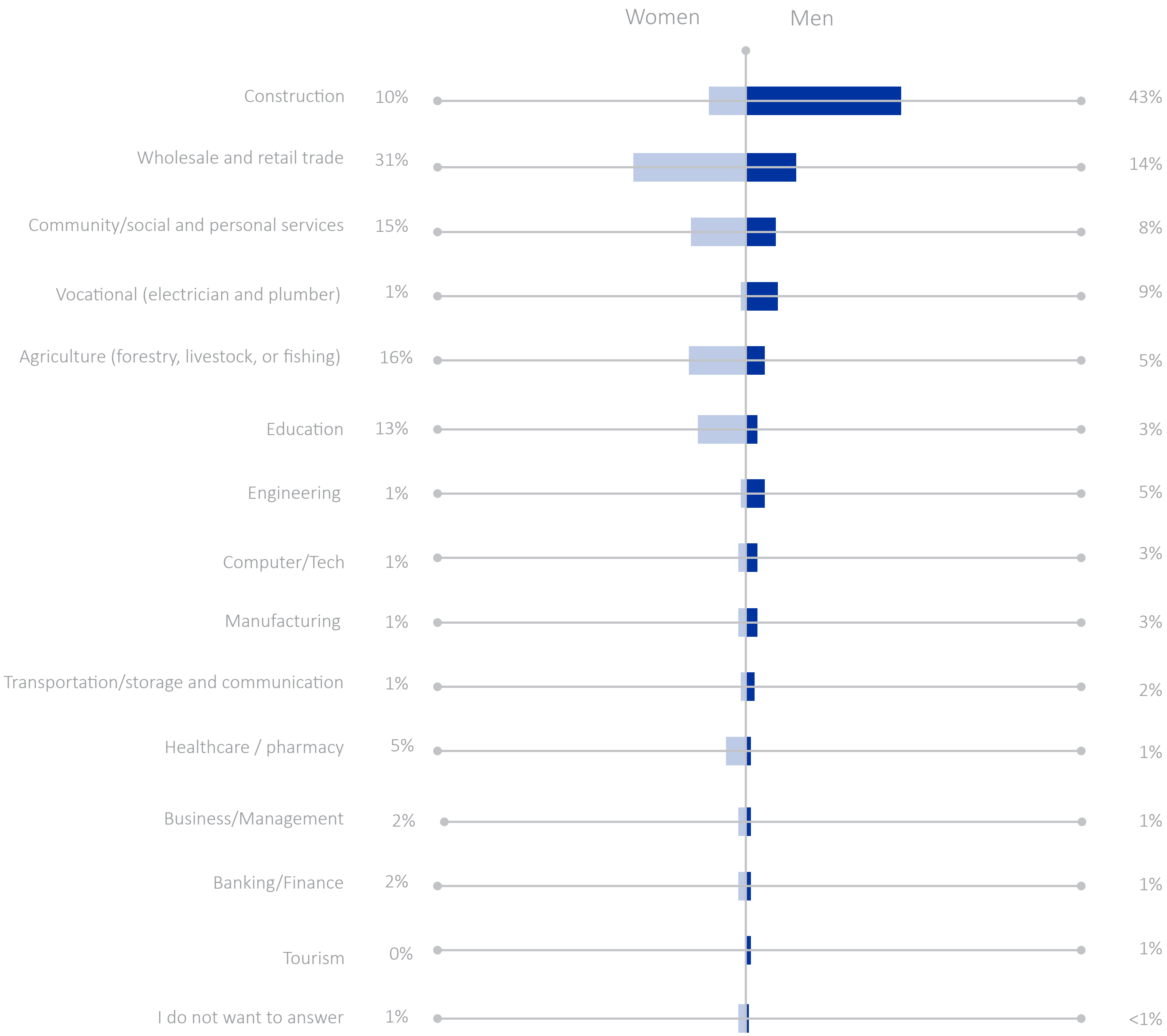


SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO MIGRATION

The primary sectors of employment[6] prior to migration were construction (39%), wholesale and retail trade (16%), and community/social and personal services (9%). Other sectors included vocational fields (8%), agriculture (7%), education (4%), engineering (4%), computer/tech (3%), manufacturing (3%), transportation and communications (2%), technology (2%), healthcare (2%), banking (1%), and tourism (1%).

When examining employment sectors by gender, 65 per cent of respondents[6], who had prior employment in country of origin (68% male and 52% female), identified their sector of employment. Among male respondents, the majority worked in construction (43%), followed by wholesale and retail trade (14%), vocational sectors (9%), community or personal services (8%), and agriculture (5%). In contrast, a significant portion of female respondents were employed in wholesale and retail trade (31%), followed by agriculture (16%), social and personal services (15%), education (13%), and construction sector (10%).

SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT DISAGGREGATED BY SEX (%)[6]



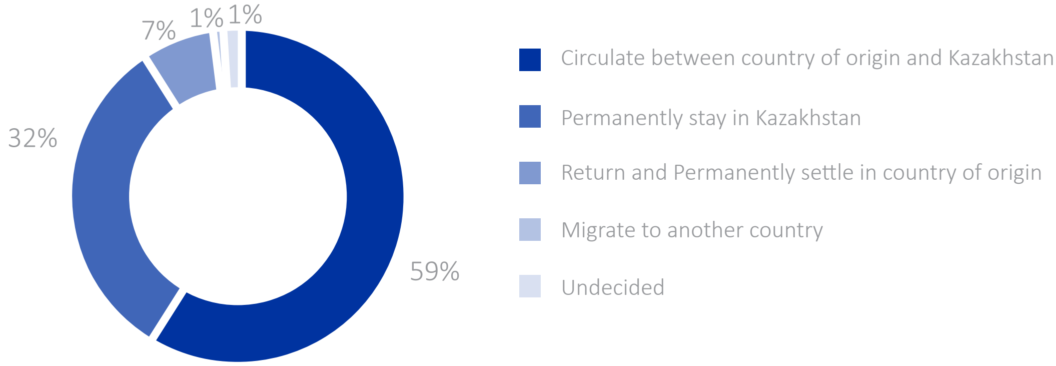
6. Only the respondents who identified their employment status as employed (private), employed (public), daily wages, self-employed prior to migration (1,196 respondents comprising 65% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about their sectors of employment prior to migration.

MIGRATION INTENTIONS

When asked about their future migration intentions, the majority of respondents (59%) expressed a desire to circulate between their countries of origin and Kazakhstan. This indicates a preference for maintaining strong ties with their home countries while taking advantage of opportunities in Kazakhstan. Additionally, 32 per cent of respondents indicated an intention to settle permanently in Kazakhstan, reflecting the country's appeal as a long-term destination. Meanwhile, 7 per cent intended to return and permanently settle in their countries of origin, 1 per cent were undecided and an additional 1 per cents wished to migrate to another country.

