

## **A new stage of emigration from Tajikistan to Russia in the context of geopolitical turbulence**

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Migration processes from Central Asia to Russia have a long history that dates back to the Soviet era [5]. After the collapse of the USSR, they acquired unprecedented proportions and became one of the most important factors influencing economic and political life in both Central Asia and Russia [7].

After the situation in Crocus City, Russia's migration policy changed towards migrants from Central Asian countries, including Tajikistanis [1].

From January 1 to April 30, 2025, foreign citizens and stateless persons, whose information is subject to inclusion in the register of controlled persons, can regulate their legal status in Russia. According to the Decree, this will not require leaving the country or taking into account the stated purpose of entry [8].

According to the data on October 2024, more than 120,000 Tajik citizens are included in the register of controlled entities in Russia. The register contains data on migrants whose migration documents have expired or been cancelled, as well as those who have committed administrative offenses and are subject to expulsion from the country [6].

The procedure will be conducted in accordance with Federal Law No. 115 "On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation", considering the specifics established by the new Decree [2].

The decree provides for exceptions for foreign citizens who are subject to departure from Russia, who have expressed a desire to regulate their legal situation in the country. According to the document, these exceptions are applied if a number of conditions are met [3]:

**1. Provision of biometric data**

Citizens must provide biometric personal data or be identified using it in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

**2. Medical examination**

Foreign citizens are required to undergo a medical examination for the presence or absence of:

- Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances without a doctor's prescription;
- Potentially dangerous psychoactive substances;
- Infectious diseases that pose a danger to others (including HIV infection).

The examination must be carried out within one year before the application is submitted.

**3. Confirmation of knowledge** Foreigners are required to submit a document confirming:

- Proficiency in Russian;
- Knowledge of Russian history;
- Knowledge of the fundamentals of the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Exceptions are provided for certain categories of citizens specified in the legislation.

**4. Voluntary repayment of debts**

Citizens must voluntarily pay off all outstanding mandatory payments in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

**5. Absence of grounds for refusal**

There should be no grounds for refusal or cancellation in relation to citizens:

- The patent;
- Work or temporary residence permits;
- Residence permit;
- Visas.

Foreign citizens who have settled their legal status can work in Russia without a patent or work permit. To extend their temporary stay, they must apply to the Russian Interior Ministry. This can be done directly or through authorized organizations. In Moscow, applications are also accepted through organizations designated by local authorities.

A copy of the employment or civil law contract must be attached to the application. The document must be certified by the employer or the customer of the services. If a foreigner does not have a migration card, they are given a duplicate of it. This is done in accordance with the laws of Russia.

Also, another change in the attitude of Tajik migrants is that employers in Russia will conclude an employment contract with migrants only after checking in the registry of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. According to Alexander Gorovoy, First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation: “*An open database will operate on the basis of the information center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which allows checking whether a foreigner is legally in Russia, and only after that the law grants the right to the employer to conclude an employment agreement with him*” [3].

These measures have affected the number and influx of migrants from Tajikistan to Russia. As of September 1, 2024, 6.2 million people, or 4.2% of the total population of the Russian Federation, were registered for migration at the Main Directorate for Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia (over the same period in 2023, this number was 8.5 million people) [11].

Migrants play an important role in the Russian economy [10]. Migrants satisfy the shortage in the Russian labor market (modern Russia is facing serious demographic problems), and by providing cheap labor. Migrants are also a source of income for the Russian budget, paying, for example, for their activities on the labor market (patents) and paying taxes, and also account for a certain share of demand and consumption in the country's market [9].

If we talk about the contribution of Tajik migrants alone, in 2023, then according to some calculations, the share of Tajik migrants in the production of Russian GDP reaches more than 1.5% or \$ 30.3 million.

Migrants also affect the demographic development of Russia [12]. Given the fact that Russia is not coping with demographic problems, and if the outflow of migrants from Russia continues in parallel, this could seriously affect the development of the country. For example, if in the 1990s, the population of the Russian Federation was about 148.3 million people, then in 2023 this number was 146.4 million people (according to Rosstat, the death rate in the Russian Federation reached more than 18% [4]).

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