

## EMIGRATION – A SOLUTION FOR THE LABOR MARKET IN MOLDOVA? (EMIGRAREA – O SOLUȚIE PENTRU PIATA MUNCII DIN MOLDOVA?)

**TOMȘA CRISTINA, studentă, EMREI-193**

Academia de Studii Economice a Moldovei,  
Republica Moldova, or. Chișinău, str. Mitropolit Gavriil Bănulescu-Bodoni 61  
e-mail: [cristinatomsa.tomsa@gmail.com](mailto:cristinatomsa.tomsa@gmail.com)

**Rezumat:** Emigrația reprezintă fenomenul părăsirii țării sau regiunii natale de către un individ sau un grup de indivizi pentru a se stabili în altă regiune. Acest fenomen este destul de actual și pentru Republica Moldova, ea aflându-se în topul țărilor afectate de acest proces migrațional. Fluxul de emigrații este în continuă creștere, în urma căruia populația de vârstă medie descrește, suburbiile și zonele rurale sunt populate de persoane în etate sau rămân dezerte (nepopulate). Ulterior piața muncii ai țării are de suferit, din motivul lipsei forței de muncă. Prin intermediul acestei lucrări vom observa cauzele ce determină creșterea și dezvoltarea acestui fenomen, cât și consecințele sale și dacă totuși reprezintă o soluție pentru forțele de muncă din Republica Moldova.

**Cuvinte cheie :** emigrație, forță de muncă, economie, populație.

**JEL CLASSIFICATION:** J6

### INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Moldova is a post-Soviet state, with an independence of 29 years and a population of about 3,547,539 (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data from 2018). Confronted with economic instability, collapsing incomes, and rapidly rising unemployment that accompanied the fall of the Soviet Union, people began emigrating from Moldova on a large scale in the first half of the 1990s. The Information and Security Service of the Republic of Moldova has estimated that 1,200,000 to two million Moldovan citizens (almost 45% of a population of some 3.6 million) are working abroad, most illegally. Only around 80,000 are estimated to be in their destination country legally [1]. The aim of this research was to analyze emigration in Republic of Moldova and to estimate its impact on the labor market. This analysis was based on survey data carried among 60 participants between March 2-4, 2020. To analyze the emigration flows, data from the National Bureau of Statistics were used. As well, a reliable publication such as Models of Migration and problems of development human resources in Moldova was used.

### BASIC CONTENT

Emigration is a continuous and constantly increasing process, which largely affects the labor market in the Republic of Moldova. Through this research we will observe the tendency to increase along certain periods and causes that lead to this phenomenon as well as its effects on the labor market. Today, the third citizen of the country is an emigrant, and this emigration is an external type, in other words leaving the country to another country for certain purposes. In our research we will consider long-term emigrations and those that most affect the labor market of the country. According to the emigrants data (Tabel 1), the most predisposed to emigration are men, even if the difference of data between the sexes is not significant enough (for example: the age group between 25-29, in 2014, men who emigrated - 9908, women who had emigrated-8290) [2].

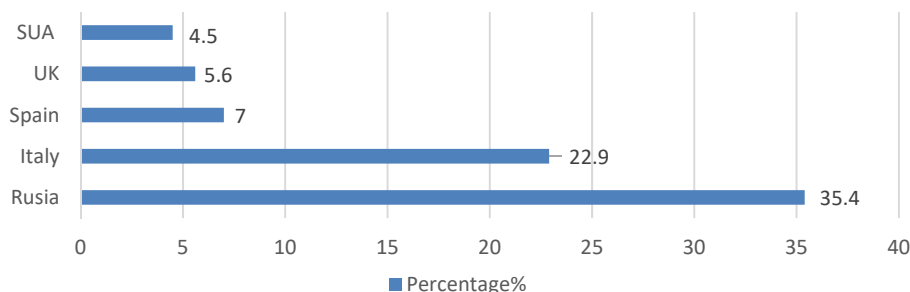
**Table 1. Total number of emigrants targeted by age groups, 2014-2017**

