

# Armenia

## Extended Migration Profile

2011

Building Migration Partnerships (BMP)

**The present document represents the final version of the Extended Migration Profile. The content of this document has been approved by the state authorities of the project partner state.**

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International Centre  
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# Armenia

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## Extended Migration Profile



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## Background

This Extended Migration Profile has been prepared in the framework of the “Building Migration Partnerships” initiative funded by the European Union’s Thematic Programme and running between January 2009 and June 2011. The overall objective of this initiative is to contribute to the implementation of the Joint Declaration agreed at the Prague Ministerial Conference "Building Migration Partnerships" (April 2009).

The “Building Migration Partnerships” initiative is jointly implemented by the Czech Republic (Ministry of the Interior), Hungary (Ministry of Interior), Poland (Ministry of Interior and Administration), Romania (Ministry of Administration and Interior), Slovakia (Ministry of Interior) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The partners of this initiative are the migration authorities of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The initiative specifically addresses ministers and Heads of Departments of ministries and migration services of participating countries holding main responsibilities in migration management, as well as senior level officials of these ministries.

This Extended Migration Profile has been elaborated on the basis of a template prepared by the European Commission. It contains different statistical and analytical information which aims to evaluate the overall migration situation in a given country. The objective is to facilitate co-operation between countries in the field of migration management: on the one hand by providing information on the migration situation in the country and, on the other, by providing a sound empirical and statistical basis for policy planning and development.

Part A of this Extended Migration Profile outlines how migration has evolved during the last couple of years. Furthermore, it gives a brief summary of key migration trends and issues in the last decade. Part B of the Profile provides an overview of the socio-economic conditions of the country in order to understand possible push/pull factors of migration in the country.

Part C analyses, on the one hand, migration patterns and recent trends and, on the other, provides an overview of existing data such as numbers and types of immigrants/emigrants, irregular immigrants/emigrants as well as Diasporas abroad and remittances. Part C also identifies data gaps.

Based on the information and data presented in Parts A, B and C, Part D summarises the key migration trends indicating the main push and pull factors driving migration. Furthermore, the nexus between different demographic and socio-economic factors and their implications for migration are explored, and expected future migration developments are outlined.

Part E of the Profile describes areas of special interest and priorities of the country. Migration policies and programmes and their effectiveness in managing migration and development challenges are described in Part F, while part G aims to provide an overview of the impact of migration on the socio-economic development and the effectiveness of related migration policies.

The main findings and analysis are presented in Part H. This final part also indicates existing data gaps and suggests possible strategies to improve national migration statistics. Furthermore, it proposes ways of making the migration Profile updateable, and presents key recommendations for policy makers on how to improve current migration management.

## General country information<sup>1</sup>



<b>Capital:</b>	Yerevan
<b>Area:</b>	total: 29,743 sq km
<b>Land boundaries:</b>	total: 1,254 km (border countries: Azerbaijan 787 km, Georgia 164 km, Iran 35 km, Turkey 268 km)
<b>Population:</b>	3,210,000 (2001)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Armenian 97.9%. National minorities: Russian, Yezidi, Kurds, Assyrians, Greeks, Ukrainians, Jews and other.
<b>State language:</b>	Armenian
<b>President:</b>	Serzh Sargsian
<b>Head of Government:</b>	Tigran Sarkisian
<b>Government type:</b>	Republic

<sup>1</sup> Map and general country information: CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/am.html>)

## A. Introduction

### A1. Development reality

- **Millennium Development Goals**

In September 2000, the Millennium Summit in New York adopted the so called “Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The leaders of 192 countries signed the Millennium Declaration by accepting the obligation to reduce poverty on the planet by half by the year 2015. The international community established 8 Goals, directed towards the solution of the problems of poverty and hunger, illiteracy, gender inequality, children's and maternal health and mortality, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, ecological degradation and global partnership for purposes of development.

The process of establishing an MDG framework in Armenia started in September 2000, when Armenia joined the Declaration. The MDG targets and indicators were nationalized to correspond to the country-specific priorities of poverty reduction and human development reflected in the main development policies and strategies of Armenia. The Republic of Armenia Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) was adopted in 2003 and became the first policy document where the achievement of MDGs was formally reflected. The first nationalized MDG Status Report published in 2005 established the MDG framework for Armenia. In 2008, a comprehensive strategic program on the country's long-term development - Sustainable Development Program (SDP) - was adopted and the achievement of the MDGs is at the core of this strategic document. And finally, in September 2010 the Second MDG National Progress Report was launched by the UN Office in Yerevan<sup>2</sup>. The current state of progress towards achieving the MDGs presented below refers to the mentioned Second MDG National Report, published in 2010<sup>3</sup>.

#### **MDG ONE: Poverty**

This Goal aims at eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. The International Community aims to halve by 2015 the proportion of people whose income is less than USD 1 a day. In this respect, the national targets for Armenia of the Goal are aimed at reducing the poverty level to a value below the one from 1990 by the year 2015, and to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.

In recent years, Armenia experienced a substantial reduction in poverty. The proportion of the population living below the national poverty line decreased more than two-fold from 1999 to 2008, from 56.1% to 23.5%. The proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption decreased even more sharply – by 6.8 times during the same period. In 2008, only 3.1% of the population was below the national poverty food line, while in 1999 this figure was 21%. However, this means that nearly a quarter of the population in Armenia was poor in 2008 and approximately 100,000 people in Armenia suffered from an inadequate daily calorie intake.

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<sup>2</sup> UNDP in Armenia, Achieving MDGs in Armenia, <http://www.undp.am/?page=MDGs>

<sup>3</sup> Government of Armenia and United Nations Country Team in Armenia: “Armenia, Millennium Development Goals, National Progress Report , 2005 – 2009”, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/gender/genderandmdgs/show/395A20EC-F203-1EE9-BE1FD88FDEFC5691>

## **MDG TWO: Universal Primary and Secondary Education**

The MDG Two in its initial formulation has already been achieved in Armenia. Therefore, taking into account positive developments in the country, the state took obligation to “ensure that, by 2015, every child will be able to complete a full course of high quality secondary education”.

In general, the enrollment in secondary education in Armenia is on a very high level. However, the enrollment of the poor in education, including professional, vocational and higher education, remains a challenge. The other major challenge in the education system is the improvement of the quality of education, which requires the development and introduction of a unified system for knowledge assessment at all levels of education. The introduction of a quality assurance system is especially crucial for the secondary education sector. Although it is of high priority, a unified system for knowledge assessment has been introduced only recently and a system of common monitoring indicators has not yet been established.

## **MDG THREE: Gender Equality**

Armenia is one of the state parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The main principles of the Convention are addressed in the Constitution of RA and in the “National Action Plan for 2004-2010 on Improving the Status of Women in the Republic of Armenia and Enhancing their Role in the Society”. In 2007, Armenia ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women. Armenia joined the European Social Charter where enjoyment of social rights without discrimination on the grounds of sex is one of the fundamental principles. The analysis of the Armenian Constitution and legislation shows, that the fundamental rights of women and gender equality norms are ensured.

In February 2010, a Gender Policy Concept Paper was approved by the Prime Minister to become the first ever national strategic document of primary importance. The Concept defines main directions and a general strategy of a state policy on gender relations and refers to the equal enjoyment of rights and opportunities by all citizens in all spheres of social life regardless of their sex.

Nevertheless, the gender analysis shows that there are major issues regarding the inadequate access of women to opportunities. The major challenge of the country in this field is that despite having legally guaranteed equal basic rights and high levels of competence, women cannot make full use of them. Women’s equal access to opportunities and participation in socio-economic and political life as well as decision making are, in practice, not ensured. Participation and availability of economic and social resources between women and men are not equal. Representation of women and men in management and decision-making positions is imbalanced both at national and local levels. For example, the representation of women in the National Assembly remains low (in 2008 – 6.7%, target – 25% by 2015). Women’s average wage covers only about 59% of men’s average wage, an obviously frustrating situation for women, taking into account their high level of competence<sup>4</sup>.

As a consequence, Armenia should adopt a gender specific approach in its laws, policies and programs and to build national capacities to efficiently promote, coordinate, monitor and evaluate national gender equality programs and policies.

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<sup>4</sup> See also part B3 of this Profile

#### MDG Four: Reduce child mortality and MDG Five: Improve maternal health

Armenia is ranked as a country with average child mortality rates, which are higher than in Eastern Europe, but lower than the CIS average. During recent years, infant and under-five mortality rates have shown a tendency to decline in general.

Target	1990	1999	2004	2007	2008	Target value in 2015
Under-five mortality rate, per 1,000 live births	23.8	19.3	13.0	12.3	12.1	<10
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births <sup>5</sup>	18.5	15.4	11.6	10.4	10.8	<8
Proportion of 2 years-old children immunized against measles	95.2	91.1	91.5	92.0	94.5	>96

The issue of child health is one of the priorities of the government policies in the health sector, which is documented in national level programs, as well as in the sectoral policy documents. This prioritization is clearly reflected in the corresponding increase of budget funding directed to child healthcare programs, both in the primary health-care and at hospital levels. Currently, the 2010-2015 National Immunization Program is being implemented.

Better parental education on child health, nutrition, development and recognition of the danger signs of diseases are considered as important factors that may significantly contribute to improved child health and reduced child mortality. According to the Armenia Demographic and Health Survey (2005), there are significant differences in infant mortality rates based on the education levels of mothers. Besides this there is also low awareness among mothers of child health issues.

Given this pattern of recent developments and taking into account the possible consequences of the on-going economic crisis for the financing of the health sector, the MDG 6 – improvement of maternal health will be difficult to achieve for Armenia.

	1990	1999	2004	2005	2007	Target value in 2015
Maternal mortality, per 100,000 live births (3 years average)	32.6	35.4	22.6	24.0	26.0	<10
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, %	98.6	96.8	99.5	97.8	99.7	>99.5

Reproductive health issues are in the core of the development agenda of the Armenian Government. Special attention should be paid to the availability of contraception as an unmet demand. The lack of contraceptive means (which causes high level of abortions) is a problem and directly influences maternal health and mortality. On the other hand, factors outside the health care delivery system contributing to maternal mortality should be analyzed in greater detail with particular attention to adopting mitigating measures addressing such factors as delay in recognition of danger signs during pregnancy (household level) and delay in transportation.

#### MDG SIX: Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

HIV/AIDS incidence is low in Armenia and the HIV/AIDS epidemic is in the concentrated stage occurring mostly among the maximum-risk populations. As of late 2008, 674 HIV cases were registered in the

<sup>5</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia <http://www.armstat.am/file/article/demos104.pdf> p.72,76

country, of which 505 (or 74.9%) were males and 169 (or 25.1%) were females. The 674 reported cases included 13 cases of HIV infection among children (1.9%). More than half of all the registered HIV cases were reported during the last four years. The majority of AIDS diagnoses have been made within the last three years. This increase might be partially attributed to the fact that in recent years more HIV-infected Armenian citizens or those having clinical symptoms have returned to Armenia from other CIS countries. HIV prevention efforts for migrants prior to 2007 were not considered a priority for the country. There is a need to implement new strategies and approaches to increase the effectiveness of activities and to expand HIV prevention interventions among migrant workers and especially to focus on migrant women and women in general and provide them with services that will enable and empower them to be protected from HIV and STIs.

On the other hand, the increase in the number of registered HIV and AIDS cases in recent years is also enhanced by the scaling up of laboratory networks, increased access to HIV testing, the establishment of a VCT system, strengthening laboratory capacities for diagnostics of AIDS and AIDS indicator diseases, as well as the improved capacities of relevant health care facilities and increasing awareness of HIV/AIDS among the health care personnel as a result of training provided by the National AIDS Center.

Although the HIV/AIDS incidence in Armenia is currently low, there is a risk that the situation can worsen particularly when taking into account the intensive migration flows (specially to high prevalence countries) and the fact that Armenia is located in a region characterized by a sharp increase of HIV/AIDS incidence during recent years.

In 1963, **malaria** as a mass-scale disease was eliminated in Armenia. This positive situation was maintained until 1994. In 1994, the first local (autochthonous) case of malaria was recorded. After that, registered cases of malaria (both autochthonous and imported) showed increased trends until 1998 when the total number of newly registered cases reached 1,156 (or nearly 36 per 100,000 population). Such dramatic change was caused mostly by the socio-economic situation in the country in the early 1990s, as well as by the lack of capacities and resources in the health sector to respond properly. Since 1999, continuous improvements regarding the malaria situation have been recorded. Since 2006 no local malaria case has been registered in Armenia. Armenia is one of the first countries in the European region where malaria has been practically eliminated. In 2009, the country applied to WHO requesting it to certify the RA territory as a malaria-free area.

The incidence of **tuberculosis** in Armenia increased significantly during the past 15 years, though at a slower rate than in other CIS countries. In 2008, the tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 was 46 up from 24.9 in 1995 (the estimated TB incidence is much higher due to the fact that not all TB patients are registered properly). This increase is partially attributable to the deterioration of socioeconomic conditions, as well as accelerated migration flows in the 1990s. In 2005, TB incidence per 100,000 reached 62.3, after which a decrease in the indicator was recorded during the following three years.

Achieving the targets stated under MDG 6 by 2015 is a challenge for policy makers and issues related to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other socially important infectious diseases are a priority.

The following programs are being implemented at the national level:

- National Program for Tuberculosis Control, 2007-2015;
- National Program on the Response to the HIV Epidemic in the Republic of Armenia for 2007-2011;
- Malaria Control Program 2005-2009.

One main factor that puts the achievement of the targets at risk are the existing constraints in public financing given the recent economic developments, which add uncertainty to the perspectives in the medium-term.

- **Human Development Index<sup>6</sup>**

According to the data provided by the Human Development Report 2009 prepared by UNDP, Armenia's HDI rose by 0.51% annually from 0.731 to 0.798 between 1990 and 2007.<sup>7</sup> HDI scores in all regions have increased progressively over the years although all regions have experienced periods of slower growth or even reversals. Such value of HDI in 2007 puts the country in the category of High Human Development and ranks Armenia 76<sup>th</sup> out of 169 countries. However, the recent data shows the decrease in HDI for Armenia. In 2010 HDI constituted 0.695<sup>8</sup>. This decrease was most likely caused by decrease in GDP index as life expectancy index and adult literacy index showed even some increase during last years.

- **Life Expectancy Index**

Life expectancy for Armenia was 73.5 years for both sexes in 2007. This puts country at 64<sup>th</sup> place among all states at global level<sup>9</sup>. Life expectancy on average is about 9 years less in Armenia than in the countries in the very high human development category.

In 2010, life expectancy at birth in Armenia is registered at the level 74 years (70.8 for male and 77.2 for female)<sup>10</sup>.

- **Adult Literacy Index**

Adult Literacy Index is high in Armenia. It is comparable with that of the highest developed countries. UNDP reports that adult Literacy rate, which corresponds to the percentage of literate population above 15 years, is 99.5% and ranks Armenia 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> (together with the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan) in this category of human development<sup>11</sup>. For 2010, this index is reported to be even higher – 99.6% of adult Armenian population is literate<sup>12</sup>.

- **GDP Index**

According to UNDP, GDP per capita (PPP) in Armenia was USD 5,693 in 2007, GDP index – 0.707. This index in particular highlights a gap between Armenia and the countries in the very high development

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<sup>6</sup> HDI represents a composite measure of achievements in three basic dimensions of human development—a long and healthy life, access to education and a decent standard of living. For ease of comparability, the average value of achievements in these three dimensions is put on a scale of 0 to 1, where greater is better, and these indicators are aggregated using geometric means combines indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and income (UNDP, Human Development Reports, Glossary of Terms,

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev/glossary/>)

<sup>7</sup> UNDP Human Development Report 2009. Armenia

[http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country\\_fact\\_sheets/cty\\_fs\\_ARM.html](http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_ARM.html)

<sup>8</sup> UNDP, HDI indicators, <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/1406.html>

<sup>9</sup> UNDP Human Development Report 2009. Armenia

[http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country\\_fact\\_sheets/cty\\_fs\\_ARM.html](http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_ARM.html)

<sup>10</sup> UNDP, HDI indicators, <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/1406.html>

<sup>11</sup> UNDP Human Development Report 2009. Armenia

[http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country\\_fact\\_sheets/cty\\_fs\\_ARM.html](http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_ARM.html)

<sup>12</sup> UNDP, HDI indicators, <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/1406.html>

category. The GDP index for Armenia is similar to countries such as El Salvador and Angola<sup>13</sup>. Moreover, due to the global financial crisis, in the last years, GDP per capita decreased and constituted USD 5,285 in 2010<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> UNDP Human Development Report 2009. Armenia

[http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country\\_fact\\_sheets/cty\\_fs\\_ARM.html](http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_ARM.html)

<sup>14</sup> UNDP, HDI indicators, <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/indicators/1406.html>

## A2. Recent migration patterns: a brief summary

The collapse of the USSR and the formation of the Newly Independent States were accompanied by unprecedented migration movements. In Armenia, this phenomenon has reached a very high volume due to specific factors: the devastating earthquake of 1988 in Spitak, mass violence and arbitrary killings of Armenian citizens in Sumgait, Kirovabad, Baku and other places of Azerbaijan, and the war in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and surrounding areas. These events as well as the economic blockade of Armenia by Turkey and Azerbaijan created massive migration flows from and to Armenia.

Massive emigration from Armenia started in 1988 and the first huge flows have been recorded in the period 1988-1992. This was the first phase of massive resettlement. As already mentioned, the first stage of the massive emigration was conditioned by certain extraordinary factors. Firstly, more than 400,000 Armenians left the territory of Azerbaijan due to mass violence and deportation. A large number of people left their permanent places of residence because of Soviet Army and later Azerbaijan Army hostilities against the population of Nagorny Karabakh and surrounding areas<sup>15</sup>. Secondly, in 1988, due to Spitak earthquake more than 200,000 persons (mainly women and children) were evacuated to other republics of the Soviet Union. Later (in 1989 – 1990) about 160,000 of these displaced persons returned to Armenia.

The period of 1992-1995 was the second phase of the massive emigration from Armenia caused by socio-economical and psychological factors resulting from the economic crises in the country after the collapse of the Soviet Union and mostly by the road and commercial blockade of Armenia by Turkey and Azerbaijan. At that time emigration mainly concerned high and medium qualified specialists who lost their job due to overall economic crisis in the young country. As a result of this emigration wave almost 20% of population left Armenia which led to massive brain-drain<sup>16</sup>. According to different assessments, the number of people who left Armenia since 1992 fluctuates from 900,000 to 1,000,000. Large-scale emigration with its negative consequences upon all aspects of the social life made the regulation of this phenomenon to an issue of primary importance for the State.<sup>17</sup>

The third phase of emigration took place from 1995 to 2001, characterised by decreasing numbers of emigrants. The decline was mainly caused by the stabilization of the socio-economical situation in the country. On the other hand the migration potential of the country was significantly reduced because of high numbers of emigrants in a few previous years. In this period the process of family reunification of migrants, who had left the country earlier, became significant. It is reported that about 950,000 persons emigrated during this period of time. At the same time, some 350,000 people returned to Armenia or immigrated to the country<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> About 160.000 Azerbaijanis living in Armenia left the country in 1988 - 1990. It should be noted that unlike Armenians who left Azerbaijan without savings and personal belongings, Azeris left Armenia voluntarily, after selling or exchanging their houses or apartments. Moreover, the Government of Armenia provided vehicles to Azerbaijani families who wanted to relocate to Azerbaijan, for transportation of furniture and other staff. In addition, Azeris taking departure were able to withdraw all their bank savings, or transfer them to the accounts in Azerbaijan.

