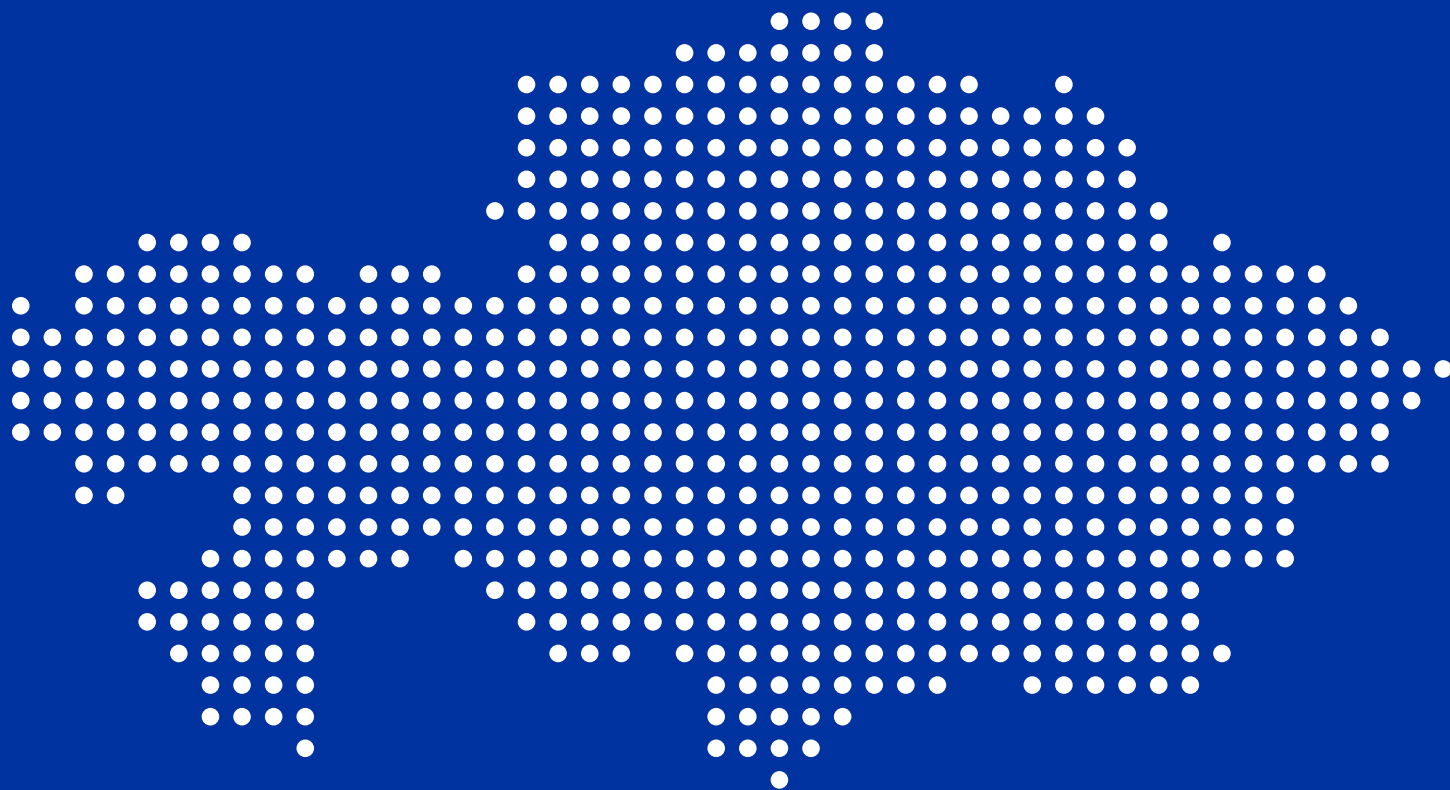


KAZAKHSTAN



MIGRATION SITUATION REPORT JANUARY-MARCH 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.

I.I METHODOLOGY

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 for the first quarter of 2024 was derived from data from 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.

I.II LIMITATION

The report focuses on the most relevant topics related to migration trends in Kazakhstan using currently available relevant and reliable datasets. It does not aim to address all migration topics. Limitation in data may commence from (1) unavailability of some data for the indicated period, (2) incompatible disaggregation or breakdown with other data, (3) methodology not publicly available or (4) data collection/reporting periods do not always align. For clarification, please refer to the sources listed in the bibliography.

II. KEY FINDINGS

1. In the first quarter of 2024, fewer migrants arrived and departed from the country (2,975,788 migrant arrivals and 2,872,109 migrant outflows) than in the last quarter of 2023. The migrants from the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan outnumber the others.
2. Migrants from China, Türkiye, and India are the top three countries from non-CIS countries arriving in the first quarter for labour reasons.
3. Fewer migrants tend to obtain permanent residence permits in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period of 2023. Migrants from the Central Asia region tend to obtain more permanent residence permits than other countries. The second largest group is the migrants from the Russian Federation.
4. The highest concentration of migrant workers can be found in the fields of construction, manufacturing industry, mining and quarrying, professional, scientific, and technical activities, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.
5. Majority of the Kazakh citizens reside in the Russian Federation, Germany, the United States of America, Poland, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Canada and Israel.
6. The volume of personal remittances decreased in 2023 compared to 2022. Transfers from Kazakhstan declined by 18.6 per cent and transfers to Kazakhstan by 51.8 per cent. The fourth quarter of 2023, showed a further trend in decreasing personal remittances which may continue in 2024.

