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## DYNAMICS OF INTER-REGIONAL POPULATION MIGRATION IN THE SOUTH OF RUSSIA

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In December 2019, an epidemic of a new acutely infectious disease broke out in the Chinese city of Wuhan, which in two to three months turned into a pandemic of the coronavirus infection COVID-19. The epidemiological, economic, environmental, humanitarian and political crisis has begun on the planet. The world has never come across a similar situation. This is much more serious than what humanity has experienced in last epidemics, when they spread from one continent to another for decades. In early summer 2020, more than 6.5 million people were found to have coronavirus in the world, according to Johns Hopkins University. The article gives a general assessment of the enormous losses of the world economy and the economies of individual States that arose as a result of quarantine during the coronavirus pandemic of 2020, it is shown that, compared with previous crises, this one will be more destructive for the labor market and the exit from it will be longer. The coronavirus epidemic has become a powerful challenge for the Russian labor market. It is concluded that the deterioration of the situation in the Russian economy due to the coronavirus pandemic will lead to increased interregional migration in the coming years, which will negatively affect the parameters of the demographic situation and the quality of the labor market in most of the North Caucasian regions of Russia, and the predicted persistence of high unemployment is associated with high threats to socio-political instability and the growth of social conflict. The author formulated a number of proposals on mitigation of economic consequences of the epidemic and controlling the outflow of working-age population from the regions of the North Caucasus.

Key words: Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic, unemployment rate in Russia, population migration from the regions of the North Caucasus, mitigation of economic consequences of the epidemic.

### **[А.В. Джюев Динамика межрегиональной трудовой миграции населения на Юге России]**

В декабре 2019 года в китайском городе Ухань вспыхнула эпидемия новой остро заразной болезни, которая за два-три месяца переросла в пандемию коронавирусной инфекции COVID-19. На планете начался эпидемиологический, экономический, экологический, гуманитарный и политический кризис. Никогда прежде мир не сталкивался с подобной ситуацией. Это гораздо серьезнее того, что человечество пережило в прошлые эпидемии, когда они из одного континента на другой распространялись десятилетиями. В начале лета 2020 года коронавирус в мире обнаружен более чем у 6,5 млн человек, свидетельствуют данные университета Джонса Хопкинса. Россия находится на третьем месте по общему числу выявленных случаев заболеваемости, а отдельные регионы Северного Кавказа попали в топ самых зараженных. Всего в мире умерло около 400 000 больных COVID-19. В статье дана общая оценка колоссальных потерь мировой экономики и экономик отдельных государств, возникших вследствие карантина в период пандемии коронавируса 2020 года, показано, что по сравнению с прежними кризисами этот окажется более разрушительным для рынка труда, а выход из него будет более продолжительным. Эпидемия коронавируса стала мощнейшим вызовом и для российского рынка труда. Сделаны выводы о том, что ухудшение ситуации в российской экономике из-за пандемии коронавируса приведет в ближайшие годы к усилению межрегиональной миграции, что негативно скажется на параметрах демографической ситуации и качестве рынка труда большинства Северо-Кавказских регионов России, а прогнозируемое сохранение высокой безработицы таит в себе высокие угрозы общественно-политической нестабильности и роста социальной конфликтности. Автором сформулирован ряд предложений по сглаживанию экономических последствий эпидемии и сдерживанию оттока трудоспособного населения из регионов Северного Кавказа.

Ключевые слова: пандемия коронавируса Covid-19, уровень безработицы в России, миграция населения из регионов Северного Кавказа, сглаживание экономических последствий эпидемии.

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The modern world economy has entered a systemic crisis associated with the introduction of national quarantine measures in almost all countries of the world, caused by the unprecedented rapid spread of a new health-threatening coronavirus Covid-19.

The world has not known yet the same rate of spread of the disease, which has grown into a pandemic in two to three months since the beginning of 2000. And also, for the first time in the history of mankind, there was an almost simultaneous suspension of production in virtually all sectors of the economy, and the business activity of companies, even global ones, began to fall. The world gross domestic product (GDP) began to decline rapidly. "Every month of total quarantine and social distancing reduces the annual growth in wealth of any country by about 2%." This information is given by the experts from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in their last May report, worsening their March forecast by four times: then they considered that maintaining quarantine, self-isolation and social distancing of people will reduce the GDP of countries by an average of half a percent [4]. The world GDP, according to the World Bank (WB) reports, amounted to US \$ 85.8 trillion in 2019. It is easy to calculate the projected losses today at 2%, they will amount to 1.716 trillion US dollars. This is about half of Germany's GDP, the largest EU national economy (\$3.997 trillion) and more than Canada's GDP of \$1.71 trillion, Russia's GDP of \$1.66 trillion, the GDP of South Korea which is \$1.62 trillion. And this is more than the total GDP of 2019 of such large countries as, for example, Mexico and Spain combined [16].