<sup>16</sup> UNDP, "Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges", Armenia 2009, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

<sup>17</sup> Gagik Yeganyan, Chief of the Migration Agency of the Ministry of the Territorial Administration of the RA <http://www.dmr.am/ADMR/INDEX.HTML>

<sup>18</sup> UNDP, "Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges", Armenia 2009, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

Taking into account these intensive migratory movements which took place in the young independent state, “The Conception on the State Regulation of the Emigration of the Population” was adopted in 2000 as the first comprehensive document concerning emigration policy in Armenia. This document was the first attempt on state level to formulate a policy on emigration defining its positive and negative aspects. The document emphasised certain ways of promoting emigration in the interest of the state, as well as measures aimed at the reduction of the negative effects of other types of emigration. The concept was reviewed in 2004, when new challenges linked to changed emigration flows had emerged. The new “Conception on the State Regulation of Migration” was adopted by the Government of RA on 30 December 2010.

Recent developments in the migration field show that both emigration and immigration processes are important for Armenia. According to the official statistic data, about 61,100 persons emigrated from Armenia between 2002 and 2008, and about 9,900 persons immigrated to the country during the same period of time<sup>19</sup>. Obviously, persons who emigrated without proper registration of their emigration as well as citizens of Armenia re-emigrated back to the country are not included in this statistics. Some other sources indicate that between 2002 and 2007 more than 700,000 persons emigrated from Armenia. At the same time inflow to the country constituted some 600,000 persons<sup>20</sup>.

Nevertheless, both official statistics and research data indicate that the main direction of emigration from Armenia is headed to the post-soviet countries, in particular, to the Russian Federation (about 75% of all emigrants), other European countries (about 15%), and the USA (about 10%). About 30% of the overall population was involved in the external migratory movements starting from 1998.

The changes in domestic migration were not as significant as in external migration. The sharp decline in economy, political and social life had created an environment in which the traditional internal migratory movements (from rural areas to urban areas, from small towns to large towns) lost in significance due to massive external migration and due to the closure of industrial complexes. In the late 1990s, with the stabilization of political and economic situation, domestic migration paths returned to normality again.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia: Statistical Yearbooks of Armenia 2009 (p.45), 2004 (p.43), Population statistics; <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=45>

<sup>20</sup> UNDP, “Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges”, Armenia 2009, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

<sup>21</sup> UNDP, “Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges”, Armenia 2009, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

## B. Analysis of the socio-economic context of migration

### B1. Demographic changes

- Population volume<sup>22,23</sup>

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 <sup>24</sup>	2010
<b>Total population size, end of year, 1000 persons</b>	<b>3,215.8</b>	<b>3,219.2</b>	<b>3,222.9</b>	<b>3,230.1</b>	<b>3,238.0</b>	<b>3249.5</b>	<b>3,250.5</b>
Males	1,550.6	1,554.1	1,557.4	1,562.6	1,568.3	1575.8	n/a
Females	1,665.2	1,665.1	1,665.5	1,667.5	1,669.7	1673.7	n/a
Urban	2,062.3	2,062.6	2,065.9	2,070,5	2,073.4	2081.0	n/a
Rural	1,153.5	1,156.6	1,157	1,159,6	1,164.6	1168.5	n/a
Per 1000 population, births	11.7	11.7	11.7	12.4	12.7	13.7	n/a
Per 1000 population, deaths	8.0	8.2	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.5	n/a
Natural growth of population	3.7	3.5	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.2	n/a
Net population migration	-2.4	-2.4	-2.1	-2.0	-1.8	-1.2	n/a

- Population by national and/or ethnic group

According to the 2001 census, the main nationalities/ethnic groups in Armenia are: Armenians 97.89%, Yezidi 1.26%, Russians 0.46%, Assyrians 0.11%, Ukrainians 0.05%, Kurds 0.047%, Greeks 0.036%, others 0.14%.

- Internally Displaced Persons

Internal displacement in Armenia has largely been the result of armed conflict and natural disasters. The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh forced more than 70,000 people to flee their homes and the 1988 earthquake in the Spitak region rendered some 500,000 people homeless. In 2000 the Armenian government estimated that 100,000 people were still displaced due to the 1988 earthquake and about 20,000 due to other natural and man-made disasters.

A 2004 survey of internally displaced persons (IDPs) conducted by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) concluded that there were still some 8,400 conflict-induced IDPs, while the rest have returned to their villages, settled elsewhere or emigrated. More recent figures on IDPs are not available. IDPs that fled the conflict were displaced mainly from areas bordering Azerbaijan. In descending order these included the provinces of Syunik, Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat. Armenians living in Artsvashen, an outlying district of the Armenian province of Gegharkunik completely surrounded by Azerbaijani

<sup>22</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia: Statistical Yearbooks of Armenia 2009, Population statistics; <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99458058.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia: Socio-Economic Situation of the Republic of Armenia, January-December 2009, Demographic Situation, [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/sv\\_12\\_09r\\_520.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/sv_12_09r_520.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/demos\\_10\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/demos_10_1_.pdf); [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/demos\\_10\\_2.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/demos_10_2.pdf)

territory, were also displaced. Many villages were totally evacuated, some of them more than once. Separation of families was common, as women, children and the elderly were usually the first to leave their villages to live in summer pasture areas, while men stayed behind. As the conflict continued, men joined their families and then moved to more central locations while some went abroad or joined the ranks of volunteers who defended their villages from attacks.

By 2004 almost 90 per cent of the remaining 8,400 IDPs were living in Syunik, Tavush and Gegharkunik provinces (NRC, 1 March 2005).

Unlike other governments in the region, Armenia has not adopted a national legal framework to uphold the rights of conflict-induced IDPs. The Law on Protection of Population in Emergency Situations covers only natural or human-made disasters and excludes displacement as a result of conflict, human rights violations and general violence. The government regards conflict induced IDPs as normal citizens who enjoy the same constitutionally-guaranteed rights as other Armenians. The national human rights institution has also not taken an interest in addressing internal displacement. Nevertheless, the government has taken some relevant measures.

The government designed several programmes to help conflict-induced IDPs and others in returning to their homes. In some border villages, the government has undertaken measures to improve access to drinking water, renovation of houses and repairing irrigation systems. Some of the IDPs living in temporary shelters are included in the program for provision of land for housing. The latest program, developed in 2008, aims to help 1,005 displaced families to return to their homes, facilitate the integration of returnees and families affected by the conflict and rebuild infrastructure in areas of return.<sup>25</sup>

However, it should be noted that due to a lack of funding the programmes mentioned are not fully implemented (the funds needed for implementation of these programmes reach USD 39 million). In order to attract funding needed for implementation of resettlement programmes, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has organised an international conference with participation of UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Antonio Gutierrez in Yerevan in May 2011 to address the issue<sup>26</sup>.

- **Population age distribution by sex (thousands), 1 January 2010<sup>27</sup>**

Age	Both sexes combined	Male	Female	Age	Both sexes combined	Male	Female
0-4	198.2	105.8	92.4	50-54	238.5	111.9	126.6
5-9	179.9	96.5	83.4	55-59	175.2	79.9	95.3
10-14	217.6	114.6	103.0	60-64	107.3	46.9	60.4
15-19	292.2	149.3	142.9	65-69	84.6	35.5	49.1
20-24	316.1	160.1	156.0	70-74	113.2	45.9	67.3
25-29	291.9	146.9	145.0	75-79	74.2	29.5	44.7
30-34	239.7	118.3	121.4	80-84	43.9	14.7	29.2
35-39	202.1	97.6	104.5	85 +	11.1	2.8	8.3
40-44	203.5	96.5	107.0	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,249.5</b>	<b>1,575.8</b>	<b>1,673.7</b>

<sup>25</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Country Profile, Armenia, [http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/\(httpCountries\)/BDE4E7B8F3758AE6802570A7004C38A1?OpenDocument&count=1000](http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/(httpCountries)/BDE4E7B8F3758AE6802570A7004C38A1?OpenDocument&count=1000)

<sup>26</sup> Information from the State Migration Service, submitted to ICMPD via Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria on October 21, 2010

<sup>27</sup> Ibid

45-49	260.3	123.1	137.2				
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- **Population density:**

Current population density is 109.1 persons per sq km while in 2005 it was 108.1 persons per sq km.

- **Naturalisations of foreign population**

Naturalisation of foreigners in Armenia is mainly related to the acquisition of Armenian citizenship by refugees residing in the territory of the country. This concerns mainly persons of Armenian origin who arrived to the country from Azerbaijan due to mass violence and arbitrary killings of Armenian citizens in Sumgait, Kirovabad, Baku and other places of Azerbaijan.

UNHCR calls the process of naturalisation of refugees in Armenia “one of the largest naturalisations of refugees in recent decades”, with more than 65,000 persons obtaining Armenian citizenship only until the end of 2004.

The process of naturalisation started already in 1995, when it became clear that Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan will never return to Azerbaijan. At first, relatively low numbers of refugees came in, partly due to a lack of awareness of the right to naturalize and of the necessary procedures. Over the first four years of the programme, implemented together by the government and UNHCR, a total of 7,400 people were naturalised. Due to the efforts leading to strengthened efficiency, nearly 8,000 persons received an Armenian passport in 1999. Another incentive for naturalisation came after July 2000, when former Soviet passports could no longer be used for travelling outside of Armenia. Besides access to an Armenian passport, naturalisation brings a number of additional rights to former refugees, including the right to vote in national elections and the right to own land. However, even without naturalising, refugees in Armenia have extensive legal rights nearly the same as Armenian citizens<sup>28</sup>. The State Migration Service informs that at the moment more than 85,000 former refugees are naturalised in Armenia.

The housing problem, which still has not been resolved, is the main obstacle for the full integration of refugees and their naturalisation. For this purpose the Government of the Republic of Armenia makes significant steps in order to find additional funding, including that from international and bilateral donor organisations, for the final realisation of the “First Priority Program for Provision of Housing to the Persons Deported from Azerbaijan”<sup>29</sup>. It is planned to accommodate 1,500 refugee families (about 5,000 people) within the framework of this program which requires a funding of about 45-50 million USD<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> UNHCR: Some 65,000 refugees from Armenia gain Armenian citizenship, <http://www.unhcr.org/40239bba4.html>

<sup>29</sup> Adopted by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Armenia №747- H from May 20, 2004

<sup>30</sup> Information from the State Migration Service, submitted to ICMPD via Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria on October 21, 2010

## B2. Economy and economic climate

- **Main macroeconomic indicators:**<sup>31</sup>

	2006	2007	2008	2009
GDP (current USD)	6,384,5	9,206,3	11,662,0	8,5411,1
GDP growth (annual %)	13.2	13.7	6.9	-14.2
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current USD)	1,982	2,853	3,606	2633
Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	4.6	4.2	5.9	1.3
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	18,7	18,2	16,3	16,6
Industry, value added (% of GDP)	40.9	39.5	38.6	31.4
Services, etc., value added (% of GDP)	31.9	32.2	33.7	41.3
Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	23.4	19.2	15.0	15.5
Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	39.3	39.2	40.7	43.4
Total debt service (% of exports of goods, services and income)	2.7	2.0	2.0	-
External national debt of RA, million USD	1,205.6	1,448.9	1,577.1	2966.7

- **Investment climate**

### Fiscal and taxation policy; capital investments

The complex Armenian tax system was revised twice, in 1997 and 2001. Since January 2001 and as a result of amendments to the Law “On the profit tax” the single rate of profit tax of 20% is applied in Armenia. The tax is calculated from the taxable profit.

For the purpose of determination of the taxable profit the sums of expenditures, losses and other expenses are deducted from the sum of the gross income. In particular, for the purpose of determination of taxable profit the losses of taxpayers, which arose as a result of activities during the previous 5 years, are deducted from the sum of the gross income.

New taxpayers are exempt from the payment in advance of profit tax until April 25 of the following year.

Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the introduction of changes and amendments into the law of the Republic of Armenia “on the profit tax” from May 5, 1998 established certain preferences. In the period of 1998-2009 those local organisations in which actual basic capital foreign investments accounted for at least 500 million Armenian Drams (ADM) could benefit from special preference stipulated by law and the their actual tax was decreased by 50 or even 100 percent.

The personal income tax has been reduced from three bands to two: 10% for monthly taxable income up to ADM 80,000 (USD 144) and 20% plus a payment of ADM 8,000 (USD 14.40) for taxable income

<sup>31</sup> <http://ddp-ext.worldbank.org/ext/DDPQQ/report.do?method=showReport>

above ADM 80,000. Armenians also pay taxes to the national pension fund. According to article 3 of the law of the Republic of Armenia "On the excise tax", in the Republic of Armenia the excise tax is payable for the following goods groups: beer, grape wine or other wines, grape must, alcohol and spirituous beverages, industrial substitutes of tobacco, cigar, cigarillos, cigarettes - with the tobacco or its substitutes, gasoline, crude oil and petroleum products, diesel fuel, oil gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons (excluding natural gas).

There are also land taxes and property taxes introduced. Achieving a higher level of tax collection has been an important part of Armenia's economic reform programs.

- **Investments<sup>32</sup>:**

	2006	2007	2008
Agriculture, hunting and related service	-	-	22923.6
Industry	217595.1	411926.2	540445.2
Construction	6411.2	956.4	1592.0
Trade, repair of motor vehicles, repair of personal and household goods	10409	10922.8	1732
Hotels and restaurants	9168.3	13939.7	4784.9
Transport and communication	95475.9	167512.6	359012.8
Financial intermediation	29530.7	93045.2	123571.7
Real estate, research and development and other business activities	56674.9	56103.8	70333.2
Education	-	-	-
Health and social work	-	-	-
Activities of membership organizations n.e.c.	19.1	42.1	69
Recreational, cultural and sporting activities		1645,3	18,5
Other service activities		37.0	

- **Foreign Direct investments<sup>33</sup>**

Total direct investment by countries	2008	1988-2008	Net stocks end of 2008
Total FDI	1124482.9	3868869.5	3424564.9
Russian Federation	735417.2	1552884.3	1914022.0
Germany	24548.8	278647.1	113956.8
France	84483.1	244409.2	261785.8
United States	23852.1	227751.1	170993.1
Canada		144976.6	98831.9
Cyprus	64160.2	132080.8	129827.3
United Kingdom	7168.6	79732.9	32719.7
Argentina	87666.8	178683.3	175411.4
Luxembourg	6687.0	46547.3	51232.0
Latvia	1.0	3675.4	4131.7
Switzerland	4466.9	42145.4	27843.6

<sup>32</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia: Statistical Yearbooks of Armenia 2009, External Economic activities; <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99458138.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

Australia		18429.0	32.5
Turkmenistan		2713.5	
China		1306.8	3654.0
United Arab Emirates	299.6	4653.2	476.0
Spain		4199.1	1279.0
Italy	432.1	15009.2	5965.9
Czech Republic	2212.3	3337.8	2320.5
Other countries	1017959.3	624019.3	367727.4

- **Informal economy:**

#### **Assessment of size and significance of the informal economy**

It is important to realise that the shadow economy is present in almost every country of the world and it is very difficult to measure its actual size. However, despite its negative consequences (less collected revenues, deteriorated macroeconomic indicators, and others), the shadow economy in Armenia played a significant stabilising role during the early years of independence as it provided a source of income for large parts of the population. It also stimulated economic activities and provided necessary entrepreneurial skills for start-up businesses<sup>34</sup>.

In 2009, the State Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia published the results of a survey on informal employment in the country<sup>35</sup>. The findings of the survey revealed that there are about 1,007,800 employed persons in Armenia, from which 508,100 are employed in the formal sector and 499,700 (or 49.6%) in the informal sector or informally employed in the formal sector.

#### **Distribution of formal and informal employment by types of economic activity (thousand persons)<sup>36</sup>:**

Type of economic activity	Total employed	Employed in formal sector	Employed in informal sector	% of employed in informal sector from totally employed
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,007.8</b>	<b>508.1</b>	<b>499.7</b>	<b>49.6</b>
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	304.1	6.4	297.7	97.8
Industry	137.6	104.7	33.0	24
Construction	87.2	29.7	57.5	65.9
Trade, repair of motor vehicle, hotels and restaurants, transport and communication	192.9	92.1	100.8	52.2
Financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities	28.1	26.7	1.4	5
Other services	257.9	248.5	9.4	3.6

<sup>34</sup> "The Shadow Economy of Armenia: Size, Causes and Consequences", January 2005, by Bagrat Tunyan, The World Bank Armenia Country Office, [http://edoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/servlets/MCRFileNodeServlet/HALCoRe\\_derivate\\_00003051/The%20Shadow%20Economy%20of%20Armenia.pdf?hosts=](http://edoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/servlets/MCRFileNodeServlet/HALCoRe_derivate_00003051/The%20Shadow%20Economy%20of%20Armenia.pdf?hosts=)

<sup>35</sup> National Statistic Office of the Republic of Armenia, Report on labour force and informal employment in Armenia (on the results of one-off sample survey) [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep\\_ashx\\_09e\\_4.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep_ashx_09e_4.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> Ibid

The table above shows that the non-agricultural sector employs informally about 297,000 persons. This represents 20% of the total employed population in the country. The main sectors of informal employment, excluding the agricultural sector (farming), are construction (65.9% of persons in the sector are employed informally), trade, repair services, hotels, public catering and communication (52.2%), and industry (24%). It should be noted that by definition almost 98% of employment in the agricultural sector can be described as “informal employment”. Although agriculture is considered as part of the informal economy its share of total employment increases substantially up to 50% of the total economy.<sup>37</sup>

- **Trade:**

In the period 2004-2008, Armenia's exports increased on average by 10 percent each year amounting to USD 1.1 billion while imports increased on average by 29 percent each year and exceeded USD 4 billion in 2008. The trade deficit for the same period increased from USD 0.6 to 3.0 billion. Trade was in deficit with all MDG regions. The largest deficit was recorded with the Commonwealth of Independent States and amounted to USD 1,014 million. Trade with Europe and Eastern Asia recorded deficits of USD 0.5 billion each. Compared to exports, imports were diversified across partners: a total of 17 major partners accounted for 80 percent of imports compared to 8 major partners for exports.

In 2008, more than half of Armenia's exports were manufactured goods classified chiefly by material: they accounted for 52% of exports. Their exports dropped by 8.4% causing largely the drop by 5.9% in total exports in 2008. Other important export commodity groups included food, beverages and tobacco and crude materials (excluding fuels), oils, fats respectively with 19.4 and 14.9 percent of share. In addition to the Russian Federation, other major markets for exports in 2008 included Germany and the Netherlands. Exports to the Russian Federation were mainly food, beverages and tobacco (67.4%) while exports to Germany and the Netherlands were composed of more than 90% of manufactured goods classified chiefly by material. Over the last three years, top products for export included ferro-alloys, diamonds, not mounted or set and alcohol of a strength of less than 80% vol.