Compared to the third-round survey findings (completed in February 2024), there has been a 2 per cent increase in respondents who want to permanently stay in Kazakhstan, as well as a 5 per cent increase in those who intend to permanently settle in their country of origin. This shift suggests evolving migration patterns and preferences among the respondents.

FUTURE MIGRATION INTENTIONS (%)



Among the 59 per cent of respondents (1,090 individuals) who expressed an interest in circulating between Kazakhstan and their country of origin, the majority were from Uzbekistan (77%), followed by Tajikistan (9%), the Russian Federation (6%), and the remaining 8 per cent from other countries. This highlights the strong connection between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, as well as the notable presence of migrants from other neighbouring countries.

Of the 32 per cent (587 individuals) who expressed an intention to permanently settle in Kazakhstan, 40 per cent were from Uzbekistan, 29 per cent from the Russian Federation, 11 per cent from Tajikistan, and the remaining 19 per cent from other countries.

Regarding the 7 per cent (133 individuals) who intended to return and permanently settle in their countries of origin, the majority were from Uzbekistan (54%), followed by Tajikistan (19%), Kyrgyzstan (19%), with the remainder from other countries.

Among the 1 per cent (13 individuals) who expressed an interest in migrating to other countries, the majority were from the Russian Federation (46%), followed by Ukraine (15%), the Philippines (15%), and other countries (23%).

Among the 8 per cent (146 individuals) of respondents who intended to return to their country of origin or migrate to another country, their anticipated time-lines varied. Forty-six per cent planned to stay in Kazakhstan for up to six months before moving, while 27 per cent expected to stay between one to three months. Additionally, 6 per cent planned to leave within a month. Only a small fraction, 3 per cent, anticipated staying longer, with 2 per cent planning to stay for more than a year and 1 per cent for seven months to a year. Furthermore, 18 per cent of respondents were uncertain about the duration of their stay in Kazakhstan.

REASONS TO CHOOSE KAZAKHSTAN FOR LABOUR MIGRATION

The primary drivers behind labour migration to Kazakhstan were closely tied to economic factors, with higher incomes being the leading motivation for 39 per cent of respondents. Geographical proximity ranked second, influencing 37 per cent of migrants, while 19 per cent cited the easy access to job opportunities as a significant factor. Additionally, 18 per cent mentioned having friends in Kazakhstan, 18 per cent emphasized language and cultural considerations, and 14 per cent mentioned the existence of a migrant community from their country of origin. Other notable reasons included perceptions of migrant social protection and treatment (13%), and the presence of family members in Kazakhstan (12%). Safety, ease of documentation, good working conditions, respect for human rights, access to social services, and educational opportunities also played minor but influential roles. However, 3 per cents either hesitated to respond or were unsure how to answer.

REASONS TO CHOOSE KAZAKHSTAN FOR LABOUR MIGRATION (%)

39%	Higher income
37%	It is the easiest country to access (geographical proximity)
19%	There are more jobs here/ access to job is easier
18%	I have friends here
18%	Language/culture is close to mine
14%	A lot of other migrants from my country live here
13%	Migrants are treated better in Kazakhstan
12%	I have family here
7%	It is a safer country
5%	More respect for human rights here
4%	It is easier to get documents here
3%	Working conditions are better
3%	Social services are better here
3%	I do not want to answer
1%	Education is better
<1%	Other

REASONS FOR MIGRATION

Beyond employment-related factors, various other motivations underpin individuals' mobility. The survey explored these additional reasons through 15 different options, encompassing family-related issues, education, and health. Similar to the previous round of the survey (completed in February 2024), 74 per cent of migrants migrated for employment purposes to Kazakhstan, while 22 per cent[7] cited non-employment-related reasons. Further examination revealed that among these respondents, the top three reasons were reuniting with family and friends (56%), refusal to answer (11%), and other family-related issues (10%). Moreover, analysis uncovered migrants residing in Kazakhstan due to reasons such as fear of persecution (6%), fleeing severe breakdowns of public order and violence (5%), education (4%), and partial mobilizations in the Russian Federation (2%).

REASONS FOR MIGRATION (%)[7]

56%	To visit/reunite with family/friends
11%	I do not want to answer
10%	Family problems
6%	Fear of persecution
5%	Escaping severe breakdown of public order and violence
4%	Do not know
4%	Education
2%	To sell/buy things
2%	Health problems
2%	Tourism
2%	Partial mobilization in the Russian Federation
1%	For marriage
1%	Sudden onset natural hazards
<1%	Escaping severe food/water insecurity
<1%	Slow environmental change

7. Only the respondents who confirmed leaving their home countries for non-employment related purposes (403 respondents comprising 22% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about other reasons for migration.

LENGTH OF STAY IN KAZAKHSTAN

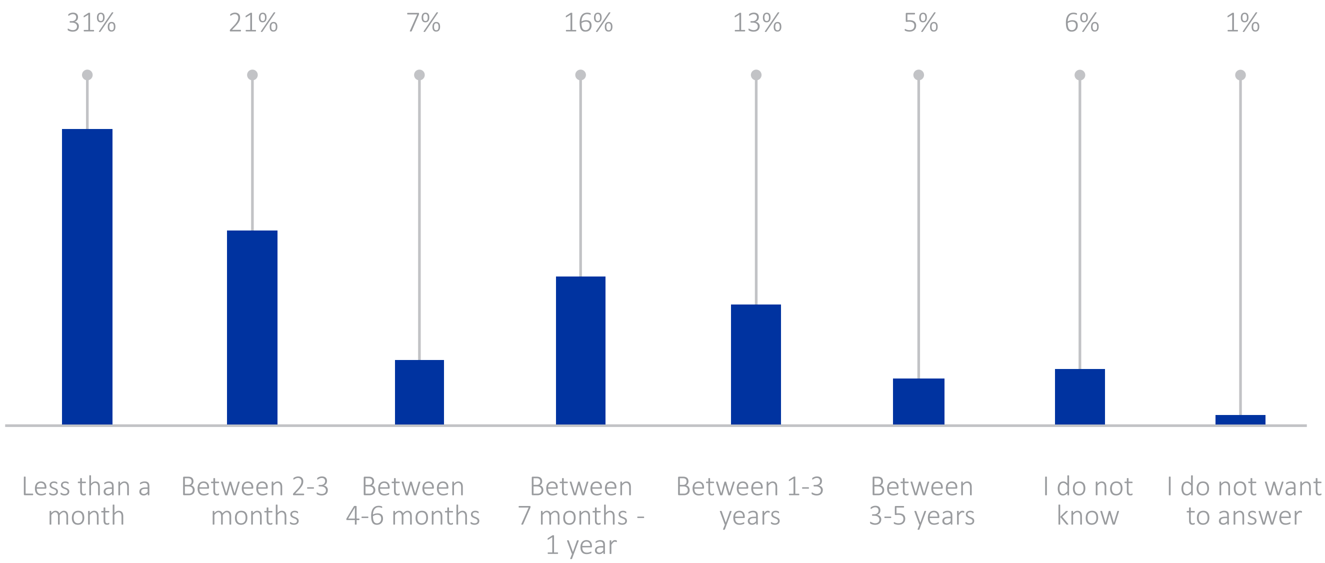
The data highlights key trends regarding the duration of stay for migrant workers in Kazakhstan, illustrating that the majority typically stay for relatively shorter periods. Specifically, 31 per cent of migrant workers reported stays of less than a month. Another 21 per cent stayed for periods ranging from two to three months, suggesting that a considerable number of workers engage in short-term contracts or seasonal employment. A smaller group, 7 per cent, stayed between four and six months, while 16 per cent reported stays lasting between seven months to one year. A noteworthy 13 per cent of respondents stayed in Kazakhstan for a more moderate duration of one to three years. Only 5 per cent of migrant workers reported stays of three to five years, suggesting that the average migration period tends to be under three years.