For five consecutive months all national economies have been slowing down, the streets of metropolises were empty, hotels, restaurants and many shops were closed, tens of millions of people were left without work and lost their livelihoods. It is noteworthy that residents of 200 States, both the largest and the smallest, suffered from the crisis. So, the US economy with GDP of 20.5 trillion US dollars, according to estimates by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), will decrease by 5.9%, Italy's GDP by 9.1%; the French economy will shrink by 7.2%; Germany's economy will shrink by 7% [11]. The pan-European GDP, according to IMF experts, will decrease by 7.5% in 2020. And the Central Bank of the European Union admits that the fall in GDP at the end of the year will reach 12% in 19 out of 26 eurozone countries, because according to Eurostat, the EU economy has already decreased by 3.5% in the first three months of 2020 [2]. In the IMF report it is noted that the European Union will experience such a decline for the first time in its existence, and China for the first time in almost half a century. In their projection of the development of the global economy after the pandemic, IMF economists consider that if business activity resumes in the second half of 2020, next year's economic activity will not cover the losses associated with the Covid-19 coronavirus epidemic, despite the fact that the world is going to spend at least another 10 trillion dollars to combat the crisis [6]. And the UN leadership considers that the economies of developing countries, which include Russia, India, Mexico and several other States in the world, will suffer from the introduction of stringent quarantine measures even stronger than developed economies. The UN calls on rich countries to help developing States in the framework of special support programs and general crisis measures, estimated by the UN at 2.5 trillion dollars [5]. And it is difficult to disagree with these arguments, since the world has an unprecedented outflow of capital from the markets of developing countries,

four times higher than the similar reaction during the financial crises of 1998-1999, 2008-2009, and 2014-2015. The size of capital outflows from emerging markets amounted to almost \$100 billion in March alone [6].

The crisis we are experiencing, according to many world experts, will be the deepest since the Great Depression of the 1930s. It could throw away the world economy to the back of the last century and nullify all economic development efforts for two decades.

The history of human development shows that crises caused by epidemics often lead to interstate, interracial and interethnic disunity, which leads to socio-political instability, an increase in nationalism and protectionism, and most importantly, the rapid impoverishment of the vast masses of workers. That is why interracial unrest began in the United States, and in the richest country in the world, more than 20 million people applied for unemployment benefits in May alone. During the quarantine, in the world's most attractive country for labor migration, exactly as many jobs disappeared in just one month as were created over the past decade [7].

The number of unemployed citizens also rose sharply in Russia, as evidenced by data on the unemployment rate. In January-March 2020, the unemployment rate in Russia was unchanged, at 4.7% [3], 4.6% [8] and 4.7% [12], respectively. However, in April, the number of unemployed in Russia increased by more than from 800 thousand people to 4.3 million people or 5.8% [8]. According to the Confederation of Labor of Russia, unemployment in Russia had reached 8 million people by summer, and according to the founder of the leading Internet service Superjob A. Zakharov, the real number in the country is about 10 million people [12].

In the regions of Russia, where employment is mainly associated with small businesses temporarily closed due to quarantine, in our opinion, we can expect a wave of official bankruptcy and mass layoffs, a sharp drop in living standards, an aggravation of socio-political instability and an increase in social conflict against the background of an epidemic, the prospects for a complete exit from which are still unpredictable. These conclusions are based, first of all, on the history of the plague riot in Sevastopol 190 years ago. Then there was a popular uprising, which was provoked by quarantine measures against the spread of the cholera epidemic, which the authorities initially mistook for a plague. The riot was the first in a chain of cholera protests that swept through many regions of Russia of the 19th century. The inhabitants of Sevastopol, driven to despair, formed armed groups of volunteers who were preparing for an armed rebuff of the cordon of the city. From the hostilities that could blow up the situation in the city and in the navy, the city was restrained by the fact that the cordon soldiers and many officers sympathized with the inhabitants, and the volunteer units themselves were formed under the leadership of the retired military.

