

REGIONAL STRUCTURE OF EXTERNAL POPULATION MIGRATION IN UZBEKISTAN

Tojiyeva Zulkhumor Nazarovna, Khursanov Sadridin Mumin ogli

National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

<https://orcid.org/0009-0009-0558-2517>

E-mail: sxursanov53@gmail.com

Abstract: This article studies and analyzes the migration process of the population and its territorial composition in the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as presents ideas and comments on the theoretical foundations of studying the migration process. In particular, the formation of external migration of the population in Uzbekistan and its territorial composition are discussed. Also, this research work provides a brief description of the study of the migration process by foreign and Uzbek scientists.

[Tojiyeva Zulkhumor Nazarovna, Khursanov Sadridin Mumin ogli. **REGIONAL STRUCTURE OF EXTERNAL POPULATION MIGRATION IN UZBEKISTAN.** *Nat Sci* 2026,24(1):12-18]. ISSN 1545-0740 (print); ISSN 2375-7167 (online). <http://www.sciencepub.net/nature> 02. doi:[10.7537/marsnsj240126.02](https://doi.org/10.7537/marsnsj240126.02)

Keywords: migration; migrant; external migration; labor migrants; international migration; emigration; immigration; migration dynamics

1. Introduction

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), currently the population of almost all countries in the world is involved in the process of external migration. If we pay attention to the reasons that cause the migration process, the migration process, although a social phenomenon, occurs mainly under the influence of economic factors. Therefore, today the countries of the world are divided into two groups, the first is the countries that receive international migrants, and the second is the countries that send migrants. Here, the main factor is the availability of excess jobs in the countries of the first group, while the second group is the availability of excess labor. So, the participation of the population of countries in the process of external migration is closely related to the number of people in this country.

It is known that today Uzbekistan is one of the countries with the fastest growing population in the world. As of September 1, 2025, the population of our country was 38 million people, which ranks 43rd in the world in terms of this indicator. Such high population growth in our country also ensures an increase in the number of labor resources in the population. As a result, the share of the working-age population in the total population will increase, and excess labor force may migrate to other countries in search of work. The distribution of the population in Uzbekistan varies greatly between regions of the country. In particular, the largest population is in Samarkand region with 4.3 million people, and the smallest is in Syrdarya region with 0.9 million people. In terms of population density, Andijan region has the highest indicator of 805 people per 1 km², while this indicator is the lowest at 10 people and 12 people in Karakalpakstan. Therefore,

the participation of the population in external migration in the country varies depending on the size of the population and its location. Another factor influencing the external migration of the population in Uzbekistan is the historical development of Uzbekistan with neighboring countries, which is located in the central part of Central Asia.

2. Materials and Methods

Study area. The Republic of Uzbekistan is an independent state located in the central part of the Asian continent. Uzbekistan declared its independence on August 31, 1991. The country's area is 448.9 thousand square kilometers, which ranks 55th in the world in terms of this indicator. According to the 2025 estimate, the country has a total population of 38 million. In terms of administrative territorial structure, the country consists of 12 regions, 1 republic and the capital of the country, Tashkent. Uzbekistan is located in the center of Central Asia and borders 5 countries: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. Uzbekistan is a country with a unique place in the world community and political map. The country is one of more than 190 countries that are members of the United Nations. Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia. The country's large population and its location in the heart of Central Asia may contribute to migratory movements of the country's population.

The formation and development of the migration process in the regions and the factors influencing it have been studied in the works of a number of foreign scholars, including T. Bauer, R. Bilborrow, V. Bonning, I. Wallerstein, V. Zelinski, K. Zimmerman, A. Zlotnik, A. Zolberg, D. Massey, E.

Ravenstein, P. Stoker, J. Simon, O. Stark, M. Todaro, A. Harrison, and others.

Migration, especially external migration, is becoming one of the most important factors uniting countries in the world today, therefore, today the causes and factors that cause migration and its consequences are being studied and analyzed in depth by scientists from almost all countries. In China, the impact of internal migration on demographic processes during 1996-2010 was studied by Rufe Guo, Junsen Zhang, and Minhai Zhou[10]. It is known that China is the country with the largest internal migration in the world, in this country every year 100 million people move from rural areas to cities in search of work, naturally, as the permanent place of residence of the population changes, its attitude to demographic processes also changes, because the external environment can also have its impact.

