

## **Central-Asian minorities in Russia in 21 century: Dynamics, structure and new areas for migration**

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Russia is considered the multinational country. However, the overwhelming majority of the population of Russia (81,1 % of those who gave their nationality in 2010) - the Russians.<sup>1</sup> This share is equal to the share, for example, of Frenchmen in France who had never declared of their poly-ethnicity and was not considered as the multinational country. But, at the same time, the present Russian formula is not an exception. China (Peoples Republic of China), for example, also underlines its multinationality (though, not absolutely as the Russian Federation) although actually Chinese (Khan') make 91,5 % of all population (2010).

Modern development of the Russian society gives many grounds to researchers for promotion the hypothesis that formation of a phenomenon which has already received the name of "new diasporas» became essentially new phenomenon of the epoch. Its occurrence is a consequence of several tendencies having, as is seen already now, long-term and deep character. Formation of "new diasporas» seriously complicates, diversifies a palette of social structure of the population, especially its city part. Occurrence of a new element inevitably breaks the former balance, habitual way of life that brings new mechanisms of development and new conflicts in society.

Formation of absolutely new migratory situation became a component part of sweeping changes of the Post-Soviet period. One of its key characteristics is prompt growth of streams of transboundary migrations. They were promoted by market transformation of economy, openness of borders and freedom of movement.

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<sup>1</sup> Results of the National Population Census 2010. Volume 4. Ethnic composition and language skills, citizenship. Table 1. National composition of population. P. 1. – [http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/new\\_site/perepis2010/croc/Documents/Vo14/pub-04-01.pdf](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/new_site/perepis2010/croc/Documents/Vo14/pub-04-01.pdf)

Among "new diasporas" representatives of Central-Asian people in Russia form the impressive diaspora, four, according to 2010 census, exceeded 100 thousand people.<sup>2</sup> Especially amaze rates of increase of number of diaspora of Central-Asian people (except the Kazakhs and Turkmen). Data on number of diasporas of Central-Asian people in Russia in the beginning of 21 century is given in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Increase in number of diasporas of Central-Asian people in Russia in the beginning of 21 century

№	Group	1989 (thousand)	2002 (thousand)	2010 (thousand)	% (1989/2010)
1	<i>All population</i>	147022	145167	142857	-3%
2	Russians	119866	115891	111017	-6%
3	Kazakhs	635,9	654	647,7	+2%
4	Uzbeks	126,9	122,9	289,9	+128%
5	Tajiks	38,2	120,1	200,3	+426%
6	Kirghizs	41,7	31,8	103,4	+151%
7	Turkmens	39,7	33,1	36,9	-7%

Among the people which number exceeds 100 thousand people, on rates of increase in the 2000-s the Kirghizs are on the first place among *all* people of Russia, Uzbeks - on the second, Tajiks - on the third! It is especially interesting that number of the Uzbeks and Kirghizs in the 1990-2000-s decreased.<sup>3</sup> And then at the expense of migration the impressing increase has been made. At the same time migrations of the Kazakhs and the Turkmen are insignificant that is usually related with more stable economic situation in these republics.

At the same time the majority of researchers note difference between the data on migration and results of censuses. And after all there is also not considered migration. The situation with the Central Asian migrants is such: according to censuses data the increase of three peoples (Uzbeks, Tajiks and Kirghizs) made more than 300 thousand persons, and according to the current registration of inter-countries migrations

<sup>2</sup> Results of the National Population Census 2010. Volume 4. Ethnic composition and language skills, citizenship. Table 1. National composition of population. P. 5. - [http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/new\\_site/perepis2010/croc/Documents/Vol4/pub-04-01.pdf](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/new_site/perepis2010/croc/Documents/Vol4/pub-04-01.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> National Census of 2010. Volume 4. Ethnic composition and language skills, citizenship. - <http://www.perepis2002.ru/index.html?id=17>

almost half-million persons arrived from three countries. It is possible to object: from these countries come not only representatives of titular nationalities, but comparison of the data, for example, on the Koreans also looks like that. All above, in our opinion, confirms the fact that census miss many immigrants. Our conclusion is: though migrations, certainly, influence the change of ethnic structure of the population, but to estimate degree of this influence and size of real migratory increase, according to census data on national structure of the population, is obviously not possible.