Armenia's import was composed of 21.3% of manufactured goods classified chiefly by material, 22.4% of machinery and transport equipment and 16.6% of food, beverages and tobacco. Over the last three years, the three main imported products were non crude petroleum oils, petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons and diamonds, not mounted or set.<sup>38</sup>

**Total imports and export from/to Armenia and balance (million USD)<sup>39</sup>**

	2005	2006	2007
Import	1807.1	2191.6	3267.8
Export	973.9	985.1	1152.3
Balance	-827.8	-1206.5	-2115.5

- **Consumer price index<sup>40</sup>**

	2007	2008	2009

<sup>37</sup> European Training Foundation (ETF), “ENPI 08-14 Black Sea Labour market reviews, Armenia country report”, January 2010, [http://www.etf.europa.eu/pubmgmt.nsf/\(getAttachment\)/73E1980696EE2434C12576EF005BD31F/\\$File/NOTE83TMLS.pdf](http://www.etf.europa.eu/pubmgmt.nsf/(getAttachment)/73E1980696EE2434C12576EF005BD31F/$File/NOTE83TMLS.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/CountryPagesNew.aspx?y=2008>

<sup>39</sup> <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/SpecialTables.aspx?y=2007>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=126&id=07001>

Annual average over the previous year average	104.4	109	103.4
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### B3. Labour market analysis

- **Recent developments on the labour market in the country**

Employment of the population is regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Employment of Population and Social Protection of Unemployed”, the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia, and other legislation in force, as well as the international treaties signed by the Republic of Armenia.

The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Employment of Population and Social Protection of Unemployed” was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on October 24, 2005. It provides the legal framework for employment in Armenia, principles of state policy in the area of employment and social protection of unemployed persons, state guarantees of free choice of work, occupation and social protection of unemployed persons. According to Article 11 of the Law the main principles of the state employment policy among other include principles of voluntariness of labour and the freedom of choice of occupation, guarantee of employment of persons independent of their nationality, race, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property or other position. Beside this, the principle of the guarantee of free migration (internal and external) of labour force is also included.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia regulates supply and demand of the domestic labour force, and applies a number of means in this respect, such as financial credits, investment, tax and demographic policy, taking into account the actual situation on the labour market and planned structural changes. The government control of employment is accomplished by the competent institutions in accordance with the annual state population employment programmes.

Annual state program on the regulation of the employment of population consists of the republic and territorial programmes of employment, which include:

- analysis and the forecast of the national and republic labour market;
- direction, schedule of the realisation of the measures, provided by the programme, as well as the need for funding for each of regions of the state;
- expected results.

Annual state programmes on the regulation of the population employment are developed by the Agency of the State Employment Board under the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues, the competent institution in that field.

- **Labour resources of the Republic of Armenia**<sup>41</sup>

	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Labour resources, total (1000 persons)</b>	2072.4	2114.9	2171.4	2202.6
Able-bodied population at working age (1000 persons)	2001.5	2040.6	2088.1	2119.0
Working pensioners (1000 persons)	68.5	72.8	81.5	82.5
Working teenagers (1000 persons)	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.1
Economically active population (1000 persons)	1195.8	1181.3	1184.3	1192.5
Employed population, total (1000 persons)	1097.8	1092.4	1101.5	1117.6
Officially registered unemployed (1000 persons)	98.0	88.9	82.8	74.9

<sup>41</sup> Statistical Yearbook of Armenia, 2009 <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99458063.pdf>

Economically non-active population	876.6	933.6	987.2	1010.1
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- **Employment rate**<sup>42</sup>

	2005			2006			2007			2008		
	Total	Male	Female									
Employed, total	1097.8	597.1	500.7	1092.4	593.0	499.4	1101.5	571.4	530.1	1117.6	570.9	546.7
state sector	217.3			214.3			213.1			211.2		
non - state sector	880.5			878.1			888.4			906.4		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	507.5	275.1	232.4	504.3	274.2	230.1	506.7	248.6	258.1	493.0	224.5	268.5
Fishing, fish-breeding	0.1	0.1		0.2	0.2		0.2	0.2		0.5	0.4	0.1
Mining and quarrying	7.0	6.0	1.0	7.6	6.3	1.3	8.6	7.2	1.4	8.3	6.9	1.4
Manufacturing	114.3	73.8	40.5	110.5	71.2	39.2	103.6	67.8	35.9	94.8	61.1	33.8
Electricity, gas and water supply	18.9	16.0	2.9	22.8	18.7	4.1	22.7	18.6	4.2	24.5	19.7	4.8
Construction	34.6	30.0	4.6	29.7	27.1	2.6	31.1	28.5	2.6	60.4	57.2	3.2
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal household goods	108.9	67.5	41.4	105.9	68.0	37.9	106.1	66.5	39.6	113.2	68.2	45.0
Hotels and restaurants	5.7	2.8	2.9	7.7	3.8	3.9	8.4	3.9	4.5	12.4	5.8	6.6
Transport and communication	49.7	36.1	13.6	48.6	33.4	15.2	47.6	33.0	14.6	51.6	36.4	15.2
Financial intermediation	6.1	2.8	3.3	6.6	3.1	3.5	8.9	4.0	4.8	10.6	4.5	6.1
Real estate, renting and business activities	19.1	13.0	6.1	23.3	13.9	9.5	26.3	16.1	10.2	26.7	15.6	11.2
Public administration	28.2	16.2	12.0	34.9	19.5	15.4	37.9	20.8	17.1	39.7	21.5	18.2
Education	98.7	23.7	75.0	100.8	23.9	76.9	101.3	25.0	76.3	100.9	23.7	77.2
Health and social work	50.6	11.6	39.0	48.8	11.4	37.4	50.2	11.9	38.3	44.5	8.5	36.1
Community, social and personal service activities	48.4	22.4	26.0	40.8	18.4	22.5	42.0	19.4	22.6	36.3	17.0	19.3

- **Unemployment rate (average annual, 1000 persons)**<sup>43</sup>

	2006	2007	2008	2009 <sup>44</sup>
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<sup>42</sup> Statistical Yearbook of Armenia, 2009 <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99458063.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> Statistical Yearbook of Armenia, 2009 <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99458063.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> National Statistical Office of the Republic of Armenia, Socio-Economic situation of the Republic of Armenia, January- December 2009, Labour Market Indicators, [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/sv\\_12\\_09r\\_141.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/sv_12_09r_141.pdf)

	Total	Male	Female									
Officially registered unemployed	88.9	25.5	63.4	82.8	22.9	59.9	74.9	18.8	56.1	84.5	24.7	59.7
Unemployment rates	7.5	4.1	11.3	7.0	3.9	10.1	6.3	3.2	9.3	9.6	n/a	n/a

According to the above data, the average unemployment rate in Armenia was at 7.6% for the period of 2006-2009. These numbers are based on the number of persons officially registered as unemployed. Using a different methodology that relies on labour-force sample surveys, the National Statistical Service has calculated a significantly higher annual unemployment rate with an average of 28.7% and 28.6% in 2007 and 2008 respectively<sup>45</sup>.

**Distribution of officially registered unemployed by sex, age and education in 2008 (% from the total number of unemployed, at the end of the year)<sup>46</sup>:**

	Total	Males	Females
<b>Unemployed - total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Of which by age: 16-18	0.6	0.9	0.5
19-24	5.4	6.0	5.3
25-30	12.0	14.0	11.4
31-54	70.4	65.7	71.9
55- and over	11.6	13.4	11.0
Average age of unemployed, year	41.5	41.5	41.5
Unemployed - total	100	100	100
of which by education: higher, post-graduate	12.4	11.7	12.6
secondary specialized and vocational	33.1	30.4	34.0
secondary	49.5	48.8	49.7
general basic	5.1	9.1	3.8

Taking into account the data of the survey conducted by the National Statistical Service, the highest unemployment rate was among those between 16 and 24 years, reaching almost 70% in 2008 – 2009<sup>47</sup>.

- **Level of income**

**Average monthly nominal wages in ADM and USD<sup>48</sup>**

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total (AMD)	5,060	62,293	74,227	87,406
Total (USD)	114	150	217	286

**Average monthly nominal wages by economic activity and gender (ADM)<sup>49</sup>:**

<sup>45</sup> National Statistical Office of the Republic of Armenia, Socio-Economic situation of the Republic of Armenia, January- December 2009, Labour Market Indicators, [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/sv\\_12\\_09r\\_141.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/sv_12_09r_141.pdf)

<sup>46</sup> Statistical Yearbook of Armenia, 2009 <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99458063.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> National Statistical Office of the Republic of Armenia, Socio-Economic situation of the Republic of Armenia, January- December 2009, Labour Market Indicators, [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/sv\\_12\\_09r\\_141.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/sv_12_09r_141.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> National Statistical Service of Armenia, Labour Market in the Republic of Armenia, 2004 – 2008, Earnings, Labour Costs, [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/trud\\_09\\_5.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/trud_09_5.pdf)

	2006			2007			2008		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,293</b>	<b>81,581</b>	<b>48,319</b>	<b>74,227</b>	<b>97,257</b>	<b>57,574</b>	<b>87,406</b>	<b>116,787</b>	<b>68,010</b>
Agriculture	46,146	49,756	39,153	58,697	64,006	49,995	68,459	72,983	63,494
Industry	78,633	96,404	55,945	94,519	112,192	66,289	103,965	126,573	76,066
Construction	84,951	90,484	63,859	97,569	104,392	79,658	119,262	129,836	94,015
Services	56,725	74,174	47,427	68,193	90,453	56,563	81,467	111,928	67,021
Including:	75,660	77,228	83,184	87,447	94,471	80,254	108,281	122,462	98,283
Transport and communication									
Financial intermediation	205,454	282,173	144,673	227,970	304,290	172,311	277,044	406,923	192,042
Education	45,986	54,174	43,502	54,334	62,293	51,951	63,112	72,482	60,455
Health and social work	38,757	51,872	34,817	44,394	56,568	40,681	56,433	72,436	52,332
Other	60,653	75,481	50,294	73,883	94,795	61,694	83,521	109,402	68,453

<sup>49</sup> Ibid

## B4. Human Capital

- Levels of education:<sup>50</sup>

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of children in pre-school establishments, 1000 children	48.7	48.0	50.5	53.7
in percent of the number of children of relevant age	21.8	21.8	23.3	29.8
Number of children in general education schools, 1000 persons	477.9	465.4	431.3	414.8
Number of students in evening (replaceable) general education schools, 1000 persons	0.24	0.26	0.27	0.29
Number of students in vocational secondary schools, 1000 persons	30.8	30.8	31.1	31.8
Number of students in higher educational establishments	97.8	105.8	112.2	114.4

- Number of graduates of the secondary specialized education establishments by sectors<sup>51</sup>

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Total</b>	<b>8707</b>	<b>8414</b>	<b>8179</b>	<b>8615</b>
Industry and construction	396	186	238	267
Transport and communication	604	372	349	484
Agriculture	78	143	204	90
Economy	1393	1604	1787	1089
Science of law	370	235	198	320
Health care and sport	2837	2789	2965	3462
Education	1694	1590	1076	1210
Art and cinematography	525	594	467	527
Other	810	901	895	1166

- Number of graduates of the high specialized education establishments by sectors<sup>52</sup>

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Total</b>	<b>13296</b>	<b>15516</b>	<b>17863</b>	<b>26107</b>
Industry and construction	715	996	1037	2051
Transport and communication	435	495	184	529
Agriculture	162	387	1026	971
Economy	2289	2621	2935	4444
Science of law	1612	1960	2229	2486
Health care and sport	995	1858	2265	756
Education	2507	2480	3305	7978
Art and cinematography	676	646	654	1051
Other	3905	4073	4228	5841

- Opportunity to access educational system, quality of education

<sup>50</sup> Statistical Yearbook of Armenia, 2009 <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99458073.pdf>

<sup>51</sup> Statistical Yearbook of Armenia, 2009 <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=45>

<sup>52</sup> Statistical Yearbook of Armenia, 2009 <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=45>

Education has received consistent attention as a priority area in a number of policy documents of the Republic of Armenia. However, higher education is the only sub-sector of education that has registered a clear growth in the number of applicants, students and graduates. University enrolments are quite unequally distributed, with rich households over-represented. With limited money to spend on private tutoring, children from socioeconomically disadvantaged families and rural areas perform worse in school, particularly at secondary level, which limits their access to tertiary education<sup>53</sup>.

The enrolment of the poor population in education, including professional, vocational and higher education, remains a challenge for Armenia. This also applies to the improvement of the quality of education, which requires the development and introduction of a unified system for knowledge assessment at all levels of education<sup>54</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> European Training Foundation (ETF); Armenia, ETF Country Information Note 2010, [http://www.etf.europa.eu/pubmgmt.nsf/\(getAttachment\)/A4D5B5698508D824C125770500333039/\\$File/NOTE84HCX7.pdf](http://www.etf.europa.eu/pubmgmt.nsf/(getAttachment)/A4D5B5698508D824C125770500333039/$File/NOTE84HCX7.pdf)

<sup>54</sup> Government of Armenia and United Nations Country Team in Armenia: “Armenia, Millennium Development Goals, National Progress Report , 2005 – 2009”, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/gender/genderandmdgs/show/395A20EC-F203-1EE9-BE1FD88FDEFC5691>

## C. Analysis of the migration situation in the country

### C1. Immigrants

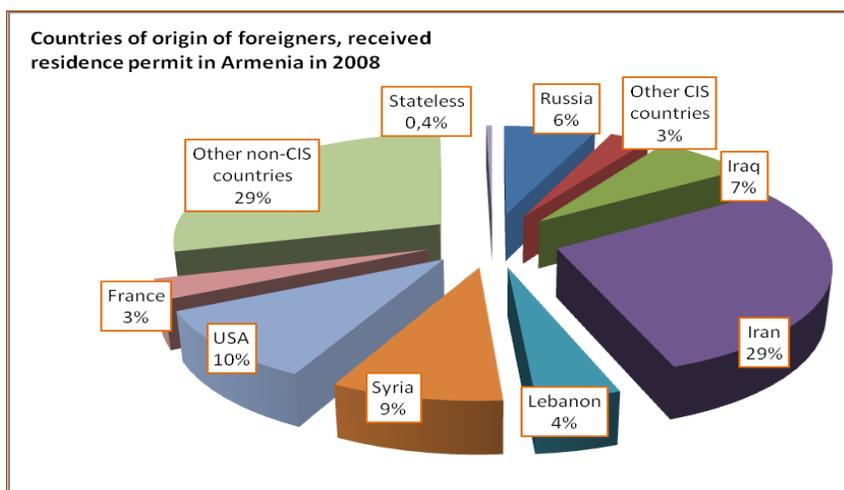
Data provided by the State Migration Service of the Republic of Armenia, reports of the National Statistical Service, as well as migration surveys performed in households and at the border checkpoints are the main source of information about structure, destinations and motives for migration in Armenia. Data collected and published by international organisations such as UNHCR, IOM, and ICMPD, was also used in this section.

#### C1.1 Total number of immigrants

Armenian legislation does not provide a precise definition of immigration or immigrants. However, there is a clear distinction between foreigners arriving in Armenia for a short time period with a visa or on the basis of a visa-free regime (Chapter II of the Law), and aliens, arriving to reside in Armenia temporarily or permanently (Chapter III of the Law).

The Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Armenia provides information on annual immigration flows but does not include the total number of immigrants residing in the country. According to the United Nations Population Division, the estimated number of migrants in 2010 reached 324.2 thousand persons, or 10.5% of the total population. This number, however, could include also persons residing in Armenia without proper identity and citizenship documents (former IDPs, etc.).

As mentioned above, the Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Armenia follows annual migration flows and tendencies. According to the Yearbook published in 2009, immigration to Armenia in 2008 was more than 7 times lower than emigration: less than 1,000 persons arrived to reside to Armenia that year<sup>55</sup>.



The State Migration Service informs that according to the Police of RA 2,344 temporary residence permits (allowing a stay for a period of up to one year), 185 permanent residence permits and 1,626 special residence permits were issued in 2008.<sup>56</sup>

The majority of foreigners arrive to Armenia from non-CIS countries. In 2008 the percentage of residence permits issued to non-CIS citizens accounted for more

<sup>55</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia: Statistical Yearbooks of Armenia 2009 (p.45), Population statistics; <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=45>

<sup>56</sup> Information communicated by the State Migration Service of the Republic of Armenia to ICMPD on 18.06.2010

than 90%. The biggest group of foreigners residing in Armenia arrived from Iran (28.5% of all residence permits issued in 2008), followed by USA (10.4%) and Syria (8.7%). Citizens of the Russian Federation comprised only 6.4% of all foreigners who received the residence permit in 2008<sup>57</sup>.

**Residence permits issued to foreigners by the Passport – Visa Directorate of the Police of the Republic of Armenia<sup>58</sup>:**

Citizenship	2006			2007				2008		
	Temporary	Ordinary	Special	Temporary	Ordinary	Special	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Special
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2803</b>	<b>1836</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2075</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2344</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1626</b>
<b>CIS countries</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>50</b>
Russian Federation			35	4		29	0	217	20	29
Ukraine			1					21	1	3
Turkmenistan			16	27		7	1	38	2	17
Other				2				32		1
<b>Non-CIS countries</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2741</b>	<b>1799</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>1571</b>
Iraq			116	14		148		10	2	266
Iran	8	1	922	808	3	640	1	759	49	378
Lebanon			167	38		146		44	8	127
Syria	1		568	132		316		160	9	194
USA		1	462	174		332	3	176	31	226
France			91	46		118		38	3	84
Other		2	415	587	7	323	1	838	59	296
<b>Stateless</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

**Number of migrants to Armenia (1,000 persons):<sup>59</sup>**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>
CIS countries	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.5
Non-CIS countries	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4

<sup>57</sup> Ibid

<sup>58</sup> Ibid

<sup>59</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia: Statistical Yearbooks of Armenia 2009 (p.45), Population statistics; <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=45>

## C1.2 Type of immigrants

- Refugees/asylum-seekers

Number of asylum-seekers and decision made in Armenia in 1999-2009<sup>60</sup>:

Year	Total number of applications	Refugee status				Temporary asylum					
		applied	granted	rejected	under consideration	applied		granted		rejected	under consideration
						Iraq citizens	other countries citizens	Iraq citizens	other countries citizens		
1999	23	23	5	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000	9	9	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	10	10	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	8	8	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003	82	18	-	18	-	63	1	63	-	1	-
2004	162	17	1	16	-	143	2	143	2	-	-
2005	163	38	4	34	-	123	2	123	-	2	-
2006	650	21	5	16	-	275	354	275	17	337	-
2007	291	20	3	17	-	271	-	271	-	-	-
2008	207	17	8	9	-	63	127	63	8	119	-
2009	67	19	5	7	7	48	-	44	-	-	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1672</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>4</b>

Armenia is party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, and grants persons in need of protection refugee status or temporary asylum. According to the data provided by the State Migration Service, the majority of asylum seekers arrive to Armenia from Iraq. Almost 1,000 Iraqi citizens were granted asylum in Armenia from 2003 to 2009.

