

UZBEKISTAN



MIGRATION SITUATION REPORT APRIL-JUNE 2024



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Disclaimer

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I. ABOUT MOBILITY TRACKING MATRIX

Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM) is a system based on the IOM's Global Displacement Tracking Matrix – (DTM)¹, and aims to track and monitor population mobility. MTM collects and analyzes information about mobility and vulnerabilities of mobile populations. This system allows systematically grasp and disseminate the better context and information on the needs of these populations to key decision-makers.

II. INTRODUCTION

This report provides the most recent data on migration trends in Uzbekistan, covering the period from April to June 2024. It includes comparisons and trends based on national and international datasets available to the public. The report also highlights significant global and regional events affecting migration in the country, such as the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has disrupted traditional migration corridors in the region since 2022 and consequences of the Crocus City Hall attack for migrants. Furthermore, it discusses the trends of inflow and outflow migration, the impact of changing labour migration flows, climate change-related migration, urbanization, socio-economic conditions, increased undocumented migration, and other major events contributing to human mobility and migratory movements during this period.

II.I METHODOLOGY

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) compiled and processed statistical data and produced a narrative analysis based on available data within Uzbekistan. Sources selected for the research and analysis included literature reviews, publications from both national and international organizations, national research centers, and authors of relevance for the Central Asian region.

The following resources were the main data sources for this compilation report:

- Statistics Agency under the President of Uzbekistan (UzStat);
- Central Bank of Uzbekistan (CB);
- Reports of other relevant government agencies, including the agencies of the destination countries;
- Reports of relevant international organizations.

II.II LIMITATIONS

The report continues to focus on the most relevant thematic topics related to migration trends in Uzbekistan, which were broadly covered in [the previous series](#) of the compilation report. Thematic topics, such as international and internal migration flows, migration and emigration for permanent residence, labour migration flows from Uzbekistan, main destination countries for Uzbek international migrants, impact of climate change and migration issues, undocumented migration, and remittances are extensively covered in the report using available secondary sources for the given period, while it also draws consequent conclusions in relevant thematic areas for the whole year. Limitations in data may commence from (1) unavailability of some data for the indicated period, (2) incompatible disaggregation or breakdown with other data or (3) methodology not publicly available.

¹ [Displacement Tracking Matrix website, 2023](#)

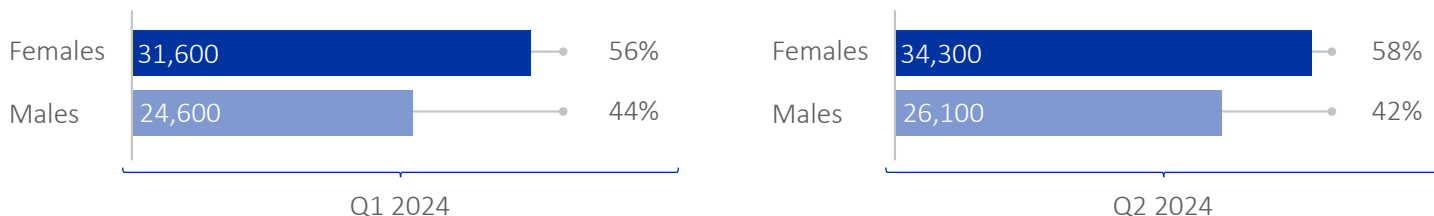


1. INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL MIGRANT STOCK AND FLOWS

In the second quarter (Q2) of 2024, trends in both international and internal migrant stocks and flows were observed through various secondary sources, particularly based on UzStat's latest figures on these thematic areas and other relevant sources. It should be noted that the data presented in this report, based on different official sources, might vary from each other due to differences in their applied methods and definitions in the data collection process.

Migration inflow refers to the number of arrivals, consisting of those, who moved into an area from outside the country and from other regions inside Uzbekistan. In Q2 2024, the registered migration inflow was equal to 60,400 individuals, out of which 34,300 were female (58%) and 26,100 were male (42%). This indicates a slight increase of above nine per cent compared to the registered migration inflow in Q1 of 2024, when it was equal to 56,200 individuals, out of which 31,600 were female (56%) and 24,600 were male (44%). The majority of the registered migrants in Q2 2024 moved from rural to urban areas with 44,900 individuals (74%), while only 15,500 individuals moved from urban to rural areas (26%) (UzStat, 2024).