According to IMF forecasts, coinciding with the official forecasts of the Russian Government, Russia's GDP will decrease by 5.5% in 2020, and in 2021 it will increase by about 2%. A slowdown in economic activity will inevitably lead to an increase in unemployment, the level of which, according to the forecast of the Ministry of Economic Development will fall to 5.4% in 2021, to 4.9% in 2022, and will return to the level of the beginning of 2020 only in 2023.

However, a number of Russian experts predict that real unemployment in Russia by the fall of 2020 could grow to 20 million people [12]. Such a fall in the labor market due to the economic downturn can only strengthen interregional labor migration, which, even before the epidemiological crisis, as shown in our studies, had led to a deterioration of the demographic situation in the North Caucasus regions of Russia with a high level of chronic unemployment [13-15].

So, according to official data of Rosstat (Table 1), the total population of the North Caucasian Federal District (NCFD) during 01.01.2018-01.01.2019 increased by 43,267 people: from 9,845,114 to 9,866,748 people or by 0.4%.

**Table 1. Dynamics of the permanent population of Russia and the regions of the South of Russia as of January 1, 2018-2019**

Table 1.2	As of January 1, 2019			As of January 1, 2018		
	The entire population	including:		The entire population	including:	
		urban	rural		urban	rural
<b>Russian Federation</b>	<b>146 780 720</b>	<b>109 453 533</b>	<b>37 327 187</b>	<b>146 830 576</b>	<b>109 390 216</b>	<b>37 440 360</b>
<b>Southern Federal District</b>	<b>16 454 550</b>	<b>10 316 730</b>	<b>6 137 820</b>	<b>16 448 201</b>	<b>10 300 616</b>	<b>6 147 585</b>
<b>North Caucasian Federal District</b>	<b>9 866 748</b>	<b>4 947 172</b>	<b>4 919 576</b>	<b>9 845 114</b>	<b>4 920 139</b>	<b>4 924 975</b>
The Republic of Dagestan	3 086 126	1 396 715	1 689 411	3 075 006	1 390 196	1 684 810
The Republic of Ingushetia	497 393	275 891	221 502	492 718	272 920	219 798
The Kabardino-Balkarian Republic	866 219	451 002	415 217	866 023	451 170	414 853
The Karachay-Cherkess Republic	465 563	199 465	266 098	465 934	199 344	266 590
The Republic of North Ossetia-Alania	699 253	449 873	249 380	700 509	450 369	250 140
The Chechen Republic	1 456 951	534 883	922 068	1 446 966	518 031	928 935
Stavropol Territory	2 795 243	1 639 343	1 155 900	2 797 958	1 638 109	1 159 849

The source: [10]

As the data of Table 2 show, the highest indicators of negative migration of the population were observed in the Republic of Dagestan, the population of which in 2018 increased by 22,241 people, despite the fact that more than 11 thousand people left their republic. Negative migration is observed in all regions except Ingushetia, but in three regions of the North Caucasus Federal District it is threatening the demographic situation. Thus, in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania there was the second largest negative migration growth after Dagestan of 4,512 people, which could not cover the natural population growth of 2,000 people. The number of Karachay-Cherkessia decreased by 742 people as a result of the migration outflow of the population of 1559 people. And the population of Stavropol Territory decreased by 543, despite the fact that in the region there was both a natural decline of 1,400 people and a negative migration of 4,031 people. Only in the Republic of Ingushetia there is a demographically favorable situation: the total population growth of 9,350 people is ensured by a natural increase of 6,500 people and migration of the population to the region, estimated by Rosstat, of 2,850 people.

**Table 2. Change in the permanent population of Russia and the regions of the South of Russia by components as of January 1, 2018-2019**

Table 1.3 The entire population	Population as of January 1 2018	Changes during 2018 (+,-)			Population as of January 1 2019
		total growth	including:		
			natural increase	migration growth	
Russian Federation	146880432	-99712	-224566	124854	146780720
Southern Federal District	16441852	12698	-37047	49745	16454550

North Caucasian Federal District	9823481	43267	68453	-25186	9866748
The Republic of Dagestan	3063885	22241	33249	-11008	3086126
The Republic of Ingushetia	488043	9350	6500	2850	497393
The Kabardino-Balkarian Republic	865828	391	3759	-3368	866219
The Karachay-Cherkess Republic	466305	-742	817	-1559	465563
The Republic of North Ossetia-Alania	701765	-2512	2000	-4512	699253
The Chechen Republic	1436981	19970	23528	-3558	1456951
Stavropol Territory	2800674	-5431	-1400	-4031	2795243

