

Uzbekistan

General Information



Population

36 361 859 (World Bank 2024)

37 355 356 (STAT UZ 2024)



Immigration

1 154 963 (UN Immigration
Stock 2024)

218 794 (STAT UZ 2023)



Emigration

2 114 480 (UN Emigration
Stock 2024)

233 175 (STAT UZ 2023)



Working-age population

22 919 628 (World Bank 2024)

20 710 900 (STAT UZ 2024)



Unemployment rate

5.3 % (World Bank 2020)

6.8 % (STAT UZ 2023)



GDP

114 965 293 466.6 current
prices USD (World Bank 2024)

1 192 162.5 billion UZS (STAT
UZ 2023)



Refugees, Asylum seekers, IDPs

Refugees

8 505 (UNHCR 2024)

Asylum Seekers

0 (UNHCR 2024)

IDPs

0 (UNHCR 2024)



Citizenship

By Birth

No (GLOBALCIT 2024)

By Descent

Yes (conditional) (GLOBALCIT
2024)

Years of Residency

5 (GLOBALCIT 2024)



Territory

447 400 km² (CIA World
Factbook)

Data from international sources is updated automatically as it becomes available.

Migration Authorities

Responsible Body

Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction

Line Ministries

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Justice

Agencies

Agency for External Labour Migration under the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction

The National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Persons and Forced labour

The Republican Tripartite Commission on Social and Labour Issues

State Customs Committee

State Statistics Committee

Key Policy Documents

National development strategy "Uzbekistan-2030"

1992 (2016) Law on Citizenship in the Republic of Uzbekistan

1996 (2020) Regulation on the Procedure of Entry, Exit, Stay and Transit of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons

2008 (2020) Law on Countering Human Trafficking

2017 Regulations on procedure for providing political asylum in the Republic of Uzbekistan

2017 Strategy of Actions in Five Priority Areas for the Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021

2018 Law on Private Employment Agencies

2020 Law on Employment of the Population

2021 Law on Legal Status of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a major migrant-sending country. Since the 2000s, external labour migration and sizeable internal migration have replaced outmigration for permanent residence – a defining feature of the 1990s. Compared to labour migration flows, the volume of permanent migration in both directions is insignificant. Preliminary data for the first half of 2024 indicated that **1,080** persons permanently immigrated to Uzbekistan, while **5,066** permanently emigrated. In 2023, these indicators stood at **2,955** and **17,336** respectively.

With a population **exceeding 37 million in 2024**, Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia, maintaining a significant growth rate of **2.1% in 2023**. Since 2010, the population has increased by over 8 million, with projections estimating it could reach **43.6 million by 2035**. Of the current population, **56.4%** are of working age. Each year, approximately **650,000** young people complete their secondary education, the majority of whom enter a labour market that is unable to fully accommodate them, making labour migration a necessity for many, which in turn generates considerable remittances. In 2023, the volume of personal remittances received by Uzbekistan reached **USD 16.1 billion** or about **17.7%** of the country's GDP (**USD 90.89 billion in 2023**).

Between 2010 and 2014, an estimated **4 million** Uzbeks were working abroad. However, this figure has since declined to around **2-3 million**. According to the Agency for External Labour Migration of Uzbekistan, nearly **2 million** Uzbek labour migrants were registered as of December 2023. Of these, around 1.2 million (60%) were in Russia, 191,800 (10%) in Kazakhstan, 113,800 (6%) in Türkiye, 68,100 (3%) in South Korea, with the remaining 424,400 (21%) spread across other countries. Russia continues to be the primary destination for Uzbek migrant workers. In the first half of 2023 alone, over 1.6 million Uzbek nationals entered Russia for work purposes, and **9,340 Uzbeks** received Russian citizenship. Given the considerable volume of informal employment, the real figures are hard to assess. Official Uzbek sources indicate that over **200,000 Uzbek migrants**, both temporary and permanent, were in Kazakhstan in 2023. Additionally, an estimated 76,000 Uzbek citizens permanently relocated to Kazakhstan, partly due to ethnic Karakalpak citizens fleeing violence in Uzbekistan. **An IOM mobility assessment in Kazakhstan for December-January 2024** confirmed that nearly half a million Uzbek workers were present in Kazakhstan.

Labour migration policy remains an important vehicle for Uzbekistan to support its young population. The country has several bilateral labour **agreements** with key destination countries, including Russia (since 2009) and Kazakhstan (since 2021) and has partnered with nearly 300 employers across **28 countries**, including **South Korea, Japan, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and Qatar**. Uzbekistan aims to **diversify** destinations and improve the **conditions** and legal protections for its workers abroad. In 2023, the Agency for External Labour under Uzbekistan's Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction facilitated employment for **over 38,000** migrants via established recruitment programmes, mainly in Russia, South Korea, the UK and Kazakhstan. South Korea set a 2024 quota of **37,000** for Uzbek migrants, from a pool of 100,000 applicants. By the end of 2023, the Uzbek diaspora in South Korea reached **87,600**.

