



REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

SUMMARIZED MIGRATION PROFILE

YEREVAN

2023

PREFACE

The ‘Summarized Migration Profile of the Republic of Armenia (2022)’ is an analytical report that summarizes the available administrative statistics on migration processes, as well as reports and analyses of state institutions about the migration management system, migration policy, and international cooperation in the field of migration.

The Profile aims at providing comprehensive and updated information on migration trends as well as significant developments in migration-related legislation and policy to policymakers, researchers, and other professionals interested in the field of migration.

The Profile has been elaborated with the support of ‘Return and Reintegration Facility’ project implemented by the International Center for Migration Policy Development. The Migration and Citizenship Service of the RA Ministry of Internal Affairs expresses its gratitude for the provided assistance.



GENERAL INFORMATION

About the Republic of Armenia

GENERAL INFORMATION

Official name The Republic of Armenia (RA) short Armenia

Flag 

Area 29,743 sq/km

Capital city **Yerevan**

State border In the North - with Georgia, in the East - with Azerbaijan, in the West and Southwest - with Turkey, in the South - with Iran

Official language Armenian

Population as of 2023, Jan 1 **2,977,100**

Ethnic composition Armenian (98, 1 percent), Yazidis, Russian, Assyrians, Ukrainian, Kurdish, Greek, Jewish, Georgian and representatives of other nationalities.

National currency AMD

GNI 2022 **8.5 trillion AMD** (21.7 billion USD)

THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION PROCESSES AND THE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN 2022

2022 has been marked with a significant activation of migration inflows to Armenia, which was mainly conditioned by the dangerous humanitarian and economic crises that advanced because of the Russian-Ukrainian war. Armenia has become a host country both for Ukrainian citizens seeking a safe place and for most Russian and Belarusian citizens who, at least for a certain period, do not imagine their economic activities or general lifestyle in the countries of their permanent residency.

Although there are no official evaluations about the volumes of migration inflow and net migration yet (and they will not be available at least until the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia summarizes the results of the Households Integrated Living Conditions Survey for 2022 and publishes them at the beginning of 2024), the certain indices discussed in this report, particularly the balance of border crossings (saldo) and the number of foreigners who have received citizenship or permits of stay, allow us to conclude that 2022 was unprecedented in the history of the Republic of Armenia with its positive migration tendencies.

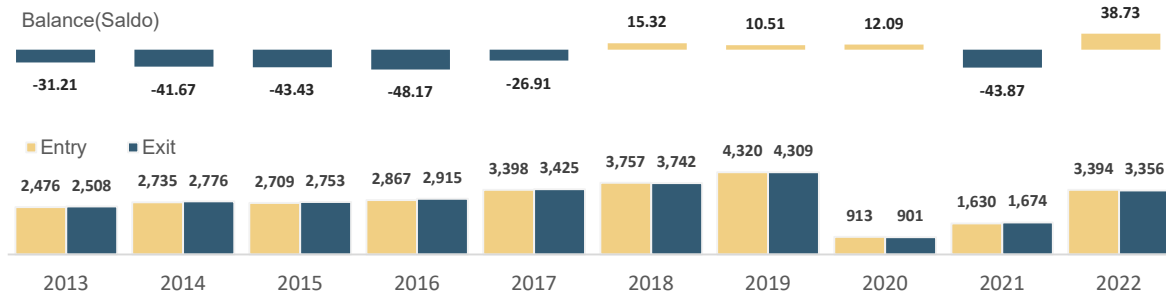
The balance (saldo) of border crossings is the difference between registered entrances and exits of all Armenian border checkpoints, including the flows of foreigners and Armenian citizens, regardless of the duration and purpose of the trip.

The net migration is the difference between emigrants and migrants (according to the UN definition), which since 2013 is calculated based on the results of the RA Statistical Committee's Household's Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS).

Border crossings

According to the data received via the Republic of Armenia border management information system, passenger flow in all RA border checkpoints (entrances and exits) has doubled in 2022 as compared to 2021, and the saldo of entrances and exits was around 39,000 in contrast to 2021, when the saldo was negative (44,000).

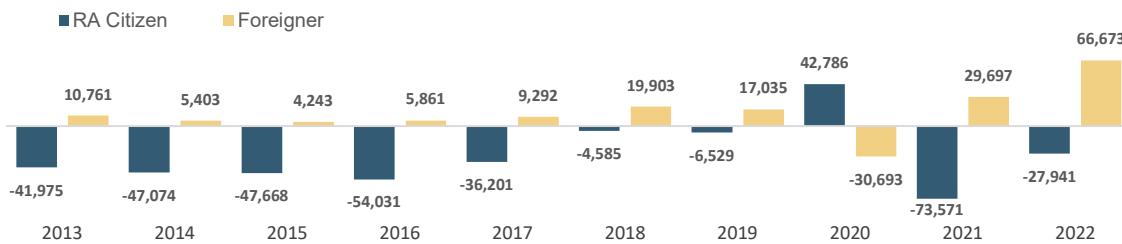
The number of annual dynamics of border crossings in 2013-2022, thousand people



RA Migration and Citizenship Service

The tendency typical to the last decade has been preserved in 2022 as well, when the difference between the entrances and exits of foreigners was positive and that of RA citizens was negative. At the same time, both indices significantly improved in 2022 (in the case of foreigners by 2.2 times and in the case of Armenian citizens by 2.3 times).

The saldo of border crossings in 2013-2022 per the country of citizenship



RA Migration and Citizenship Service

THE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

On December 16, 2022, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, with second reading and in its entirety, accepted the constitutional package on establishing the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

According to the Republic of Armenia Law ‘On making amendments and additions to the law on the structure and activities of the Government’, the powers of the migration process management have been delegated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and since December 16, 2022, according to the Republic of Armenia Law ‘On making amendments and additions to the law on the bodies of the state administration system’ Migration Service has been renamed as the Migration and Citizenship Service.