The studies of scientists from the former Soviet Union, D.I. Volobieva, V.G. Magnevsky, V.G. Nishtkim, M.I. Rukkim, G.B. Topilin, E.V. Turukanova, are devoted to various issues of the migration process: the authors paid special attention to international migration: Iontsev, A.N. Kamensky, E. G. Krasinets, P.K. Vechkanov, L.A. Solonskaya (labor migration); G.S. Vitkovskaya, V.I. Mukomel (forced migration); Ledeneva L.I., I.A. Malakh ("brain drain"); V.A. Volokh, S.B. Yagodin (migration policy); TD; Ivanova (illegal, transit migration), etc.

Studies on the migration process Central Asian scholars Fariza Tolesh and Svitlana Biloshchytska developed a forecast of international migration in Kazakhstan using the ARIMA model. In this, the participation of the Kazakh population in immigration and emigration processes was forecasted until 2060[2]. The causes and consequences of the migration movement of the population in Tajikistan were analyzed in the studies of K. Gulmirzoev, G. Nazarova, O. Kasimov, and others.

Scientific studies on population migration in Uzbekistan were initially conducted by M.Q. Karaxonov, M.R. Mullajonov, B. Goldfarb, B. Makhmudov, but these studies mainly cover the period before the independence of our country. During the period of independence, population migration in Uzbekistan was thoroughly studied by L. Maksakova. In addition, scientific works on population migration can also be seen in the scientific studies of scientists such as Q. Abdurakhmonov, A.A. Kayumov, O.B. Ata-Mirzayev, A.S. Soliyev, M.R. Buriyeva, Z.N. Tojiyeva.

Of particular importance in recent years are the scientific works carried out by D. Rasulova on the theoretical foundations of labor migration, D. Dzhunbullayev on population migration in Uzbekistan

and improving its regulation, F. Parmanov on the human factor in managing migration processes, E. Mukhiddinov on the role of labor migration in providing employment to the population, and L. Isakov on the organizational and legal foundations of state management in the field of migration in Uzbekistan.

As can be seen from the above information, although the migration process has been studied by various scientists for a long time, the territorial structure of the migration process has not yet been sufficiently studied in our country, so in our opinion, it is relevant to study the territorial characteristics of the external migration process.

This article makes extensive use of statistical observation, statistical grouping, territorial analysis, mathematical, geographical comparison, and cartographic methods.

3. Results

Migration movements of the population of Uzbekistan play an important role in the socio-economic and demographic development of the country. Migration processes in the territory of Uzbekistan have a long history. Since ancient times, this territory, located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, witnessed the meeting of different peoples and cultures. During the Soviet Union, migration processes became even more active. The 1966 Tashkent earthquake and subsequent reconstruction work caused many people to move to the capital. The migration movements of the population living in Uzbekistan can be studied in the following 4 periods.

1. *The Silk Road era*
2. *The Soviet era*
3. *The 1966 Tashkent earthquake*
4. *Independence of Uzbekistan*

It is known that because our country is located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, many peoples and nationalities have become interested in this area and have migrated to this area and traded. Therefore, this period can be distinguished as a separate period in the migration history of the country's population. The second period is the Soviet Union, from this period onwards, the population mainly migrated from other neighboring regions and settled permanently in the territory of the country. During the Soviet period, qualified specialists for industrial enterprises transferred from the western regions to the territory of Uzbekistan were also brought from those countries, in addition, the development of new lands and the opening and operation of new mines also caused the migration of representatives of this industry. Most of the Russian-speaking peoples who migrated during the Soviet

period settled in urban areas, which can be seen today in the territorial distribution of the national composition of the population.