The source: [10]

Alarming conclusions stem from the analysis of the dynamics of the urban and rural population of the North Caucasus Federal District. As shown in Table 3, the urban population of the district increased in 2018 by 1.1% (from 4 920139 people up to 4 947 172 people), and the rural decreased by 0.8% (from 4 924 975 people up to 4 919 576 people). On average, in the Russian Federation, with a decrease in the total population by 0.1%, the urban population increased by 0.1%, and the rural population decreased by 0.6%. In the neighboring Southern Federal District, the population increased by 0.1%, while the urban population increased by 0.3%, or 32 299 people, and the rural population decreased by 0.3%, or 19 531 people. In the neighboring North Caucasus Federal District, with a total population growth of 0.4%, the urban population increased by 54 066 people, and the rural population decreased by 10 799 people. That is, the comparative growth of the urban population of the North Caucasus Federal District, which is less than 1.6 times compared to the Southern Federal District, amounted to 1.6 times per year.

**Table 3. Growth in the city and rural population of Russia and the regions of the South of Russia in 2018**

Table 1.6	Population growth; person			Population growth; %		
	The entire population	including:		The entire population	urban	rural
		urban	rural			
<b>Russian Federation</b>	<b>-99</b> <b>712</b>	<b>126</b> <b>634</b>	<b>-226</b> <b>346</b>	<b>-0,1</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>-0,6</b>
<b>Southern Federal District</b>	<b>12</b> <b>698</b>	<b>32</b> <b>229</b>	<b>-19</b> <b>531</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>0,3</b>	<b>-0,3</b>
<b>North Caucasian Federal District</b>	<b>43</b> <b>267</b>	<b>54</b> <b>066</b>	<b>-10</b> <b>799</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>-0,8</b>
The Republic of Dagestan	22 241	13 039	9 202	0,7	0,9	0,7
The Republic of Ingushetia	9 350	5 942	3 408	1,9	2,2	-22,0
The Kabardino-Balkarian Republic	391	-336	727	0,0	-0,1	0,2
The Karachay-	-	242	-984	-0,2	0,1	0,0

Cherkess Republic	742					
The Republic of North Ossetia-Alania	-2		-1			
	512	-992	520	-0,4	-0,2	-0,3
The Chechen Republic	19	33	-13			
	970	704	734	1,4	6,7	1,4
Stavropol Territory	-5		-7			
	431	2 467	898	-0,2	0,2	-0,3

*The source:* Population size and migration of the Russian Federation in 2018 (statistical bulletin). Moscow, Rosstat, 2019.

Comparing the migration growth (decline) rates of the population in Russia, the Southern Federal District and the North Caucasus Federal District, as well as its regions, it can be concluded that the migration outflow indicators in the North Caucasus Federal District as a whole are 2.6, which is almost three times higher than the Russian average. The highest rate of migration decline, as shown in Table 4, was observed in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania. It amounted to 6.4. Here, the highest migration decline rate of the rural population was also observed (8.1), despite the fact that on average in Russia it amounted to 1.9., and in the rural population of the Southern Federal District, zero growth was recorded. Following North Ossetia, Dagestan stands in the ranking of negative migration per 1000 people: the total migration growth rate here was 3.6, and the migration decline rate of the rural population was 6.9 in 2018.

**Table 4. Migration growth rates of the population of Russia and the regions of the South of Russia in 2018**

Table 1.10	Migration growth rates per 1,000 people		
	the entire population	including:	
		urban	rural
Russian Federation	0,9	1,8	-1,9
Southern Federal District	3,0	4,8	0,0
North Caucasian Federal District	-2,6	-0,3	-4,8
The Republic of Dagestan	-3,6	0,4	-6,9
The Republic of Ingushetia	5,8	10,4	0,1
The Kabardino-Balkarian Republic	-3,9	-4,6	-3,1
The Karachay-Cherkess Republic	-3,3	-1,3	-4,9
The Republic of North Ossetia-Alania	-6,4	-5,5	-8,1
The Chechen Republic	-2,5	-3,8	-1,7
Stavropol Territory	-1,4	1,1	-5,0

*Источник:* [11]

Considering the total migration growth of the population in terms of age, it should be noted that migration is economic in nature, since from the total migration outflow of the population of the North Caucasus Federal District to 25 thousand people almost 17.5 thousand people are people of working age.