When asked whether their actual length of stay aligned with their initial expectations, a significant majority (65%) confirmed that the time they spent in Kazakhstan was consistent with what they had anticipated. On the other hand, only a small percentage (4%) of migrant workers indicated that their actual stay did not match their expectations. Additionally, 17 per cent of respondents mentioned that they did not remember what their initial expectations were, and another 13 per cent reported that they did not know how long they had originally expected to stay. These latter responses might reflect a level of uncertainty or ambiguity in their initial plans.

Delving deeper into the experiences of the 4 per cent whose expectations diverged from their actual stays, 28 per cent of them chose not to answer. Among those who did provide further insight, 16 per cent had initially planned to stay for only a month, while an additional 12 per cent had expected to stay for a period of seven months to a year. This suggests that for some, circumstances may have changed, leading to an extended or shortened stay beyond what was initially anticipated.

These data provides valuable insights into the migration patterns of workers in Kazakhstan, emphasizing that a significant majority of migrant workers tend to stay for shorter durations, primarily under a year. The relatively small proportion planning for long-term stays points to a workforce that is largely transient, possibly influenced by the nature of their employment or the economic conditions driving migration. Furthermore, the analysis of workers' expectations versus their actual experiences sheds light on the broader challenges that migrant workers may face in terms of uncertainty, changing conditions, or unmet expectations.

LENGTH OF ACTUAL TIME AWAY FROM HOME COUNTRY (%)

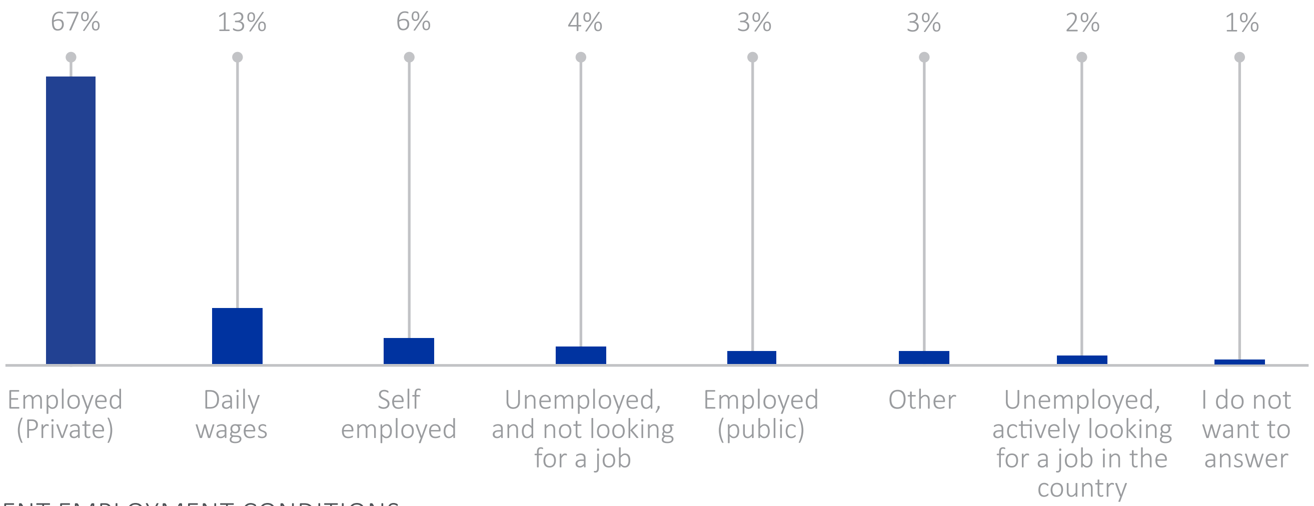


CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

At the time of the survey, the majority (67%) of migrant workers were employed in the private sector, with 13 per cent engaged in daily wage jobs and 6 per cent self-employed. Additionally, 4 per cent of respondents were unemployed, with 51 per cent having no prior work experience in Kazakhstan. Among the unemployed, 78 per cent were actively seeking jobs through their network of friends and relatives.

Furthermore, the assessment revealed that 85 per cent of respondents were working full-time, while 13 per cent were employed part-time. Another 1 per cent reported being forced to work part-time due to the unavailability of full-time positions. Additional insights into employment status were asked from the 90 per cent of respondents who were employed, daily wages workers or self-employed. Among them, 47 per cent identified as dependent contractors, 45 per cent as employees, 6 per cent as self-employed, and 2 per cent as employers.

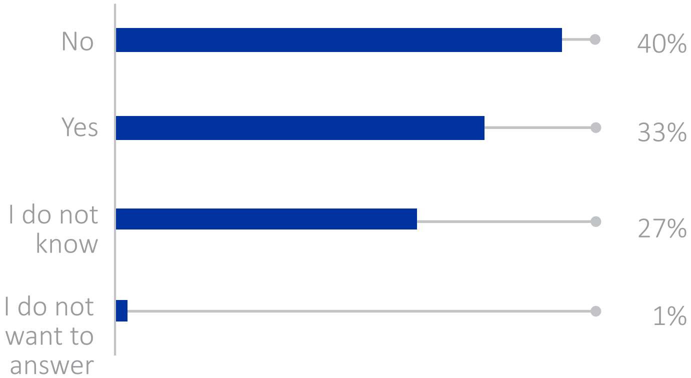
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS (%)



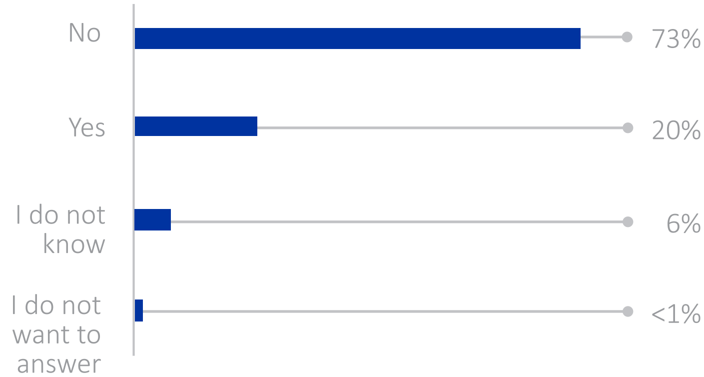
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