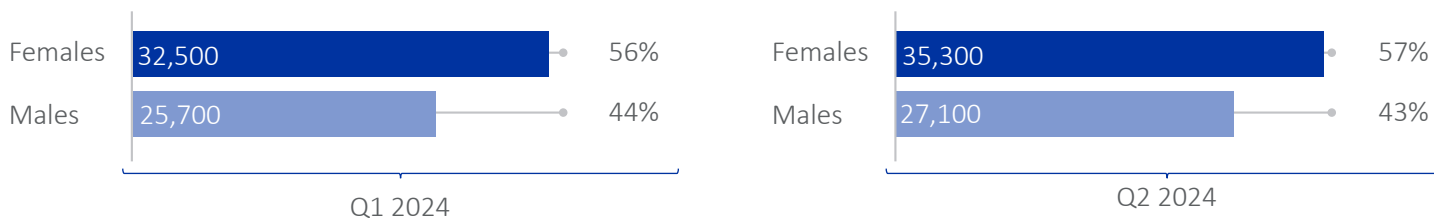
Figure 1. Migration inflows in Q1 and Q2 2024 (absolute numbers and %)



Source: UzStat, 2024

Migration outflow refers to number of departures, consisting of those, who moved out of an area in and from the country. In Q2 2024, the registered migration outflow was estimated to have been 62,400 individuals – 35,300 were female (57%) and 27,100 were male (43%). This was an almost seven per cent increase compared to the registered migration outflow in Q2 of 2023 when it was estimated to have been 58,200 individuals – 32,500 females (56%) and 25,700 females (44%). Most of the migration outflow in Q2 2024 was observed from urban areas with 51,400 individuals (82%), while rural areas were left by 11,000 individuals (18%) (UzStat, 2024).

Figure 2. Migration outflows in Q1 2023 and Q2 2024 (absolute numbers and %)

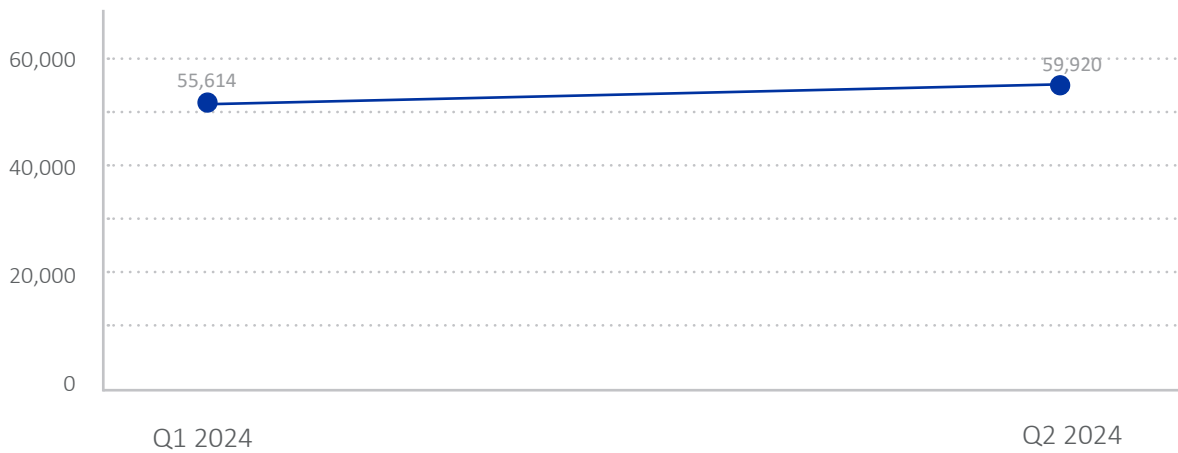


Source: UzStat, 2024

As noted in the [previous report series](#), the tracking system for internal migration still mostly depends on data related to changes in permanent residences within the country, which might not reflect the whole internal migration trends. An estimated 59,920 individuals changed their permanent residence within the country in Q2 2024. This presents an approximately seven per cent increase compared to Q1, when 55,614 individuals relocated. (UzStat, 2024).



