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ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE



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# Migration Facts Armenia

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**Introduction.** External migration during the Soviet period was generally not allowed. Migration flows from and to the Republic were limited to the territory of the USSR. In the early 1990s hundreds of thousands refugees arrived in Armenia from Azerbaijan due to the war in the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, part of Soviet Azerbaijan. Similarly, thousands of Azeri minority members left Armenia. The main challenge of the 1990s was the protection and socio-political accommodation of refugees. The typical characteristic of post-Soviet period is drastic outward migration. Current migration flows are mainly directed to Russia, the EU and the US. In terms immigration, Armenia is currently a destination country for the returning Armenian migrants. In recent years outward migration declined, yet it exceeds inward migration.

Demographic-Economic			
Outward Migration		Inward Migration	
<b>STOCK</b>			
<b>Armenian emigration stocks - year 2011 (a)</b>		<b>Immigration stocks in Armenia – year 2001 (b)</b>	
<b>Total emigrants:</b> 222,055		<b>Total immigrants:</b> 27,556 (stateless persons: 50.6%) (0.9% of total resident pop.)	
<b>Five top countries of residence:</b> United States 85,263 Russia 59,792 France 12,355 Germany 11,205 Spain 11,003		<b>Five top countries of nationality (c):</b> Russia: 7,623 Georgia: 2,304 Ukraine: 604 Iran: 595 United States: 343 (c) Irregular migrants are not included	
<b>Sex:</b> Males: 47.2% Females: 52.8%	<b>Age group:</b> Less than 15: 7.4% 15-64: 83.7% 65+: 8.9%	<b>Sex:</b> Males: 46.8% Females: 53.2%	<b>Age group:</b> Less than 15: 16.2% 15-64: 69.2% 65+: 14.6%
<b>Level of education (year 2006):</b> primary or below (18.1%); secondary (41.5%); tertiary (40.4%)		<b>Level of education:</b> primary or below (28.2%); secondary (56.1%); tertiary (15.7%)	
<b>Occupation (year 2006):</b> craft and related trades workers (16.4%); service workers and shop and market sales workers (15.5%); professionals (14.2%)		<b>Notes:</b> (b) Immigrants are defined according to the country of nationality criterion	
<b>Notes:</b> (a) Armenian emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence. In the post-Soviet zone, the country of nationality is used		<b>Source:</b> Armenian population census – 2001	
<b>Source:</b> destination countries' sources (population census/population register/household survey)		<b>Refugees in Armenia (year 2011):</b> 2,918	
		<b>Top country of nationality:</b> Azerbaijan 1,928	
		<b>Source:</b> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	
<b>FLOWS</b>			
<b>Outflows of Armenian nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011</b>		<b>Inflows of migrants in Armenia years 2002-2007</b>	
<b>Total outflows:</b> 15,899		<b>Total inflows:</b> 95,179	
<b>Five top countries of destination:</b> Russia: 6,290 United States: 1,611 France: 1,405 Spain: 847 Ukraine: 843		<b>Category of migrants (d):</b> Re-emigrants: 86,397 Immigrants: 8,782	
<b>Source:</b> flow data are proxied by granted first residence permits (EU MS + Norway), issued visas (US + Australia) and the number of registrations to a place of permanent residence (post-Soviet zone)		<b>Notes:</b> (d) A "re-emigrant" is a person who was in a foreign country as an international migrant for more than three consecutive months in the period 2002-2007 and who returned to Armenia; an "immigrant" is a person who arrived in Armenia for the first time in the period 2002-2007 from a foreign country, for the purpose of settling	
		<b>Source:</b> Sample Survey on External and Internal Migration in the Republic of Armenia	

## Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

2008 Law on Refugees and Asylum  
 2006 Law on Foreigners  
 2001 Law on State Boarder  
 2001 Law on Border Guards Troop  
 2001 Law On Political Asylum  
 1999 Law on Refugees (replaced by 2008 law)  
 1995 Law on Citizenship