Approximately 41 per cent of respondents who identified as employees were asked about the nature of their employment contracts. Of these, 65 per cent had an official written contract, 25 per cent relied on an oral agreement, 9 per cent reported working without a contract, 1 per cent were unsure, and less than 1 per cent declined to answer. Further analysis showed that among these employees, 33 per cent stated that their employers contributed to a pension fund, while 40 per cent reported no such contributions. Additionally, 90 per cent of respondents[8], including those who were employed, daily wage workers, or self-employed, were asked about their entitlement to paid annual leave. Among them, 73 per cent stated they did not receive paid annual leave, while 20 per cent confirmed that they did. In the same group, 6 per cent believed they could be dismissed by their employer without advance notice, even if they were not at fault, whereas 73 per cent did not foresee such a possibility.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PENSION FUND (%)



PAID ANNUAL LEAVE (%)[8]



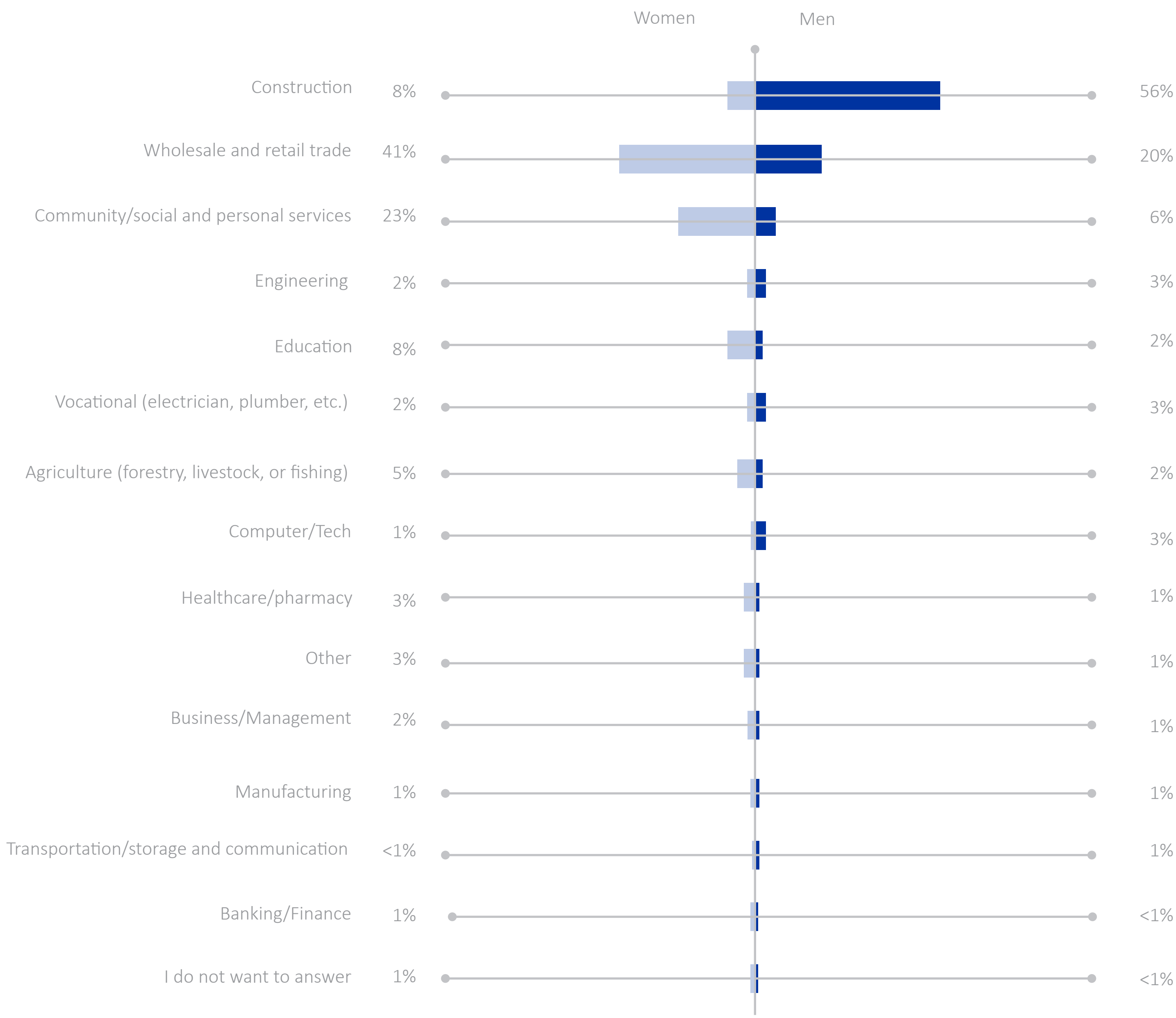
8. Only the respondents who identified their current employment status as employed (private), employed (public), daily wages, self-employed (1,659 respondents comprising 90% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about the availability of paid annual leave for them.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

The primary sectors of current employment[9] was construction (49%), followed by wholesale and retail trade (23%), and community, social, and personal services (8%). Further inquiries revealed that 85 per cent of employed respondents had prior experience in the same field, while 15 per cent did not. When examining years of experience, 32 per cent of respondents reported having three to five years of experience, 24 per cent had one to two years, 18 per cent had six to ten years, and another 18 per cent had 11 years or more. Only 7 per cent indicated they had one year of experience or less.

Among male respondents, the majority worked in construction (56%), followed by wholesale and retail trade (20%), community or personal services (6%), vocational sectors (3%), engineering (3%), and computer/technology (3%). In contrast, female respondents were primarily employed in wholesale and retail trade (41%), followed by community, social, and personal services (23%), construction (8%), education (8%), agriculture (5%), and healthcare/pharmacy (3%).

