

# Emigration from Russia in 2022-23: Estimates and predictors from a nationally representative panel survey

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# Background

- ▶ 24 February 2022: the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- ▶ Caused major population displacement in Ukraine (5 million Ukrainian refugees in Europe at the end of 2024)
- ▶ Also led to mass emigration from Russia in 2022-23
- ▶ Reasons for emigration: opposition to the war, political persecution, fear of mobilisation (September 2022)
- ▶ Destination countries: visa-free countries for Russians. Georgia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Serbia etc.

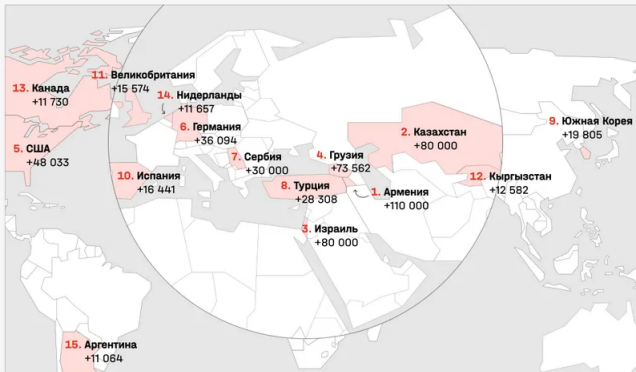
## Estimates of emigration

- ▶ Hard to estimate (Jensen 2013)
- ▶ Some countries have populations registers; others do not
- ▶ Administrative data from destination countries: not always available, different methodologies, varying quality
- ▶ Surveys in destination countries: based on convenience samples. Sampling frames not available so a probability sample not possible
- ▶ Ideally we need a nationally representative sample from countries of origin that tracks people over time and space

# The Bell: 650,000 Russians left in 2022-23

## Куда уехали россияне после начала войны

Топ-15 самых популярных направлений для эмиграции



Источник: миграционные и статистические органы иностранных государств, Министерство алии и интеграции Израиля, TRAC, Reuters, Bloomberg Adria, Vijesti, «Ведомости», ТАСС

**THE BELL.**

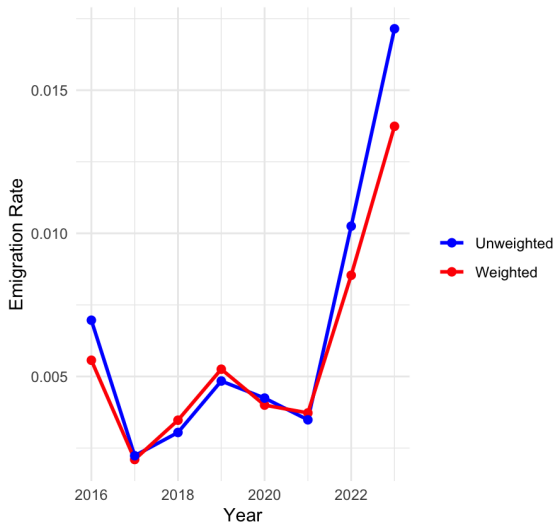
# Trajectories in Education and Careers survey (TrEC)

- ▶ A cohort panel study (mostly people born in 1996) conducted by the HSE University in Moscow
- ▶ Based on the TIMSS-2011 sample of 8th graders (about 5,000 pupils)
- ▶ Took part in PISA-2022 as an additional sample
- ▶ 10 waves of longitudinal yearly data collection since 2011 (the last two waves in autumn 2022 and autumn 2023)
- ▶ Mixed mode of data collection (over the internet in latest waves); country of residence recorded
- ▶ Low attrition rates (2023: 63% of the original TIMSS sample)

## Definition of emigrants

- ▶ Those who were observed in Russia in wave A and not in Russia in wave B (as a proportion of those present in the data both in waves A and B)
- ▶ For 2022-23: those who are not in Russia in 2022 or 2023 but were in Russia in 2021 (or 2020 if data for 2021 were missing)