At the same time, according to the Government Decision adopted on January 5, 2023, ‘On amendments and additions to Decision No 580-A of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of May 22, 2018’, the Migration and Citizenship Service has been established as a subordinate body to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The Police reform strategy adopted in 2020 justifies the necessity of migration management new model in the following ways.

The practice of leading countries and cross-border structures shows that migration services are best implemented under relevant internal affairs structures (in the case of Australia – Department of Home Affairs, in the case of the USA – Department of Homeland Security, in the case of the EU – DG for Migration and Home Affairs), taking into consideration the nature of migration functions and types of services provided (organizing asylum provision to foreign citizens and stateless people, ensuring the fulfilment of commitments defined by interstate readmission agreements, and so on).

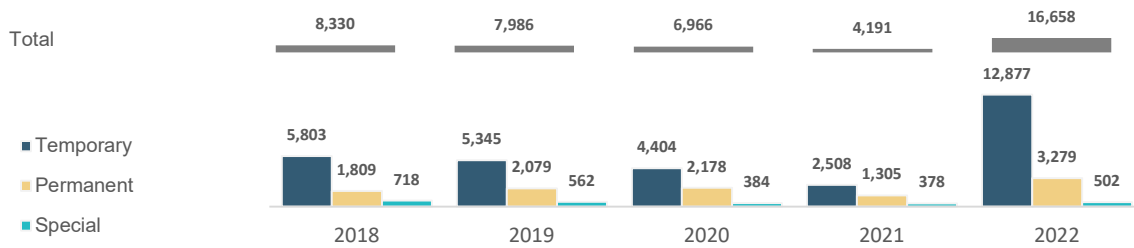
The main reason the migration functions are carried out in an unproductive way in Armenia is that one of their significant components, the provision of services to citizens, foreigners, and stateless people, is distributed among various state bodies, and beneficiary groups must deal with various departments to solve one issue. As a result, management productivity and inter-involvement in the migration field are decreasing, the coordination of actions is becoming complicated, the processes of public service provision slow down, duplication of actions increases, issues related to data transfer and database synchronization arise, and complications in the identification of cases and people occur.

The continuous alteration in the migration situation and the re-evaluation of the priorities of the migration policy make the issue of reforming and increasing the efficiency of the state system of migration management relevant today. With the aim of overcoming the mentioned gaps and increasing the productivity and comprehensiveness of migration management, it is advisable to have a centralized structure by merging the Migration Service of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure along with the Police Passport and Visa Department under a single policy-making body of the sector in the form of a civil service and demonstrating an integrated approach for the management of all the components of the migration chain.

FOREIGNERS GRANTED WITH THE RESIDENCE STATUS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

In 2022, 16,658 foreigners received a permit of stay in Armenia, which is four times higher than the same indicator of 2021. Moreover, whereas the number of people receiving permanent permits increased by 2.5 times as compared to 2021, the number of foreigners with temporary permits quintupled.

The number of foreigners granted residence status in RA by type of status



RA Migration and Citizenship Service

Residence status of foreigners according to the Republic of Armenia legislation

According to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On foreigners" (Article 14, Provision 1), the following residence statuses are defined for foreigners: **a) temporary residence, b) permanent residence, and c) special residence.**

Temporary residence status is granted to any foreigner if they prove the conditions justifying their stay in the territory of the Republic of Armenia for a period of one year and longer.

Such conditions can be:

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Work permit
- ✓ Being the partner, parent, or child of a foreigner holding the temporary RA residence status
- ✓ Being the partner or close relative (parent, child, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandchild) of the RA citizen or of a foreigner holding RA permanent or special residence status.
- ✓ Implementing entrepreneurial activities in Armenia
- ✓ Being of Armenian ethnic origin
- ✓ Other cases as defined by the law.

The temporary residence status is granted for a period of up to one year with the possibility of extending it by one year at a time.

The permanent residence status is granted to foreigners if they:

- ✓ Prove being a spouse or close relative (parent, child, sister, brother, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild) of RA citizens or hold special residence status in Armenia, and prior submission of an application for obtaining a permanent residence status has legally resided for at least three years in the Republic of Armenia.

- ✓ Implementing entrepreneurial activities in Armenia
- ✓ Being of Armenian ethnic origin

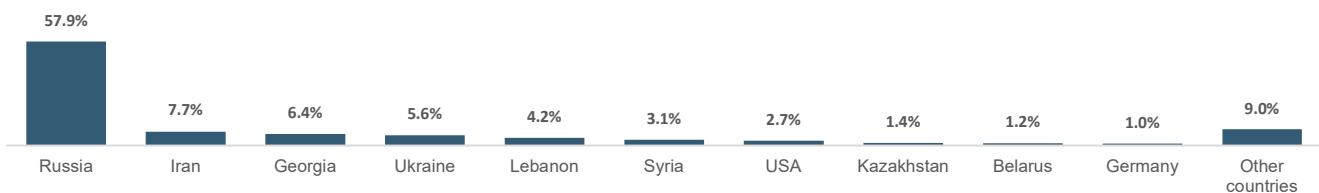
The permanent residence status is granted for a period of five years with the possibility of extension for the same period each time.

The special residence status is granted by the order of the Republic of Armenia Prime Minister to foreigners with Armenian nationality as well as other foreigners implementing economic or cultural activities in the Republic of Armenia. The special residence status is granted for ten years.

FOREIGNERS HOLDING PERMANENT RESIDENCE STATUS

58 percent of the people who received permanent residence status in Armenia in 2022 were citizens of the Russian Federation. Citizens of Iran, Georgia, and the Ukraine had a significant, though relatively small share among those who were granted with permanent residence status.