	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W
5-9	3792	3591	4167	3662	4234	3909	4174	3796
10-14	3288	3263	3202	3188	3376	3210	3319	3091
15-19	4946	4521	4490	4396	5102	4723	5211	4511
20-24	8825	7778	8246	7016	10388	8089	10723	8034
25-29	9908	8290	10310	8229	13114	9246	13202	9085
30-34	7649	5865	8609	6324	11952	7335	12487	7992
35-39	6086	4561	6581	4522	8958	5414	9679	5986
40-44	4870	3760	5390	3840	7567	4835	8124	5123
50-54	3329	3116	3440	2990	4156	3405	4625	3538
70-74	347	513	363	475	440	546	524	627
80-84	90	145	102	175	127	197	130	213

Source: National Bureau of Statistics [2] (M-men; W-women)

Among the countries preferred by emigrants in the top 5 are: Russia- 35.4%, Italy -22.9%, Spain-7% United Kingdom -5.6% and USA- 4.5% (Figure 1).

According to research studies, only 1.5% of potential emigrants have opted for Romania as a destination country. One possible explanation would be that the labor market in Romania is not very attractive to the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, despite the fact that they speak a common language, but this does not exclude the possibility of using Romania as a transit country[3].



**Figure 1: Main destinations countries of the emigrants from Moldova**

Source: Models of Migration and problems of development human resources in Moldova [3]

According to the publication „Models of Migration and problems of development human resources in Moldova „, [3], the categories that are most prone to emigration are:

- young people aged 18-29 years (on average 51.0 percent);
- women (55.1%) compared to men (43.5%) (in general, women migrate more to Italy and Turkey, and men tend to choose among Russia and Portugal);
- unmarried persons and those without children;
- persons with high and medium level of education, as well as persons with intentions to continue studies;
- the inhabitants of the central region of the country;
- Romanian / Moldovan speakers.

The main factors driving the emigration from Moldova are the unsatisfactory living conditions work, as well as the difficulty of finding, or the failure to find a job in the country of origin. Thus, the study

data show that emigration is conditioned almost exclusively by the unsatisfactory conditions of the population, which do not allow the daily needs to be met. This situation determines, in turn, a pessimistic view of the population regarding its future in the native country, each of the fifth emigrant being of the opinion that there is no future for them in Moldova.

Speaking about the labor market in the Republic of Moldova, and about the fact that the majority of the population fails to find a job, here are some causes that determine this fact as: jobs that accept only people with experience, and among students who finished university is very difficult to commit. Also older workers who tend to work even after retirement, occupying jobs for young people. Small salaries (for example for health and social assistance where 39,113 workers have a salary less than 10,000 MDL, while only 5411 workers have a salary greater than 10,000 MDL-September 2019, according to the National Bureau of Statistics)[2].

Another cause is the reduced employment in some areas, because the most recent and modern sectors are little developed in Moldova, but the labor force grows, and the labor market fails to fill with jobs, from here and few specialists or re-profiling young students.

Also high school students, go abroad with the aim of obtaining quality studies and jobs with high salaries. Following the survey analysis made with the help of 30 students, I found that 17 of them want to emigrate abroad (in the case of high schools in rural areas). In the case of high schools in the urban area, the situation is much more drastic, with 21 students from high school out of 30, want to emigrate.

## CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the carried research, we observe that emigration is a quite developed phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova, and is expanding every year. And the main reason is the labor market. We can say that this phenomenon is at the same time a solution for the labor market, but on the other hand it is not. But we can also look at the situation from another perspective. If the state was able to offer higher salaries, more generous pensions, and prices for first-aid products would fall, migrants would be more willing to return to the country.

But if the state does not get involved in improving the living and the economic situation, the labor market will suffer drastically, as it will lead to a lack of workers, and some sectors will be forced to close. A concrete example is the epidemiological situation faced by the Republic of Moldova since March 2020. The lack of medical staff and qualified specialists stagnates and makes it difficult to resolve the current situation.

In order to reduce the phenomenon of emigration is needed to: increase of wages and the constant involvement of the state in the life of the population towards improving the living conditions; support for domestic producers and small business; involve the licensed students in the labor market, by creating more available jobs.

## REFERENCES:

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**Coordonator științific: CIMPOIEȘ LILIANA, dr., conf. univ.**  
**Academia de Studii Economice a Moldovei,**  
**Republica Moldova, or. Chișinău, str. Mitropolit Gavriil Bănulescu-Bodoni 61**  
**e-mail: liliana.cimpoies@gmail.com**