Within the EU, the number of Uzbek residence permit holders stood at **30,339** in 2023, according to preliminary Eurostat data, down from 41,394 in 2022, returning to a similar level as in 2021 (29,450). Most valid residence permits in 2023 were issued for employment reasons (18,932), of which half were issued in Poland, followed by family reasons (4,967), other reasons (3,747), education (1,960), refugee status (572) and subsidiary protection status (161). The number of Uzbek migrants moving to the EU, based on first-time residence permits, has grown significantly, rising from around **6,000 in 2019 to over 26,000 in 2023**. Most of these permits were issued for work, with Lithuania (7,546) and Poland (6,860) being the top destinations for Uzbek labour migrants.

Irregular migration of Uzbek nationals in the EU remains relatively low, while return rates exceed average 50% since 2019. In 2023, **2,470** Uzbek nationals were returned out of **3,790** who were ordered to leave. Most of the orders to leave were issued by Sweden (895) and Latvia (840). The number of Uzbeks staying irregularly in the EU exceeded **3,400** in 2023, up from 1,110 recorded in 2021, marking the highest figure since 2014.

In 2020, Uzbekistan was home to over **1.6 million** foreign nationals, most of whom were from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan. During 2023, a total of **2,955 people** arrived in Uzbekistan for permanent residence, with nearly 40% arriving from Russia and 25% from Kazakhstan. Moreover, between January and May 2024, approximately **115,000 labour migrants returned** to Uzbekistan from abroad.

In 2023, there were some **4,440** Uzbek refugees and **17,459** asylum seekers worldwide, most of whom were hosted by the US. The same year, Uzbekistan hosted **9,405** refugees from Afghanistan, although the country did not subscribe to 1951 Refugee Convention.

Uzbekistan has significantly reduced the total number of registered stateless persons within its borders from **97,346 in 2019 to 22,496 in 2023**. Most of these individuals are former citizens of the Soviet Union and their descendants. A **new provision** in the Citizenship law passed in April 2020 allows most stateless persons to obtain Uzbek citizenship. Uzbekistan also conferred nationality to some **10,000 stateless persons** by amending its birth registration practices, introducing universal birth registration, also for children born to undocumented parents, and launching a nationwide campaign to identify and register all cases of unregistered births. In 2021 alone, Uzbekistan **resolved 33,000 cases** of statelessness.

Uzbekistan has actively engaged in international migration efforts by endorsing the Global Compact for Migration and participating in various regional migration dialogues, including the Prague Process. In July 2019, the **Decree** on “Additional Measures to Further Improve the System of Combating Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labour” elevated the Interdepartmental Commission for Combating Human Trafficking to a National Commission, now under the guidance of the President of the Senate. In August 2020, Uzbekistan updated its **2008 Law “On Combating Human Trafficking”** incorporating new concepts, preventive measures, and procedures for identifying victims, including minors. Since 2018, the country has issued over a **dozen decrees and resolutions** aimed at protecting the rights of Uzbek citizens and refining the national labour migration system. Notably, the adoption of the **Law “On Private Employment Agencies”** in October 2018 ended the state monopoly on overseas employment for citizens. In December 2020,

Uzbekistan also became an observer to the [Eurasian Economic Union](#). In 2023, Uzbekistan adopted the national development Strategy "[Uzbekistan 2030](#)." Among others, the strategy aims to improve national migration policies and labour market governance to better protect migrant workers and meet market demands. Additionally, it aims to enhance access to comprehensive, multi-sectoral social services for vulnerable groups, including victims of human trafficking, migrants, and refugees.

latest update: 20 September 2024

Relevant Publications

[Information Needs Assessment Study of Intending and Returning Migrants in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan](#)

[Impacts of Russia’s War in Ukraine on Migration in Central Asia](#)

[Displaced Afghans in Central Asia](#)

[Russian “Relokanty” in the Caucasus and Central Asia](#)

[Digitalisation and labour migration: the use of modern technology, challenges and opportunities](#)

[The Prague Process is joining CoO and hosting countries](#)

[Impact of the Situation in Afghanistan on the Central Asian Countries: Implications for Migration](#)

[Changing Demographics in the Countries of the Prague Process: Implications for Migration](#)

[Monumental Shifts in Uzbek Labour Migration Policy](#)

[Combating irregular migration and human trafficking in the CIS countries](#)

[Asylum seekers from the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian Countries in the EU](#)

[Migration and Mobility in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: What to expect in times of COVID-19?](#)

[The EU Central Asia Strategy and Its Impact on Migration](#)

[Addressing the Challenges of Labour Migration within the EAEU](#)

[China's "Belt and Road" Initiative and Its Impact on Migration Flows and Policies in Central Asia](#)

[Evaluating the Future of Uzbek Labour Migration](#)

[Uzbekistan Migration Profile Light 2015](#)