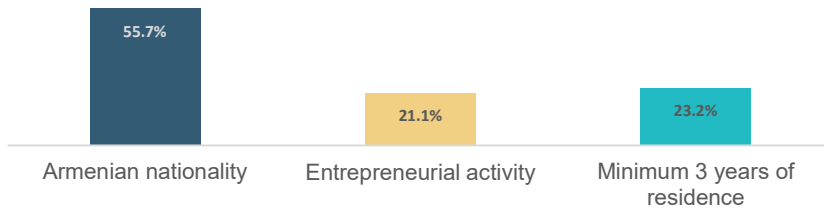
The number of foreigners granted permanent residence status in RA by country of citizenship



RA Migration and Citizenship Service

Most foreigners (around 56 percent) who were granted with permanent residence status in 2022 received the status on the grounds of being of Armenian ethnic origin. Meanwhile, it is notable that 21 percent of foreigners received permanent residence status on the grounds of implementing entrepreneurial activities in Armenia, whereas as of the end of 2021, only 3 percent of foreigners with valid permanent status received the status on that ground.

The number of foreigners who received permanent residence status
in RA in 2022, per the status base

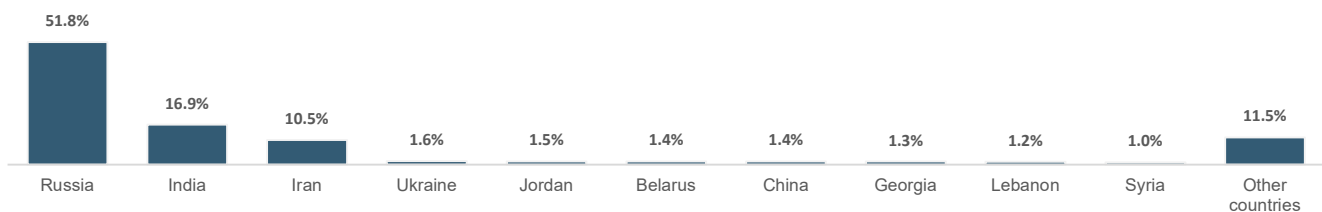


RA Migration and Citizenship Service

THE FOREIGNERS HOLDING TEMPORARY RESIDENCE STATUS

Most people (52 percent) who were granted with temporary residence status in Armenia in 2022 were also the citizens of Russian Federation. At the same time, the citizens of India (17 percent) and Iran (10.5 percent) have a significant share in the number of people who were granted with temporary residence status.

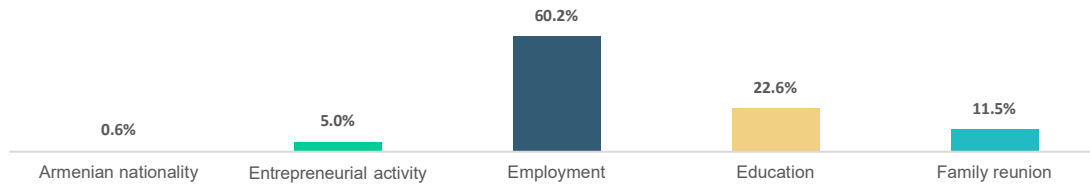
The number of foreigners granted temporary residence status in RA by country of citizenship



RA Migration and Citizenship Service, RA Statistical Committee

In 2022, most foreigners (60 percent) received temporary residence status on the grounds of work and around a quarter on the grounds of education.

The number of foreigners who received temporary residence status
in RA in 2022, per the status base



RA Migration and Citizenship Service, RA Statistical Committee

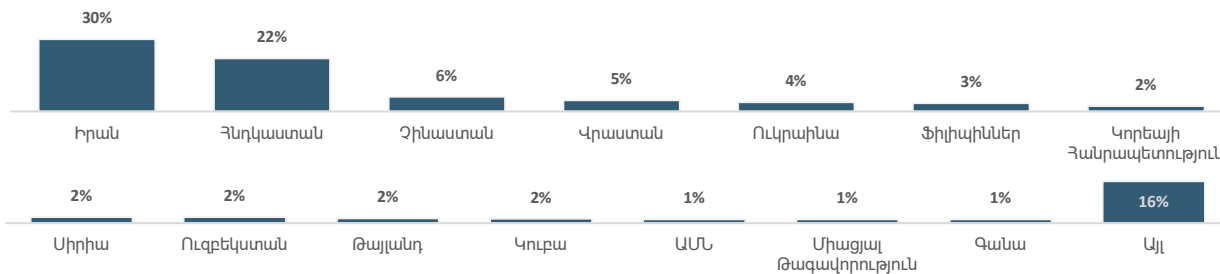
WORK PERMIT

As of January 1, 2022 a United Electronic Platform (hereinafter Platform), www.workpermit.am started to operate in Armenia, enabling online submission of applications and providing simultaneous access to all government agencies involved in the process, thus reducing the time spent on the process and improving administration.

During 2022, 10,909 applications for temporary residence status on the grounds of work activity and certificates confirming the legality of residence in the Republic of Armenia issued to citizens of EAEU member states were submitted through Platform, out of which 7,739 were approved.

For the reporting year, 2,468 foreign citizens from 92 countries (most applicants were citizens of Iran and India) applied for a **work permit, and on this ground, simultaneously applied for a temporary residence status** in the Republic of Armenia through the Platform.

Applications for granting a work permit and temporary residence status based on it,
according to the applicant's country of citizenship in 2022

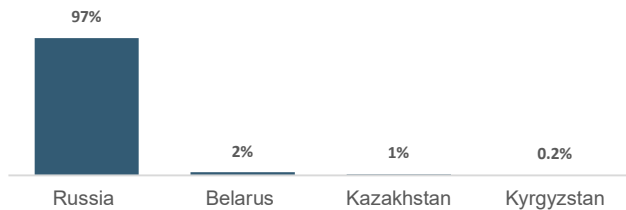


RA Migration and Citizenship Service

For the reporting year, a positive decision was issued for 1,654 applications out of submitted 2,468 cases; 29 applications were rejected, and 152 applications were dismissed. Proceedings initiated in relation to other applications are still in process.

The Platform received 6,341 applications from citizens of the EAEU member states for the **granting of a certificate confirming the legality of residence in the Republic of Armenia**, most of which (97 percent) were Russian citizens.