Data on asylum applications, provided by UNHCR (see table below), only very slightly differ from the State Migration Service data. Both sources show that in 2009 the number of asylum applications decreased significantly: from 209 in 2008 (207, according to the migration Service) to 66 in 2009 (67, according to the Migration Service). Beside citizens of Iraq, significant numbers of applications were submitted by the citizens of Lebanon (in 2006, 282 citizens of Lebanon applied for asylum in Armenia) and Georgia (in 2008, 124 Georgians asked for asylum).

Number of applications for asylum submitted in Armenia<sup>61</sup>:

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Afghanistan			4				1				
Azerbaijan		2	1				1	1	2		
China						1					
Cuba									3	0	0

<sup>60</sup> Information communicated by the State Migration Service of the Republic of Armenia to ICMPD on 18.06.2010

<sup>61</sup> UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 17/11/2010 [www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase)

Ivory Coast												1
Egypt				1								
Ethiopia												1
Georgia					1	4	2			124		5
Iran	8	2		4	4	12	9	7	13	8		14
Iraq	7	2	3	5	60	168	140	255	281	70		44
Israel								60				
Kazakhstan					1		1					
Kyrgyzstan								1				
Lebanon						2		282	0	0		
Pakistan		1								2		
Poland					1							
Russian Federation	1		1		2	1			1	1		0
Serbia	2			1								
Somalia	1											
Sri Lanka										1		0
Stateless	1											
Sudan						1						
Syria					4			8	0	0		
Turkey			2				4	3		3		0
Turkmenistan								1	1	1		
Ukraine					2		1					
Uzbekistan												1
West Bank and Gaza Strip						1		2		1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>209</b>		<b>66</b>

In the period of 1988-1992 more than 400,000 refugees arrived to Armenia from Azerbaijan, who escaped mass violence and arbitrary killings of Armenian citizens in Sumgait, Kirovabad, Baku and other places of Azerbaijan. UNHCR informs that at the beginning of 2010, 3,607 recognised refugees were residing on the territory of Armenia. Out of this number, 2,681 persons were refugees of Armenian origin from Azerbaijan. All the activities on naturalisation of refugees in the country were well organised and implemented by the Republic of Armenia. UNHCR called the process of naturalisation of refugees in Armenia “one of the largest naturalisations of refugees in recent decades”<sup>62</sup>. Additionally, 870 recognized refugees from Iraq, 22 refugees from Iran, 14 refugees from Lebanon, 8 refugees from Georgia, and 12 refugees from other countries of origin reside in Armenia.

#### Number of refugees residing in Armenia<sup>63</sup>:

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Azerbaijan	296,215	280,586	264,327	247,538	239,250	235,101	219,324	113,224	3,815	3,082	2,681
Ethiopia											1
Georgia						1	1	1	1	1	8
Iran			3	3	3	3	4	6	7	9	22
Iraq		2	4	6	34	127	218	459	718	837	870
Israel								5	5	5	5

<sup>62</sup> UNHCR: Some 65,000 refugees from Armenia gain Armenian citizenship, <http://www.unhcr.org/40239bba4.html>

<sup>63</sup> UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 17/11/2010 [www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase)

Kazakhstan								1	1	1	1
Lebanon							0	14	14	14	14
Russian Federation						2	1	1	1	1	1
Somalia		2	2	2	0						
Sudan	1	1	1	1	1	0					
Turkey					1	1	2	3	3	3	4
Turkmenistan									1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>296,216</b>	<b>280,591</b>	<b>264,337</b>	<b>247,550</b>	<b>239,289</b>	<b>235,235</b>	<b>219,550</b>	<b>113,714</b>	<b>4,566</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>3,607</b>

- **Labour migrants**

The Law on the Legal status of Aliens stipulates that aliens have to receive a work permit in order to work on the territory of the Republic of Armenia. However, this provision is not in force at the moment as there is no competent authority assigned with its implementation<sup>64</sup>. Thus, it is difficult to determine how many foreigners arrive to Armenia to work.

The majority of foreigners, working on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, are citizens of Iran and Armenians arriving from Georgia. It must be noted that these data are expert estimations only, since reliable statistics on this category of persons are lacking<sup>65</sup>.

- **Foreign students in Armenia**

The number of foreign students in Armenia comprised about 5,300 persons in 2009/2010, out of which 1,200 students were citizens from other CIS countries. Almost half of the foreign students studying in Armenia are of Armenian origin. They usually arrive from Georgia, Iran, the Russian Federation, Syria, and the USA. Non-Armenian foreign students arrive to Armenia mainly from Iran, India, Syria, the Russian Federation, and China<sup>66</sup>.

**Number of foreign students in higher education institutions of the Republic of Armenia<sup>67</sup>:**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	3,778	4,224	4,239	4,230	4,011
Russian Federation	477	680	828	967	1,294
Georgia	1,117	1,122	1,096	1,167	1,145
Iran	734	1,116	1,175	1,129	719
India	536	611	562	573	457
Syria	624	423	311	119	117
Turkmenistan	58	64	58	59	47
Ukraine	27	23	20	28	39
Kazakhstan	22	24	25	21	25
USA	24	28	28	28	22
Iraq	6	10	16	26	20
China	13	23	17	12	12

<sup>64</sup> Information from the State Migration Service, submitted to ICMPD via Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria on October 21, 2010

<sup>65</sup> Ibid

<sup>66</sup> Information from the State Migration Service, submitted to ICMPD via Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria on October 21, 2010

<sup>67</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, Statistical Yearbook of Armenia, 2009, Education and Culture, <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99458073.pdf>

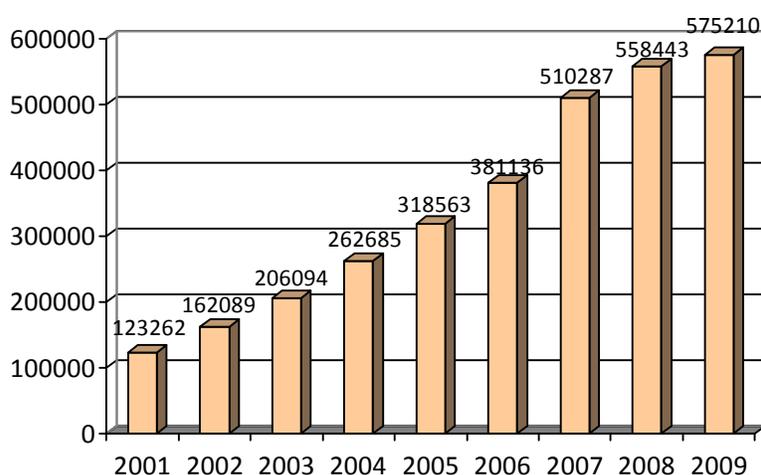
Nepal	13	14	12	12	11
Lebanon	17	12	9	6	10
Other countries	110	74	82	83	93

On October 21, 2010, the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved the draft law on State Fee which proposes to grant preferential treatment to parents, spouses, and children of foreign students in Armenia with regard to temporary residence status and residence cards, renewal of residency status, as well as the privilege access to registration.<sup>68</sup>

- **Tourists and visitors**

Number of tourists in Armenia increased by more than 4.5 times from 2001 (123,262 visitors) to 2009 (575,210 visitors).

**Visitors to Armenia, 2001 - 2009:**



In the period of 2001 – 2009, 35.97% of all visitors arrived to Armenia from the Russian Federation, 35.94% from Georgia, 5.96% from Iran, 3.18% from USA, 2.22% from France, 1.84% from Germany, 1.81% from Ukraine, 1.47% from Turkey, 1.25% from the United Kingdom, and 1.12% from Syria. Among visitors from different countries, persons of Armenian origin represent 47% of all visitors arriving from the Russian Federation, 31% from Georgia, 4.1% from Iran, 3.3% from USA, 2.1% from Ukraine, 2.5% from France, 1.6% from Canada, 1.3% from Syria, and 1.1% from Lebanon.

In the period under review 61% of all visitors arriving to Armenia were male, 39% female. The majority of visitors were between 36 and 55 years old (45.2%), persons between 18 and 35 years represent 31.1%, persons older than 55 years 23.2%, and children up to 17 years 0.4%. According to these statistics, the average age of visitors to Armenia was 42.4 years<sup>69</sup>.

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.armtown.com/news/ru/lra/20101021/15891/>

<sup>69</sup> Information from the State Migration Service, submitted to ICMPD via Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria on October 21, 2010

### C1.3 Irregular immigrants

- **Irregular migration**

Armenia is primarily a source country of migrants, including irregular migrants. On the other hand, it faces some inflows of irregular migrants from Asian countries and the Middle East (for example, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Palestine, Egypt and recently also China). These migrants usually do not have intention to stay on the territory of Armenia, but use this country as a step on their way to the Russian Federation and further to the Western European countries and the United States<sup>70</sup>.

Irregular border crossing and other illegal activities related to identity document falsification are criminal offences dealt with by the Police and the Service of National Security of the Republic of Armenia.

Irregular migration is facilitated by smugglers and by some bogus travel agencies operating on the territory of Armenia and abroad. These operators provide migrants with documents, including false documents, as well as other services related to their transit through the territory of Armenia.

The system of punishment for violation of rules on stay of foreigners on the territory of Armenia is less severe than in majority of other states. Such offences are punished by administrative penalties only.<sup>71</sup>

- **Trafficking in human beings**

Armenia is predominantly a source country for trafficked persons.<sup>72</sup> For a more detailed analysis of the situation see p. 46.

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<sup>70</sup> IOM: Migration in Armenia: A Country Profile 2008,

[http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Armenia\\_Profile2008.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Armenia_Profile2008.pdf)

<sup>71</sup> Information from the State Migration Service, submitted to ICMPD via Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria on October 21, 2010

<sup>72</sup> For trafficking from Armenia, please refer to section C2.3 Irregular emigrants of this Profile

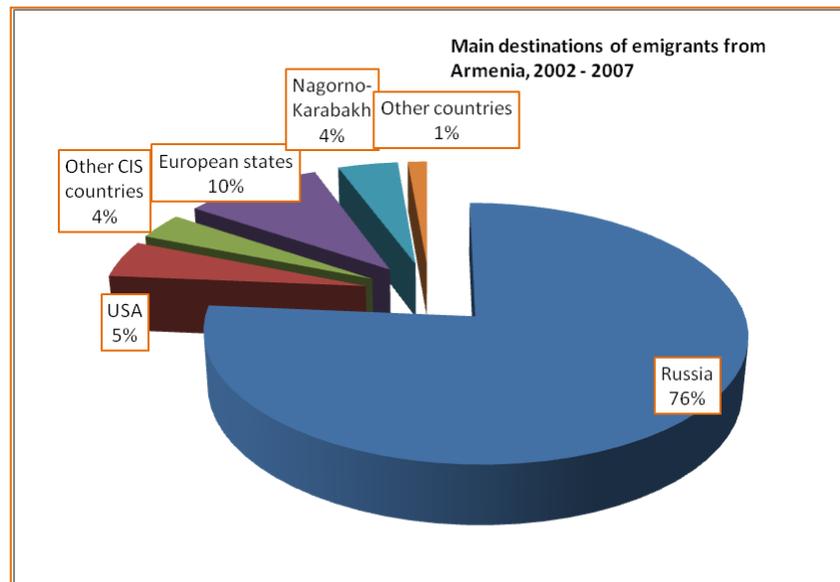
## C2. Emigrants

The official data on emigration from the Republic of Armenia is provided by the National Statistical Service. However, these statistics reflect only data on those who officially registered their emigration from country. Thus, data provided by different surveys performed in households and at the border crossing points (including surveys organised and implemented by the National Statistical Service), as well as different research studies and expert evaluations and estimates were used for this section of the profile. The data collected and published by international organisations such as UNHCR, IOM, and ICMPD, were also analysed.

### C2.1 Total number of emigrants

According to the National Statistical Service, the emigration from Armenia comprised 40,700 persons from 2004 to 2008. Out of this number, 31,300 persons left for CIS countries (76.9% from the total number of emigrants), and 9,400 persons for other countries (23.1%).

In 2008, the National Statistical Service conducted a survey on external and internal migration in the Republic of Armenia. According to the results of the survey, it was estimated that **205,620 persons** emigrated from Armenia between 2002 and 2007. This number represented on average about 6% of the total population of the country during this period. 78% of these migrants were male, and 22% female. The average age of male emigrants was 36 years, of female emigrants it was 31 years. About 60% of male emigrants and 40% of female emigrants have general secondary education; 15.5% of male emigrants and 21.6% of female emigrants have higher level of education, and 15.5% of male emigrants and 18.1% of female emigrants have secondary vocational education. More than 40% of all emigrants indicated that the main reason of their emigration was the lack of jobs in the home country, 32.5% of emigrants left Armenia because it was impossible to earn enough to ensure adequate living standards. Absence of any prospects for the development of the country/settlement (7.3%), family circumstances, such as family reunion, marriage, etc. (7.1%) have been identified as other reasons for emigration.



The main destination country of emigrants from Armenia is the Russian Federation. More than 76% of emigrants leave from Armenia for this country. Only 3.4% of emigrants leave to other CIS countries, and 9.8% of emigrants reside in European states, 4.8% emigrated to the United States of America, and 4.2% to the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh<sup>73</sup>.

<sup>73</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia, National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, Report on Sample Survey on External and Internal migration in the Republic of Armenia, [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep\\_migr\\_08e.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep_migr_08e.pdf)

In the period from 1997 to 2006, the emigration from the country caused reduction of the Armenia's population by 0.6%. Emigrants from Armenia account for a rather high share of country's population (more than 7%) mostly due to the number of refugees from Azerbaijan during 1988 – 1992. In 2005, emigrants from Armenia accounted for 26.9% of the country's population. The unregulated outflow of the educational, scientific, and cultural potential has reduced Armenia's intellectual potential and undermined opportunities for socio-economical, scientific, technical and cultural development of the country.<sup>74</sup>

## C2.2 Type of emigrants

- **Refugees/asylum-seekers**

According to the UNHCR data, about 18,000 recognised refugees originating from Armenia are residing in foreign countries. Since 2000 the number has increased more than three times (2010 there were 5,786 recognised refugees from Armenia residing abroad). The biggest refugee population originating from Armenia is registered in the USA (7,569 refugees at the end of 2009 constituted 42% from the total number of all Armenian refugees living abroad that year), Germany (3,691 refugees or 20.5%), France (2,803 refugees or 15.6%), Netherlands (1,041 refugees or 5.9%), Austria (797 refugees or 4.4%) and Sweden (630 refugees or 3.5%).

### Number of citizens of Armenia recognised as refugees and residing abroad<sup>75</sup>:

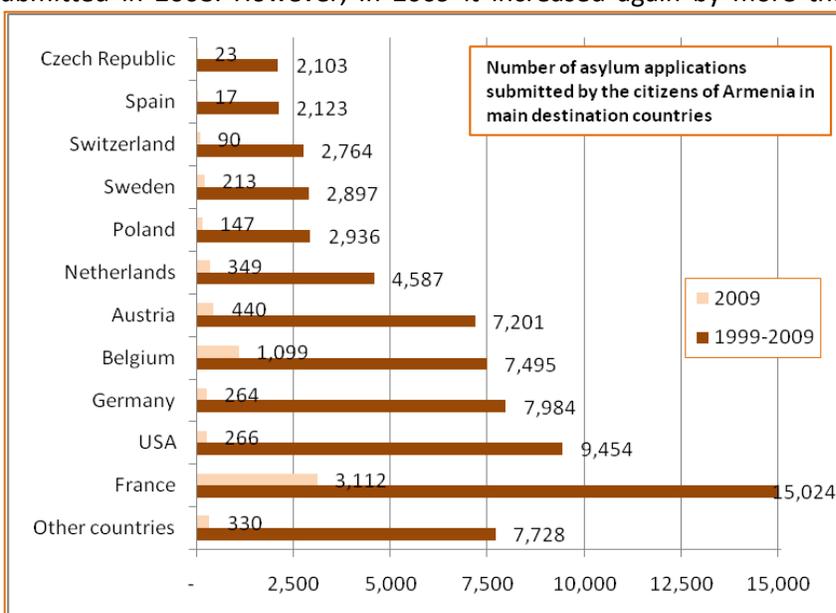
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Argentina	15	18	18	31	63	87	84	84	106	111
Australia	5	3	5	4	4	5	6	8	7	7
Austria	22	28	38	64	111	174	309	468	715	797
Azerbaijan	0								1	3
Belarus				1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Belgium	51	33	17	15	25	34	40	45	35	55
Brazil	3	3	3	3	3	7	3	3	3	3
Bulgaria	0	0			7	10	17	20	25	30
Canada	94	102	76	79	77	83	110	171	172	173
Costa Rica								2	2	2
Croatia	4	0								1
Cyprus						8	8	14	16	23
Czech Republic	68	59	59	77	82	83	81	85	84	83
Denmark	468	268	296	315	312	278	149	137	128	91
Ecuador						5	5	5	5	4
Egypt		0								
Finland	5	12	10	10	13	13	13	11	13	13
France	390	428	481	571	777	1,267	1,464	1,716	2,187	2,803
Germany	0	0	4,718	4,893	4,856	3,943	1,874	2,178	2,527	3,691
Greece		1	1	0	1	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary	37	49	57	70	77	137	145	145	146	143
Iceland							2	4	4	4
Ireland		5	16	11	17	28	32	40	42	43
Israel	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1

<sup>74</sup> UNDP, "Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges", Armenia 2009, Chapter 2, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

<sup>75</sup> UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 19/11/2010 [www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase)

Italy	26	26	26	26	26	26	45	66	70	73
Liechtenstein			8	8	8	8	14	14	14	16
Lithuania										2
Luxembourg									0	
Mexico	3	3	0	0		1	1			
Morocco	8	8	1	1	1					
Netherlands	918	1,019	1,184	1,287	1,308	1,512	1,354	1,180	1,076	1,041
New Zealand									0	
Norway	30	64	61	61	69	70	73	81	83	74
Peru	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poland	9	9	11	11	15	16	13	12	17	25
Portugal	5	5	5	5	5	5	2		0	0
Moldova					3	4	23	26	27	21
Romania	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Russian Federation	117	104	100	87	0				2	0
Serbia	1	0								
Slovakia	33	31	10	9	0			5	5	10
Spain	229	266	281	301	286	253	228	197	181	159
Sweden	187	245	307	352	346	411	445	566	597	630
Switzerland	21	40	65	75	94	108	105	89	92	74
Turkmenistan						3	4	4	4	4
Ukraine	228	245	244	242	206	215	208	205	195	196
United Kingdom				11	10	14	14	17	17	18
USA	2,806	4,127	5,143	4,537	4,600	5,150	8,039	7,831	7,731	7,569
Zimbabwe		1	1	1	4					
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,786</b>	<b>7,206</b>	<b>13,246</b>	<b>13,162</b>	<b>13,411</b>	<b>13,965</b>	<b>14,917</b>	<b>15,436</b>	<b>16,336</b>	<b>18,000</b>

According to UNHCR, starting from 1999 the number of asylum seekers originating from Armenia was permanently decreasing until 2008 from 9,616 applications submitted in 1999 to 4,426 applications submitted in 2008. However, in 2009 it increased again by more than 30% and reached 6,350. The



increase of applications was mainly recorded in France (comparing with 2008, the increase composed 1,037 persons or 33.3%) and in Belgium (638 persons or 58.1%).