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



1. DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION POLICY

The Decree of the Government of Kazakhstan dated 12 February 2024 amended the Rule of entry and immigration residence policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, their departure from the country, and the Rules of migration control. Thus, from 25 February 2024, the requirements established for foreigners who do not require a visa to enter Kazakhstan, as well as for citizens of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) countries, regarding the stay of a total of 90 calendar days during each period of 180 calendar days do not apply to immigrants:

- who have received a residence permit;
- crew members of aircrafts;
- crew members of sea and river vessels;
- members of train, refrigerator and locomotive crews;
- drivers of lorries and buses engaged in international transport of goods, passengers, as well as in transit through the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- employees of intergovernmental courier services;
- law enforcement officers escorting suspects, accused and convicted persons;
- members of official state and government delegations of states and their accompanying persons;
- employees servicing cross-border facilities located in Kazakhstan;
- belonging to personnel and residents in territories leased from Kazakhstan.²
- In order to stop violations of migration legislation, the country has been holding an operational and preventive measure 'Migrant' since 11 March 2024. The police check the places of residence of migrants, construction sites, markets, organizations, and employers who employ migrant workers.³

During two days of the operation, 3,093 violations of migration legislation were revealed. 207 employers were brought to responsibility for the illegal use of migrant workers. 1,117 individuals and legal entities were prosecuted for failing to inform the police promptly about migrants staying with them. A total of 344 court decisions have been taken to expel violators of migration legislation from the country. Thirty-nine foreigners were forcibly deported. All of those expelled were barred from entering Kazakhstan for five years.⁴

Analysis of the migration situation shows that migrants enter the country legally, but in several cases, they become violators of migration legislation, and citizens of Kazakhstan help in this to a greater extent. A significant number of violations are related to the employment of migrants without obtaining authorization documents.⁵

² [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024](#)

³ [Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024](#)

⁴ [Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024](#)

⁵ [Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024](#)

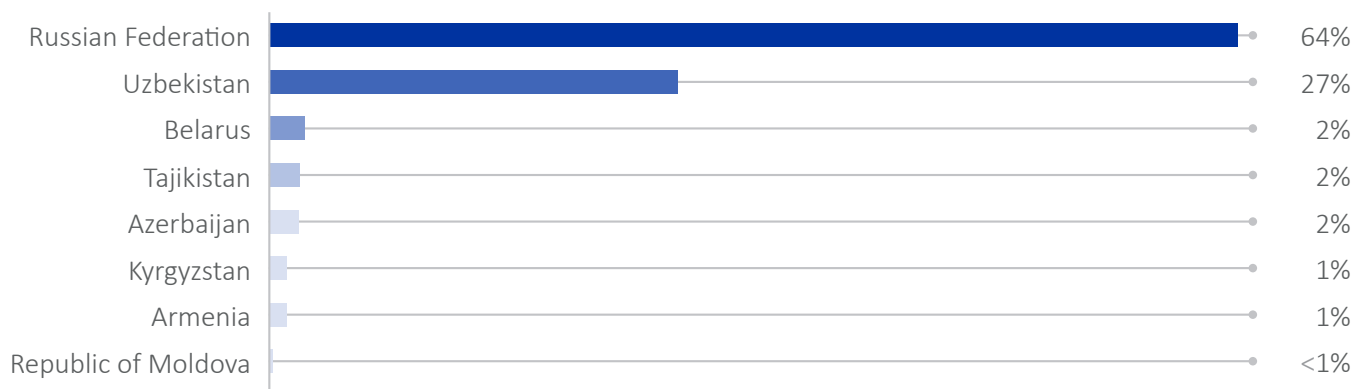


2. MIGRATION INFLOW AND OUTFLOW

2.1 MIGRATION INFLOW

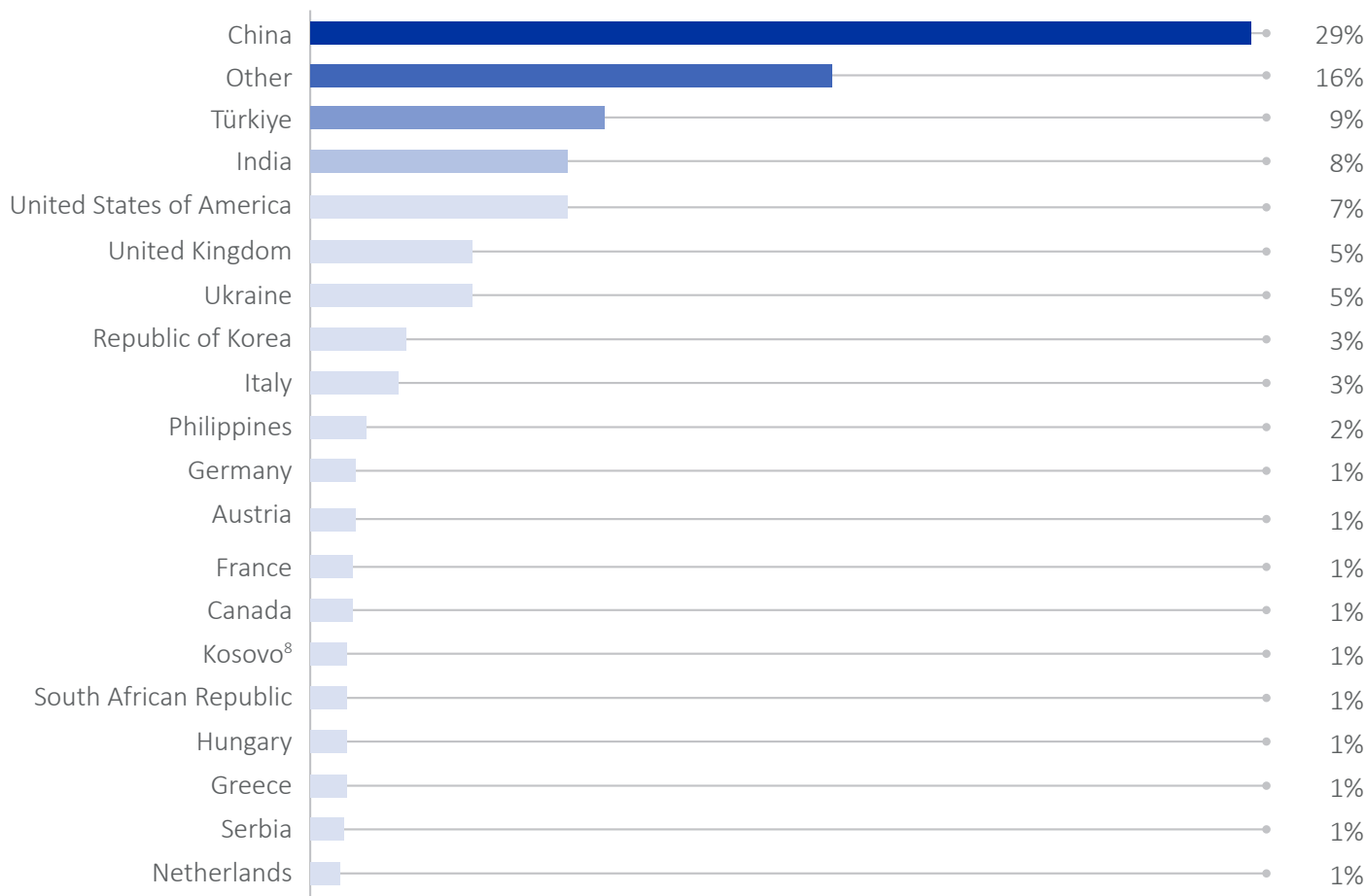
The National Border Service of Kazakhstan reported a total of 2,975,788 migrant arrivals in the first quarter of 2024, which is 12.6 per cent less than in the last quarter of 2023 (3,405,102 migrants) and 10% more compared to the same period in 2023 (2.7 million).⁶ Of the total number of those who entered the country, 41,986 migrants indicated the goal of the visit the labour purposes. More than half (58.2%) of total arrivals accounted for Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member states – 64 per cent from the Russian Federation, 27.4 per cent from Uzbekistan, 2.3 per cent from Belarus, 2 per cent from Tajikistan. Other 41.8 per cent of arrivals accounted for non-CIS countries of origin: 28.5 per cent from China, 8.9 per cent from Türkiye, 7.7 per cent from India, 7 per cent from the United States of America (USA), 4.8 per cent each from United Kingdom and Ukraine.⁷