Applications for the granting of a certificate certifying the legality of residence in the Republic of Armenia from citizens of Eurasian Economic Union member states according to the applicant's country of citizenship in 2022



RA Migration and Citizenship Service

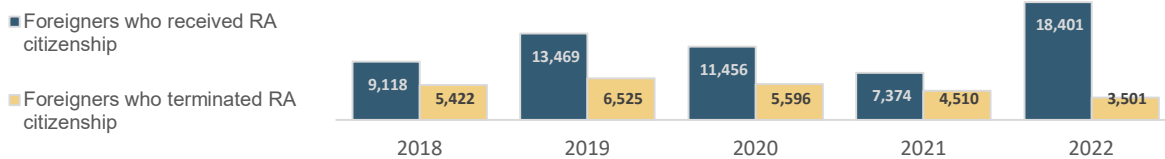
Certificates confirming the legality of residence in the territory of the Republic of Armenia were provided to 4,729 citizens. 154 applications were dismissed; one decision was issued to invalidate the certificate confirming the legality of residence in the Republic of Armenia. For the reporting period, no applications for the provision of a certificate confirming the legality of residence in the Republic of Armenia were rejected. In addition, 2,100 applications were **submitted on behalf of citizens of the EAEU for their family members** via the Platform, out of which 1,356 were approved, one was rejected, and 13 were dismissed.

Citizenship and Statelessness

ACQUISITION AND TERMINATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA CITIZENSHIP

In 2022, the number of foreigners who were granted with the Republic of Armenia citizenship increased by 150 percent as compared to 2021 and the number of people who renounced the RA citizenship decreased by about 22 percent.

The dynamics of the number of people who were granted with the RA citizenship and those who terminated the RA citizenship in 2018-2022



RA Migration and Citizenship Service

The procedure of acquisition and termination of RA citizenship

According to the Law of the Republic of Armenia ‘On citizenship of the Republic of Armenia’, any person not holding citizenship of the Republic of Armenia who has attained the age of 18 has a right to apply for a citizenship of the Republic of Armenia if they resided in the Republic of Armenia for the past three years as prescribed by law, are able to express themselves in Armenian and are familiar with the Constitution of Armenia.

According to the same law, in a simplified procedure without the requirements of permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia for the past three years and meeting the requirements of knowledge of Armenian language an individual can acquire Armenian citizenship if:

- ✓ Is married to a citizen of the Republic of Armenia or have an Armenian citizen child.
- ✓ Parents or one of them previously held the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia or was born in the Republic of Armenia and who applied for getting Armenian citizenship three years after attaining the age of 18.
- ✓ Is of Armenian ethnic origin, i.e., has Armenian ancestors,
- ✓ Has renounced the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia of their own accord after 1 January 1995.

Armenian citizenship can be awarded without any above-mentioned requirements to people who have provided exceptional service to the Republic of Armenia

The Republic of Armenia citizenship is terminated on the grounds of changing Armenian citizenship, depriving the Armenian citizenship, as well as on the grounds of the Republic of Armenia international agreements.

Everyone reaching adulthood (18 years old) has a right to change Armenian citizenship: renounce the Armenian citizenship and acquire another country's citizenship.

The application for renouncing the Armenian citizenship is rejected when:

- ✓ The applicant is under criminal investigation.
- ✓ There is a sentence or judgement against the applicant pending execution.
- ✓ Renunciation the Armenian citizenship contradicts state security interests.
- ✓ The applicant has unsettled obligations towards to the interests of the State, enterprises, organizations, or other citizens.

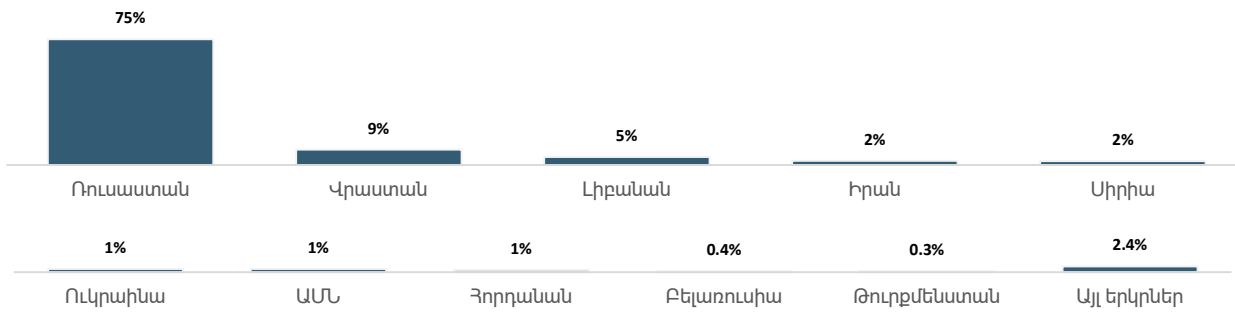
A person can be deprived of the Republic of Armenia citizenship, if:

- ✓ Permanently resided abroad; within seven years without a valid reason was not registered in the counsellor section.
- ✓ Armenian citizenship was acquired through false data and false documentation.
- ✓ By violating the RA citizenship legislation acquired another country's citizenship.

The issue of acquiring and terminating the RA citizenship are resolved by the executive decrees of the President of the Republic of Armenia.

Three quarters (3/4) of the foreigners who were granted with the RA citizenship were citizens of the Russian Federation before acquiring the RA citizenship. At the same time, in previous years, as well as in 2022, most foreigners who received RA citizenship (18,014 people, or 98 percent of those who received citizenship) were of Armenian ethnic of origin.

Foreigners who received RA citizenship according to the country of previous citizenship in 2022

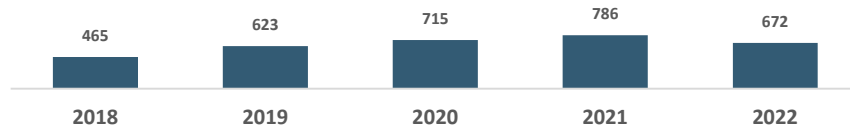


RA Migration and Citizenship Service

STATELESS PEOPLE

The number of stateless people holding residence certificates of the Republic of Armenia decreased by 15 percent in 2022 as compared to 2021.