Of interest is the fact that all Russian diasporas of Central-Asian minorities are young on age structure - the share of persons older than 60 is less than 6 %. For example, for the Russians - the main population of the country - low share of young generation that reflects recession of birth rate of last decades is characteristic; there are traces of reduction of birth rate in military years (group of 65-69 years) and years of demographic «war echo» (group of 40-44 years). Also prevalence of women in groups older than 30 is noticed. And for age structure of sharply growing diasporas of natives from Central-Asian republics, for example, the Tajiks - the new arrived migrants - opposite qualities are characteristic. Following characteristics are typical for them: vanishing small elder generations after 55 years; huge prevalence of men at working age from 20 to 45 years; not enough children that is quite explainable by a small share of women in this population (women give birth to children).<sup>4</sup>

By results of 2010 census it is visible that the share of age groups in different people greatly differs. Thus, the share of persons of elder group varies from half of population (Jews - 50,6 %) to 2 % (Tajiks - 2,1 %). Specific weight of average age group of the population also differs almost twice (41,9 % - in Jews, 76,6 % - in Uzbeks). It is characteristic that Jews and Uzbeks with Tajiks, being on the share of average and elder age groups at the other ends of the distribution, represent vivid examples of emigrating (leaving) and immigrating (arriving) population accordingly.

Moving of ethnic groups of migrants is of interest. Russia is great,

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<sup>4</sup> Results of the National Population Census 2010. Volume 4. A national structure and language skills, citizenship. Table 11. The population of the most numerous nationalities by age, sex and marital status. –

[http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/new\\_site/perepis2010/croc/Documents/Vo14/pub-04-11.pdf](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/new_site/perepis2010/croc/Documents/Vo14/pub-04-11.pdf)

migrants are distributed on its territory rather unevenly. As a whole, for all migrants the concentration centers are Moscow, St.-Petersburg, Moscow, Tyumen, Samara and Volgograd regions. However, it should be noted that Central Asian migrants are concentrated in industrial areas of the Urals and Siberia. It does not mean that, for example, the Uzbeks do not live in the North Caucasus, simply share of these people living there in total number of these peoples is lower, than the share, for example, of the Koreans. It is interesting that from areas of the Volga region the Central Asian people are more concentrated in Tataria and Bashkiria. There is also migration to non-traditional for them regions, to the North, to the Arctic zone, for example, to the Republic of Komi.<sup>5</sup>

The Republic of Komi is situated in the Northeast of the European part of the Russian Federation, in the Subarctic and Arctic zone. The population of the Republic of Komi, according to 1989 census, decreases owing to negative balance of the external migration - from 1250,8 thousand people in 1989 to 901,2 thousand people in 2010.<sup>6</sup> According to 2010 census, decrease in quantity of the Kazakhs living in the Republic of Komi by 35%, in relation to 2002 census, is observed. Number of the Kirgizs, Turkmens and Tajiks is rather stable and insignificant. Only the quantity of the Uzbeks increased by 32 %.<sup>7</sup> The Uzbeks created their national-cultural autonomy in the Republic of Komi. Their number continues to increase. It allows us to assume that the Uzbek community as most numerous of increasing in number Central-Asian minorities in Russia, is in search of new areas for migration, settling further and further to the North of the Russian Federation.

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<sup>5</sup> Results of the National Population Census 2010. Volume 4. Ethnic composition and language skills, citizenship. Table 12. The population of the most numerous nationalities by sex and marital status on the subjects of the Russian Federation. [http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/new\\_site/perepis2010/croc/Documents/Vol4/pub-04-12.pdf](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/new_site/perepis2010/croc/Documents/Vol4/pub-04-12.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Results of the National Population Census 2002. Republic of Co-mi. Part 2. National composition of population, citizenship. Stat. collection. - Syktyvkar, 2005. P. 201.

<sup>7</sup> Results of the National Population Census 2010. Komi Republic. Volume 3. Ethnic composition and language skills, citizenship. - Syktyvkar, 2012. P. 185.

## Resumé

### **Národnostné menšiny zo Strednej Ázie v Rusku v 21. storočí: dynamika, štruktúra a nový priestor migrácie**

Rusko je tradičná multikultúrna krajina s 81,1% zastúpením majoritnej ruskej národnosti. Aktuálny vývoj ruskej spoločnosti však prináša neustály rozvoj fenoménu formujúceho sa pod všeobecným označením „nová diaspora.“ Takáto skutočnosť mierne komplikuje prehľadnosť ruskej spoločenskej štruktúry, predovšetkým v mestskom prostredí. Jedná sa však o jeden z typických znakov postsovietskej éry krajiny, do ktorej patrí aj pomerne rýchly nárast migračnej frekvencie. Najvýraznejšou zložkou národnostných menšín v Ruskej federácii sú najmä imigranti zo štátov strednej Ázie – Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan, Tadžikistan, Kazachstan a Turkmenistan. Väčšina z prisťahovalcov je situovaná v priemyselných oblastiach Ruska v oblasti Uralu a Sibíri, alebo v priestore Tatárskej a Baškirskej republiky. Podľa momentálnych výsledkov výskumu sa zo stredoázijských menšín najdynamickejším narastaním počtu prisťahovalcov vyznačuje uzbecká minorita. Jej prílev spôsobuje väčšie osídľovanie nových, čoraz viac severnejších území Ruskej federácie.