Figure 1: Migrant inflow from CIS member states, January-March 2024 (%)



Source: National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024

Figure 2: Migrant inflow from non-CIS member states, January-March 2024 (%)



Source: National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024

6. National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024

7. National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024

8. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).



2.2 MIGRATION OUTFLOW

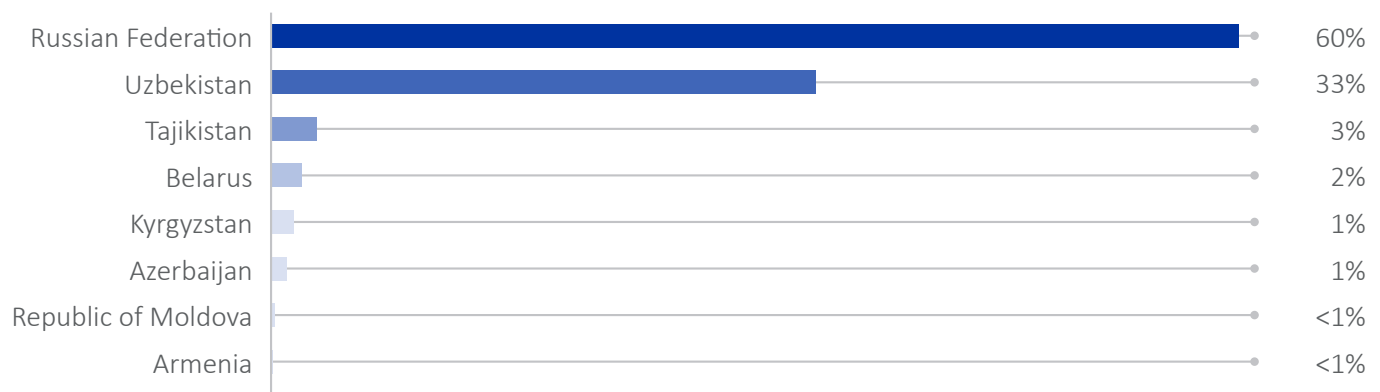
The National Border Service of Kazakhstan reported a total of 2,872,109 migrant departures in the first quarter of 2024 which is 11.3 per cent less than in the last quarter of 2023 (3,237,044 migrants).⁹

Of the total number of those who departed from the country, 32,511 indicates their purpose of travel as of labour.¹⁰

Of the total number of those who departed the country, 62.7 per cent of total departures accounted for CIS member states – 59.2 per cent to the Russian Federation, 33.2 per cent to Uzbekistan, 2.8 per cent to Tajikistan, 1.7 per cent Belarus, and 1.4 per cent to Kyrgyzstan.¹¹

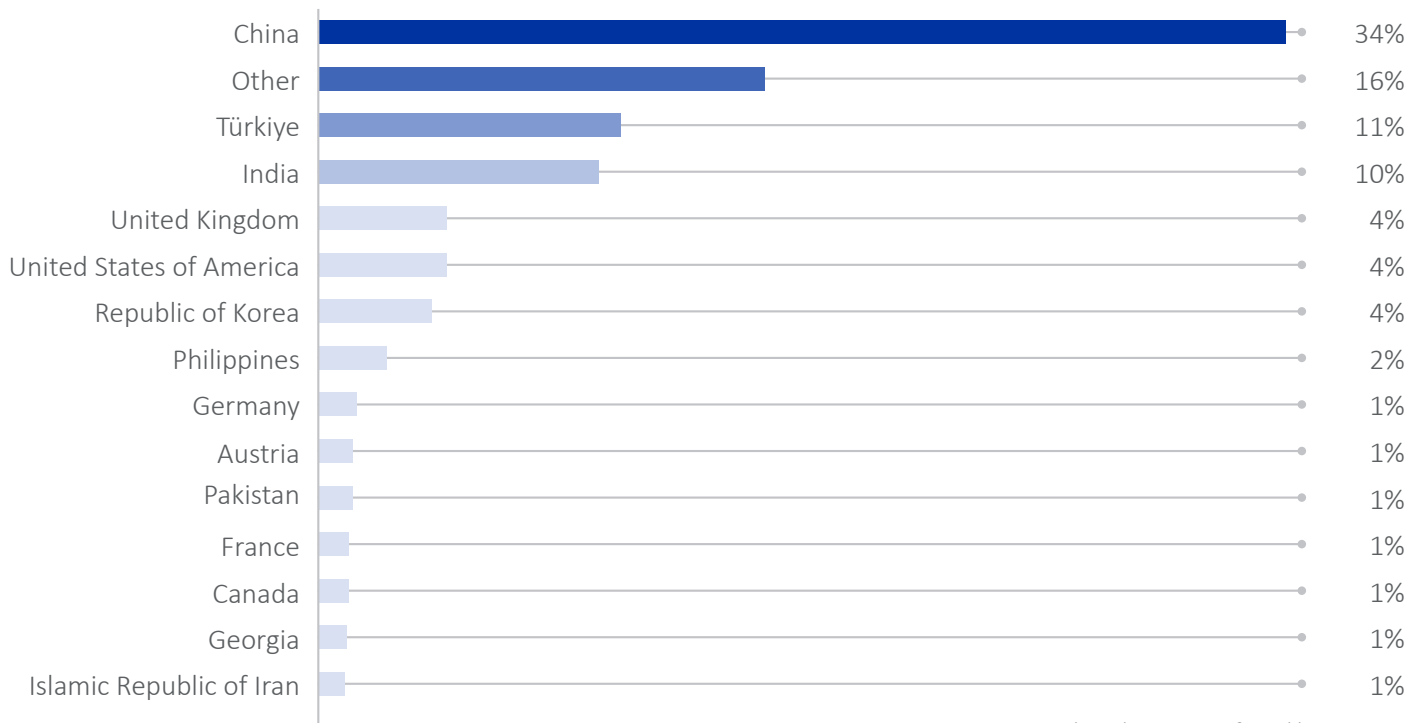
More than one third (37.3%) departures accounted for non-CIS countries: 34 per cent to China, 10.6 per cent to Türkiye, 9.8 per cent to India, 4.4 per cent to USA, and 4.4 per cent to the United Kingdom.¹²