The dynamics of number of stateless people in 2018-2022



RA Migration and Citizenship Service

Any person who is not a citizen of Armenia or any other country can apply for the acquisition of a stateless status in Armenia. In case of a positive decision, the Migration and Citizenship Service of Armenia provides the applicant with a certificate of residence of a stateless person.

Previous studies carried out by the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police showed that the Republic of Armenia citizens often applied for the termination of the citizenship by presenting a written certificate issued by the competent authority of a foreign state, but after terminating the Armenian citizenship, due to various circumstances, they did not acquire the citizenship of the state issuing the certificate, and in fact acquired the status of a stateless person. People of this category, remaining without a valid identity document, did not have the opportunity to exercise their rights and were obliged to apply to the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police for obtaining a certificate of a stateless person. As a result, the number of stateless people was artificially increasing.

The reasons for the decrease in the number of residence certificates of stateless people in 2022 have not been fully studied yet, although it is known that the positive dynamics is facilitated by the “Advocacy actions, Capacity-Building activities, and Provision of Assistance to Undocumented Persons and Those at Risk of Statelessness” program implemented by International Organization of Migration. The project aims at supporting undocumented people by providing legal assistance, allocating funds to cover consular expenses, organizing seminars and trainings on legal identity, documentation, and statelessness, as well as promoting the improvement of local legislation.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

THE LEGISLATIVE FIELD REGULATING THE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF FOREIGNERS IN ARMENIA

Based on universally recognized human rights, internationally accepted norms, and national legislation, Armenia provides asylum (protection) to all foreign citizens and stateless people who have been forced to leave their country of citizenship or permanent residency due to pursuits. Those pursuits, as well as the reasonable possibility of being subjected to such persecution, can be a serious threat to the life and freedoms of the mentioned people.

More than 140 states of the world, which have joined the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, provide international protection to people who were a subject of persecution for certain reasons in their country of citizenship or permanent residency.

On November 27, 2008, Armenia adopted the national Law ‘ On refugees and asylum" regulating the field of asylum, in which, in addition to the five grounds defined by the 1951 Convention, another five grounds were defined for a person to be recognized as a "refugee"- massive violations of human rights, widespread violence, external attack, internal conflicts, serious violations of public order. In other words, people who were forced to leave their country due to any of these five grounds, may also be recognized as refugees and receive asylum if they seek protection in Armenia.

During the entire period of asylum claim hearing (3 months, with the possibility of extension for another 3 months), asylum seekers are accommodated in the temporary accommodation centres for asylum seekers.

If there is no possibility to be accommodated in a special centre, asylum seekers are provided with financial assistance to cover their basic life needs. After being recognized as a refugee in Armenia and after receiving asylum in the Republic of Armenia, the asylum seeker residing in the temporary accommodation centre is obliged to vacate the room, and in case of financial aid, the provision of aid is stopped, as there are integration programs implemented for the recognized refugees.

Asylum seekers and recognized refugees in Armenia, who possess proper documentation, have equal rights with foreign citizens and stateless people legally residing in the Republic of Armenia, particularly, free of charge

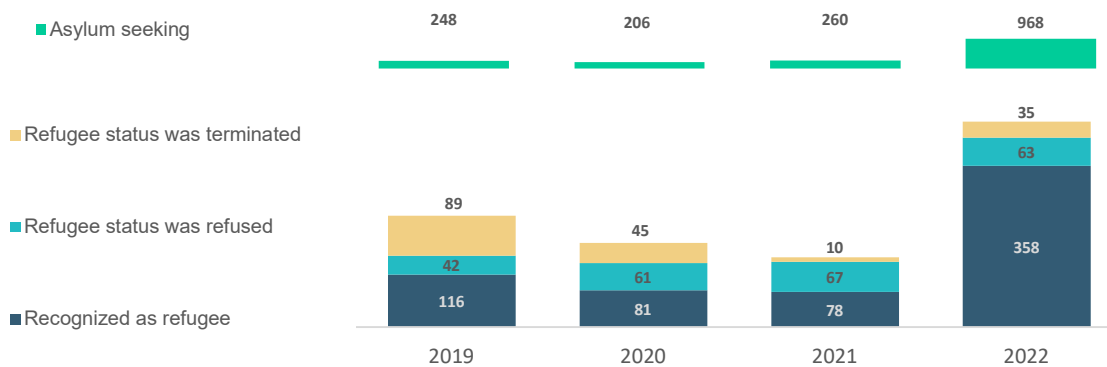
legal assistance, right to education, medical aid, social security, employment, free movement, and other rights. Asylum seekers and refugees, while exercising their rights defined by law, must respect the laws of the Republic of Armenia, the legal interests, rights, and freedoms of citizens of Armenia and other people, and maintain public order and the security of the Republic of Armenia.

More details on the submission of asylum-seeking applications, acquisition of refugee status, and rejection of the application are available on the website of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia with the following links: [From asylum application to status granting stage](#) and [From rejection to deportation](#).

Foreigners seeking asylum in Armenia

As compared to the previous four years, the number of people seeking asylum in Armenia has almost quadrupled in 2022. Thus, if in 2018-2021 about 200-260 people applied for asylum in Armenia annually, in 2022, 964 foreigners and 4 stateless people applied to the Migration Service for asylum in Armenia. Among them, 358 foreigners were recognized as refugees and received asylum in the Republic of Armenia in 2022.