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
<b>Visa</b>	<b>Visa</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2012 EC-Armenia Visa Facilitation Agreement signed (entry into force with EC-Armenia Readmission Agreement).</li> <li>- Armenian citizens are exempted from the visa requirements in the CIS countries.</li> <li>- Bilateral visa-free agreements with Argentina, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan.</li> <li>- Agreements on reciprocal visits without a visa for the citizens who are in possession of diplomatic and service passports have been signed with 26 countries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four types of visas: visitor visa, official visa, diplomatic visa and transit visa. Entry visas are issued for a term of max. 120 days, with the possibility of extension for a max. 60 days.</li> <li>- Persons with Special Residency Status (reserved for Diaspora and distinguished persons) can enter without a visa.</li> <li>- CIS and Argentina citizens are exempted from the visa requirement. Bilateral visa-free agreements with Argentina, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the RF and Turkmenistan.</li> <li>- Agreements on reciprocal visits without a visa for the citizens who are in possession of diplomatic and service passports have been signed with 26 countries</li> </ul>
<b>Labour</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bilateral Agreements with Georgia, RF, Ukraine and Belarus</li> <li>- Convention on the legal status of migrant workers and their families, adopted by CIS Member States (in force since 2010)</li> <li>- Agreement on cooperation in the field of labour migration and social protection for migrant workers, adopted by CIS Member States (in force since 1996)</li> <li>- Protocol on amendments to the Agreement on cooperation in the field of labour migration and social protection for migrant workers, adopted by CIS Member States (signed in 2005)</li> <li>- Agreement on guaranteeing rights of Citizens of CIS-Countries in the field of pension provision (in force since 1993).</li> <li>- Bilateral Agreements with Belarus, Georgia, RF and Ukraine. Bilateral Agreement with Qatar is pre-signed.</li> </ul>	<p>No quota system for migrant workers. Employers have the right to conclude an employment contract (service contract) with foreign employees or use foreign labour based on the work permits granted to foreigners by the authorized body of RA government. Law on State Duty regulates how employers can put on requests for work permits, and identifies six grounds for the denial of work permits. The Code on Administrative offences (Art. 201) defines sanctions for the employer if they employ foreigners without a work permit or resident status. The RA government has still to designate a body responsible for the issue of work permits. Time-limits for an employer have been established to fill available vacancies with Armenian citizens before engaging foreign nationals.</p>
<b>Rights</b>	<b>Rights</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acc. to the Constitution, Armenian citizens enjoy the protection of their State both at home and abroad.</li> <li>- Agreement on guaranteeing rights of CIS citizens in the field of pension provision (in force since 1993, AZ not a signatory).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aliens have the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities equal to the citizens of the RA, unless otherwise stipulated by law.</li> <li>- The RA Law on Refugees and Asylum establishes basic rights of the asylum seekers and recognized refugees, unless otherwise stated by law (Art. 15). Refugees do not enjoy political rights. Status of foreigners, entry, residence, movement, transit and exit, as well as rights and obligations regulated by the Law on Foreigners (2006).</li> <li>- Three types of residence permits: temporary (up to 1 year); permanent (up to 5 years) and special (up to 10 years).</li> </ul>
<b>Readmission Agreements</b>	<b>Irregular Migration</b>
<p>Readmission agreements are in place with Benelux countries, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland since 2003. In order to fulfil obligations of agreements, the government has adopted a decision No. 1360-N in 2011 which defines relevant duties of Armenian state authorities as well as procedural issues.</p>	<p>Migration related offenses, except entry without documents for political asylum seekers or stateless persons are crimes. Violations of rule of transit, stay, residence are administrative infringements. Penalties apply to persons, who invited aliens and did not ensure their health-care and travel related expenses.</p>
<b>Diaspora</b>	<b>International Protection</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Diaspora established in 2008.</li> <li>- Decision of Government 291-N (2009) defines the range of support programs to solve educational and cultural problems of the Armenian community in Latin America.</li> <li>- People of Armenian origin enjoy facilitated naturalisation to citizenship, Special Residency Status (for 10 years) to enter Armenia without a visa, work without work permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accession to the Geneva Refugee Convention in 1993</li> <li>- Forms of protection granted in Armenia are: asylum, political asylum. Legislative gap: "political asylum" and "asylum" is not synonymous. In some instances asylum seekers are subject to criminal liability due to discrepancy in required documents.</li> <li>- Entry for stateless persons who seek political asylum are regulated by the Constitution and legislation of the RA.</li> </ul>
<b>Multiple Citizenship</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Armenian citizens who are at the same time the citizens of other states are recognized in relation to RA only as its citizens.</li> <li>- An Armenian citizen who has a dual or multiple citizenship is subject to military service in the RA, except when aliens, before acquiring Armenian citizenship, carried out 12 months military service or 18 months alternative service in another state (except for those countries specified by the Armenian government).</li> </ul>	<p>Preconditions of the naturalization are: 3 years of permanent residence; knowledge of the Armenian language and the constitution. Facilitated naturalization for persons of Armenian origin or persons who have a spouse, parent, or child of Armenian citizenship. Dual citizenship is allowed.</p>