In the last 10 years (from 1999 to 2009) citizens of Armenia submitted 72,296 asylum applications all around the world. One of the main destination countries for asylum seekers from Armenia was France. 15,024 asylum applications were lodged over the last 10 years in France.

Thus, the number of applications was steadily increasing, from 272 applications in 1999 to 3,112 applications in 2009. Another important destination country for Armenian asylum seekers is the USA

(9,454 applications during the last 10 years, however, starting from 2002 the number of applications decreased significantly: from 2,147 in 2002 to 266 in 2009). Almost 8,000 applications for asylum have been submitted in Germany by Armenian citizens during the last 10 years. Thus, the number of asylum applications from Armenia lodged in Germany is increasing. Austria and Belgium received more than 7,000 applications between 1999 and 2009. In Austria the biggest number of Armenian asylum seekers was registered in 2002 (2,038 asylum applications). Since then this number has been steadily decreasing. In 2009 only 440 Armenian asylum seekers were registered.

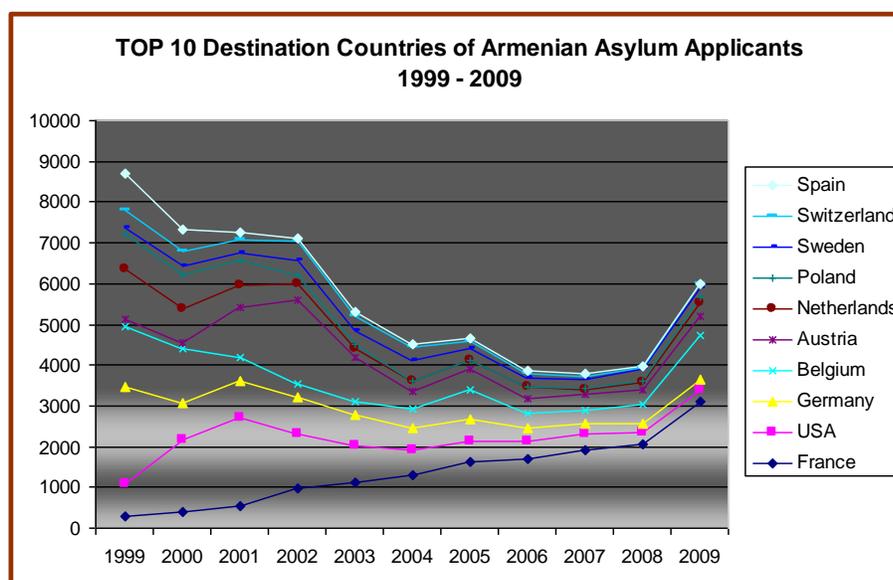
In the Russian Federation, which is the country of destination for an absolute majority of migrants from Armenia, only 63 applications for asylum were submitted by citizens of Armenia over the last 10 years.

**Number of asylum applications lodged by Armenian citizens in foreign countries<sup>76</sup>:**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Argentina	96	54	11	11	4	12	30	0	0	12	7
Australia	5	14	5	5	5	0			0	0	
Austria	180	165	1,235	2,038	1,098	414	516	350	405	360	440
Azerbaijan										1	3
Belarus	12	7	3	2	8	6	10	4		1	
Belgium	1,472	1,331	571	340	316	477	706	381	341	461	1,099
Bulgaria	142	418	160	364	196	86	60	68	64	70	39
Canada	42	48	40	17	23	38	26	50	30	35	15
Croatia	6	4						4			1
Cyprus			3	1	54	127	94	27	24	4	14
Czech Republic	34	274	1,019	452	49	75	56	51	37	33	23
Denmark	135	297	44	37	23	29	19	17	4	12	17
Ecuador							4				
Estonia			2								1
Finland	3	9	8	4	33	43	50	35	5	13	11
France	272	405	544	963	1,106	1,292	1,642	1,684	1,929	2,075	3,112
Georgia										3	4
Germany	2,386	903	913	894	762	567	555	303	239	198	264
Greece			1	8	11	21	55	32	40	114	73
Hungary	189	123	37	26	54	16	13	15	5	13	12
Iceland		2				2	1	0	2		
Ireland	11	38	13	7	15	9	14	7	15	5	10
Israel		4	9	1		2	3	0	0	0	0
Italy	14	13	12			12	13	0	21	29	9
Latvia				2					4	0	
Liechtenstein					1		1	0	0	1	0
Lithuania	1	1						1	5	1	3
Luxembourg	6	4		8	10	10	7	4	1	0	2
Malta					2				1		3
Mexico	1	8			4	1	1				
Netherlands	1,248	812	529	417	203	247	197	280	97	208	349
Norway	124	65	175	163	43	46	7	25	6	15	30
Philippines									0	0	0
Poland	868	823	635	223	104	18	27	15	43	33	147

<sup>76</sup> UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted: 19/11/2010 [www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase)

Portugal	1	9	1	1		6	1	5	1		
Moldova		1	2	4	1	10	13	16	18	16	23
Romania	2			2	2			1	0	1	0
Russian Federation	1		11	1	3	4	2	13	4	18	6
Serbia		1		1	1	1				5	0
Slovakia	17	15	29	102	758	144	17	14	28	22	21
Slovenia	38	40	2	1		1	1	4	0		
Spain	886	534	167	92	104	91	67	54	78	33	17
Sweden	153	214	183	335	327	485	274	227	217	269	213
Switzerland	427	368	318	465	368	329	182	111	47	59	90
Syria	4							0	0	0	2
Turkey										1	0
Turkmenistan							3				
Ukraine	37	236	46		54	44	29	18	14	8	19
United Kingdom					60	50	35	25	25	15	5
USA	803	1,758	2,147	1,347	919	606	484	456	386	282	266
Uzbekistan							6	0			
Zimbabwe			1								
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,616</b>	<b>8,998</b>	<b>8,876</b>	<b>8,334</b>	<b>6,721</b>	<b>5,321</b>	<b>5,221</b>	<b>4,297</b>	<b>4,136</b>	<b>4,426</b>	<b>6,350</b>



- **Labour migrants**

A survey implemented jointly by the National Statistical Service and the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia showed that about 85% of all emigrants from Armenia left their country of origin because of economic reasons. This represents about 175,000 labour migrants from Armenia in 2007 according to the estimates conducted for the survey<sup>77</sup>. As mentioned above, the absolute majority of migrants from Armenia emigrates to Russia. According to the Representation of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation in Armenia, in 2009, 82,000 citizens of Armenia

<sup>77</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia, National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, Report on Sample Survey on External and Internal migration in the Republic of Armenia, [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep\\_migr\\_08e.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep_migr_08e.pdf)

were legally employed in Russia. In the first 5 months of 2010 the number reached more than 24,000.<sup>78</sup> According to EUROSTAT data, in 2008, 1,103 citizens of Armenia were employed in the territory of the EU Member States (419 citizens (38%) in Poland, 275 (24.9%) in the Czech Republic, and 108 (9.8%) in Cyprus). In 2009, 924 Armenian citizens were officially working in the EU, 436 (47.2%) citizens in Poland, 132 (14.3%) in the Czech Republic, and 90 (9.7%) in Italy<sup>79</sup>.

The survey revealed that 62.8% of labour emigrants are employed in construction sector, 10.5% in commerce, 6.8% in services, 4.2% in transport and 4.2% in industry sectors<sup>80</sup>. According to the data of the Representation of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation in Armenia, 44.1% of Armenian migrants working in Russia are employed in the construction sector, 27.2% in services, 12.1% in transport and communication, and 3.8% in trade sector<sup>81</sup>.

At the moment, temporary or seasonal emigration, caused mainly by economical reasons, is the main emigration pattern in Armenia.

According to data collected during sociological research, between October 2007 and December 2009, about 200,000 persons or 7.9% of total population aged 16 and older were involved in labour migration. Persons in the age group between 20 and 54 compose 90.8% of total number of migrants, 89.1% of all labour migrants are male.

As the main reason for emigration, 93.5% of surveyed persons indicated problems connected to employment. Regarding the geography of labour migration, it has to be noted that main direction is to the Russian Federation – 93% of all labour migrants from Armenia move to this country of destination.

Beside seasonal labour migrants, there is another group of migrants from Armenia in the Russian Federation, who rather represent long-term migrants. These are persons who reside and work in Russia for 2-3 years, sometimes up to 10 years, remaining citizens of Armenia. Part of these migrants invited their family members to live with them in Russia. According to expert estimations the number of such persons amount to 400 – 450 thousands in 2010.<sup>82</sup>

### **Students from Armenia studying abroad**

Official statistics of number of Armenian citizens studying abroad does not exist. However, some Armenian students are studying abroad in the European countries and USA. Fund “Luys” which is supported by the Government and the President of the Republic of Armenia provides grants for studies in the most prestigious higher education institutions around the world. In 2009/2010 41 Armenian students were studying abroad with financial support of the fund.<sup>83</sup>

<sup>78</sup> International information Agency “News – Armenia”, Interview with the Chief of the Representation of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Armenia Svetlana Stepanova, 09.07.2010, <http://www.newsarmenia.ru/exclusive/20100709/42276045.html>

<sup>79</sup> EUROSTAT Database, data extracted 22.11.2010; <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>; detailed statistics are presented in ANNEX II of this Profile

<sup>80</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia, National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, Report on Sample Survey on External and Internal migration in the Republic of Armenia, [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep\\_migr\\_08e.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep_migr_08e.pdf)

<sup>81</sup> International information Agency “News – Armenia”, Interview with the Chief of the Representation of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Armenia Svetlana Stepanova, 09.07.2010, <http://www.newsarmenia.ru/exclusive/20100709/42276045.html>

<sup>82</sup> Information from the State Migration Service, submitted to ICMPD via Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria on October 21, 2010

<sup>83</sup> “Voice of Armenia”, 26.01.2010, <http://www.golosarmenii.am/ru/19939/headlines/1287/>

According to EUROSTAT data, in 2008, 521 Armenian citizens received a residence permit on educational grounds (136 residence permits were received in Poland (26.1%), 74 in the United Kingdom (14.2%), 67 in Greece (12.9%). In 2009, 607 residence permits (159 in Poland (26.2%), 97 in the United Kingdom (16%), and 67 in Italy (11%)) were granted to Armenian students.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> EUROSTAT Database, data extracted 22.11.2010;  
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>; detailed statistics are presented in ANNEX II of this Profile

## C2.3 Irregular emigrants

- **Migrants residing illegally abroad**

As in many other countries data on irregular emigration from Armenia is hardly available and based mainly on estimated provided by experts, surveys and researches. According to the survey conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues and the National Statistical Service<sup>85</sup>, out of the total number of migrants, only 30% officially and legally registered their employment in the country of destination. That means that at least about 62,000 citizens of Armenia resided or worked irregularly abroad in 2007.

Statistical data from EUROSTAT revealed that in 2008, 1,945 citizens of Armenia were found illegally present on the territory of an EU Member State. The majority of irregular migrants were apprehended in France (22.4% from the total number), Germany (17.7%), and Austria (11.8%). In 2009, the number of migrants from Armenia illegally staying in the territory of the EU was 2,015, with the majority of migrants apprehended in Germany (16.6% from the total number), France (16.2%), and Austria (13.9%).

### Number of citizens of Armenia, illegally staying in the territory of EU Member States<sup>86</sup>:

Country	2008	2009
Belgium	100	70
Bulgaria	40	40
Czech Republic	100	80
Germany	345	335
Estonia	5	5
Ireland	10	10
Greece	135	160
Spain	225	210
France	435	325
Italy	5	10
Cyprus	25	40
Latvia	10	0
Lithuania	30	40
Hungary	5	10
Netherlands	60	45
Austria	230	280
Poland	110	110
Portugal	5	5
Romania	0	10
Slovakia	25	30
Finland	10	5
Sweden	5	190
United Kingdom	25	5
Norway	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>2,015</b>

<sup>85</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia, National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, Report on Sample Survey on External and Internal migration in the Republic of Armenia, [http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep\\_migr\\_08e.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep_migr_08e.pdf)

<sup>86</sup> EUROSTAT Database, data extracted 22.11.2010; <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

Qualitative research, supported by Norwegian Government and “Eurasia” fund, focusing on the situation of Armenian irregular migrant workers in Turkey was conducted in 2009. The findings of this research indicated that the number of irregular migrants from Armenia in Turkey reached 15,000. As opposed to the majority of emigrants to Russia, emigration to Turkey is mainly represented by female migrants (up to 94%). In Turkey they usually work in informal sector, such as baby-sitting, home maids, etc.<sup>87</sup>

- **Voluntary or force return of illegally presented migrants**

In 2008, 3,550 citizens of Armenia were ordered to leave an EU Member State; in 2009 the number reached 3,545. The majority of decisions on removal of Armenian citizens were taken in France (985 decision in 2008 and 1,020 decisions in 2009, which constituted 27.4% and 28.8% in the respective years), Belgium (715 decisions in 2008 (20.1%) and 375 in 2009 (10.6%)), Netherlands (410 decisions in 2008 (11.5%) and 580 in 2009 (16.4%)) and Austria (285 decisions in 2008 (8%) and 420 in 2009 (11.8%)).

**Number of citizens of Armenia obliged to leave the territory of an EU Member State<sup>88</sup>:**

Country	2008	2009
Belgium	715	375
Bulgaria	40	40
Czech Republic	80	60
Germany	125	135
Estonia	5	0
Greece	165	160
Spain	280	285
France	985	1,020
Italy	5	10
Cyprus	10	5
Latvia	15	5
Lithuania	30	30
Hungary	10	20
Netherlands	410	580
Austria	285	420
Poland	180	170
Portugal	0	5
Romania	0	10
Slovakia	10	20
Finland	15	10
Sweden	160	180
United Kingdom	25	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3550</b>	<b>3545</b>

In 2008 1,355 decisions were taken to forcibly return citizens of Armenia following an order to leave an EU Member State. The majority of expulsion orders were taken in Germany (27.3%), France (11.8%), Belgium (11%) and Poland (11%). In 2009, 1,025 decisions were taken on expulsion of Armenian citizens from an EU Member State.

<sup>87</sup> Eurasia Partnership Foundation, [http://epfound.am/index.php?article\\_id=301&clang=0](http://epfound.am/index.php?article_id=301&clang=0)

<sup>88</sup> Ibid

**Number of actually conducted returns of citizens of Armenia from EU Member States<sup>89</sup>:**

Country	2008	2009
Belgium	150	85
Bulgaria	15	5
Czech Republic	5	0
Germany	370	235
Greece	25	20
Spain	90	50
France	160	120
Cyprus	15	20
Latvia	20	5
Lithuania	30	30
Hungary	0	5
Netherlands	90	70
Austria	60	65
Poland	150	135
Romania	0	10
Slovakia	10	20
Finland	10	10
Sweden	135	115
United Kingdom	20	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>1355</b>	<b>1025</b>

If a citizen of Armenia, who is staying illegally abroad and lacking a valid travel document, wishes to return to Armenia voluntarily or is in the procedure of force return, he or she receives a return document from the diplomatic representation or consular division of the Republic of Armenia abroad. Thus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has information about citizens of Armenia returning back to country of origin. At the same time, this information cannot be complete, because Armenian citizens could return voluntary or be deported without knowledge of Armenian authorities, if they are in possession of a valid travel document.

Diplomatic representations and consular divisions of the Republic of Armenia issued 19,824 certificates for return in 2009, 27,027 in 2008, and 33,156 in 2007<sup>90</sup>.

**Voluntary Return or Deportation of Armenian citizens who applied for return certificate from abroad, 2004 – 2009<sup>91</sup>:**

Country	Voluntary return	Deportation
Argentina	5	-
Austria	40	-
Belarus	56	25
Bulgaria	168	75
Canada	-	20

<sup>89</sup> Ibid

<sup>90</sup> Information from the State Migration Service, submitted to ICMPD via Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria on October 21, 2010

<sup>91</sup> UNDP, "Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges", Armenia 2009, Chapter 3, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

China	-	2
France	640	429
Georgia	-	1
Germany	1,307	187
Greece	35	-
Israel	8	-
Italy	4	79
Netherlands	74	39
Poland	-	1,178
Russian Federation	30,497	2,731
Spain	-	53
Sweden	127	127
Switzerland	264	-
Turkey	77	-
Turkmenistan	98	9
United Arab Emirates	3	19
United Kingdom	25	76
United States of America	1,961	238
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,389</b>	<b>5,288</b>

According to experts, the external migration processes in Armenia are among others related to the increase in the number of registered HIV and AIDS cases. At the same time such increase might be partially attributed to the fact that more Armenian citizens who are HIV-infected or those having clinical symptoms have returned to Armenia from CIS countries in recent years. The increasing number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) with a migration history has serious implications for the National HIV/AIDS Program in Armenia as nearly 15% households are reported to have some member working abroad. The achievements made by the national program in containing HIV transmission in Armenia may be undermined by the large number of Armenians who engage in HIV risk behavior in countries with higher HIV prevalence and who subsequently return home for treatment or to visit their families. HIV prevention efforts for migrants were not considered a priority for the country before 2007. Although the HIV/AIDS incidence in Armenia is currently low, there is a risk that the issue can be aggravated, particularly taking into account the intensive migration flows (especially to HIV/AIDS high prevalence countries) and the fact that Armenia is located in a region which is characterized by a sharp increase of HIV/AIDS incidence during recent years<sup>92</sup>.

- **Trafficking in Human Beings**

Armenia is primarily a source country for women subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced into prostitution, a source country for women and for men subject to forced labor. Women from Armenia are subject to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation mainly in the United Arab Emirates and Turkey. Armenian men and women are subject to forced labour in Russia while Armenian women are subject to forced labour in Turkey.<sup>93</sup> There is evidence that Armenia is also a destination country for women and men mainly from the Russian Federation subject to forced labour. Foreign

<sup>92</sup> Government of Armenia and United Nations Country Team in Armenia: "Armenia, Millennium Development Goals, National Progress Report, 2005 – 2009",

<http://europeandcis.undp.org/gender/genderandmdgs/show/395A20EC-F203-1EE9-BE1FD88FDEFC5691>

<sup>93</sup> US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2010, Armenia,

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142981.pdf>

victims of trafficking identified within Armenia in 2009 were allowed to stay and work in the local economy<sup>94</sup>.

It should be noted that trafficking in persons is not widespread. However, the Government of Armenia is making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. In November 2009, the National Assembly adopted amendments to the Criminal Code. The changes increased the minimum penalty for convicted trafficking offenders to five years imprisonment, allowed for the confiscation of assets of convicted trafficking offenders, and exempted trafficking victims from criminal prosecution for crimes committed as a direct result of being trafficked. Starting from March 2010 the Government of Armenia allocates approximately USD 15,000 to community shelter for facility renting.