Statistics of asylum provision in RA in 2018-2022

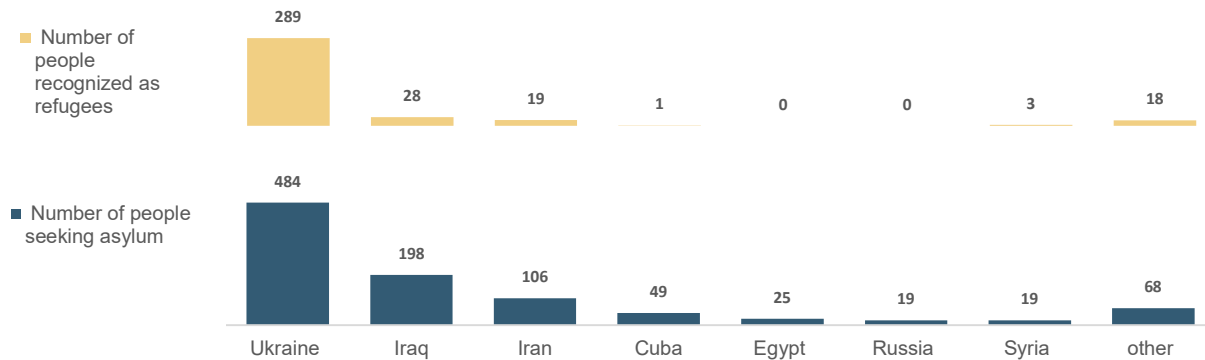


RA Migration and Citizenship Service

Half of the foreigners who applied for asylum in Armenia in 2022 were the citizens of the Ukraine; about 60 percent of them received refugee status in

2022. Citizens of Iraq and Iran also had a significant share among the asylum seekers.

Number of people who sought asylum and were recognized as refugees in Armenia according to the citizenship of the asylum seeker in 2022



RA Migration and Citizenship Service

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE RECOGNIZED AS REFUGEES IN ARMENIA

One of the most important conditions for the integration of people who have got asylum and were recognized as refugees in the Republic of Armenia is to provide them with accommodation, which is carried out based on the 28 N 54 RA Government decision (dated December, 2017) ‘ On approving the procedure for the provision of rental compensation to people who were recognized as refugees and people who have been granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia’.

On November 10, 2022, a program was approved by the 1711-N decision of the RA Government, which provides compensation for renting apartments to people recognized as refugees in the RA. The compensation is provided for a period of 6 months in the amount of AMD 60,000.

In 2022, 33 foreigners seeking asylum were accommodated in "Special accommodation" Non-commercial State Organization. 83 foreigners seeking asylum in the RA who were not accommodated in "Special accommodation" were provided with financial assistance in accordance with the procedure defined by the RA legislation to cover their basic needs.

During the same period, accommodation rooms were allocated to 12 families newly recognized as refugees in the "Integration centre" of Yerevan under the service of "Hanrakatsaran" State Non-Commercial Organisation of the Migration Service. One family was provided with an apartment in a social house located in the Republic of Armenia Darbnik community of Ararat region.

At the same time, the construction of a temporary accommodation centre for asylum seekers has started in the city of Abovyan, Kotayk region. The groundbreaking ceremony of the construction of a new 100-bed temporary accommodation centre for asylum seekers in the RA took place on June 28, 2021.

The financial resources for the construction are provided by the governments of Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany, and the construction work is organized through the International Center for Migration Policy Development Office in Armenia. For the furnishment of the centre, funds are also allocated from the RA state budget.

The construction of the centre is planned to be completed in 2023.

In the frames of "International and national standards for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers" implemented under CEPA road map, trainings and monitoring visits were conducted for the border guards of Yerevan Zvartnots Airport, those of the new border checkpoints of Goris and Kapan cities of Syunik region, and the staff members of the Passport and Visa Department of the RA police, the Migration Service, UNHCR- with the participation of representatives of the Armenian Red Cross Society and the Office of the Human Rights Defender.

Working group meetings were held on the topic of "Refugee protection sensitive entry system" with the participation of representatives of the UNHCR, the National Security Service, the Border Guard Troops of the National Security Service, the Armenian Red Cross Society, and the IOM.

RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

READMISSION AGREEMENTS

The purpose of readmission agreements is to facilitate the return of people who do not have grounds for legal stay in the territory of the countries of the contracting parties to their country of origin of last residence.

Since 2002, the Republic of Armenia has been actively involved in the process of concluding readmission agreements, considering it as one of the tools to combat illegal migration. During 2002-2021, Republic of Armenia ratified 12 readmission agreements (including with Russia, the European Union, and several separate European states). In addition, as of 2021, within the framework of the Armenia-EU readmission agreement, the protocols implementing the agreement with **Estonia, France, the Benelux countries, Germany, Bulgaria, and the Czech Republic** have passed the ratification process and entered into force.

The process of ratification of readmission agreements continued in 2022, particularly:

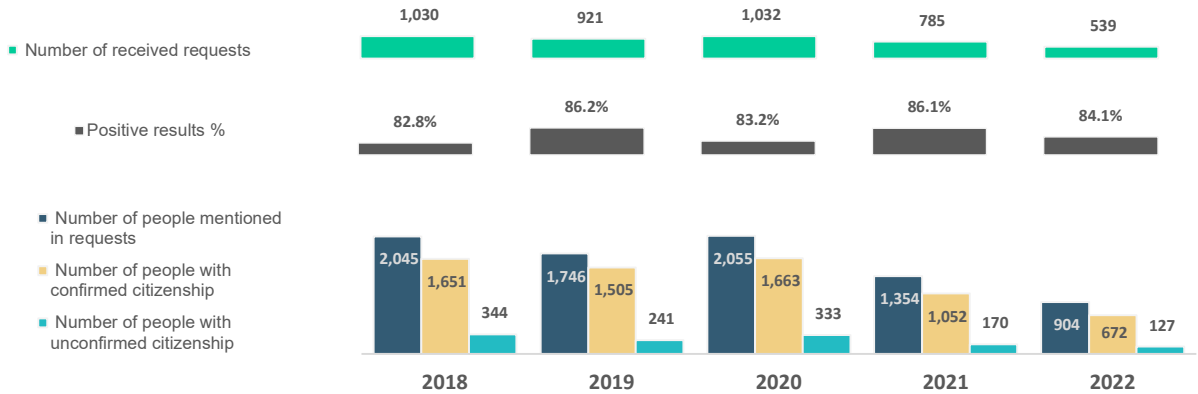
- The bilateral enforcement agreement signed with the Republic of Lithuania on April 19, 2013, within the framework of the agreement "Between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union on the readmission of people living without permission" was ratified on May 4.
- The bilateral enforcement agreement signed with the Republic of Poland was ratified on June 15, 2022, and entered into force on October 5, 2022.
- The agreement "On readmission between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Belarus" was ratified on May 04, 2022, and entered into force on July 9, 2022.