Figure 3: Migrant outflow from CIS member states, January-March 2024 (%)



Source: National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024

Figure 4: Migrant outflow from non-CIS member states, January-March 2024 (%)



Source: National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024

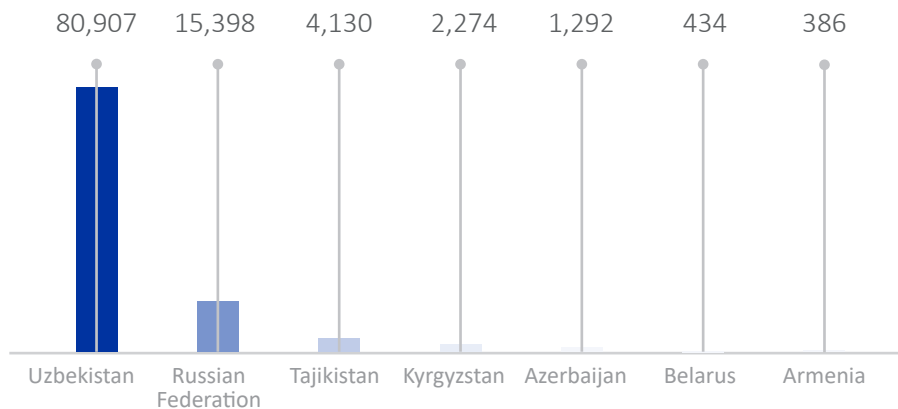
9. National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024
10. National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024
11. National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024
12. National Border Service of Kazakhstan, 2024



3. TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS

In the first quarter of 2024, the Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs registered over 104,000 holders of temporary residence permits, with the majority originating from CIS countries.¹³

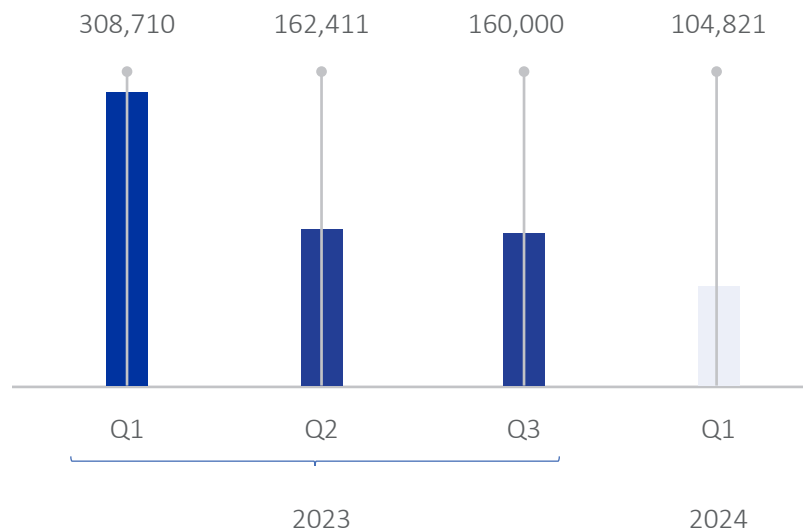
Figure 5: Temporary residence permit holders by country, January-March 2024 (absolute numbers)



Source: Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024

The number of temporary residence permit holders in the first quarter of 2024 downgraded from the last quarter of 2023, with 104,821 migrants obtaining such permission.¹⁴ More than one hundred thousands migrants (100,247) migrants obtained temporary residence permit for labour purposes.¹⁵

Figure 6: Temporary residence permit holders by quarters, 2023-Q1 2024 (absolute numbers)



Source: Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024

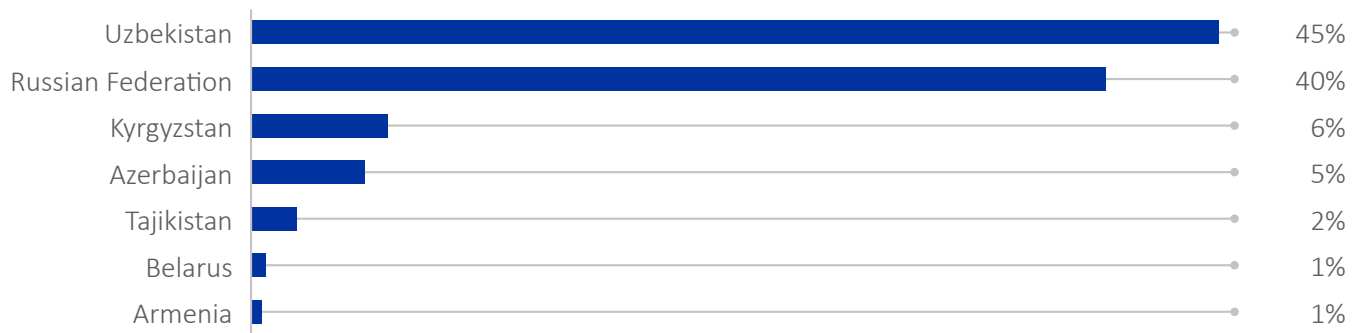
13. Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024
14. Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024
15. Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024