**Identified victims of trafficking in human beings in Armenia, 2004 – 2009<sup>95</sup>:**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009, I-VI.
Identified victims of trafficking	9	53	48	36	34	44
Out of this, citizens of:						
Armenia	n/a	n/a	n/a	36	21	33
Russian Federation	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	13	11

Before 2008 the victims were women at the age of 18-45, with no minors identified. Male victims of labour trafficking were identified for the first time in 2008. Five of the victims identified in 2009 were male minors. During this period, 15 victims of labour trafficking were identified<sup>96</sup>.

Armenia prohibits trafficking in persons for both forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation through Articles 132 and 132-1 of the Criminal Code, which prescribes penalties ranging from five up to 15 years of imprisonment<sup>97</sup>. During 2006 – 2009, Armenian courts received 16 criminal cases charged under Article 132 of the Criminal Code (“recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons for purpose of exploitation”), 4 criminal cases charged under Article 132.1 of the Criminal Code (“involvement of a person in prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour, services, placement or holding of a person in slavery or practices similar to slavery”) and 7 criminal cases charged under Article 261 of the Criminal Code (“involvement of another person in prostitution for mercenary purposes”)<sup>98</sup>.

<sup>94</sup> US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2010, Armenia,

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142981.pdf>

<sup>95</sup> UNDP, “Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges”, Armenia 2009, Chapter 3,

<http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

<sup>96</sup> Ibid

<sup>97</sup> US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2010, Armenia,

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142981.pdf>

<sup>98</sup> UNDP, “Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges”, Armenia 2009, Chapter 3,

<http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

### C3. Diasporas abroad

Today, the term ‘Armenian Diaspora’ refers to Armenian communities that have settled outside the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Mostly they formed outside Armenia in different countries after the 1915 Genocide of Armenians. More than seven million Armenians reside in different countries of the world, while just over three million live in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The largest Armenian communities are **in Russia (more than 2 million)** and the **United States (about 1.5 million)**. Significantly large Armenian communities live in **France, Georgia, Iran, Ukraine, Poland, Lebanon, Turkey, Syria, Argentina and Canada**. There are smaller Armenian communities in **India, New Zealand, Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Japan and the Philippines**.

The ultimate priority of the Armenian Diaspora has been the preservation of their Armenian identity in conditions of political, economic, and cultural influences of other states. The Armenian Apostolic Holy Church, together with its Diocesan Churches has historically played a very important role in supporting Armenians in Diaspora in preserving their national identity and in forging a sense of community. In the context of the partnership Armenia-Diaspora the Armenian Catholic Church and the Armenian Evangelical Church, Congregation Mekhitarist play an essential role. The role of pan-Armenian institutions and parties such as the *Armenian Revolutionary Alliance (“Dashnaktsutyun”)*, the *“Ramkavar Azatakan” (Liberal) Party*, the *Social Democratic “Hunchakyan” Party (SDHP)*, the *Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)*, and a host of other unions, all-Armenian associations and organizations, has been not less significant.

Since the declaration of independence in 1991 the Armenia-Diaspora relations have advanced to a new level. The collaboration has evolved in different directions: official diplomacy, the Armenian churches, all-Armenian organizations, individuals and individual organizations in Diaspora. Armenian churches were built and reconstructed in different Armenian communities and a new Diocese was established.

The creation of the *“Hayastan” (“Armenia”) Pan-Armenian Foundation* in March 1992 was the first step in coordinating the collaboration between Armenia and the Diaspora. The *“Armenia-Diaspora”* conferences organized in 1999, 2002 and 2006 provided opportunities to discuss the achievements of the Armenia-Diaspora collaboration, to evaluate new challenges and to identify new possibilities for the Armenian people. Numerous programmes and events were organized and accomplished in the spheres of education, science, business and youth affairs.

Since the declaration of independence, the involvement of Diaspora in the economic life of Armenia has increased in parallel with the growth of foreign investments in Armenia. 3,698 enterprises were established in Armenia with the participation of foreign capital as of January 1, 2008, and almost 70% of foreign investors that have started business activities in Armenia are of Armenian origin, or people of other nationalities that have business relations with them. The share of Armenians from the Diaspora in total investments is around 30%. Three countries are on the top of the list in terms of foreign direct investments in Armenia: Russia, the USA and Iran. They are followed by France, Syria and Lebanon.

The investment activities of the Armenian Diaspora have hugely supported the development of Armenian economy in many fields, such as construction, financial services, information technologies, jewellery and diamond cutting, tourism and hotels, and health care services. Beside this, processing of agricultural produce and food production, light industry, retail and wholesale trade, recreation and entertainment, industrial manufacturing, machine tool building, passenger transportation, publishing and printing services, legal and consulting services, as well as the small and medium size enterprises should be listed as well.

The Ministry of Diaspora has been part of the Government of the Republic of Armenia since October 1, 2008 with the purpose of overseeing the comprehensive and effective implementation of state policy on developing the Armenia-Diaspora partnership, sustaining its continuous improvement, and coordinating with the activities of other state bodies. The Ministry of Diaspora develops and implements the policy of the Government aimed at strengthening links between Armenia and its Diaspora, extending the scope of these links, exploiting the potential of the Diaspora, supporting repatriation, cooperating with the state and non-governmental organizations, and accomplishing activities in other spheres that are within its mandate set out by law. The Ministry also cooperates with diplomatic representations in promoting Armenia-Diaspora relations.<sup>99</sup>

The Republic of Armenia makes significant efforts to inform Armenians living abroad on return possibilities, such as: labour market situation, development of economy, education possibilities and opportunities, and procedure for obtaining travel and identity documents. These tasks are delegated mainly to the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia and State Migration Service.

According to the survey, conducted jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues and the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia in 2008, it is estimated that 86,397 Armenian migrants returned back to Armenia from 2002 to 2007. Up to 55% of all returnees indicated that their return to Armenia was caused by “nostalgia or missing family and relatives” and “family circumstances”; 17.9% indicated that they fulfilled the departure objective or completed the work, 10.3% that they did not receive sufficient incomes. The absolute majority of returnees came back to Armenia from the Russian Federation (80.8%), the rest from other European countries (5.2%), other CIS countries (4.9%) and the United States of America (4.9%). Only 18.5% of respondents indicated that their employment has been legally registered abroad, the rest confirmed that the employment has not been legally registered (32.2%) or did not respond (49.3%).<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> International Labour Organisation, Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, Handbook for Armenians abroad, Yerevan, 2010,

[http://www.mindiaspora.am/res/Hratarakumner/Dzernark\\_ayl\\_pet\\_bnak\\_hayeri\\_hamar/Handbook.eng.pdf](http://www.mindiaspora.am/res/Hratarakumner/Dzernark_ayl_pet_bnak_hayeri_hamar/Handbook.eng.pdf)

<sup>100</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia, National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, Report on Sample Survey on External and Internal migration in the Republic of Armenia,

[http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep\\_migr\\_08e.pdf](http://www.armstat.am/file/article/rep_migr_08e.pdf)

#### C4. Remittances of nationals living abroad

It is rather difficult to assess the real volume of remittances sent to Armenia, as some of them are transferred through unofficial channels. The volume of real inflows of remittances is more likely to be underestimated even if the assessment is based on the households' survey, because people are usually "cautious" about how they answer questions related to their income. Nevertheless, Armenia ranks among the countries with large inflow of remittances. A considerable share (about 36%) of the households in Armenia receives remittances from migrant members of their families abroad.<sup>101</sup>

According to the Central Bank of Armenia, volume of remittances of individuals residing abroad through bank system of the Republic of Armenia amounted to USD 644.0 millions. Growing every year the level of remittances reached its maximum in 2008 when they reached USD 1,635.3 millions. In 2009, as a result of economic crisis the level of remittances decreased by almost one third and reached USD 1,124.1 millions. At the moment the growth of remittances is noticed again. In the first seven months of 2010 USD 618.0 million in remittances has already been transferred.

**Migrants' remittances sent to Armenia according to the Central Bank of Armenia (thousand USD)<sup>102</sup>:**

Years	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Total</b>	<b>644,019</b>	<b>752,819</b>	<b>960,926</b>	<b>1,319,479</b>	<b>1,635,307</b>	<b>1,124,119</b>
of which						
Russia	419,014	541,308	739,419	1,078,218	1,371,066	904,011
USA	78,787	82,628	94,491	76,571	60,958	59,288
Share of GDP% <sup>103</sup>	18.6	15.4	15.1	14.3	13.7	12.9

According to the data provided above, remittances to Armenia represented on average 15% of Armenia's gross domestic product (GDP) over the past several years.

However, the level of remittances might be even higher because according to the integrated living conditions survey, conducted by the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, about 13.4% of remittances sent in 2007 were transferred through informal channels. In 2008 the percentage of such remittances was 12.9%. Additionally, the mentioned survey indicated, that in 2008 4.8% of all households participated in the survey also received goods from family members abroad (4.6%-in 2007).

In 2009, the highest level of remittances was sent to Armenia from the Russian Federation (80.4% of total), followed by the United States of America (5.3%), Ukraine (2.0%), Kazakhstan (1.6%) and Germany (1.0%).

**Remittances transferred through official bank channels in 2009, by countries<sup>104</sup>:**

Country	Remittances, thousand USD	Share of total, %
Russia	904,011	80.4

<sup>101</sup> UNDP, "Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges", Armenia 2009, Chapter 4,

<http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

<sup>102</sup> Central Bank of Armenia, Statistical Data, external Sector Statistics,

[http://www.cba.am/CBA\\_SITE/statistics/statdate.html?\\_locale=en](http://www.cba.am/CBA_SITE/statistics/statdate.html?_locale=en)

<sup>103</sup> GDP figures are taken from the World Bank Statistical Data for Armenia,

<http://www.worldbank.org.am/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/ARMENIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20169001~menuPK:301604~pagePK:1497618~piPK:217854~theSitePK:301579,00.html>

<sup>104</sup> Central Bank of Armenia, Statistical Data, Statistical publications, External Sector Indicators,

[http://www.cba.am/CBA\\_SITE/statistics/statdate.html?\\_locale=en](http://www.cba.am/CBA_SITE/statistics/statdate.html?_locale=en)

USA	59,288	5.3
Ukraine	22,418	2.0
Kazakhstan	17,517	1.6
Germany	11,178	1.0
France	7,194	0.6
Spain	6,839	0.6
United Arab Emirates	4,769	0.4
Turkey	1,953	0.2
China	554	0.0
Other countries	88,398	7.9
Total	1,124,119	100

**Share of remittances in the households' budgets (%) received from relatives outside Armenia<sup>105</sup>:**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Share of remittances in the households budget	8.5	7.2	6.4	7.9	7.6

According to the surveys, 80% of migrants send remittances back home at least once in three months, every fifth migrant transfers money every month. With regard to the volume, seasonal migrants are the most important group of remittance senders.

Remittances are mostly spent for households needs (80% of households spent 90% of received amounts in 2008). Savings are usually kept for the future expenses, education or special events, but not for investments<sup>106</sup>.

<sup>105</sup> National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, Social Snapshot and Poverty of Armenia 2009, <http://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=81&id=1085>

<sup>106</sup> UNDP, "Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges", Armenia 2009, Chapter 4, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>

## D. Analysis of the factors driving migration in the country

### D1. Main characteristics of current migration trends

#### Immigration

Armenia is mainly a source country of migration. However, there are some flows of immigration to the country as well. In 2006, 2,818 **residence permits** were issued in the Republic of Armenia, in 2007 3,921, and in 2008 4,155 permits. These numbers show a clear increase in legal immigration flows to the country. The majority of immigrants were citizens of non-CIS countries. In 2008, such foreigners composed 90% of the total number of foreigners granted residence permits in Armenia. Main countries of origin of immigrants were Iran (almost 29% from all residence permits issued in 2008), USA (10%), Syria (9%), Iraq (7%), and Russia (6%).

There are about 4,000 – 5,000 **foreign students** studying at Armenian high education institutions every year. Almost half of these students are persons of Armenian origin residing abroad. The students usually arrive to Armenia from countries such as the Russian Federation, Georgia, Iran, India, and Syria.

According to the population census, it is estimated that 86,397 Armenian **migrants returned back to Armenia** in the period of 2002 to 2007. The absolute majority of returnees came back to Armenia from the Russian Federation (80.8%), the rest from other European countries (5.2%), other CIS countries (4.9%) and the United States of America (4.9%).

Since 2007 Armenia has been receiving more than 500,000 **visitors and tourists** every year. In 2009, 575,210 persons visited Armenia, an increase by more than 4.5 times compared to 2001 (123,262 visitors). Out of the total number of visitors in 2009, more than 70% arrived from the Russian Federation and Georgia, followed by the citizens of Iran (6%), USA (3.2%), and France (2.2 %). Almost 50% of visitors were persons of Armenian origin.

Armenia also receives **asylum seekers** from foreign countries, although their number decreased in the recent years. The peak in the number of asylum applications was reached in 2006 when 650 applications were submitted. In 2009 Armenia received 67 applications for asylum only. From 1999, when Armenia started to implement asylum procedure, refugee status was granted to 37 foreigners. In 2003, Armenia introduced a procedure for granting temporary asylum. Since then temporary asylum was granted to 1,009 foreigners, 97% of which are citizens of Iraq (982 persons).

#### Emigration

As a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union and factors that occurred in Armenia in late 1980s and early 1990s (conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh region, earthquake in Spitak in 1988), Armenia's external migration processes changed fundamentally. First of all, a high rate of emigration from the country was noted. According to different estimations, about 700,000 – 1,300,000 people left Armenia in the period of 1990 – 2005. This constitutes between 21.5% and 40% of the total population of Armenia in 2010. It should be noted that many of these individuals came back to Armenia. Moreover, in the last years the volumes of emigration from Armenia decreased significantly, although emigration processes still remain alarmingly high. According to surveys, at the end of 2007, more than 200,000 emigrants from Armenia remain abroad, mainly in the Russian Federation, USA, European countries, Turkey and the rest of CIS countries (Ukraine, Kazakhstan, etc.).

About 85% of all emigrants from Armenia left the country because of **labour reasons**. This makes about 175,000 labour migrants from Armenia in 2007 according to the estimations based on a survey. In 2009, 82,000 citizens of Armenia were legally employed in Russia – the main destination country of emigrants

from Armenia. In the first five months of 2010 the number exceeded 24,000. The survey revealed that 62.8% of labour emigrants are employed in construction sector, 10.5% in commerce, 6.8% in services, 4.2% in transport and 4.2% in industry sectors.

Unfortunately, there are no official statistics on the number of **Armenian citizens studying abroad**. However, some Armenian students are studying in the European countries and USA. The Fund “Luys” which is supported by the Government and the President of the Republic of Armenia provides grants for studies in the most prestigious higher education institutions around the world. In 2009/2010 41 Armenian students were studying abroad with financial support of the fund. According to the EUROSTAT data, in 2008, 521 Armenian citizens received a residence permit on educational grounds; in 2009 – 607 residence permits (mainly in Poland, the United Kingdom, and Italy) were granted.

Armenian **Diaspora** abroad plays a significant role in the economic and human development of the Republic of Armenia. It is one of the main generators of foreign investments in the country.

According to UNHCR, starting from 1999 the number of **asylum seekers** originating from Armenia was permanently decreasing until 2008. The number fell from 9,616 applications submitted in 1999 to 4,426 applications submitted in 2008. However, in 2009 it increased again by more than 30% and reached a total of 6,350. In the last 10 years (from 1999 to 2009) 72,296 applications for asylum were submitted by the citizens of Armenia all around the world. The main destination countries for asylum seekers from Armenia are France (15,024 applications for asylum over the last 10 years), the United States of America (9,454 applications during the last 10 years, however, starting from 2002 the number of applications decreased significantly: from 2,147 in 2002 to 266 in 2009), Germany (8,000 applications), Austria and Belgium (these countries received more than 7,000 applications between 1999 and 2009). In the Russian Federation, which is a country of destination of an absolute majority of migrants from Armenia, only 63 applications for asylum were submitted by citizens of Armenia over the last 10 years.

According to UNHCR data, about 18,000 **recognised refugees** originating from Armenia are currently residing in foreign countries (this is more than 3 times comparing with 2000). The biggest refugee population originating from Armenia is registered in the USA (7,569 refugees originating from Armenia were residing there at the end of 2009, which constituted 42% from the total number of such refugees), Germany (3,691 refugees or 20.5%), France (2,803 refugees or 15.6%), Netherlands (1,041 refugees or 5.9%), Austria (797 refugees or 4.4%) and Sweden (630 refugees or 3.5%).

### **Irregular migration**

Armenia is primarily a source country of migrants, including irregular migrants. However, it also faces some influx of irregular migrants from Asian countries and the Middle East (for example, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Palestine, Egypt and recently China). As a rule, these migrants use the country as a stage on their way to the Russian Federation and further to the Western European countries and the United States.

According to surveys, out of the total number of emigrants from Armenia, only 30% officially and legally registered their employment in their respective country of destination. This implies that at least about 62,000 citizens of Armenia resided or worked irregularly abroad in 2007. The majority of irregular migrants from Armenia are living in the Russian Federation. Findings of qualitative research on the situation of the Armenian irregular migrant workers in Turkey showed that the number of irregular migrants from Armenia in Turkey reaches 15,000. Contrary to the majority of emigrants to Russia, emigration to Turkey is mainly represented by female migrants (up to 94%). According to statistical data from EUROSTAT, 1,945 citizens of Armenia were illegally present on the territory of a EU Member State in 2009. The majority of irregular migrants were apprehended in France, Germany, and Austria.

## Trafficking in Human Beings

Armenia is mostly a source country for women subject to trafficking in persons, specifically forced prostitution, and a source country for women and men in subject to forced labour.<sup>107</sup>

## D2. Identifying the key push and pull factors of migration

The socio-economical situation, which became the main “**push factor**” of emigration from the Republic of Armenia, remains the main factor for the evolution of migration processes in Armenia. According to available data, 93.5% of interviewed persons indicated that the main reasons for emigration were problems related to employment in Armenia. Out of this 46.5% respondents indicated that they did not have a job in Armenia and 43.0% referred to low income as a reason for leaving the country.

The steep decline in real incomes and low incomes in general has been another highly important push factor. Substantial degradation of social welfare and severe decline of public healthcare systems are, also considered as push factors that worsened the migration situation. Another important push factors resulted from ethnic, cultural and education changes in the region of former Soviet republics that led to permanent return of some Armenians to their native homeland in this territory.<sup>108</sup>

Non-visa regime, business connections, cultural and psychological similarities, and knowledge of Russian language also played a significant role as a main “**pull factors**” in the CIS region. Other pull factors are also important for the CIS region. One of the most important pull factors has been the economic factor. The energy-rich CIS countries have had more resources to spend even during the difficult years of the economic recession. Thus, recent growth in energy-rich countries propelled by the soaring energy exports and rising energy prices in the external markets led to the inflow of significantly larger investments in infrastructure, real estate and services sectors. Since 2001 Russian and Kazakhstan have been creating a number of low skilled seasonal and temporary jobs in agriculture, food-processing, construction, hospitality and services sectors much faster than any other countries in the CIS region. The difference in incomes between countries became quite substantial. For example, the average monthly salaries in Russia are nearly 2.5 times higher than in Armenia (as of 2008).<sup>109</sup>

With regard to other countries, Diaspora becomes, beside economic motivation, a significant factor attracting onward emigration to the respective country.