Table 1. Dynamics of external migration of the population of Uzbekistan, 2010-2023 (Residential population)

Years	Immigrants		Emmigrants		Migration residue		External migration flow	
	total	Per 1000 people	total	Per 1000 people	total	Per 1000 people	total	Per 1000 people
2010	4665	0,16	44420	1,58	-39755	1,41	49085	1,75
2014	3666	0,12	42228	1,38	-38562	1,26	45894	1,50
2018	2850	0,08	17579	0,53	-14729	0,45	20429	0,62
2022	2291	0,06	8790	0,24	-6499	0,18	11081	0,31
2023	2955	0,08	17336	0,48	-14381	0,39	20291	0,56

Source: National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan

After the devastating earthquake in Tashkent in 1966, many specialists from other regions of the former Soviet Union were involved in the reconstruction of the city, which was devastated, and this also served to enrich the national composition of the population. The last period, which began after the fall of 1991, when our country declared its independence, was significantly different from the previous ones. Previously, there was a lot of immigration to this region, but after independence, the migration balance has only a negative indicator, which is also due to the fact that part of the population that migrated in previous years and their descendants began to migrate to their homeland. According to the participation of the population of Uzbekistan in external migration, today, having migration ties with many countries of the world, it is possible to study the countries of the world according to this indicator into three groups (Figure1).

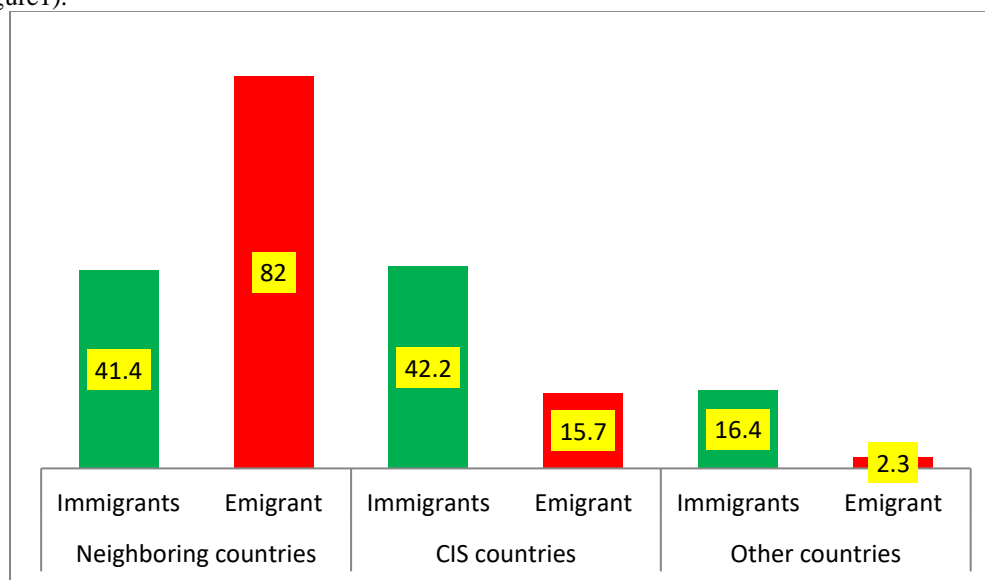


Figure 1. Distribution of external migration of the population of Uzbekistan by region. According to the 2023 estimate. In percentage terms.

Source: National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The division of countries into these 3 groups is connected with the formation and development of the demographic history of the population of Uzbekistan in this region. During the Soviet Union, Uzbekistan had a well-developed migration process with most of the countries that were part of the Union at that time, which can be seen in the national-ethnic composition of the population today. Uzbekistan has always had good relations with neighboring countries, because from ancient times these fraternal peoples lived on the same river as friends and brothers, therefore the first factor determining the location of the population in Central Asia is the hydrography of the territory, but by

the fall of 1991, after the countries declared their independence, the political borders did not quite coincide with the hydrographic borders, which resulted in further intensification of migration processes in this region.

If we look at the data in Figure 2 above, which shows the most receiving countries in the external migration of the population of Uzbekistan, it is clear that 62% of the total migrants go to the Russian Federation, followed by neighboring Kazakhstan with 11%. Today, we can see that the geography of external migration of the population of Uzbekistan has expanded significantly compared to the previous period, in particular, before and after Uzbekistan gained independence, the country's population mainly had good migration relations with neighboring countries and the CIS countries, but today our country's population has also established good migration relations with distant foreign countries, including the Republic of Korea, the USA, Israel, Turkey and European countries. The reason for this is the introduction and implementation of a number of resolutions and decrees by the head of our state.