4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS

4.1 PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT HOLDERS FROM CIS COUNTRIES

In the first quarter of 2024, 7,964 migrants received permanent residence permits.¹⁶ The majority of them were nationals of CIS countries (5,745 migrants): 45.2 per cent (2,602 migrants) from Uzbekistan, 39.6 per cent (2,476 migrants) from the Russian Federation, 6.3 per cent (358 migrants) from Kyrgyzstan, 5.3 per cent (308 migrants) from Tajikistan, 2.3 per cent (135 migrants) from Azerbaijan, 0.7 per cent (40 migrants) Belarus, 0.5 per cent (26 migrants) from Armenia.¹⁷

Figure 7: Permanent residence permit holders from CIS countries, January-March 2024 (%)

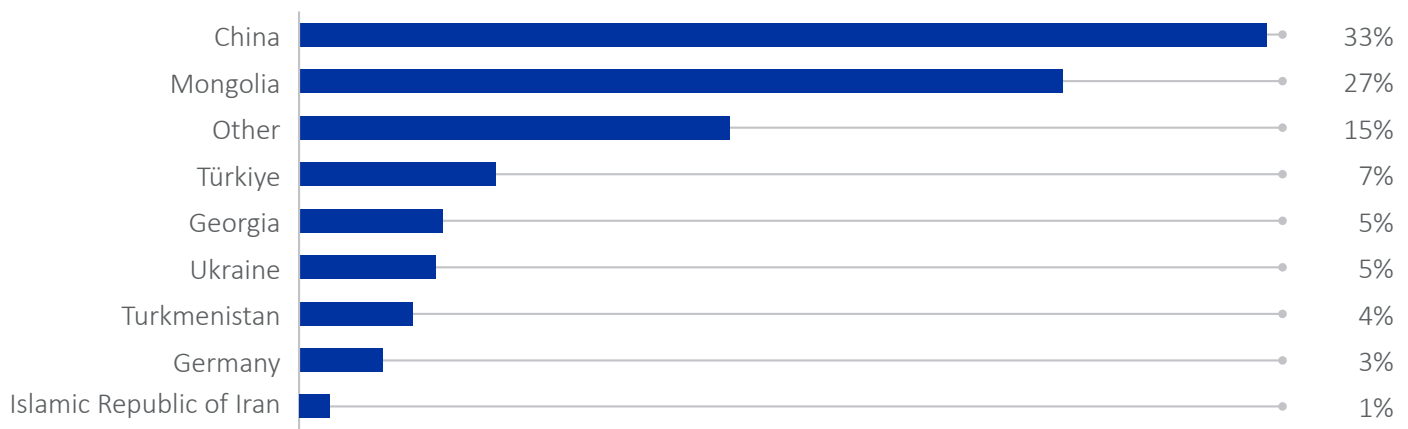


Source: Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024

4.2 PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT HOLDERS FROM NON-CIS COUNTRIES

Almost 3.8 thousands (3,799) of permits holders permanent residence permit holders were accounted for non-CIS countries: 33.4 per cent (739 migrants) from China, 26.5 per cent (587 migrants) from Mongolia, 6.7 per cent (148 migrants) from the Türkiye, 5 per cent (112 migrants) from Georgia, 4.7 per cent (104 migrants) from Ukraine, 4 per cent (87 migrants) from Turkmenistan, 3 per cent (68 migrants) from Germany, 1.1 per cent (24 migrants) from Islamic Republic of Iran and 15.4 per cent from other countries.¹⁸

Figure 8: Permanent residence permit holders from non-CIS countries, January-March 2024 (%)



Source: Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024

16. Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024

17. Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024

18. Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2024

5. LABOUR MIGRATION






The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population reported that 12,882 migrant workers are currently working in Kazakhstan.¹⁹ The permits for foreign labour force includes the following categories:

- 565 permits for managers and their deputies (first category),
- 2,671 permits for heads of structural subdivisions (second category).²⁰

The main part of the attracted labour force belongs to the third (specialists) and fourth (skilled workers) categories - 5,871 and 595 persons, respectively²¹. More than five hundred (564) people were attracted for seasonal work, and 2,616 people were attracted as part of corporate transfers²². Around 1.7 thousand (1,657) employers in Kazakhstan legally recruited migrant workers.²³

When categorized by economic activities, the highest number of individuals are employed in the following sectors:

Table 1: Sectors of employment by number and percentage of individuals, January-March 2024 (% and absolute numbers)

	Sector of Employment	Number of People	Percentage
	Construction	4,326	34%
	Manufacturing industry	1,370	11%
	Mining and quarrying	1,298	10%
	Professional, scientific and technical endeavors	843	7%
	Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries ²⁴	600	5%

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population reported that the main countries of origin of labour migrants are: China - 4,045 people (31.4%), India – 1,152 people (8.9%), Republic of Türkiye - 1,110 people (8.6%), Uzbekistan - 673 persons (5.2%).²⁵

In order to protect the domestic labour market, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population annually establishes and distributes a quota to attract foreign specialists to the country. In 2024, the total quota is set at 0.23% of the labour force in the Republic or 22,000 units.²⁶