Figure 3. Internal migration in Q1 and Q2 2024 (absolute numbers)

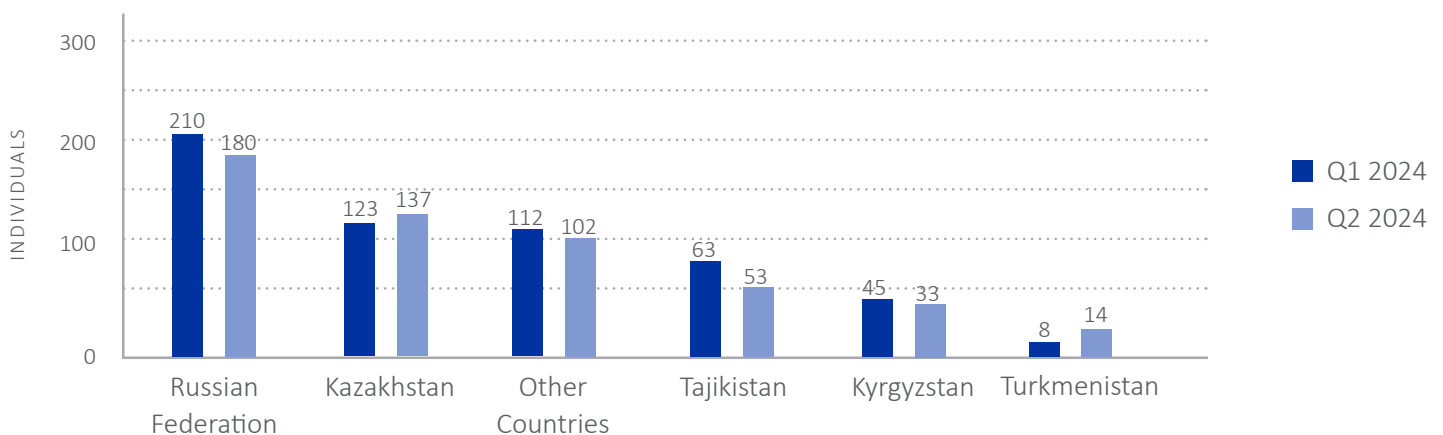


Source: UzStat, 2024

2. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION TO UZBEKISTAN FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE

In Q2 2024, the number of individuals who registered as permanent residents in Uzbekistan was 519, which is more than seven per cent lower than the number of 561 individuals recorded in Q1 of 2024. Most of these registered migrants in Q2 came from the Russian Federation (180 individuals or 35%), followed by Kazakhstan (137 individuals or 26%), Tajikistan (53 individuals or 10%), Kyrgyzstan (33 individuals or 6%), Turkmenistan (14 individuals or 3%) and other countries (102 individuals or 20%) (UzStat, 2024). The information on gender distribution of international migrants who came to Uzbekistan for permanent residence in this period is not available.

Figure 4. International migration stock to Uzbekistan for permanent residence by country of origin, Q1 and Q2 2024 (absolute numbers)