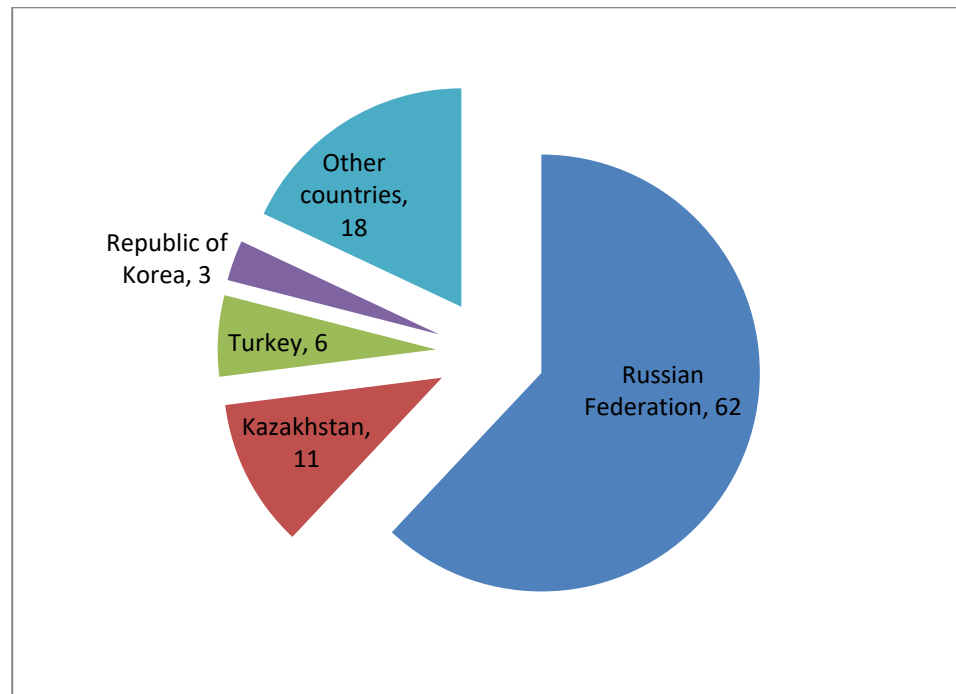


Figure 2. Distribution of external migration of the population in Uzbekistan by country. 2024.

Source: National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Since the participation of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan in external migration is more due to emigrants, the positive or negative impact of migration on the population size, density or demographic situation of the country, on the demographic behavior and composition of the population is not very noticeable. In addition, the demographic processes of other nationalities migrating from the country, in particular, the low birth rate, do not change the overall demographic situation of the republic or lead to significant demographic losses. However, the impact of this process is reflected in a decrease in population growth rates, a decrease in the number of highly qualified specialists in the republic, and economic, moral and social losses. For example, quite a few highly qualified specialists leave Uzbekistan every year for Russia, Israel, the USA and other countries. This situation has a strong impact on the capital region and large cities of the republic. In general, in the mechanical movement of the population of the republic, the education of migrants is of great importance for both urban and rural residents.

Figure 3 below shows the external migration of the population in Uzbekistan by region, where the most active regions in external migration are the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Navoi and Tashkent regions, and the city of Tashkent, which stand out from other regions with the highest indicators. The reason for the high negative migration balance in these regions is that non-local nationalities constitute the majority in the national composition of the population in these regions. On the other hand, in terms of population distribution, the level of urbanization of the population in these regions is also higher than in other regions of the country.