READMISSION STATISTICS

In the framework of Readmission Agreements signed with the European Union and the Russian Federation as of the end of 2022, 539 readmission requests for 904 people were received and processed in a defined order. As in previous years, the leading country in the number of applications received is again Germany, with 335 applications for 593 people, out of which the citizenship of 421 people was confirmed (81.91 percent). The second country in the number of applications received is France with 85 applications for 98 people, out of which the citizenship of 89 people was confirmed (95.70 percent).

Statistics of readmission requests for 2018-20212

RA Migration and Citizenship Service



The percentage of positive answers is calculated from the total sum of the number of people whose citizenship was not confirmed and the number of people whose citizenship was confirmed during the year. The difference between the number of people mentioned in the claims and the sum of the people whose citizenship is confirmed and the people whose citizenship is not confirmed is the number of people mentioned in the claims who are still in the process of identification.

REINTEGRATION PROJECTS

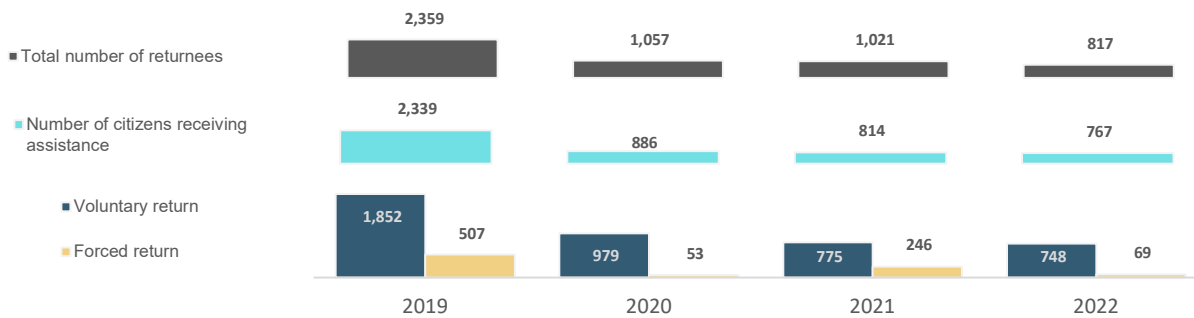
In 2022, several support programs for migrants returning to Armenia were implemented by the RA Migration and Citizenship Service, "Armenian Caritas" benevolent NGO, International Organization for Migration (IOM), French Office of Migration and Integration (OFII) and the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) office in Armenia in the frames of European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN Armenia) with its Reintegration and Capacity Building components. Since 2022, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FrontEx) is implementing the "Joint Reintegration Services" program through the "Armenian Caritas" benevolent NGO. The project will be implemented in Armenia for a period of 3 years, with the possibility of one-year extension with the potential to support up to 375 families each year.

In the framework of the 'Government Program of Primary Assistance for Reintegration of Nationals Returning to the Republic of Armenia (including forced returnees)', operating since 2020, during January-December, 2022 the Migration Service accepted 24 applications, out of which 21 were approved. Within the framework of the project, 20 beneficiaries or 40 people received rent compensation. The beneficiaries were Armenian citizens returning mostly from Germany (6), the Russian Federation (8), the Ukraine (5), Syria (1), Austria (1). In addition, six of them returned voluntarily, and other 15 beneficiaries were deported.

According to the existing statistics, in 2022, 817 citizens returned to Armenia (the overwhelming majority of whom (92 percent) were voluntary returnees)

in total and applied for reintegration programs, including the state support program implemented by the Migration Service. In the frames of the reintegration programs, 69 percent of the beneficiaries received social assistance, 27 percent received business assistance, and 4 percent received employment assistance.

Summary statistics of reintegration programs in 2019-2022



RA Migration and Citizenship Service

In 2018, for effective coordination of return and reintegration activities in Armenia, with the initiative of the Migration Service a Forum on Return and Reintegration was established, which is a platform for informal cooperation of stakeholders from state, international and non-governmental organizations. The forum provides an opportunity for all stakeholders involved in the field to exchange information about reintegration programs implemented in Armenia, discuss existing problems and challenges, as well as share their best practices and experiences. Representatives from IOM, ICMPD, OFII, Armenian Caritas, People in Need, Armenian Foundation for Sustainable Development, and other organizations are involved in the Forum.

In 2022, the 12th, 13th and 14th meetings of the forum were held with the initiative of RA Migration Service and with the support of International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) - Return and Reintegration Facility (RRF Project). Issues related to the return and reintegration to Armenia, steps aimed for the solution of those issues as well as state policy related issues were discussed during the meetings.

Starting from July 2022, in cooperation with Migration Service, ICMPD started to implement another project- 'Return and Reintegration Facility' (RRF).

The aim of the project is to continue the provision of counselling services at the Reintegration Referral Center (including the services of a psychologist), as well as activities aimed at developing and enhancing the capacities and potential of Migration Service employees. The initial duration of the RRF program is 12 months, after which the progress of the program will be evaluated to develop a future action plan.

The project offers the following assistance services to the returning migrants:

- Counselling fostering the reintegration.
- Professional development and vocational training and provision of basic toolkit.
- Provision of primary medical assistance (through referrals).
- Compensation of accommodation rent fee (maximum period of 6 months).
- Support to start a small business.

In the frames of the capacity building component, several training courses were conducted aimed for the **development of the skills** of the Migration Service staff. **Practical and theoretical meetings** were held by the psychologist, during which problematic cases and issues related to the psychological aspect of work were discussed. **Psychological consultations** were also provided to the beneficiaries returning to Armenia.