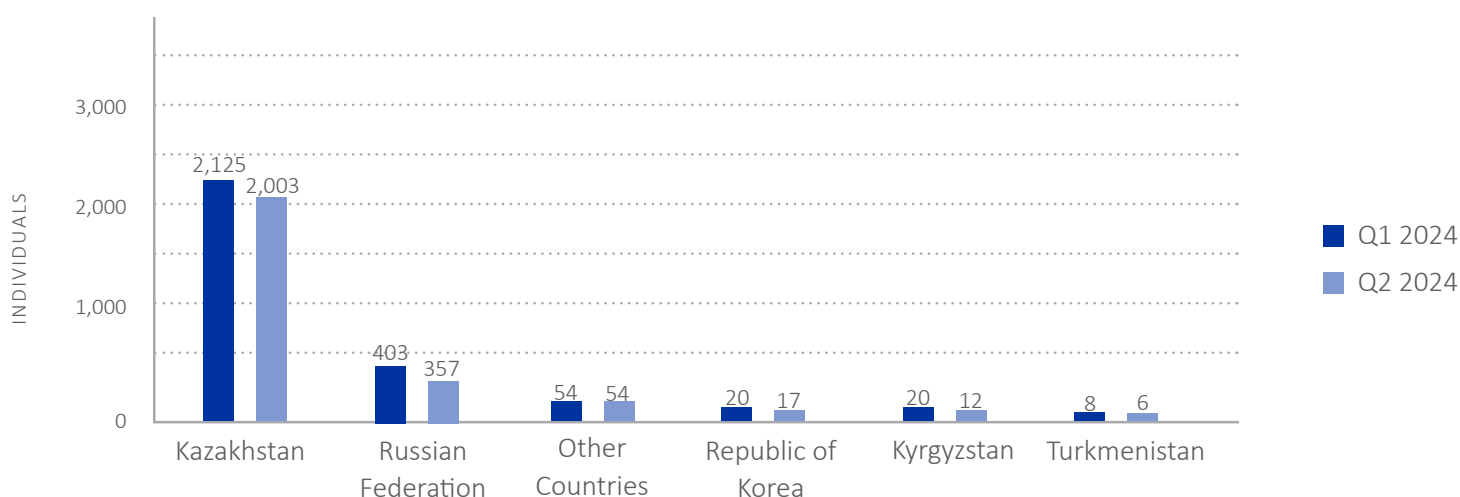
Source: UzStat, 2024



3. EMIGRATION FROM UZBEKISTAN FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE ABROAD

In Q2 2024, 2,480 individuals emigrated from Uzbekistan for permanent residence abroad, marking a nearly four per cent decrease compared to 2,586 emigrants recorded in Q1 2024. Similar to the previous quarter, the majority of these emigrants went to Kazakhstan (2,003 individuals or 81%), followed by the Russian Federation (403 individuals or 16%), the Republic of Korea (17 individuals or 0.7%), Kyrgyzstan (12 individuals or 0.5%), Turkmenistan (6 individuals or 0.3%), and other countries (54 individuals or 2%) (UzStat, 2024). The information on gender distribution of emigrants who left Uzbekistan for permanent residence abroad in this period is not available.

Figure 5. Emigration for permanent residence by country of destination, Q1 and Q2 2024 (absolute numbers)



Source: UzStat, 2024

4. LABOUR MIGRATION FROM UZBEKISTAN

Labour migration remains a key driver of migration in the country, as the Government of Uzbekistan continues its efforts to ensure safe, regular, and orderly labour migration for Uzbek citizens seeking employment abroad. In April 2024, a new Presidential decree 'On Additional Measures to Improve Labour Migration Processes and Support for Individuals Engaged In Temporary Labour Activity Abroad' was issued. The decree outlines some major policy changes in improving the labour migration system, such as providing specific support for returnees, including legal assistance for those facing hardships abroad, providing subsidies to employers who hire returned migrants, setting up a 24/7 call-centre for outgoing migrant workers, and ensuring social assistance to children of parents working abroad and others (Lex, 2024).

However, the number of migrant workers who went abroad in this period is not yet available. This data is usually issued by the Agency for External Labour Migration (AELM) under the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan (MEPR).



5. MAIN DESTINATION COUNTRIES FOR MIGRANTS FROM UZBEKISTAN

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Russian Federation remains the primary destination for migrant workers from Uzbekistan, despite the economic difficulties and sanctions imposed due to its military actions in Ukraine since February 2022. Recently the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat) has released official migration statistics for 2023, indicating that 44,536 individuals migrated to the Russian Federation from Uzbekistan for various purposes in 2023 (Rosstat, 2024).

Some available data shows that the number of Uzbek migrants in the Russian Federation has been declining for recent times. According to a statement made by the Press Secretary of Uzbekistan's President, Mr. Sherzod Asadov, to the local media, the number of migrant workers from Uzbekistan in the Russian Federation has decreased from four to six million individuals in 2016 to one million individuals at the current time (Yangi Zamon, 2024).

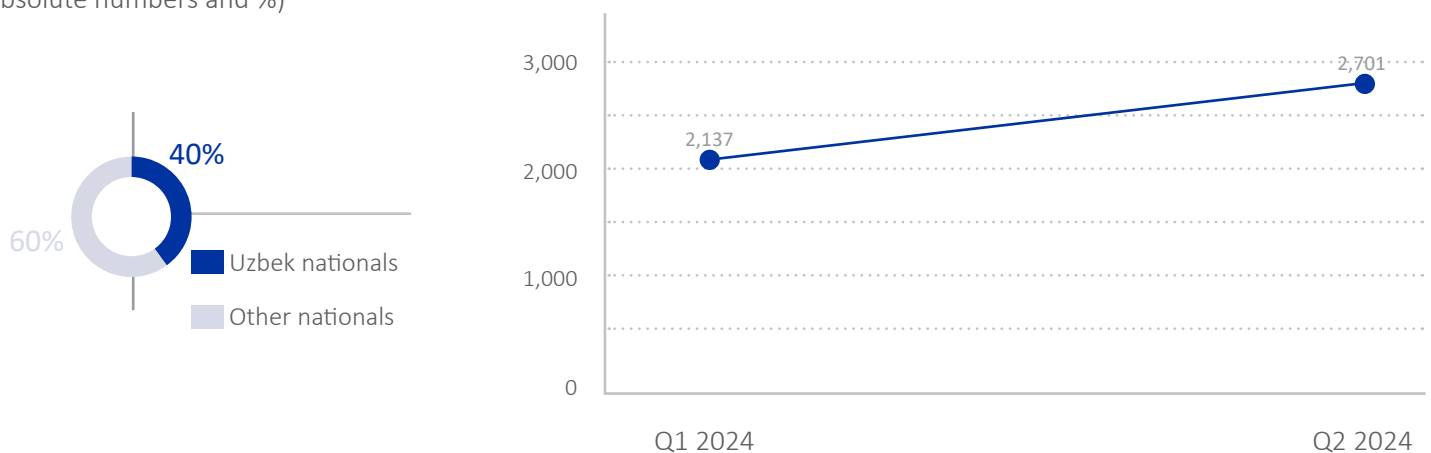
Following the tragic incident in the Crocus City Hall of Moscow region in late March 2024, police raids targeting migrants, mostly from Central Asian countries increased. According to the representative of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ms. Irina Volk, in the first half of 2024 more than 30 thousand foreign nationals were expelled from the Russian Federation within the 'Illegal-2024' police operation (Volk, 2024). Although the numbers by country of origin were not disclosed, the majority of the migrants might have been from Central Asian countries.