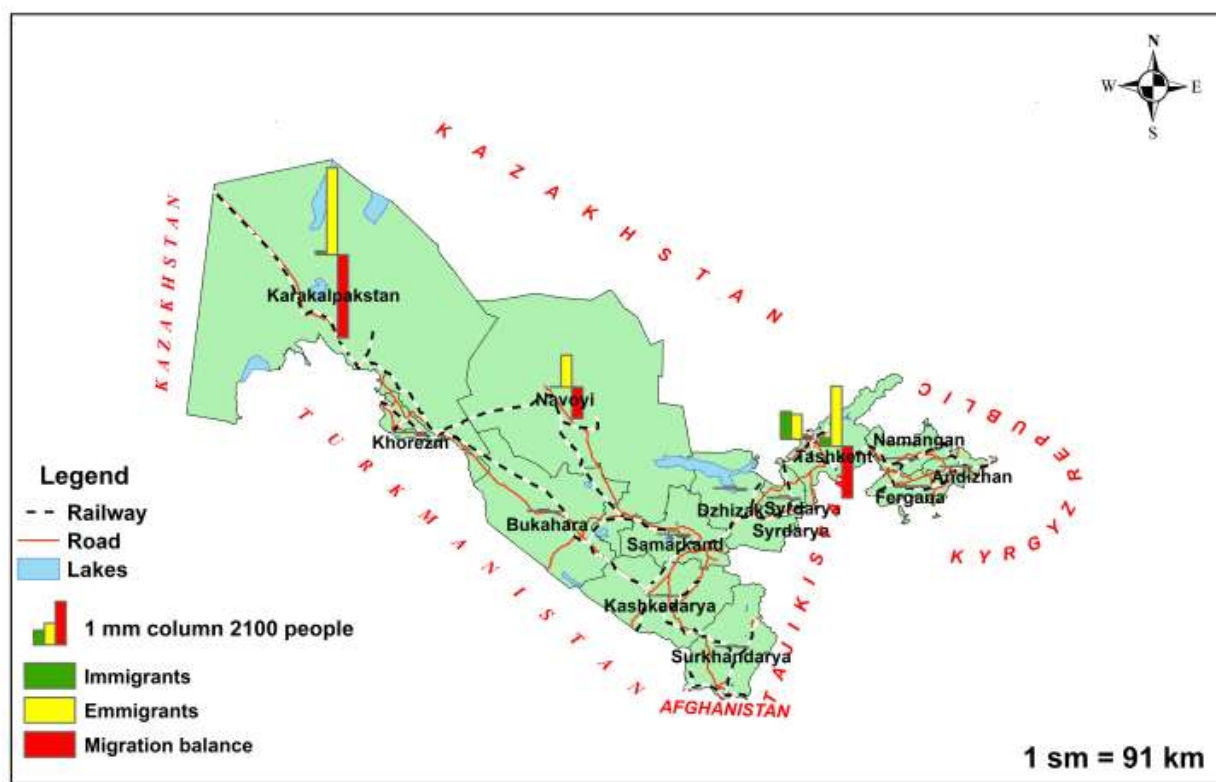


Figure 3. Territorial structure of external migration of the population in Uzbekistan.

Table 2. Territorial structure of external migration of the population in Uzbekistan in 2024

№	Regions	Immigrants	Emmigrants	Migration balance
1	Republic of Karakalpakstan	182	4272	-4090
2	Andijan	4	34	-30
3	Bukhara	25	86	-61
4	Jizzakh	21	107	-86
5	Kashkadarya	6	35	-29
6	Navoi	12	1563	-1551
7	Namangan	12	38	-26
8	Samarkand	17	169	-152
9	Surkhandarya	15	53	-38
10	Syrdarya	51	116	-65
11	Tashkent	409	2953	-2544
12	Fergana	102	50	52
13	Khorezm	2	149	-147
14	Tashkent city	1371	1217	154

Source: National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Today, the Republic of Uzbekistan is also among the countries sending the largest number of labor migrants in the world. For reference, according to 2023 estimates, 2 million 345 thousand citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan are undergoing work practice in foreign countries. The countries considered the most attractive for labor migration of the population of our country are Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and the Republic of Korea. However, in recent years, it can be seen that the situation has changed somewhat, and the reason for this is related to the socio-economic and political situation in these countries. New destinations for Uzbeks have appeared, such as Great Britain, Germany, Poland, Latvia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The money sent by labor migrants has been of great importance for many years and covers part of the living expenses of the population. In particular, according to the 2023 estimate, the country received \$11.4 billion in remittances from abroad, which is more than 11.2% of the country's GDP. For comparison, the value of gold exported by Uzbekistan in 2023 amounted to \$8.1 billion.