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<sup>107</sup> For trafficking from Armenia, please refer to section C2.3 Irregular emigrants of this Profile

<sup>108</sup> UNDP, Human Development Research Paper 2009/36: Current Trends in Migration in the Common Wealth of Independent States, [http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/papers/HDRP\\_2009\\_36.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/papers/HDRP_2009_36.pdf)

<sup>109</sup> Ibid

### **D3. Possible future trends in migration**

Based on the researches it was established that there are following types of migration flows in Armenia: labour migration, permanent or long-term migration, and students migration. The labour migration plays the most significant role, e.g. employment issues remains the main factor which forms trends in both internal and external migration flows.

It is beyond doubt that economic situation in Armenia will continue to influence the potential of labour migrants and push them to search for new labour markets and opportunities to earn sufficient money for their needs and needs of their families. It was expected that under conditions of the global economical crisis, as economic and employment situation in the destination countries got worse, part of labour migrants and even long-term migrants would return back to Armenia. However, despite negative consequences of the economic crisis for opportunities for migrants abroad, the return of migrants was insignificant and it was, in many cases, only a temporary decision. It seems that labour emigrants from Armenia accepted lower level of earnings or lower levels of occupation abroad instead of returning home. Thus, it is likely that external labour migration with its positive and negative impact will also be an important issue for Armenia in the future. Moreover, if economic situation and employment policy in Armenia will not soon enough recover after the crisis, the migration processes could again lead to an escalation of migration movements. Seasonal workers could decide to stay longer abroad or bring their family members to destination countries and the young population will be disappointed by the perspectives in Armenia and could opt to migrate or not return after studying abroad. All these circumstances could ultimately result in a reduction of the population in Armenia and even in slower economic growth due to continuous brain drain and labour force outflow.

For the successful return of at least part of the emigrated population, it is essential to implement active socio-economic and demographic policies in Armenia. They should particularly take into account that persons in the reproductive age are highly represented among the emigrants. In this regard, employment issues remain the most important for the socio-economic development and at the same time they are directly connected to migration processes. Most of all, the creation jobs in all regions of Armenia could help to reduce migration flows from Armenia and attract migrants to return back home.

## E. Country specific module, following the issue of special interest

The most important aspect in the field of migration management in Armenia is the issue of external migration. Particularly the surplus of people with certain professions the domestic market simply cannot absorb anymore leads to labour emigration from the country mostly to the Russian Federation. Thus, Armenia should make sure that socio-economical benefits of migration are used in a better way. Efforts should be made to make specialists with qualifications most needed in the country refrain from emigration or to make them return back and work in Armenia. At the same time, possibilities for other specialists to seek employment abroad in a legal and organized have to be created. On personal level of migrants, remittances are the most important and positive outcome of migration. However, migration has also very negative consequences as well, such as deteriorated demographic situation, aggravation of health condition, separation of families, human rights violation in the destination countries, risk of trafficking in human beings, labour and other exploitation, etc.

Above mentioned factors mean that there is an urgent need to develop and implement a complex migration policy that would enhance the economic benefits of migration for Armenia. Such policy should be based on researches, which have already been conducted in Armenia, and deal with positive and negative consequences of migration in order to promote or prevent certain types of migration for the best interests of the state and individuals concerned.

The use of remittances is another specific issue closely related to migration. Armenia belongs to the countries with quite a high remittances rate, i.e. remittances play a significant role for the human development situation of the country as they are mainly used for education and health needs. On the other hand, migrants and their families have a lot of savings in Armenia as well as abroad which are not used for the needs of economy. In this regard, the state should enhance possibilities for investments in order to make remittances strengthening the economy not only on micro-, but also on macro-economic level. Greater attention should be paid to general financial literacy of the Armenian population, providing information on investments benefits and opportunities, applied financial mechanisms, etc.

The Armenian Diaspora is of great importance for the economic development of the country. However, Armenia has not developed and implemented a special state policy on attracting investments with a differentiated diaspora-related approach, as well as making use of the knowledge and now-how gained by migrants abroad.

## F. Migration policies and programmes and their effectiveness in managing the migration and development challenges

### F1. Overview of the national institutional and policy framework governing migration

#### F1.1 An overview of recent migration policy developments

The Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted the new **Concept Paper on the State Regulation of Migration in the Republic of Armenia** on December 30, 2010.

This document outlines the main principles of the migration policy of Armenia:

- Equal rights of all migrants regardless of their sex, age, race, ethnic or social origin, religion, political or other opinion, and other personal or social conditions or circumstances;
- The right of every person staying legally in Armenia to move freely throughout the country, choose the place of residence, departure or arrival to the country;
- Application of laws and other legislative acts, as well as international commitments aimed to regulate migratory processes;
- Joint efforts of state authorities and public organisations in migration issues;
- Civil society involvement in policymaking of state regulation of migration and its implementation;
- Protection of the rights and lawful interests of citizens of the country, staying outside of Armenia;
- Mutually beneficial and equal cooperation with other states in the management of migratory flows.

Another document important for the assessment of the migration policy in the Republic of Armenia is the **2008 – 2012 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia**.<sup>110</sup> This strategic paper also underlines the importance of the protection of migrants' rights. The programme lays down that the Government continues the process of establishing a uniform system of registration of migration routes and numbers of the population, which will enable assessing the migration situation and developing measures to prevent the negative impact of certain migration flows. Additionally, the Government makes targeted steps for the civilized integration of the Republic of Armenia into international labour markets by providing legislative regulation of labour emigration and ensuring protection of rights and legitimate interests of labour emigrants.

#### Reforms of migration management in 2009 and current initiatives

In order to reform the migration system management, an interagency working group was established by the decision of the Prime Minister of Armenia No. 304 dated 16 April 2009. The group submitted its proposals to the government of Armenia on 1 July 2009.

The government of Armenia endorsed the recommendations of the interagency working group and consequently, by the decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia dated 18 November 2009 created the State Migration Service within the Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia. The government of Armenia approved the statute of the Service on 17 December 2009. Currently, the Service is fully operational.

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<sup>110</sup> <http://www.gov.am/files/docs/77.pdf>

In 2009, progress was noted in implementing the provisions of the “Concept paper for the migration system in Armenia and introducing biometric passports and identification cards” approved by the decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia No. NK-53-A dated 15 March 2008. “The National Action Plan for introducing electronic passports and identification cards in Armenia” was submitted to governmental bodies of the Republic of Armenia on 6 November 2009 for discussions.

The concept paper and the draft Law “On Repatriation” were elaborated in 2009. The project of the Government of Armenia "On approval of the concept on organization of repatriation procedure" was approved at a meeting of the Government of Armenia on 9th December 2010 /Protocol decision No. 48/ and the draft Law "On repatriation" was submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia in December 2010.

## **F1.2 An overview of key domestic legislation**

**The migration issues are regulated by the following main legal documents:<sup>111</sup>**

- **Laws of the Republic of Armenia**

### **Law “On the RA Citizenship”**

The Law was adopted on November 6, 1995. The law defines the procedure of acquisition and termination of the RA citizenship; the procedure of acquiring the RA citizenship for persons of Armenian nationality by simplified procedure, as well as the documents confirming the RA citizenship.

### **Law “On Political Asylum”**

The Law was adopted on September 26, 2001. The law regulates the grounds for and the procedure of acquiring a right of political asylum, the conditions for rejecting the application for political asylum and termination of it, as well as other relations in connection thereto.

### **Law “On making supplements to the RA Law “On State Duty”**

The Law was adopted on October 5, 2001. The Law prescribes the following privileges for persons that have been deported from the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1988-1992 and have received the RA citizenship:

- a) persons, who have been recognized as tenants in regard to the residential space of community housing occupied thereby shall be exempt from payment of state duty for notary certification of the lease agreement of that residential space;
- b) those persons, who have privatized the residential space occupied by them initially possessed by the state budgetary institutions, as well as those persons, who are recognized as tenants of the residential space of the community housing occupied by them, shall be exempt from payment of state duty for state registration of the right to this property.

### **Law “On State Border”**

The Law was adopted on November 20, 2001. The law regulates the rules of crossing the state border, the procedure of conducting border control and the procedure of passage of persons through the state border.

### **Law “On Frontier Troops”**

The Law was adopted on November 20, 2001. The Law defines the concept of RA border guard; legal grounds, principles, rights and duties of their activity; legal and social protection of the border guard staff, citizens participating in maintenance of the state border and the members of their families; financial and logistical support of the border guard.

<sup>111</sup>Official site of State Migration Service of Armenia

<http://www.backtoarmenia.com/?hcat=100&scat=102&PHPSESSID=zzwimgrg>; information accessed 12/07/2010

**Law “On allocating the apartments built for the refugees deported from the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1988-1992 with ownership right»**

The Law was adopted on November 20, 2002. The Law regulates the relations connected with allocation of the apartments in residential buildings and the shelter-like houses constructed in the territory of the Republic of Armenia from the resources of the RA State budget, foreign countries and international organizations contributions for the refugees deported from the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1988-1992 to refugees with ownership right.

**Law “On citizens that have not served the compulsory military service in violation of the defined procedure”**

The Law was adopted on March 17, 2003. The scope of the Law covers the period from the autumn draft of 1992 to October 31, 2005. The law is applied to the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, who have not been called up to compulsory military service (avoided the draft) in the period in question, thus violated the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Military Draft”. At the same time the law aims at men that either reached the age of 27 (for the reserve officers the age of 35) or are younger than 27 (35) and have acquired grounds for exemption from compulsory military service or have been granted draft deferment as defined by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Military Draft”. The document defines the sums to be charged for avoidance of each conscription call.

**Law “On Foreigners”**

The Law was adopted on December 25, 2007. The Law regulates conditions of entry of foreigners into the RA, their stay and residence in the territory of the RA, employment, transit movement, exit from the RA, as well as other issues related to foreigners.

**Law “On Refugees and Asylum”**

The Law was adopted on November 27, 2008. Earlier, in 1993, Armenia had acceded to the Geneva Convention of 1951 and the New York Protocol of 1967 “On Refugee Status”.

- **Decrees of the Government of the Republic of Armenia**

**“On approval of the procedure of granting a certificate of temporary shelter in the Republic of Armenia and the description thereof”**

The decree was adopted on January 9, 2003. It regulates the period of validity of the certificate, personal data which the certificate contains, rules and conditions on usage of the certificate, its exchange or withdrawal by the competent authority, implementation by the competent authority of the account and registration.

**“On identifying the authorized state body to grant temporary asylum in the Republic of Armenia”**

The decree was adopted on January 15, 2003. According to the decree the Migration and Refugees Board under the Government (at the moment – State Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration) was appointed as the state body authorized to deal with asylum issues.

**“On approval of the procedure of granting temporary asylum to foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Republic of Armenia”**

The decree was adopted on January 20, 2003. The decree regulates the procedure on consideration of granting temporary asylum both to persons eligible and not eligible for the status based on the requirements of the Law on refugees, as well as regulates the relationship with applicants who arrived in the Republic of Armenia before the Decree entered into force.

**“On approval of the concept paper on State regulation of the migration in the Republic of Armenia”**

The decree was adopted by the protocol decision No. 51 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on December 30, 2010. The Concept includes the analysis of migration situation in Armenia, aims at definition of principles of state regulation of the migration processes and priority tasks.

**“On defining the procedure of notifying to the authorized body of the Government of Republic of Armenia the acceptance or acquisition by a RA Citizen of the citizenship of another country”**

The decree was adopted on September 20, 2007. It appoints the authorized state body, the time period for submission of documents by the citizens of the Republic of Armenia who has acquired a citizenship of another country and a list of documents to be attached to the application.

**“On defining the procedure of activities at the border crossing points and special facilities of the transit zones and accommodation of foreigners in these facilities”**

The decree was adopted on February 7, 2008. It defines the rules on accommodation of foreigners in the special facilities located in the transit zones until some circumstances or identity is cleared up. Beside this the decree sets out rules for the implementation of supervision. The decree regulates the conditions of facilities, issues of providing food and medical assistance.

### **F1.3 A brief description of key institutional actors involved in migration management and diaspora**

The following state institutions are involved in the migration management in the Republic of Armenia:

The **State Migration Service (SMS)** is responsible for development of migration policy, development and implementation of programs aimed at the application of the integration policy adopted by the state in respect of the refugees forcibly displaced from the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1988-1992; implementation of the programs on construction of housing for refugees and forcibly displaced persons and in the places of their compact settlement of various sites of social and cultural importance as well as programs on assistance in employment. Beside this, the SMS carries out processing the asylum applications of foreign citizens and stateless persons in accordance with the established procedure; development and implementation of the programs on re-emigration (return) of the population emigrated from the Republic of Armenia; development and implementation of the population resettlement programs, etc.<sup>112</sup>

The **Border Guard Service within National Security Service** is responsible for border control including entry and exit procedures.

The **Division for Fighting Illegal Migration within the Main Directorate for Fighting Organised Crime of the Police of the Republic of Armenia** is responsible for prevention, combating, and investigation of crimes related to illegal migration.

The **Division for Fight against Trafficking within the Main Directorate for Fighting against Organised Crime of Police of the Republic of Armenia** deals with crimes related to trafficking in human beings.

The **Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs** is responsible for the analysis of the labour market situation and disseminating information regarding job opportunities. One of the main tasks of the Ministry is the development of the state policy in the field of demography.

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is the coordinating body for international projects and is responsible for Visa Policy. Embassies and consulates of the Republic of Armenia abroad issue visas for entry to the country.

The **Ministry of Diaspora** is responsible for development, implementation and continuous improvement of the state policy on development of the Armenia-Diaspora partnership and coordination of the

<sup>112</sup> State Migration Service, <http://www.dmr.am/ADMR/Charter.HTML>

activities of the state bodies in this field. The Ministry has developed and is carrying out potential pan-Armenian projects aimed at developing the Armenia-Diaspora partnership and raising the reputation of Armenia and the Armenian people. The Ministry also contributes to the implementation of educational projects; the development of daily and Sunday schools in the Armenian Diaspora; supports the activities aimed at preservation of Armenian identity, as well as protection, development and dissemination of Armenian cultural heritage; promotion of Armenian identity among Armenians who speak foreign languages and have foreign beliefs (their “Hayadartsutyun”, return to the roots); supports the repatriation of Diaspora Armenians and pilgrimage of Diaspora Armenian youth to Armenia<sup>113</sup>.

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<sup>113</sup> Ministry of Diaspora, [http://www.mindiaspora.am/en/About\\_us](http://www.mindiaspora.am/en/About_us)

## F2. An analysis of policy coherence issues

One of the main preconditions for an improvement of the demographic situation, in particular, the birth and marriage registries of the population of the country, is the development and gradual realization of effective social and economic measures, directed towards the decrease of the volumes of emigration. For this reason and taking into account the tendencies of demographic evolution in Armenia, as well as the strategic priorities of the state demographic policy, the following main tasks of the State Programme on an Improvement in the Demographic situation in the Republic of Armenia for 2011 were established: the decrease of the volumes of the emigration of the persons of reproductive age, the development of the adequate policy directed toward the stimulation of immigration.

For the purpose of the implementation of the above-mentioned tasks, the State Programme on an Improvement of the Demographic situation in the Republic of Armenia provides for the following measures:

- Resolution of housing problems of Armenians, deported from Azerbaijan in 1988-1992;
- Conclusion of agreements with the respective countries for the purpose of the integration of the Republic of Armenia into the international labour market;
- Development and the implementation of programs set out by the Concept of the integration of Iraqi Armenians residing in the Republic of Armenia and adopted by the protocol decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on March 25, 2010; etc.

Other important legal acts in the field of migration management are the following:

- The **Concept Paper on the State Regulation of Migration in the Republic of Armenia** (approved by the Protocol resolution of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No.51 of 30 December 2010), which defines not only the situation in the field of migration, but also presents the most important principles of state migration management and measures directed towards the implementation of these principles;
- The **Program on the Establishment of an Information System on the External migration of the population of the Republic of Armenia** (approved by the Protocol resolution of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No.52 from December 23, 2004);
- The **Concept of the introduction in of the system of electronic passports and identification cards containing biometric data in the Republic of Armenia** (adopted by the President's of the Republic of Armenia Decree No.K-53- A from March 15, 2008), IV part of which is dedicated to the reforms in the migration system.

The above-mentioned legal acts do not only describe the state policy in the field of migration, but also establish the procedure for the realisation of this policy.

And finally, the State Program on sustainable development of the Republic of Armenia, adopted by the resolution of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No.1207 – N from October 30, 2008, notes the importance of the nexus between migration and development. In particular, point 6.9 of the mentioned programme is dedicated to migration. This part of the programme analysis the impact of migration to

labour market in Armenia, including positive and negative aspects of labour emigration of Armenian citizens.<sup>114</sup>

### **F3. Regional and International Cooperation**

Armenia has undertaken various international obligations with the most significant of them being the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States obligations.

- **United Nations documents**

Armenia has acceded to the main human rights conventions within the framework of the United Nations relevant to migration issues, which guarantees minimum standards of treatment for non-citizens and migrants. These treaties are: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (along with the Optional Protocol); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **International Labour Organization (ILO) documents**

Armenia has also ratified several conventions of the International Labour Organization on labour migration and related matters. Most important among them are:

- the revised ILO Convention No. 97 signed in 1949 on Migration for Employment (with Protocol) was signed by the President of RA on October 3, 2005,;
- the 1975 ILO Convention (C 143) on Migrant Workers (and Supplementary Provisions) the President of RA signed On October 3, 2005,.

These two ILO Conventions require the states to actively facilitate fair recruitment practices and transparent consultation with their social partners, reaffirm non-discrimination, establish a principle of equality of treatment of nationals and regular migrant workers in their access to social security, conditions of work, etc.

- **Council of Europe documents**

Armenia became a member of the Council of Europe on January 25, 2001 and has ratified or acceded to more than 50 of CoE treaties. From the perspective of international migration, the following conventions are most relevant:

- The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- The European Convention on Extradition;
- The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;
- The Convention on Combating Trafficking in Persons.

- **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**

Armenia is a party to the following migration related agreements within the CIS framework:

- The Agreement on Cooperation on Labour Migration and Social Protection of Migrant Workers, signed on April 15, 1994, in Moscow,

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<sup>114</sup> [http://www.nature-ic.am/res/pdfs/documents/strategic/SDP\\_01\\_eng\\_20081030.pdf](http://www.nature-ic.am/res/pdfs/documents/strategic/SDP_01_eng_20081030.pdf)

- The Agreement on Cooperation between CIS Countries against Irregular Migration, signed on March 6, 1998, in Moscow,
- The Convention on labour migrants status and their family members, signed in November 2008.