In June 2024, the Russian Parliament (Duma) passed a package of bills tightening control in the field of migration. The bills introduce a new legal framework for the deportation of migrants and establish obligations for them during their stay in the Russian Federation, such as taking care of the environment, respecting the diversity of lifestyles in the Russian Federation, and upholding traditional spiritual and moral values, while also expanding the power of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in the area of migration (Duma, 2024).

KAZAKHSTAN

Around 2,701 individuals came to Kazakhstan from Uzbekistan for permanent living purpose in Q2 2024, which was almost 20 per cent more than the number of individuals (2,137 individuals) who came to Kazakhstan with the same purpose in Q1 2024. Migrants from Uzbekistan represented 40 per cent of all foreign nationals (6,785 individuals), who came to Kazakhstan for permanent living purpose in the Q2 2024 (KazStat, 2024).

Figure 6. Number of Uzbek migrants with permanent residence permits in Kazakhstan, Q1 and Q2 2024 (absolute numbers and %)



Source: KazStat, 2024

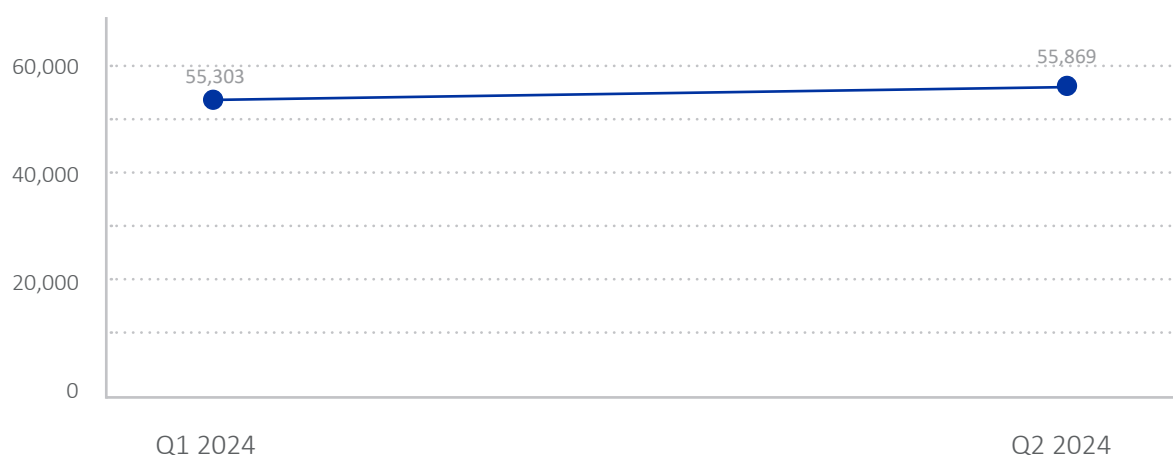


Earlier IOM conducted baseline mobility assessment surveys in 10 regions of Kazakhstan using Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM) tools, and explored that there were 491,284 migrant workers from Uzbekistan among 639,799 international migrant workers in these regions of Kazakhstan as of January 2024 (IOM, 2024).

REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

As of June 2024, the number of Uzbek migrants with residence permits in the Republic of Türkiye reached 55,869 individuals as reported by the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) of the Republic of Türkiye. This demonstrates merely one per cent increase compared to the number of Uzbek migrants with residence permits in March 2023 (55,303 individuals) (PMM, 2024). Residence permits include short-term residence permit, family residence permit, student residence permit, long-term residence permit, humanitarian residence permit and residence permit for victims of human trafficking (PMM, 2024a).

Figure 7. Number of Uzbek migrants with permanent residence permits in Republic of Türkiye, June 2024 (absolute numbers)

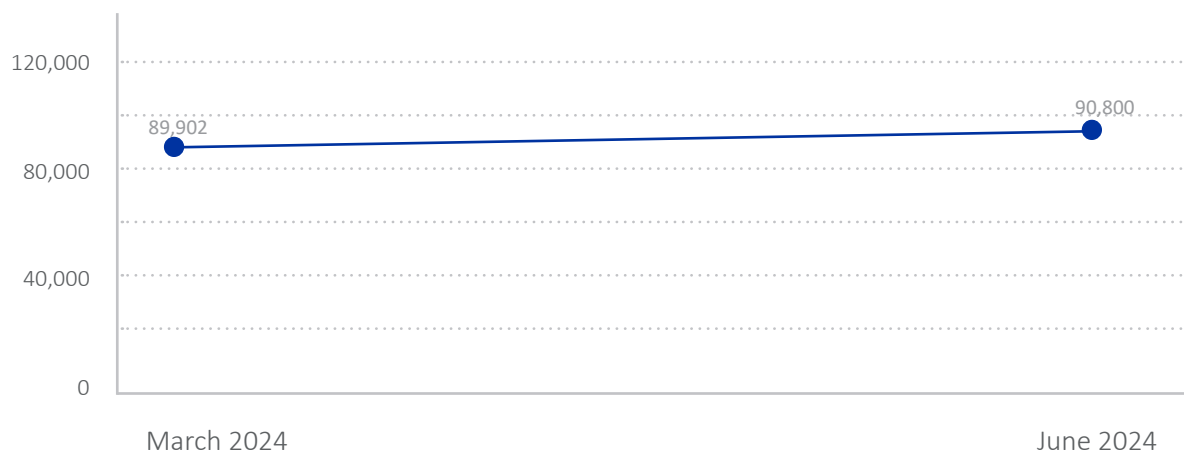


Source: PMM, 2024

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

As of June 2024, there were 90,800 Uzbek nationals residing in the Republic of Korea, making up 3.5 per cent of the total number of foreign nationals (2,612,328 individuals) in the country. This marked a nearly one percent increase from March 2024, when the number of Uzbek migrants was equal to 89,902 individuals (KIS, 2024).

Figure 8. Number of Uzbek migrants living in the Republic of Korea, March-June 2024 (absolute numbers)



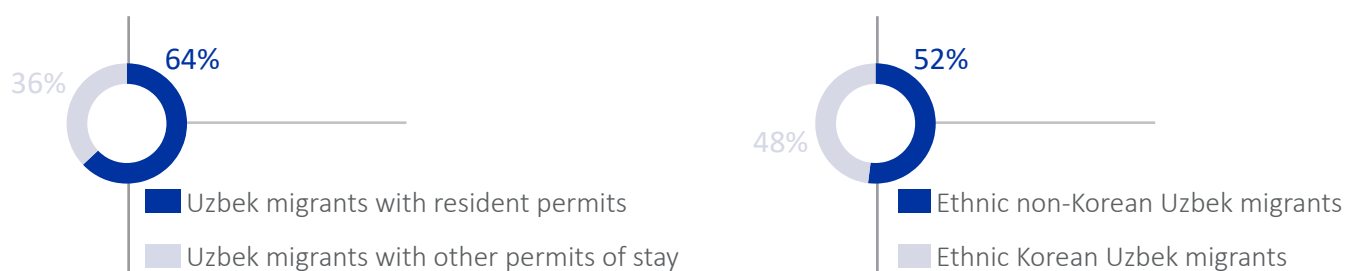
Source: KIS, 2024



Furthermore, as of June 2024, 57,651 Uzbek migrants have residence permits, accounting for 64 percent of all Uzbek nationals in the Republic of Korea. This was an increase of over two percent compared to the number of residence permit holders in March 2024 (56,408 individuals). Conversely, the number of Uzbek migrants with short-term permits stood at 4,975 individuals as of June, reflecting a decrease of 13 per cent from March 2024 (5,716 individuals). At the same time, 25,121 Uzbek migrants with residence permits have the official permits to work in the country as of June 2024 (KIS, 2024).