¹⁹ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024

²⁰ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024

²¹ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024

²² Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024

²³ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024

²⁴ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024

²⁵ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024

²⁶ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2024

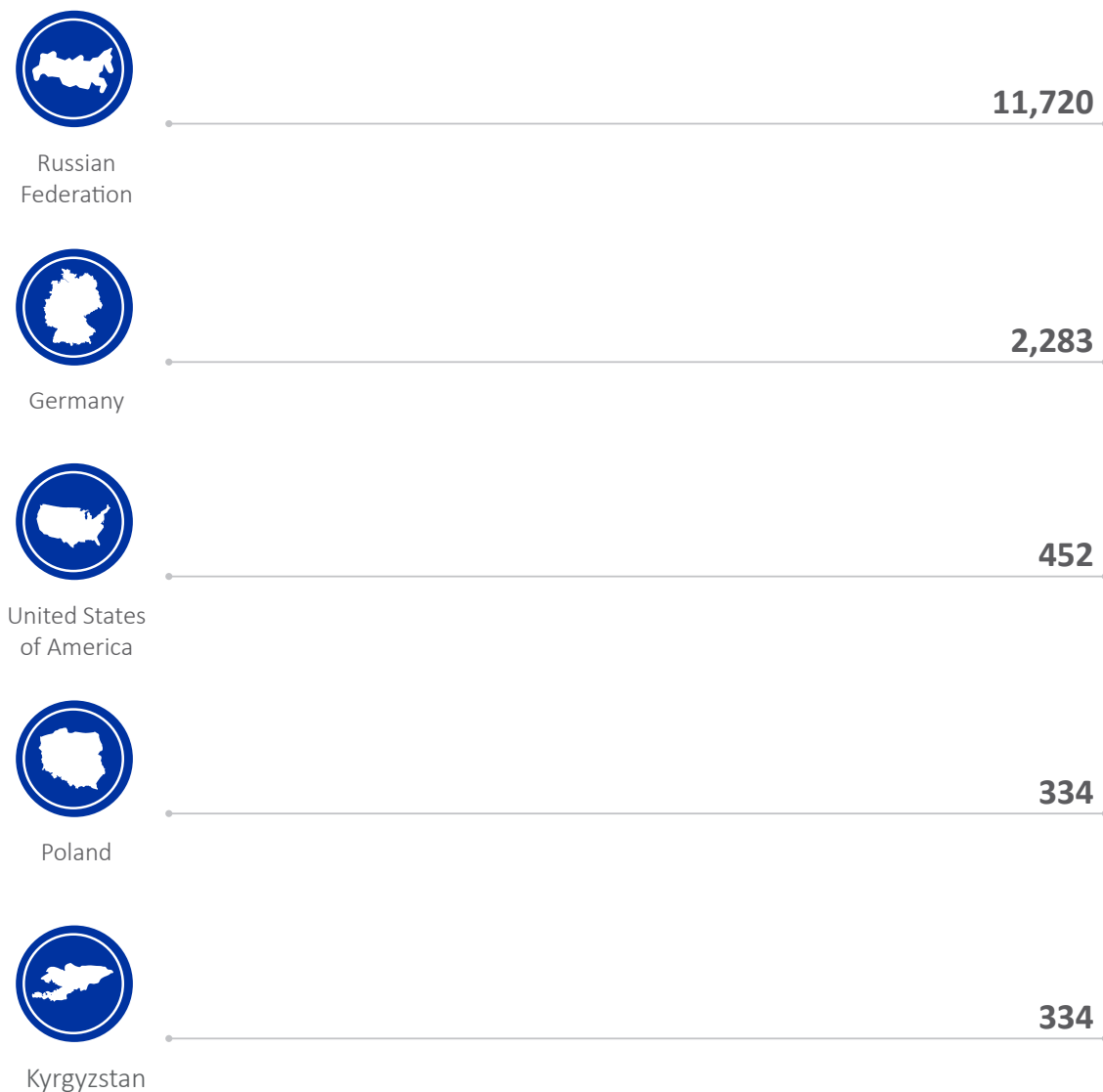


6. EMIGRATION

According to the Bureau of National Statistics, in 2023, the Russian Federation was the primary destination for Kazakh citizens seeking permanent residence, with 11,720 individuals relocating, marking a decrease of 1.6 times compared to 2022.²⁷

The second most popular destination remains Germany: 2,283 (-9.7%), followed by the United States of America: 452 people (+32.5%), Poland: 334 (-15.2%), Kyrgyzstan: 211 (+19.8%), Belarus: 210 (-11.7%), Canada: 114 (-11.6%) and Israel: 39 (-3.1 times).²⁸ Among those who left Kazakhstan over 15 years of age, 3,849 people have higher education (-1.6 times). Secondary vocational: 3,882 (-1.6 times), general secondary: 2,644 (-1.5 times), basic secondary: 1,227 (-1.6 times).²⁹

Figure 9: The top five nationalities, January-March 2024 (absolute numbers)



Source: Bureau of National Statistics, 2024

^{27.} Bureau of National Statistics, 2024

^{28.} Bureau of National Statistics, 2024

^{29.} Bureau of National Statistics, 2024



7. PERSONAL REMITTANCES

7.1 PERSONAL REMITTANCE OUTFLOWS FROM KAZAKHSTAN

The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan has not yet published the remittance data for the first quarter of 2024. Considering this, this section will offer insightful analysis based on the remittance inflow and outflow data for the year of 2023. The volume of personal remittances sent from Kazakhstan in 2023 was estimated to be over 883,5 million United States Dollars (USD), of which the CIS countries accounted for the largest share (479 million USD).³⁰ In 2022, the volume of personal remittances sent from Kazakhstan amounted to 1,08 billion USD. The largest share accounted for CIS countries as well (616 million USD). The decline in 2023 compared to 2022 was minus 18,6 per cent (- 201,5 million USD).³¹

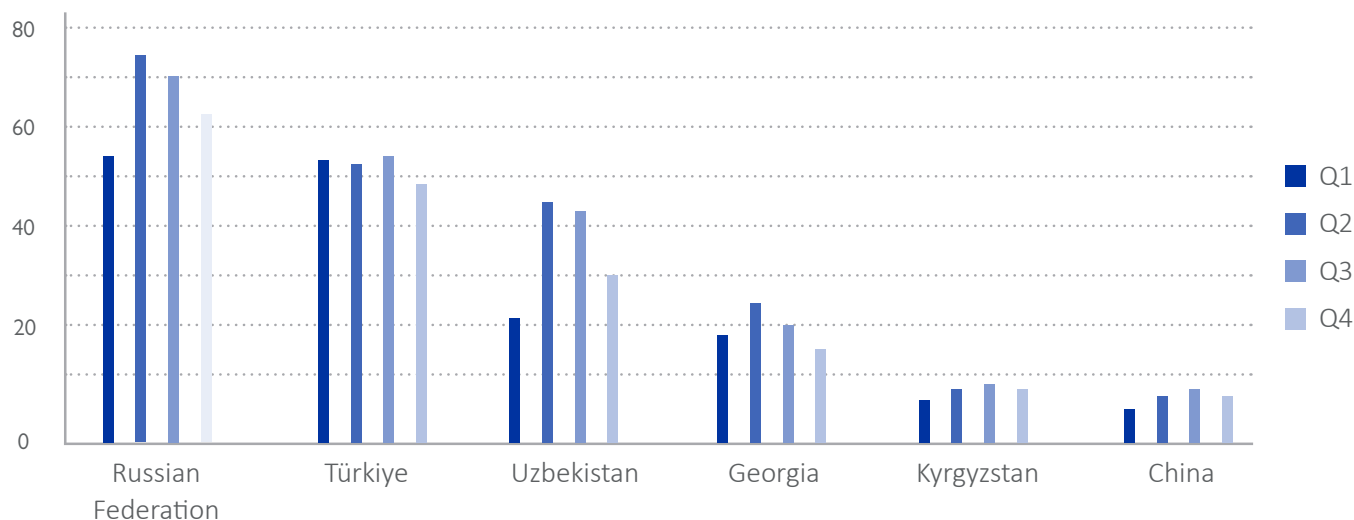
Table 2: Personal remittances transferred from Kazakhstan in 2022 and 2023 (% and absolute numbers)