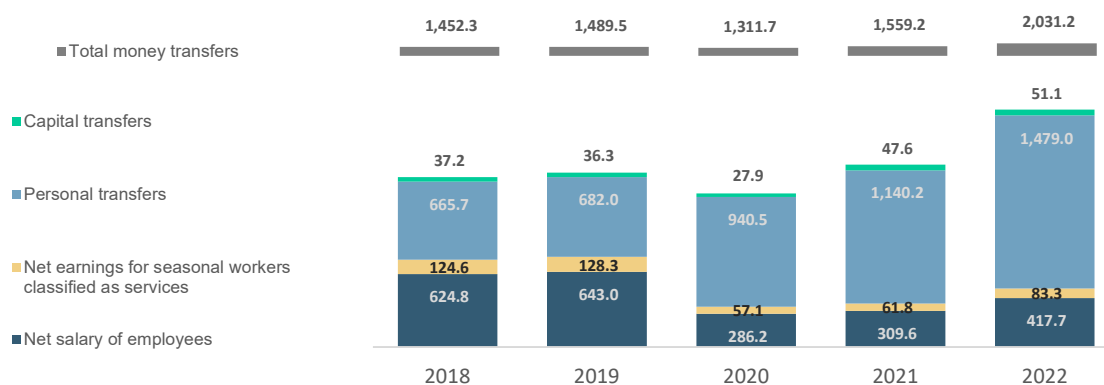
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

REMITTANCES

According to the publications of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia in 2022, as compared to 2021, the volume of remittances made by individuals to the Republic of Armenia increased by about 30 percent, equalling 2.03 billion dollars, which is the highest figure since 2014. At the same time, due to the 12.6 percent growth of Armenia's GDP in 2022, remittances made 9.4 percent of GDP in 2022, while it was 11.2 percent of GDP in 2021.

The study of the structure of remittances made by RA individuals shows that the increase in the total volume of transfers in 2022 was recorded mainly due to the personal transfers and the increase in net salary of migrant workers).

Structure and volumes of remittances made by individuals (million US dollars) towards RA in 2018-2022



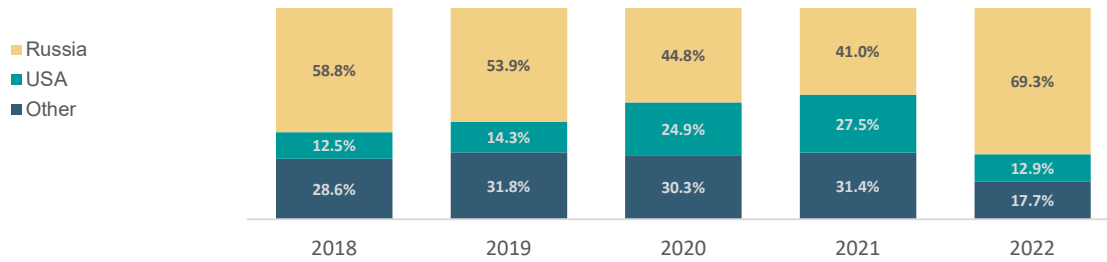
RA Central Bank

Although the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia does not publish data on geographical distribution of the countries from where the remittances were made by the individuals, some insight can be obtained by studying the geography of transfers received from abroad by the name of individuals through the banks of the Republic of Armenia, which, according to expert estimates, covers a wider range of transfers, but can still be useful for understanding the general trends.

The study of these data shows that while in the previous years the transfers from Russia to Armenia was steadily decreasing, instead the volume of transfers from the USA was steadily increasing, in 2022 the situation has changed radically. Although the volume of remittances from the USA to

Armenia also increased (by about 16 percent), the volume of remittances from Russia to Armenia increased by more than 300 percent, as a result of which remittances from Russia made up about 70 percent of the total volume of remittances in 2022.

Transfers received from abroad with the name of individuals through RA banks per country



RA Central Bank

Although the effects of migration processes on Armenia's economy in 2022 have not been studied and documented yet, policymakers and experts agree that the significant improvement of Armenia's macroeconomic indicators in 2022 was greatly facilitated by the unprecedented influx of migrants (in particular, relocators from Russia), the effects of which are noticeable in almost all sectors of the economy.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION

In 2022, Armenia continued to develop and expand international cooperation in the field of migration in multilateral and bilateral formats, the significant events and achievements of which are summarized below.

- ✓ On October 27, 2022, the official document on Armenia's access to the **European Migration Network** as an observer was signed within the framework of the 34th online meeting of the European Migration Network Management Staff. The representative of the European Migration Network in Cyprus is the mentor country of Armenia within the network's activities.
- ✓ On May 9, the Head of the Migration Service participated in the first **International Migration Observation Forum in New York**.
- ✓ At the meeting of higher officials of the **Prague Process** countries held on May 11-14, 2022, in which the Head of the Migration Service participated, the representatives of 26 countries discussed the ministerial declaration of the Prague Process and the action plan for 2023-2027.
- ✓ On July 14, 2022, the 8th session of the joint committee on the implementation of the agreement between the RA and the EU on the readmission of people residing without permission was held via video conference.
- ✓ The Head of Migration Service participated in the **12th session of the RA-EU Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee** held in Brussels on 8th of November 2022.
- ✓ Migration Service was provided with reports on the implementation of measures on "Cooperation on Migration, Asylum and Border Management Issues, Movement and Readmission of People" defined by the road map for the implementation of the Comprehensive and Extended Partnership Agreement (CEPA/CEPA) signed between RA and the EU and the European Atomic Energy Community and their member states in 2022.
- ✓ Cooperation was established with the Migration Policy Institute and during 2022, participation in the discussions arranged by the institute was ensured, including the round table discussion on the community experience of Voluntary return and sustainable reintegration held in Germany. The connection between reintegration and development in the

context of returnees, as well as the implementation of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in reintegration programs were discussed. Armenia's experience in this field was presented.

- ✓ On October 28-31, 2022, the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs organized **World Armenian Summit**. The summit gathered 600 participants from 50 different countries and served as a platform for outstanding Diaspora figures to talk about the problems that Pan-Armenian community face with and outline possible solutions for each of the problems.