The number of ethnic Koreans holding Uzbek nationality in the Republic of Korea reached 43,448, accounting for almost 48 per cent of all Uzbek migrants in the country as of June 2024. This number was almost similar to the number of Uzbek nationals of ethnic Koreans in March 2024, when this number was equal to 43,335 individuals (KIS, 2024).

Figure 9. Resident permit holders and ethnic Koreans with Uzbek nationalities residing in the Republic of Korea, June 2024 (%)



Source: KIS, 2024

By the end of June 2024, the number of students from Uzbekistan in the Republic of Korea stood at 13,281, which represents a slight decrease compared to March 2024 (13,442 students): it made up 5.6 per cent of the total number of international students (236,038 students) in the country (KIS, 2024).

EUROPEAN UNION (EU) COUNTRIES

As observed through media sources, most Uzbek migrants in the EU are choosing Poland as their preferred destination among EU countries. Although the exact number of Uzbek nationals in Poland is unclear, some media sources, citing the Uzbek Embassy in Poland, estimate that there might be around 20,000 Uzbek migrants in Poland, consisting mainly of students and migrant workers (The Beet, 2024). According to Poland's Ministry of Digital Affairs, over 21,000 Uzbek nationals have been granted Polish national identification (PESEL) numbers since 2014. While only 50 Uzbek nationals obtained PESEL in 2016, this number increased to 6,440 in 2023 (The Beet, 2024). At the same time, Poland had issued work permits to 9,534 Uzbek migrants in 2023, which was far more than other EU countries (Eurostat, 2023a).

Meanwhile, about 480 Uzbek nationals in EU countries were ordered to leave the EU in Q2 2024. The majority of them were residing in Sweden (240 individuals) and Latvia (155 individuals) during this period (Eurostat, 2024). This number almost halved compared to Q1 2024, when 835 individuals were ordered to leave the EU territory in the previous quarter (Eurostat, 2024a).

In Q2 2024, Uzbek nationals filed an estimated 195 asylum applications in EU countries, with the majority (90 applications or 46%) submitted in Sweden. This indicates a 37 per cent decrease in asylum applications by Uzbek migrants in EU countries compared to Q1 2024, while it was equal to 310 applications (Eurostat, 2024b).



6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION

Climate change continues to be a pressing issue in Central Asia, including in Uzbekistan. Although broader studies have not yet been conducted to measure the impact of climate change on migration in the country, the discussions of adaptation to climate changes are expanding gradually each year. It was reported that different levels of discussions on migration issues were held in 2023 in Uzbekistan, including topics, such as the Aral Sea issue and climate migration (IISD, 2024).

According to a statement made by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Conference on Adaptation to Climate Change in May 2024 in Tashkent, Central Asian countries are particularly susceptible to climate change, with temperatures increasing at a rate 1.7 times faster than the global average. This rapid warming has led to a significant reduction in glacier areas, with their volume shrinking by nearly 32 per cent over the last 50 years (UNDP, 2024). As a result, river flows are diminishing, posing serious risks to the region's food and energy security. These changes might consequently lead to movements of people inhabiting these regions in the near future.

7. UNDOCUMENTED MIGRATION

As mentioned in the [earlier reports](#), official sources do not publicly disclose the number of international irregular migrants in Uzbekistan. However, some cases of migrants from Uzbekistan in an irregular situation were observed in destination countries during Q2 2024.

The number of irregular migrants from Uzbekistan captured by the police in the Republic of Türkiye between 4 April and 27 June 2024 was equal to 2,282 individuals. This was almost nine per cent lower compared to the captured Uzbek irregular migrants from the beginning of the year until early April 2024, when it was equal to 2,503 individuals (PMM, 2024b).

The number of Uzbek nationals found to be irregularly present in EU countries had reached 3,425 individuals by the end of 2023 (Eurostat, 2023b). However, data for Q1 and Q2 2024 is not yet available.

The number of Uzbek migrants in an irregular situation in the Republic of Korea is usually reported on annual basis, therefore the data for 2024 is not yet available. As reported in [the previous report](#), it was estimated to have been 8,812 individuals as of the end of 2023 (KIS, 2023).