Migration processes have a significant impact on various aspects of the socio-economic life of Uzbekistan. On the one hand, remittances from labor migrants make a significant contribution to the country's economy and raise the standard of living of many families. On the other hand, the departure of qualified personnel abroad creates the problem of "brain drain". Migration also affects family relations, the demographic situation, and the social structure.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, it should be noted that in the process of globalization today, the migration process, in particular the external migration process, is developing rapidly as a form of international cooperation between countries of the world. The development of such international cooperation is especially important for the Republic of Uzbekistan and its regions, where the population is growing rapidly. The most active regions in external migration in our country include the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Navoi and Tashkent regions, and the capital of the country, Tashkent. In recent years, new migration routes have also appeared for the country's population. These include the Republic of Korea, where labor migrants have been leaving in the most organized way in recent years, and many European countries, including Germany, Great Britain, and the Baltic countries. With most of these countries, the Republic of Uzbekistan carries out labor migration organized by the Migration Agency and its territorial departments in

cooperation with employer organizations, as a result of which labor migrants have many advantages, firstly, a guaranteed job and salary. Secondly, since most of these countries are developed countries, labor regulations are regulated, as a result of which labor migrants have safe working conditions.

References

1. Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-5205 dated July 30, 2021.
2. Data from the Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
3. Fariza Tolesh and Svitlana Biloshchytska. Forecasting international migration in Kazakhstan using ARIMA models. The 14th International Conference on Emerging Ubiquitous Systems and Pervasive Networks. (EUSPN 2023). November 7-9, 2023, Almaty, Kazakhstan.
4. Imamova.N.A. Specific territorial features and problems of labor migration in Uzbekistan. SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION BOOK ECONOMICS 2020, issue 2.
5. Mingaliyev Ravshan Olim ugli, Sharipov Shavkat Mukhamajanovich, Khayitmurodov Alijon Olimjon ugli. Effects of physical characteristics of landscapes of Uzun District on population density. Nature and Science 2024, 22(11) <http://www.sciencepub.net/nature>
6. Soliyev A.S., Jumakhanov Sh.Z., Toshpulatov A.M. Economic and social geography [Textbook]. – Namangan: “MASHRAB” publishing house, 2024. – 408 p.
7. Tojiyeva Z.N., Khursanov S.M., Pardayev N.S., CLASSIFICATION OF TYPES OF MIGRATION PROCESS. Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Uzbekistan, Volume 66, 2024.
8. Tojiyeva.Z and Omonova.K. REGIONAL ISSUES OF RESEARCHING LABOR MIGRATION. Materials of the international scientific and practical conference on the topic “PROSPECTS OF REFORMING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”. Tashkent. 2024.
9. Tojiyeva Z.N., Khursanov S.M., Pardayev N.S., CLASSIFICATION OF TYPES OF MIGRATION PROCESS. Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Uzbekistan, Volume 66, 2024.
10. Zulkhumor Tojiyeva, Kamola Omanova, Nodirbek Pardayev, Nizomiddin Jaloliddinov, Bekzod Musayev and Sadridin Khursanov. Regional Characteristics in the Dynamics and Location of the Rural Population of the Republic of Uzbekistan. E3S Web of Conferences 491, 04004 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202449104004>

11. Khayitmurodov Alijon Olimjon ugli, Sharipov Shavkat Mukhamajanovich, Mingaliyev Ravshan Olim ugli. Quantification of Flood Mitigation Services by Urban Green Spaces in City of Tashkent Using InVEST

Model. Nature and Science 2024, 22(9)
<http://www.sciencepub.net/nature>

12. Khursanov S.M. TERRITORIAL COMPOSITION OF OUTWARD MIGRATION OF

THE POPULATION IN SURKHANDARYA REGION // Journal of Scientific Reports of Fergana State University, 2025, No. 2. – P.249-256.

13. Rufe Guo, Junsen Zhang, Minghai Zhou. The demography of the great migration in China. Journal of Development Economics. March 2024. DOI:10.1016/j.jdeveco.2023.103235.