- **Readmission Agreements of the Republic of Armenia:**

Armenia has concluded Readmission Agreements with the following countries:

- Switzerland
- Kingdom of Denmark
- Germany
- Lithuania
- Bulgaria
- Norway
- Russian Federation
- Sweden
- Benelux countries
- Czech Republic
- Draft readmission agreements with Poland, Ukraine, Austria and Estonia are under negotiation.

- **Non-visa regime**

Citizens of the following states have a right to enter the Republic of Armenia without visa if they have the following types of passports:

**EU Member States:**

States	Type of passport
Bulgaria	Diplomatic passport
Hungary	Diplomatic and service passport
Cyprus	Diplomatic and service passport
Latvia	Diplomatic and service passport
Lithuania	Diplomatic passport
Poland	Diplomatic passport
Romania	Diplomatic and service passport
Slovakia	Diplomatic and service passport
France	Diplomatic passport c 01.04.2010
Switzerland	Diplomatic passport c 25.02.2010

**CIS countries:**

States	Type of passport
Belarus	All types of passport
Georgia	All types of passport
Kazakhstan	All types of passport
Kyrgyzstan	All types of passport
Moldova	All types of passport
Russian Federation	All types of passport
Tajikistan	All types of passport

Ukraine	All types of passport
Uzbekistan	All types of passport

**Other states:**

<b>States</b>	<b>Type of passport</b>
Argentina	All types of passports
Brasilia	Diplomatic and service passport
India	Diplomatic passport
Iran	Diplomatic and service passport
China	Diplomatic and service passport
Mexico	Diplomatic and service passport
Montenegro	Diplomatic and service passport
United Arab Emirates	Diplomatic passport
Serbia	Diplomatic and service passport
Singapore	Diplomatic and service passport
Turkmenistan	Diplomatic and service passport
Uruguay	Diplomatic and service passport
Croatia	Diplomatic and service passport

#### **F4. Overall assessment of the migration policy context**

Armenia has developed and implements a number of strategic documents in the field of migration and related areas. The legislative documents in the field of migration – Laws and by-laws – are based on the principles of the state migration policy; therefore the Government of the Republic of Armenia makes significant efforts to follow them. Moreover, the strategic state documents on sustainable development and demographic development take into account the current migration trends and impact of migration on socio-economic situation in the country. Armenia is also a signatory party of international documents in the field of protection of migrants' human rights at both global and regional level.

However, there are still some areas where the existing migration policies and programmes could be more developed in order to respond to the challenges in the relevant migration policy areas, including Diaspora issues.

Being primarily a source country of migration, it is essential for Armenia to join one of the most important international documents in this area: the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The regional document which is of utmost importance in this field is the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers. Accession to these international documents would help to protect the rights and interests of Armenian migrants abroad.

The strategic documents in the field of migration should include provisions establishing the measures for protection of rights of Armenian migrants abroad as well as interests of the national economy by providing a well balanced mechanism of migration management system in the Republic of Armenia. Nevertheless, the goal of human development should lie at the core of the state migration policy. It is important to engage Diaspora organizations in the efforts to protect migrants' rights abroad.

Despite the fact that emigration is a sphere of a specific interest of the state, there is a rising trend of immigration to the country. Thus, the possibility of further consolidation of immigration and emigration legislation should be considered. This would remove contradictions and inconsistencies in the laws and other legal acts, as well as clarify the sometimes overlapping administrative responsibilities of different government bodies.

Facilitation of free movement of Armenian citizens abroad would be the next objective of the development of the migration policy in Armenia. To this aim, Armenia should start to negotiate a simplified entry procedures, a creation of a regular labour opportunities abroad, an organisation of temporary circular labour migration by obtaining labour quotas for the surplus of Armenian labour force.

In order to develop a comprehensive and transparent migration policy, a migration data management system plays a significant role, in particular in the situation when the volume of international migration flows increases. This would include proper registration of migration processes, collection of data, exchange of data between institutions involved in migration management, and analysing of statistics and other migration data.

## G. Evaluating the impacts of migration and migration policy on the socio-economic development

### G1. Impacts of migration on the socio-economic development of the country of origin

The impact of migration on the socio-economic development of the country could include the following aspects:

- Impact on the labour market;
- Impact of brain drain;
- Financial impact;
- Impact on demography and social impact of migration.

Depending on the initial situation of the country all mentioned aspects could have both positive and negative impact. Additionally, the impact of migration on the socio-economic development of the country should be analysed on two levels: national level and individual – migrant’s level. The Republic of Armenia is primarily a source country for migration, i.e. it is a country where migration starts. Thus, the impact of migration in Armenia should be analysed particularly from the perspective of emigration.

- **Impact on the labour market**

The most noticeable **negative impact** of migration on the labour market in Armenia **from the view of the state** is that the emigration from the country resulted in a supply demand disbalance in many segments of the labour market. The construction sector suffers the most from the outflow of a qualified labour force, because many qualified construction specialists left for the Russian Federation to seek employment there. The loss of skilled labour, in particular in the construction field has to be substituted, and the state should play an active role here. On one hand, Armenian emigrants should be attracted to come back to Armenia, as well as other targeted groups of immigrants. From a long-term perspective, this negative impact of migration may force Armenia’s economy to start restructuring and invest more in education, training and skill-creation especially in the areas where the absence of skills is noticeable.

On the other hand, the loss of some potential labour force, even including skilled and qualified specialists, could have a **positive impact** on labour market. For example, in some sectors of Armenian economy there is a surplus of people with certain professions that the market simply cannot absorb anymore. Thus, emigration of surplus labour force would decrease unemployment, the state would need to pay less unemployment benefits, and tension in the labour market in case of high unemployment would be mitigated.

On the **individual level**, the main **negative aspect** of migration of labour force is that in many cases migrants agree to work under exploitation conditions (long working hours, bad living and working conditions, etc.). This results in the bad situation of migrants’ health. Additionally, some migrants agree to work in jobs for which they are overeducated and over skilled. This complicates their successful return back to Armenia.

The individual **positive impact** on labour force could be summarised in the following way:

- Labour migrants get possibility to earn more abroad for the same work they would do in the country of origin;
- Labour migrants gain additional opportunities to be employed due to migration;
- Labour migrants gain new experience abroad: work experience and new skills, travelling experience, working in multi-cultural environment experience, etc.

- **The impact of brain drain**

The direct **negative impact** consists of losing highly educated people in Armenia. Researches show that emigrants from Armenia largely represent members from the educated part of population. About 60% of male emigrants and 40% of female emigrants have general secondary education; 15.5% of male emigrants and 21.6% of female emigrants have higher level of education, and 15.5% of male emigrants and 18.1% of female emigrants have secondary vocational education. The average age of emigrants is 36 years for male and 31 years for women. That means that Armenia loses the intellectual part of its population. This qualified human potential has been replaced, due to domestic migration, with not-so-qualified middle-age and young people from the provinces. Accordingly, such replacement results in the decrease of economic and social development and development of human capital. Additionally, the money which were spent on education of potential migrants, are lost for Armenia, if persons are not applying their knowledge in the domestic market.

In this case, again, Armenia should mobilize its efforts to turn the brain-drain effect of emigration to so-called brain-gain effect, when qualified workers, following years of practice in the destination country, return to their country of origin.

- **Financial impact**

Financial impact of migration is **positive** for migrants, their families in Armenia, as well as for the economic growth<sup>115</sup>. Remittances help not only to increase the living standard of population in Armenia, but significantly contribute to education and improvement of health conditions of population. Additionally, Armenian Diaspora contributes to investment policy and climate in Armenia by investing money in Armenian economy. In order to strengthen this positive effect of migration, the state should promote investment policy in the country and increase financial literacy of population.

The remittances of migrants are an important factor to be considered for the effective implementation of the Central Bank's monetary and exchange rate policies. In view of this the Central Bank conducted an extensive survey of households in Armenia in 2007 with an aim to identify and evaluate the volume and structure of remittances from abroad.

In 2010, the Central Bank conducted a scientific study on "Evaluation of the impact of migration and human capital on macro-economic situation and economic development of Armenia" /research results are published on the official website of the Central Bank: [www.cba.am/](http://www.cba.am/) According to the study, as a result of the simultaneous influence of seasonal labour migrants' remittances on economic growth, growth rates are lower than they were before migration. In parallel with the increasing growth of remittances, transferred by Armenian citizens permanently residing abroad and seasonal labour migrants, growth in physical and human capital is observed, which has a positive impact on economic growth rate, as well as on dynamics of major macro-index included in the module. In particular, calculations based on the model elaborated for Armenia show that in case of 1% growth of migration of human capital, consumption growth rate, physical capital as well as economic growth rate will reduce by 0.73, 0.83 and 0.62 percentage points respectively. In the case of 3% migration growth rate, the effects of migration and remittances of Armenian citizens living permanently abroad and seasonal labour migrants on economic growth becomes positive and is 2.8 percentage points.

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<sup>115</sup> See also part C4. Remittances of nationals living abroad

- **Impacts on demography and social impact of migration**

In the long-term perspective, migration has a **negative impact** on the Armenian demographic situation. Although Armenia has a positive natural population movement balance (in 2009, the natural population growth composed 5.2 persons per 1,000 population), Armenia loses its population due to migration. Additionally, due to the fact that migrants are mainly male, the natural gender balance can be destroyed in Armenia. This also leads to the separation of families, decrease in birth rates, influence children education issues, etc. Additionally, migration leads to a process of demographic ageing of the population as the absolute majority of emigrants are persons in the working age. This also results in the increase of the social burden on the state as the number of persons in the pension age increases.

## **G2. The socio-economic development effects of migration policies and other forms of interventions targeting migration**

The current migration policies and programmes are aimed at the promotion of the socio-economic development of Armenia. The strategic documents in the field of migration and sustainable development include the analysis of the positive and negative impacts of migration. Moreover, Armenia seeks to ensure both individuals and state interests through these documents. Unfortunately, the implementation of this policy is not effective and efficient enough.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> See part F4. Overall assessment of the migration policy context.

## H. Conclusions

### H1. Main findings on current migration trends<sup>117</sup>

#### Immigration

Armenia is primarily a source country of emigration. However there are some flows of immigration to Armenia as well. These flows are slowly but permanently growing, which makes it necessary for the state to implement a clear immigration policy and to further consolidate emigration and immigration policies. The majority of immigrants come to Armenia from non-CIS countries. Thus, questions of social integration of these foreigners as well as issues of human rights of this category of Armenian population require special attention.

In general, there are following groups of immigrants to Armenia: permanent immigrants, temporary (labour) immigrants, foreign students, and returning Armenian migrants. The last category is of great importance for the state.

Armenia also receives **asylum seekers** from foreign countries and grant them asylum in accordance with international norms and national legislation. The number of asylum seekers, though, is not high and has been decreasing in the last years.

#### Emigration

Armenia faced emigration already in early 1990s. According to different expert estimates, about 700,000 – 1,300,000 people left Armenia in the period from 1990 – 2005. Although the volumes of emigration decreased in the last years and the profile of migration changed from permanent to rather a temporary or seasonal migration, this phenomenon remains in focus for the Government of Armenia. In accordance with surveys, at the end of 2007 more than 200,000 emigrants from Armenia from the early 1990s remain abroad, mainly in the Russian Federation, USA, Europe and other countries. Emigration of the population results in positive as well as in negative impacts on the state and both of these impacts require a special attention.

Beside labour emigration, which constitutes about 85% of all migration flows from Armenia, there is a small number of Armenian students studying abroad.

The Armenian **Diaspora** abroad plays a significant role in economic and human development of the Republic of Armenia. It is one of the main generators of foreign investments in the country.

According to UNHCR, starting from 1999 the number of **asylum seekers** originating from Armenia was permanently decreasing until 2008. However, in the last few years this number increased again. In 2009 it increased by more than 30% and reached 6,350. The main destination countries for asylum seekers from Armenia recently have been France, Germany (8,000 applications), Austria and Belgium.

#### Irregular migration

Armenia is primarily the source country of migrants, including irregular migrants. However, it also faces some flows of irregular transit migrants from Asian countries and the Middle East (for example Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Palestine, Egypt and recently China) on their ways to Western European countries and the United States.

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<sup>117</sup> See also Part D1. Main characteristics of the current migration trends

According to research findings, out of the total number of emigrants from Armenia, only 30% officially and legally registered their employment in the respective country of destination. The majority of irregular migrants from Armenia stay in the Russian Federation, France, Germany, Austria and Turkey.

- **Trafficking in Human Beings**

Armenia is mainly a source country for victims of trafficking in human beings.<sup>118</sup>

## **H2. Improvement of migration statistics**

While collecting data for this Extended Migration Profile, it was noticed that in general socio-economic and demographic statistics are well developed in Armenia. The National Statistical Service not only collects available data, but conducts in cooperation with other state bodies or international organisations a number of surveys, including surveys on labour migration, remittances, etc. The results of these surveys were one of the main sources for this profile. On the other hand, migration data (data on legally residing migrants, irregular migration (number of apprehensions in the country, deportations from the country, etc.)) are being collected only partially or not at all.

In order to develop a comprehensive and transparent migration policy, the set-up of a migration data management system plays a significant role, in particular in a situation where the size of international migration flows is growing. This would include proper registration of migration processes, collection of data, exchange of data between institutions involved in migration management, and analysing of statistics and other migration data.

## **H3. Recommendations regarding migration management**

Due to the fact that Armenia is mainly a source country of migrants, it is essential that Armenia joins the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, which is one of the most important international documents in this field. The European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers as a document with regional competence is also attributed a key importance in this field. Accession to these international documents would help to protect the rights and interests of Armenian migrants abroad.

The strategic documents in the field of migration should include provisions establishing the measures for the protection of the rights of Armenian migrants abroad as well as the interests of the Armenian national economy by providing a well balanced mechanism of a migration management system in the Republic of Armenia. Nevertheless, the goal of human development should be prioritized in the state migration policy. It is important to engage Diaspora organizations in the efforts to protect migrants' rights abroad.

Besides the emigration phenomenon which is an issue of government's specific interest, a rising trend of immigration to the country should be paid adequate attention as well. Thus, the possibility of further consolidation of immigration and emigration legislation should be considered. This would remove contradictions and inconsistencies in the laws and other legal acts, as well as clarify the sometimes overlapping administrative responsibilities of different government bodies.

Facilitation of free movement of Armenian citizens abroad would be the next aim within the development of the migration policy in Armenia. To this aim, Armenia should start to negotiate simplified entry procedures, a creation of a regular labour opportunities abroad, an organisation of

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<sup>118</sup> See also part C2.3.

temporary circular labour migration by obtaining labour quotas for the surplus of Armenian labour force.

## ANNEXES

### I - SOURCES and VARIABLES used for data collection

### II - STATISTICAL ANNEX for additional tables and figures

EUROSTAT data on Armenian citizens who received residence permits on employment ground in the territory of EU Member States<sup>119</sup>:

	2008	2009
Belgium	4	15
Bulgaria	1	2
Czech Republic	275	132
Denmark	8	4
Germany	42	48
Estonia	13	6
Ireland	4	2
Greece	4	6
Spain	37	8
France	49	51
Italy	n/a	90
Cyprus	108	n/a
Latvia	38	3
Lithuania	11	16
Hungary	17	19
Malta	0	1
Netherlands	7	9
Austria	11	5
Poland	419	436
Portugal	3	4
Romania	0	2
Slovenia	0	0
Slovakia	2	0
Finland	2	1
Sweden	9	33
United Kingdom	33	27
Norway	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>924</b>

EUROSTAT data on Armenian citizens who received residence permits on education ground in the territory of EU Member States<sup>120</sup>:

<sup>119</sup> EUROSTAT Database, data extracted 22.11.2010;

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

	2008	2009
Belgium	4	13
Bulgaria	7	11
Czech Republic	3	5
Denmark	8	6
Germany	55	46
Estonia	0	0
Ireland	4	0
Greece	67	33
Spain	11	8
France	61	64
Italy	n/a	67
Cyprus	24	n/a
Latvia	3	3
Lithuania	0	0
Hungary	9	10
Malta	0	0
Netherlands	9	14
Austria	14	8
Poland	136	159
Portugal	1	1
Romania	5	7
Slovenia	0	0
Slovakia	1	9
Finland	3	5
Sweden	21	38
United Kingdom	74	97
Norway	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>607</b>

<sup>120</sup> EUROSTAT Database, data extracted 22.11.2010;  
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

### III - Overview INTERNAL MIGRATION

The domestic migration situation in Armenia has not changed that much despite the strong economic growth reported from the mid-1990s till the current financial crisis. According to data from the National Statistical Service of Armenia, domestic migration during 2002-2007 involved only about 49,000 persons (about 1.5% of the country's population). The pace of migration fluctuated around 4.8-5.4 per thousand, without any articulate trends, indicating that the domestic migration activity of the Armenian population remains low.

The "urban-to-rural" flow has been larger than the "rural-to-urban" flow in recent years, similar to the first half of the 1990s. As a matter of fact, this trend is not based on motivations like "family" or "education". As illogical as it may seem, this flow from an urban environment with relatively better social, economic, housing and subsistence conditions to a less favourable rural environment is mostly due to economic factors. The "urban-to-rural" flow apparently consists of three categories of flows:

- "family migrants";
- so-called "failed urban residents," of mainly small towns, who, after failing in their attempts at establishing a reasonable existence in their urban areas and lacking the resources and/or other skills enabling to emigrate from the country decide to relocate to villages where they buy a house using a part of the urban house sale or settle with relatives or friends, or in some cases in the apartments of families that are away from the country;
- "successful" urban residents - having spare resources purchase real estate (homes and land plots) in villages (mostly not for relocation, but rather using as summerhouses or for other purposes) and legally record the purchase by documenting their "deregistration" from the city and "registration" in the village. However as a rule, they never relocate permanently to the village.

As for the "rural-to-urban" flows and the "small village to large city" flows, they presently consist mainly of the aforementioned first and third categories of flows, i.e. the "family" migrants and the "successful ones" relocating to or purchasing real estate in higher-class settlements (some of whom may be residents of rural areas), as well as a small "educational" category.

It can be assumed that the domestic migration process, too, will be decisively influenced by the financial and economic crisis in the years ahead. Subject to the contraction of economic activity and falling living standard of the population, the crisis may cause virtually all the flows and categories of domestic migration (including those that do not directly depend on economic factors) to reduce further. In other words, like in the second half of the 1990s, the domestic migration process will subside to a certain extent.

The situation will not be seriously affected by the anticipated decline in emigration volumes and the probable return of some of the long-term labour migrants. The only category of domestic migration flows that may increase because of the crisis is that of the "failed urban residents." As their number will undoubtedly increase, the inflow from urban areas to villages can be expected to grow. If the consequences of the crisis worsen, one cannot rule out the revival of the temporary flow "to subsistence means" that took place in the early-1990s.<sup>121</sup>

<sup>121</sup> UNDP, "Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges", Armenia 2009, Chapter 4, <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/87C7B39D-F203-1EE9-B27B76D1ABF1CEE6>