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT SECTORS DISAGGREGATED BY SEX (%)[9]

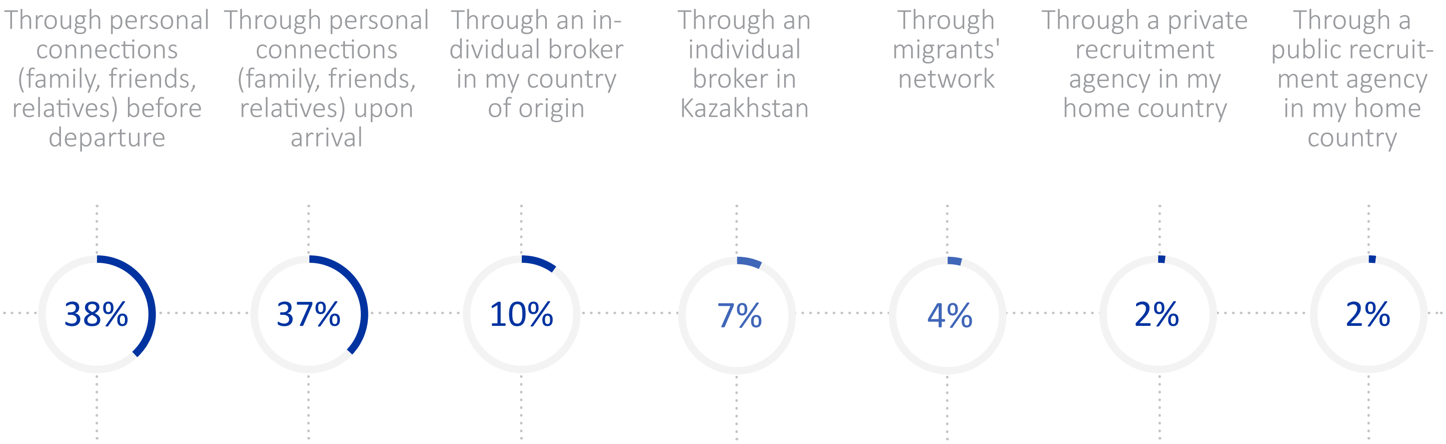


9. Only the respondents who identified their current employment status as employed (private), employed (public), daily wages, self-employed (1,659 respondents comprising 90% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about their current employment sectors.

WAYS OF FINDING CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

When asked how the employed migrant workers secured their current jobs[10], 75 per cent of the respondents reported finding employment through personal connections, either before departure or after arrival. Another 10 per cent found job opportunities through individual brokers in their home country, while 7 per cent relied on similar brokers in Kazakhstan. Only 4 per cent secured employment through public or private recruitment agencies in their country of origin, and an additional 4 per cent found work through migrant networks.

WAYS OF FINDING CURRENT EMPLOYMENT (%)[10]



Further clarifications were sought on how the 4 per cent of respondents who mentioned finding their jobs through public or private recruitment agencies found the recruitment agencies they used. Among them, 81 per cent indicated they discovered these agencies through recommendations from friends and acquaintances, 21 per cent via social media, and 8 per cent through online advertisements.

Of those recruited through agencies, 68 per cent received pre-departure training or orientation on work, living conditions in Kazakhstan (laws and regulations), and migrants' rights. Additionally, 19 per cent participated in financial literacy and remittance management training, while 17 per cent received vocational training related to job opportunities in Kazakhstan. Eleven per cent reported undergoing language training, and 6 per cent declined to answer.

When asked about their experiences with public or private recruitment agencies, 38 per cent of respondents expressed dissatisfaction, citing prolonged waiting periods to secure employment. Seventeen per cent were concerned about the administrative processes, and 14 per cent found the procedures overly complicated. Ten per cent noted that the training provided was not useful, while 8 per cent mentioned the process was too expensive. Additionally, 3 per cent felt the jobs they were placed in did not match their skills and experience, and another 3 per cent reported not receiving comprehensive information about the practical aspects of their jobs.

10. Only the respondents who identified their current employment status as employed (private), employed (public), daily wages, self-employed (1,659 respondents comprising 90% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about their current employment.

REASONS FOR NOT USING RECRUITMENT AGENCIES TO FIND EMPLOYMENT

When asked about the reasons for not going through recruitment agencies to find a job[11], 59 per cent reported that they could find the job through their friends and family and there was no need for using a public or private agency. Furthermore, 19 per cent hesitated to answer, 18 per cent of respondents did not know using a public or private recruitment agency was an option, 4 per cent did not trust the public and private recruitment agencies. Furthermore, 3 per cent of the respondents either had a negative experience from private and public recruitment agencies or received negative feedback about them from their family and friends.

REASONS FOR NOT USING RECRUITMENT AGENCIES (%)[11]

59%
Family/friends helped instead

19%
Do not want to answer

18%
Did not know this was an option

3%
Do not trust private recruitment agencies

1%
Do not trust public recruitment agencies

1%
Personal negative experience form the public recruitment agencies

1%
Personal negative experience form the private recruitment agencies

<1%
Received negative comments from friends about the public recruitment agencies

<1%
Received negative comments from friends about the private recruit-ment agencies

11. Only the respondents who mentioned not finding their jobs through a public or private recruitment agency (1,596 respondents comprising 87% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about the reasons for not using the agencies to find their jobs.

CHALLENGES FACED WHILE WORKING

Nearly one in three respondents (30%) chose not to answer the question about the challenges they faced at work, while 11 per cent reported not experiencing any challenges. Among the challenges reported by migrant workers, the most common was language barriers (12%), followed by discrepancies between contract terms and actual working conditions upon arrival (8%). Other issues included mismatched skills and job responsibilities (8%), longer working hours than those specified in contracts (8%), inability to physically care for family members back home (8%), and receiving a lower salary than originally agreed upon (6%).

Additional challenges included difficulties integrating into the local community (6%), bureaucratic obstacles (4%), health deterioration due to tough working conditions (4%), lack of information on where to seek support in cases of abuse, violence, or exploitation by employers (1%), and instances of workplace discrimination and abuse, based on factors such as gender, race, or age (less than 1%).

CHALLENGES FACED WHILE WORKING (%)

30%
Do not want to answer

12%
Language barrier

11%
No challenges

8%
Actual longer working hours compared to contract

8%
contract conditions do not match with actual work conditions

8%
Skills do not match the work

8%
Unable to physically take care of family back home

6%
Actual lower salary compared to the amount in the contract

6%
Difficulties integrating in the local community

4%
Health deterioration due to difficult work conditions

4%
Bureaucracy

1%
Do not know any source to receive support in case of abuse, violence or exploitation from the employer

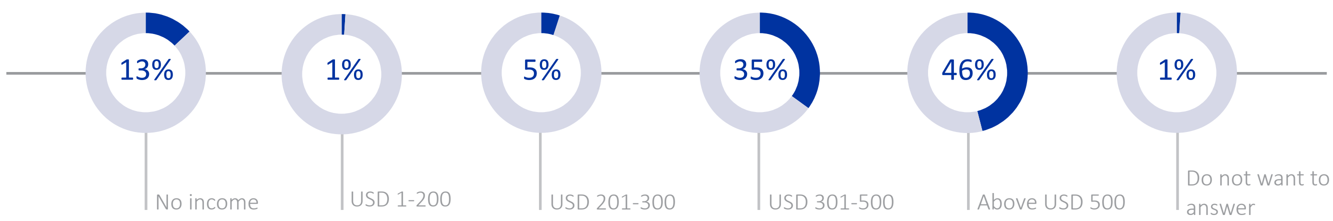
<1%
Experienced workplace discrimination/ abuse (gender, race, age)

<1%
Other

INCOME

Among the surveyed respondents, 1 per cent reported earning between USD 1 and USD 200, while 5 per cent earned between USD 201 and USD 300. A significant portion, 35 per cent, earned between USD 301 and USD 500, and 46 per cent reported earning more than USD 500. Notably, 13 per cent of migrant workers indicated they had no income[12] at all.