In June 2024, the United States of America (USA) Border Patrol agents reported that irregular migrants in California that crossed the border illegally will be released with a future court date, but will not be able to seek asylum. However, adult irregular migrants from particular countries, including Uzbekistan will immediately be sent for removal from the USA territory (NYPost, 2024). From October 2023 until May 2024, 57,200 undocumented migrants attempted to cross the Southern border of the USA and around 2,900 individuals were Uzbek nationals (Foxnews, 2024).

Meanwhile, the information on Uzbek migrants in an irregular situation in some Latin American countries became available for this period. According to the National Institute of Migration of Honduras (NIM), 164 irregular migrants (126 males and 48 females) from Uzbekistan was captured by the police in Honduras in Q2 2024, which was 64 per cent lower than 256 irregular migrants identified in Q1 2024 (NIM, 2024). Additionally, the Migration Policy Unit of the Mexican Statistics Office (MPU) has recently reported that 708 irregular migrants from Uzbekistan were captured in the territory of Mexico in Q2 2024. This marked a 33 per cent decrease compared to 1,054 Uzbek irregular migrants who were detained by Mexican authorities in Q1 2024 (MPU, 2024).

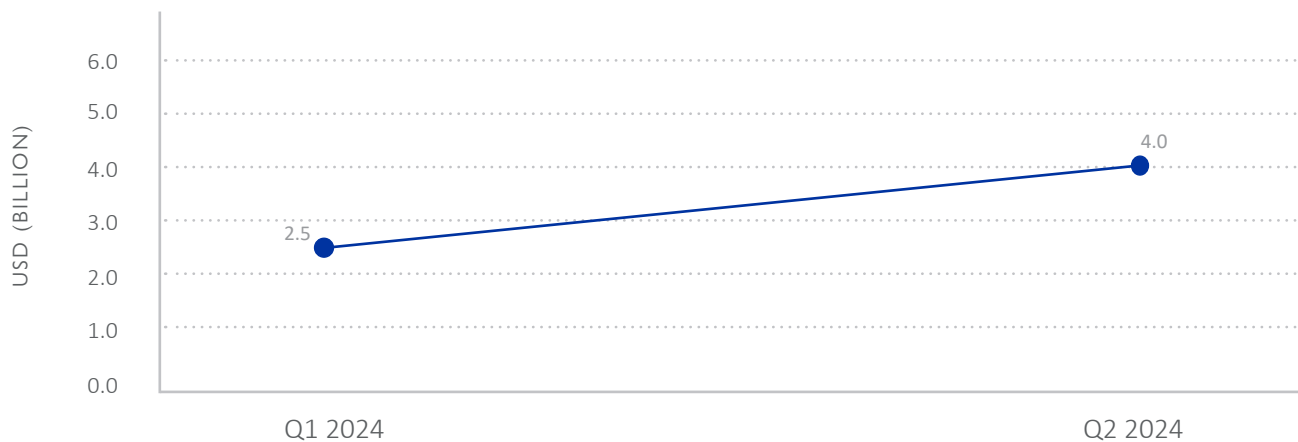


8. REMITTANCE INFLOWS TO UZBEKISTAN

According to the Central Bank of Uzbekistan (CB), the remittance inflows to the country in the first half of 2024 were equal to 6.5 billion USD, out of which 4 billion USD was transferred to Uzbekistan in Q2. CB reported that this was almost 25 per cent higher compared to the first half of the previous year (CB, 2024).

CB also noted that due to shifts in labour migration patterns and the ongoing diversification of the outgoing migrant workers across different countries, there has been a significant increase in remittance inflows from the USA (+43%), Germany (+64%), Poland (+93%), and the Republic of Korea (+90%) since the beginning of the year (CB, 2024).

Figure 10. Remittance inflows to Uzbekistan, Q1 and Q2 2024 (USD billions)



Source: CB, 2024



III. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

IOM	International Organization for Migration
AELM	Agency for External Labour Migration of Uzbekistan
CB	Central Bank of Uzbekistan
EU	European Union
Eurostat	European Union Statistics Platform
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
KazStat	Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan
KIS	Korea Immigration Service, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea
LEX	National Database of Legislation of Uzbekistan
MEPR	Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan
MTM	Mobility Tracking Matrix
MPU	Migration Policy Unit of Mexican Statistics Office
NGOs	Nongovernmental organizations
NIM	National Institute of Migration of Honduras
PMM	Presidency of Migration Management of the Republic of Türkiye
Q1	First quarter of the year
Q2	Second quarter of the year
Rosstat	Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USA	United States of America
USD	United States dollar
UzStat	Statistics Agency under the President of Uzbekistan



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