The highest indicators of negative migration among the regions of the North Caucasus Federal District were recorded in the Republic of Dagestan, only 7.2 thousand people left the region, the Stavropol Territory is in the second place, about 3.7 thousand people of working

age left this territory. The third place is taken by North Ossetia, from which more than 3 thousand people of working age migrated.

The Federal Center understands that in the conditions of quarantine and self-isolation of consumers, the risks of not just temporary shutdown, but bankruptcy were experienced by all service enterprises, most of which belong to small business; and that it is a small business that provides employment to an overwhelming number of regions of Russia. It is also clear that without the development of infrastructure and regional economic support programs, unemployment is likely to rise sharply in many regions, and that only programmatic measures for supporting business can contribute to increasing demand for labor and smoothing migration outflows, but the sharp drop in tax revenues to the Federal Budget and regional budgets is likely to welcome the need to tighten control over cost increases.

**Table 5. Total migration growth of the population of Russia and the regions of the South of Russia in 2018**

Table 2.11	Total population migration growth			
	in total	including those under the age		
		under working-age	working-age	over working-age
<b>Russian Federation</b>	<b>124 854</b>	<b>21 921</b>	<b>91 446</b>	<b>11 487</b>
<b>Southern Federal District</b>	<b>49 745</b>	<b>7 869</b>	<b>31 312</b>	<b>10 564</b>
<b>North Caucasian Federal District</b>	<b>-25 186</b>	<b>-5 912</b>	<b>-17 441</b>	<b>-1 833</b>
The Republic of Dagestan	-11 008	-3 375	-7 254	-379
The Republic of Ingushetia	2 850	232	2 021	597
The Kabardino-Balkarian Republic	-3 368	-477	-2 393	-498
The Karachay-Cherkess Republic	-1 559	-429	-823	-307
The Republic of North Ossetia-Alania	-4 512	-758	-3 037	-717
The Chechen Republic	-3 558	-1 074	-2 265	-219
Stavropol Territory	-4 031	-31	-3 690	-310

Источник: [11]

According to the study of the ACRA rating agency, Russian regions are likely to solve the problem of budget deficits by reducing costs or borrowings [9]. However, these measures will actually leave small businesses without targeted support, the latter provide up to half of employment in most regions of the North Caucasus Federal District. According to the latest stats, the total number of employees in Russia is about 72 million people. Among them 32 million people are employed in large and medium-sized enterprises, and about 40 million people, or 55.55%, are employed in small enterprises [10]. However, it is in this segment that the prospects for direct assistance from the State are uncertain and ghostly, and that is why it is possible to predict an increase in interregional migration of working-age population from the small business sector.

Obviously, due to the crisis, income from personal income tax will significantly decrease, which, again, in many North Caucasus regions provides up to 50% of income, as well as from other regional taxes and payments for which deferrals or privileges are provided (income tax, property tax, rent and a number of others). And in this situation, it is better to increase direct assistance in the form of grants, subsidizing the interest rate of leasing and developing programs to support youth, family, innovative and Internet business for both

existing and newly created small businesses. Otherwise, the current outflow of population to large cities, even without job security, will increase sharply in the coming years, and all the problems mentioned above will worsen. Such support is quite possible due to the reduction of non-priority costs and the concentration of costs on supporting regional business.

To increase employment in the territorial subjects of the North Caucasus Federal District of the Russian Federation, a number of proposals have been formulated: an increase in self-employment, which is possible, for example, within the framework of federal programs and the state program "Development of the North Caucasus Federal District," especially federal targeted programs aimed at the socio-economic development of each territorial subject of the North Caucasus Federal District until 2025; active development of programs of support of small business in the service industry where for the beginning of 2019 more than a half of the working population of the North Caucasus is really occupied within the subprograms of the state program "Development of the North Caucasian Federal District" directed to implementation of investment projects of North Caucasus federal district, development of a tourist and recreational cluster in the North Caucasian Federal District, the accelerated development of year-round tourist and recreational complexes of North Caucasus federal district, a medical cluster in Caucasian Mineral Waters area; organization and implementation of interregional employment programs for young and mobile people of the North Caucasus Federal District regions to the regions of Russia where there is a lack of workspaces.

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