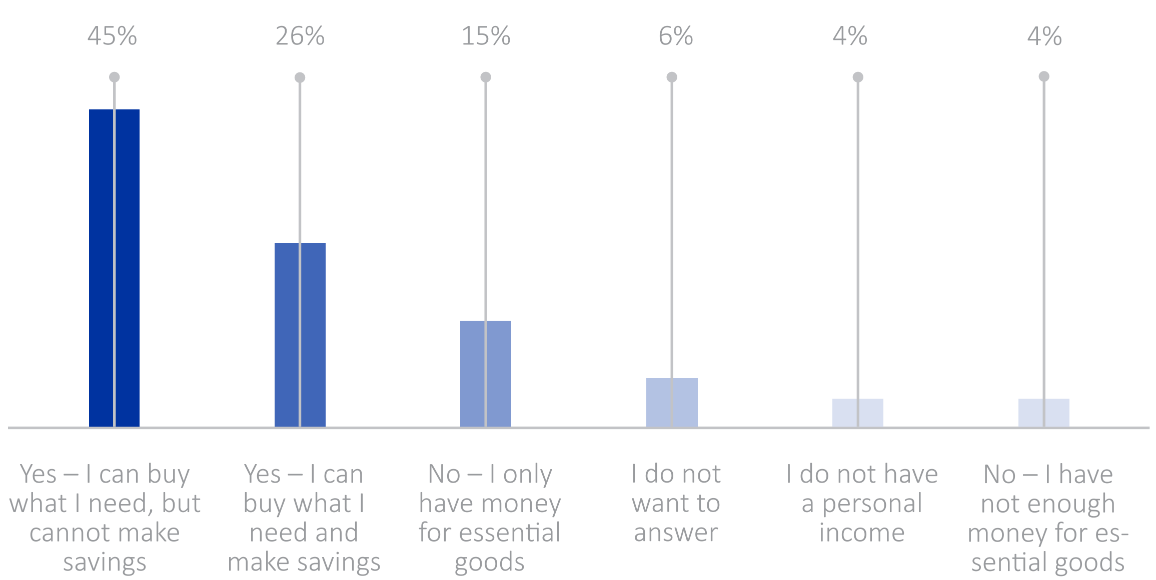
INCOME RANGES (%)



In terms of financial well-being, 45 per cent of respondents stated that while they could afford necessary purchases, they were unable to save any money. This implies that many workers live pay-check to pay-check, managing to cover their immediate needs but lacking the ability to save for future expenses or emergencies. An additional 26 per cent reported being able to meet their needs and also maintain some savings, suggesting a level of financial stability that allows for both consumption and saving.

However, for 15 per cent of respondents, their income only covered essential expenses with no room for additional financial flexibility. This is particularly concerning as it limits their ability to handle unexpected expenses, such as medical emergencies or job loss.

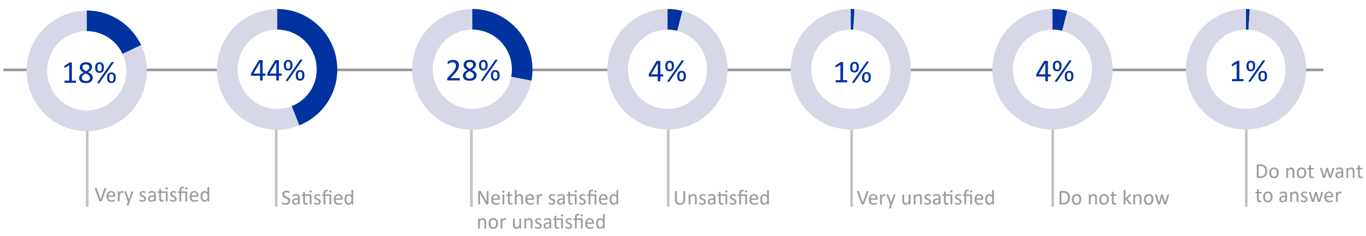
SUFFICIENCY OF PERSONAL AVERAGE INCOME TO MEET MONTHLY EXPENSES (%)



12. According to the Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan the average monthly salary was 403,251 KZT (USD 913) in Quarter 2, 2024

When assessing the level of economic satisfaction among respondents, a clear majority, 62 per cent, expressed contentment with their current financial situation. This indicates that for most individuals, their income and employment conditions are meeting their expectations. However, despite this overall positive sentiment, a smaller but significant minority, 5 per cent, reported being dissatisfied with their financial circumstances. The dissatisfaction within this group stems from various economic challenges, including low income, unemployment, debts, and difficulties in finding jobs that matched their skills and educational background.

SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION (%)

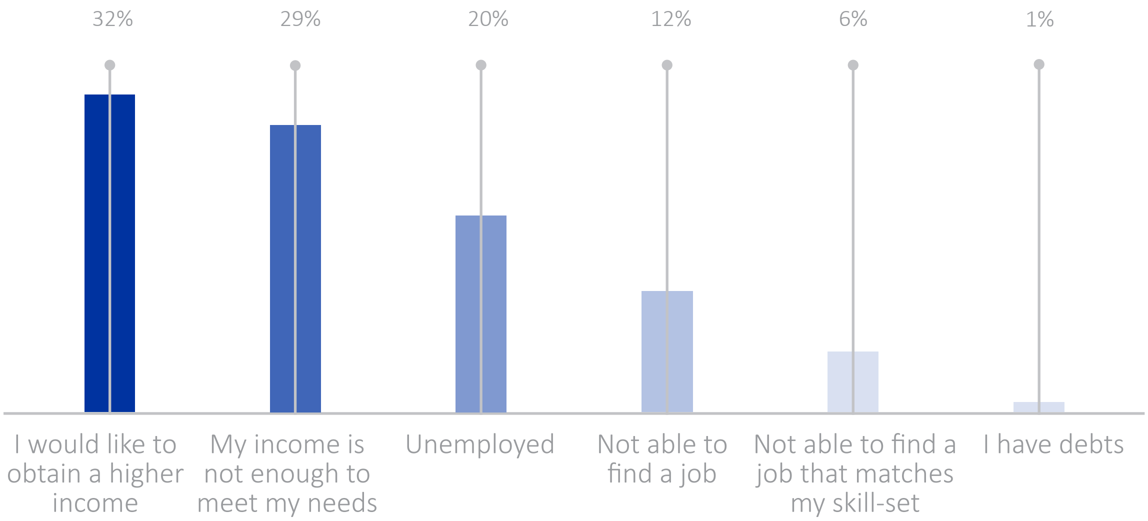


For those who expressed dissatisfaction[13], their concerns were often linked to income insufficiency. Specifically, 32 per cent of this group cited the need for a higher income, indicating that despite being employed, they felt their earnings were inadequate to provide financial security or to meet personal and family needs. Additionally, 29 per cent of dissatisfied respondents reported that their current earnings were insufficient to cover basic necessities such as food, housing, and healthcare. This reinforces the idea that a significant portion of the population may be living pay-check to pay-check, unable to accumulate savings or enjoy a cushion for unexpected expenses.