Country	2022		2023		Variance %
	Remittances sent from Kazakhstan in 2022 (Million USD)	Total share %	Remittances sent from Kazakhstan in 2023 (Million USD)	Total Share %	
Russian Federation	312.8	29%	261.1	30%	-16.5
Türkiye	261.7	24%	206	23%	-21.3
Uzbekistan	156.7	14%	131.2	15%	-16.3
Georgia	70.7	7%	76.1	9%	-7.6
Kyrgyzstan	74.3	7%	30.2	3%	-59.4
China	33.3	3%	27.1	3%	-18.6

Source: National Bank, 2024

The comparison analysis demonstrates that the overall volume of remittances sent abroad tends to decrease further. In the fourth quarter of 2023, all top six countries showed a decline, especially Uzbekistan (-39,8) and the Russian Federation (-9.7%).³²

Figure 10: Remittances transferred from Kazakhstan in 2023 (USD million)



Source: National Bank, 2024

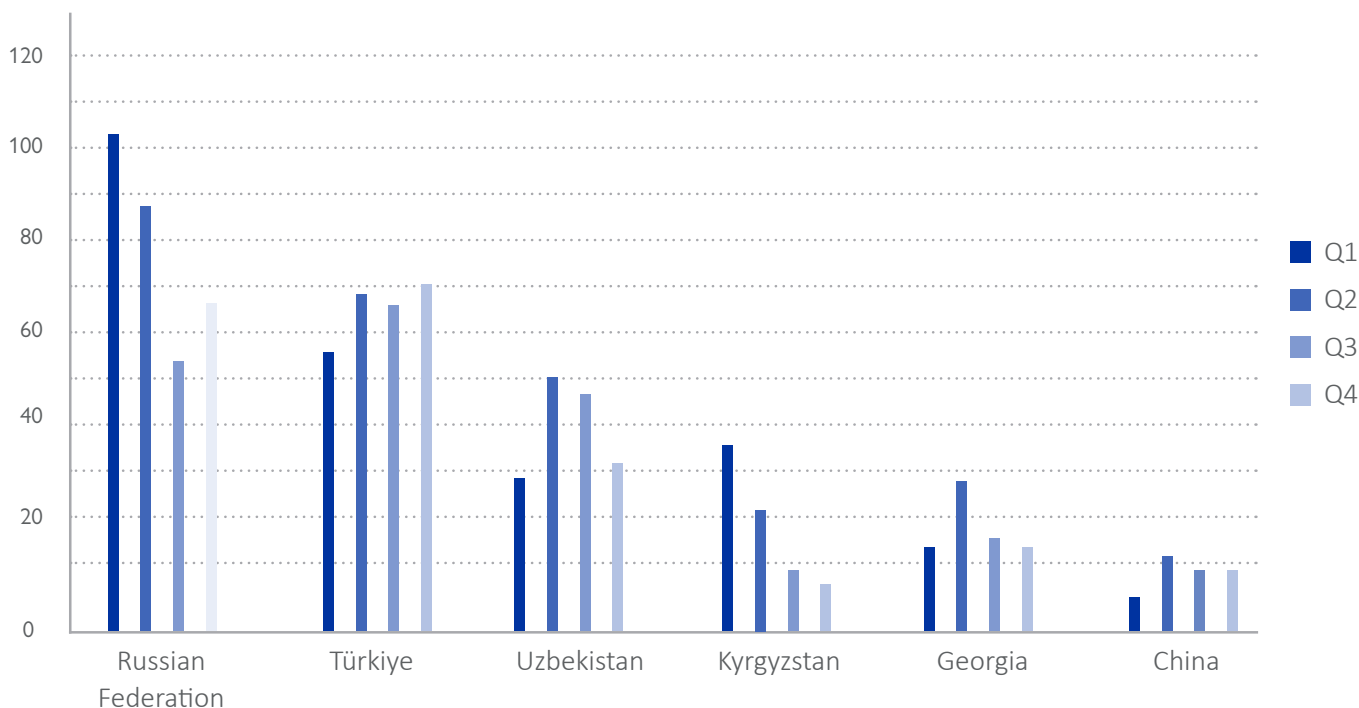
30. National Bank, 2024

31. National Bank, 2024

32. National Bank, 2024



Figure 11: Remittances transferred from Kazakhstan in 2022 (USD million)



Source: National Bank, 2024

7.2 PERSONAL REMITTANCE INFLOWS TO KAZAKHSTAN

In 2023, the volume of remittances sent to Kazakhstan was 299,8 million USD, compared to 476,9 million USD in the same period of 2022. The decline amounted to minus 51,8 per cent (177,1 million USD).³³

Table 3: Personal remittances transferred to Kazakhstan in 2022 and 2023 (% and absolute numbers)

Country	2022		2023		Variance %
	Remittances sent to Kazakhstan in 2022 (Million USD)	Total share %	Remittances sent to Kazakhstan in 2023 (Million USD)	Total Share %	
Russian Federation	195.3	41%	64.2	21%	-67.1
USA	90.8	19%	80	27%	-11.9
Germany	38.6	8%	37.6	13%	-2.6
Republic of Korea	45.8	10%	35.1	12%	-23.4
Türkiye	16.6	4%	17.9	6%	7.8
UAE	9.2	2%	14.8	5%	60.9
Uzbekistan	18.4	4%	12.9	4%	-29.9
Kyrgyzstan	6.8	2%	31.7	7%	-78.5