# Emigration rates



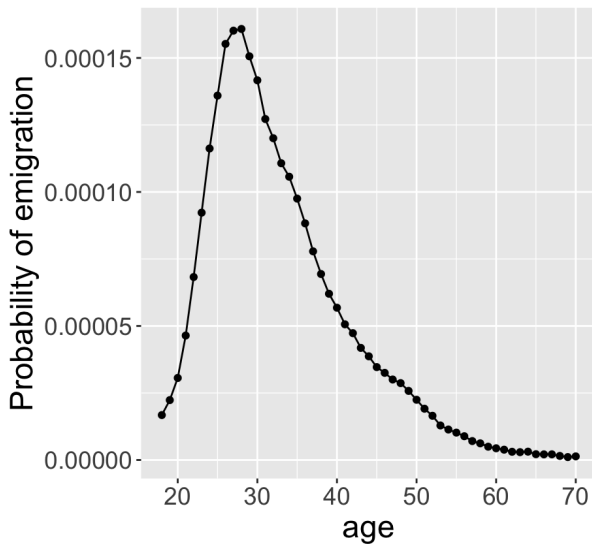
## Emigration rate in 2022-23

- ▶ 82 people out of 3103 (2.7% unweighted, 2.2% weighted)
- ▶ This includes 6 return immigrants (not in Russia in 2022 and in Russia in 2023)
- ▶ Destination countries: Georgia (13), the EU (9), Turkey (8), Kazakhstan (7), the UAE (6), Armenia (5), the USA (3), the UK (2), etc.
- ▶ The size of the 1996 cohort according to the 2010 census was 1.36 million people
- ▶  $1.36 \text{ million} * 0.022 \approx 30,000$
- ▶ Extending this to the whole population requires an external unbiased estimate of the age structure of emigrants

## The Outrush survey

- ▶ A longitudinal survey of Russian emigrants, supported by the EUI (Kamalov, Nugumanova and Sergeeva, 2025)
- ▶ <https://outrush.io/eng>
- ▶ Four waves of data collection so far; with about 18,000 people in 100+ countries taking part of the survey
- ▶ Recruited online via Telegram channels and ads
- ▶ Mean age: 34 years (similar over multiple recruitment channels)
- ▶ Mean age in a f2f survey conducted among emigrants in Georgia 33 years and Armenia 30 years (Krawatzek et al. 2023)
- ▶ I use the Outrush sample and the Rosstat 2022 population estimates to estimate the probability of 2022-23 emigration by age

## Probability of being in the Outrush sample by age



## Estimating total number of 2022-23 emigrants

- ▶ Knowing the emigration rate for the 1996 cohort and the probability of emigration in other cohorts relative to the 1996 cohort I can now estimate the total number of emigrants in 2022-23
- ▶ 732,000 people in the age group 18 to 70
- ▶ Bootstrapped 95% CI: [560,000 to 931,000]
- ▶ This includes some people who returned to Russia but they are a minority (either in the TrOP and Outrush sample)

## Immigrant selectivity

- ▶ Immigrants are not a random sample from the population of countries of origin
- ▶ Immigration can be positively selected (more likely to be better educated compared to those who stayed) or negatively selected
- ▶ Most immigration flows are positively selected
- ▶ Immigrant selectivity is difficult to study: almost always based on the comparison of the education distributions of immigrants in destination countries and the population in origin countries (Feliciano 2020)

## Predictors of emigration: linear probability model

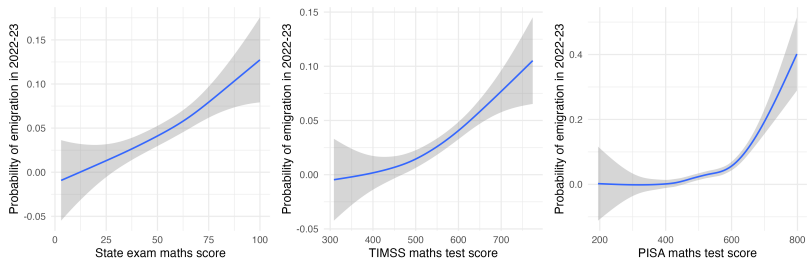


## Employment sectors as of 2021

Sector	emigrants	n	%
IT	13	175	9%
Education	9	169	6%
Finance	4	100	5%
Healthcare	4	200	2%
Transport and communications	3	158	2%
Construction	2	185	1%
Sales and customer service	1	294	< 0.05%
Security (army, police)	0	190	0%

In the Outrush sample, 43% were IT professionals

# Test scores at age 15 to 18 and emigration in 2022-23



# Conclusions

- ▶ Between 0.6 and 0.9 million people left Russia in 2022-23
- ▶ This emigration wave was strongly positively selected
- ▶ Ukrainian refugees in Europe were also positively selected (Brucker et al. 2023; Kohlenberger et al. 2023)