Among the unsatisfied[13] respondents, 20 per cent were unemployed, a notable figure that points to persistent issues with job availability and employment opportunities. Moreover, another 12 per cent of respondents in this group expressed difficulty finding any job at all. Another critical issue raised by 6 per cent of the dissatisfied respondents was the inability to find employment that aligned with their skills or educational background.

In addition to the challenges of unemployment and job mismatches, 1 per cent of dissatisfied respondents reported being burdened by significant debt. While this may seem like a small figure, it reflects the growing concern about personal debt levels, which can exacerbate financial insecurity.

REASONS FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION (AMONG THOSE WHO REPORTED BEING DISSATISFIED) (%)[13]

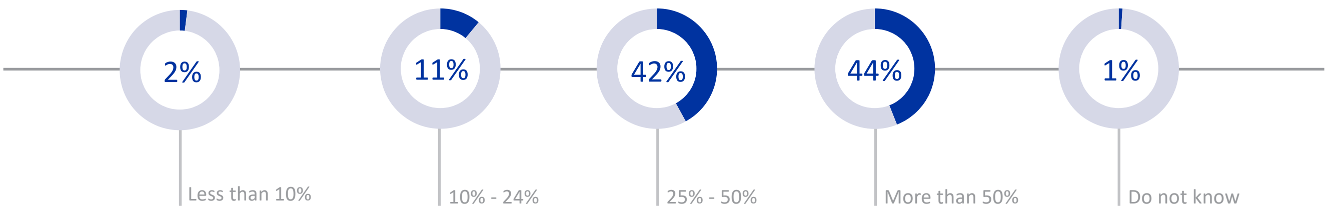


13. Only the respondents who answered being unsatisfied or very unsatisfied about their current economic situation (90 respondents comprising 5% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about the reasons for their dissatisfaction.

REMITTANCES

More than two in five of the respondents (44%) confirmed sending money back home during their stay in Kazakhstan. Forty-four per cent of respondents[14] reported sending more than 50 per cent of their earned income back home, while 42 per cent stated they send between 25 to 50 per cent of their income. Eleven per cent mentioned sending 10 to 24 per cent and 2 per cent mentioned sending less than 10 per cent of their income back home.

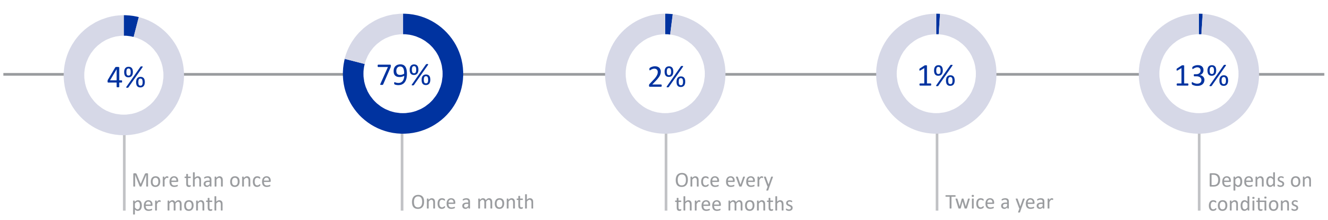
MONTHLY INCOME TO REMIT (%)[14]



PATTERNS IN REMITTANCE FREQUENCY AND REASONS[14]

The majority of respondents (79%) reported sending money home on a monthly basis. Thirteen per cent do not follow a regular schedule for remittances, while 4 per cent send money more than once a month. Additionally, 2 per cent remit quarterly, and 1 per cent do so twice a year.

FREQUENCY OF SENDING MONEY BACK HOME (%)[14]



Regarding remittance methods[14], 34 per cent prefer in-person visits to banks, and 27 per cent send cash through friends or relatives. Online transactions via friends and relatives account for 18 per cent, while 8 per cent use in-person money transfer operators like Western Union. Six per cent utilize online banking, and 3 per cent use online money transfer services. Another 3 per cent carry cash when visiting home, with 1 per cent opting not to answer and less than 1 per cent sending money through a middleman.

When asked why the respondents chose their preferred method[14] of sending money back home, 59 per cent of respondents cited safety as the primary reason. Additionally, 18 per cent chose their method because it was preferred by the recipients—family or friends back home. Eleven per cent reported using their method out of habit. Speed was important for 8 per cent of respondents, who opted for the fastest option available, while 1 per cent selected their method based on cost, choosing the cheapest option, and 2 per cent declined to answer.

When asked about the primary reasons[14] for sending money home, 89 per cent cited supporting family, relatives, or friends with essential living expenses. This was followed by 5 per cent who view remittances as a means of saving, and 2 per cent who support business ventures. The remaining 3 per cent included responses for repaying debts, assisting with property purchases, and other reasons.

14. Only the respondents who mentioned that they remit money back home (810 respondents comprising 44% of the surveyed individuals) were asked the follow up questions about the amount, reason, method, and frequency of their remittances.

HOUSING

A significant 84 per cent of respondents indicated that they reside in permanent housing, while 5 per cent reported temporary housing arrangements. Additionally, 9 per cent have secured their own house or apartment, with less than 1 per cent experiencing homelessness. Among the respondents specifically, 62 per cent live with friends or co-workers, 16 per cent with relatives, 15 per cent with family members, 4 per cent reside alone and 3 per cent with their parents. Notably, 41 per cent of participants pay rent for their accommodations. The data underscores a prevalent challenge, as 55 per cent of respondents[15] identified high rent as the primary obstacle to securing permanent housing.

BARRIERS TO PERMANENT HOUSING (%)[15]

High rents	55%
Low or unsteady income	31%
Lack of residency documents	11%
Administrative difficulties	9%
Do not know	9%
Do not want to answer	8%
Language barrier	1%
Discrimination from landlord that limit access to housing	1%

HEALTH SERVICES

Sixty-four per cent of the respondents reported having access to health services in Kazakhstan. Conversely, 20 per cent stated they do not have any access, while 16 per cent were unsure or did not provide a response. The primary barriers[16] cited for accessing health services were lack of financial resources and absence of identification documents. These findings underscore the importance of addressing financial and administrative hurdles to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all individuals in Kazakhstan.