Source: National Bank, 2024

33. National Bank, 2024



The comparative analysis indicates that in 2023, there was a notable increase in remittances from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (+60.9%) and the Türkiye (+7.8%) compared to the previous year. This surge could be attributed to a growing number of emigrants from Kazakhstan seeking labour opportunities in these countries.³⁴ Conversely, remittances from Kyrgyzstan (-78.5%) and the Russian Federation (-67.1%) saw significant declines. As highlighted in previous reports, the reduction in remittances from Kyrgyzstan is more likely linked to changes in its monetary policy in early 2023. The shift in remittance patterns from the Russian Federation could be associated with sanctions and the political situation concerning Ukraine. According to World Bank forecasts for 2024-2025, while the flow of remittances from the Russian Federation to Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, is expected to decrease, it will likely remain substantially above pre-invasion levels.³⁵ The amount of remittances to Kazakhstan from the USA increased by 31.3 per cent in the last quarter of 2023 compared to the previous quarter.³⁶

Figure 12: Remittances transferred to Kazakhstan in 2023 (USD million)

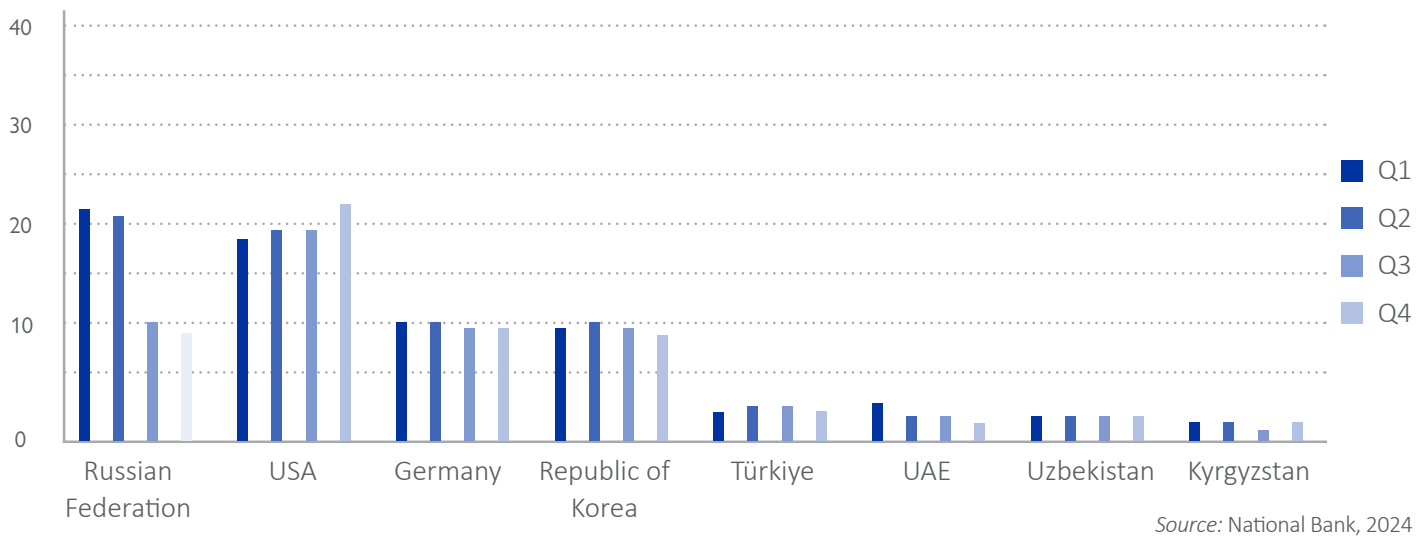
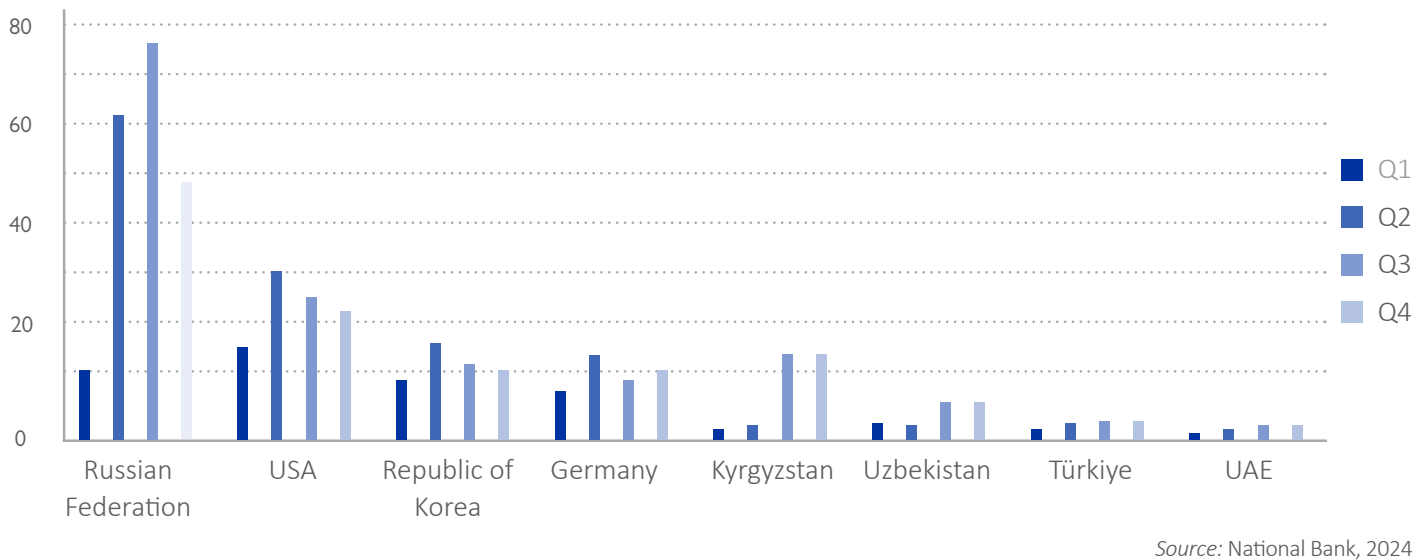


Figure 13: Remittances transferred to Kazakhstan in 2022 (USD million)



^{34.} National Bank, 2024
^{35.} National Bank, 2024
^{36.} National Bank, 2024



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