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HEALTH SERVICES (%)[16]

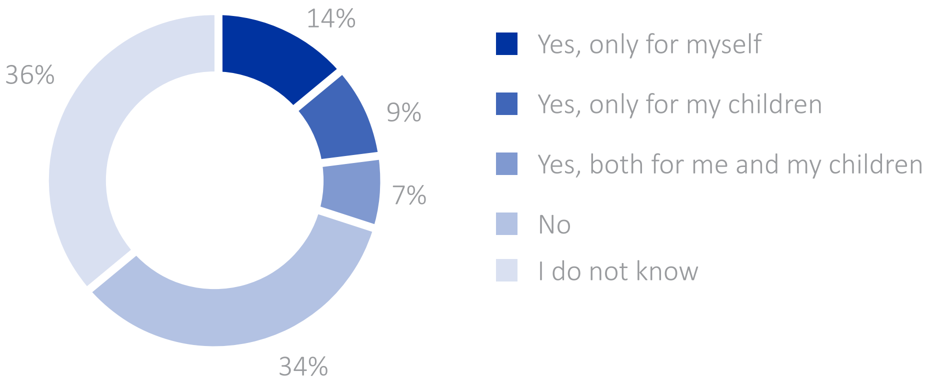
No money to pay for health services	36%
Do not know	28%
No INN (Individual Identification Number)	15%
Administrative difficulties	13%
Do not know where to go for health care services	10%
Do not want to answer	10%
Language barrier	1%
Other	1%

15. Only the respondents who mentioned temporary housing arrangements and homelessness (100 respondents comprising 5% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about barriers to permanent housing.
16. Only the respondents who mentioned not having access to health services (376 respondents comprising 20% of the surveyed individuals) were asked to provide information about barriers to accessing health services.

EDUCATION

Fourteen per cent of respondents indicated they have access to education only for themselves, 9 per cent mentioned that they have access to education only for their children, while 7 per cent of respondents indicated they have access to education services, benefiting both themselves and their children. Conversely, a notable 34 per cent reported lacking any access to education and additional 36 per cent did not have any information.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION (%)



FINANCIAL STATUS

Sixty-seven per cent of respondents stated that they have access to financial services in Kazakhstan, and 20 per cent, on the opposite, mentioned the unavailability of such services.

Almost three in four (73%) respondents either had or could afford a mobile phone, followed by the ability to avoid arrears (49%), keep home adequately warm (42%), to have a meal with meat, chicken or fish every two days (34%), a washing machine (29%), a colour television set (27%), to cope with unexpected expenses (26%), to go on holiday once a year (10%), a personal car (7%) and other services (1%).

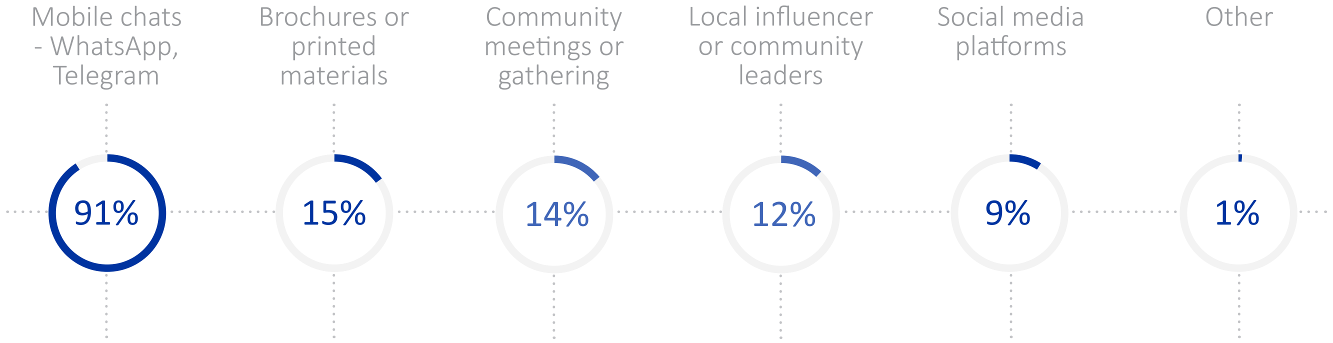
AFFORDABILITY OF GOODS AND SERVICES (%)

A mobile phone	73%
Avoid arrears	49%
Keeping home adequately warm	42%
To have a meal with meat, chicken or fish every 2 days	34%
A washing machine	29%
A television set	27%
To cope with unexpected expenses	26%
To go on holidays once a year	10%
A personal car	7%
Other	1%

INFORMATION ABOUT RIGHTS AND LOCAL RE-INTEGRATION

Seventy-seven per cent of respondents feel either partially or completely informed about their rights related to work, housing, education, personal safety, identity documents, and legal status. In contrast, 9 per cent do not feel well-informed. When it comes to communication preferences, 91 per cent of respondents find mobile chats to be the most effective channel for receiving information about their rights, services, and available support. Additionally, 15 per cent prefer brochures or printed materials. A significant majority (64%) feel most comfortable receiving this information in their native language. Regarding awareness of updated regulations for entry and stay in Kazakhstan, 78 per cent of migrant workers reported being aware of these rules, while 19 per cent were not. Furthermore, the vast majority (88%) indicated that these regulations did not affect their daily lives, with only 2 per cent experiencing any noticeable changes.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

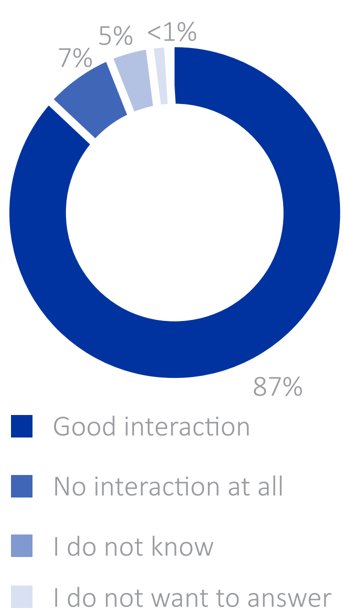


RELATIONSHIP WITH KAZAKH NATIONALS AND THE MIGRANT COMMUNITY

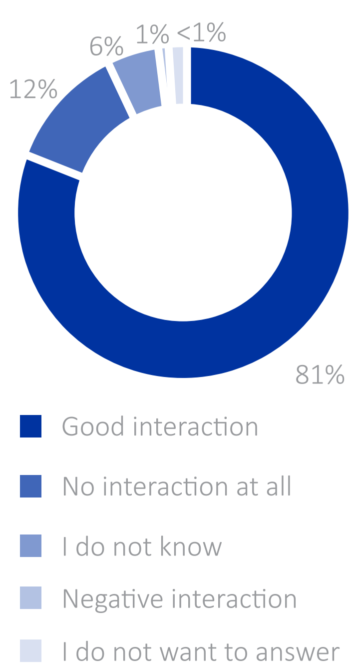
Eighty-seven per cent of respondents reported having a positive relationship with Kazakh nationals, with no instances of negative interactions noted within the host communities.

Additionally, 81 per cent of respondents described their relationships with other migrant communities in Kazakhstan as positive. However, 12 per cent indicated that they had not interacted at all with fellow migrants residing in the country.

RELATIONSHIP WITH KAZAKH NATIONALS (%)



RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MIGRANT COMMUNITY (%)



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