Assessing the Potential of the Diaspora in the Formation of Socio-Economic Well-Being of Migrants from Armenia in Russia

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Abstract. The relevance of the research topic is due to the need to develop the theory and methodology of analysis, assessment of socio-demographic well-being of migration-attractive regions, as well as prospects of its changes taking into account the contribution of migrants from Armenia to the development of Russian regions. The problem that is touched upon in the study is of an urgent nature, since the modern world is very dynamic and migration processes in it are quite intense. Migrant communities, called diasporas, are forming in many countries and are beginning to influence the situation in the host country. The study presents our own approach to the study of the provision of migrants with material, social, spiritual and other benefits, examines the factors promoting the formation of the socio-economic potential of the Armenian diaspora community in Russia, assesses the current state of socio-economic well-being of migrants from Armenia, identifies the directions of development and increasing the

efficiency of the use of the socio-economic potential of migrants. Special attention is paid to the analysis of the peculiarities of migration processes in Russia and Armenia as a form of economic activity of communities in foreign cultural spaces. The scientific significance of the study is due to our contribution to the theoretical understanding of the phenomenon of socio-economic well-being of migrants, enriching the theory with empirical data that allows us to define the features and stable trends of the transformation of labor migration, its impact on socio-economic processes in Russia and Armenia. We note that getting into a new social environment and trying to adapt to it, representatives of ethnic groups either occupy free zones in the national economic system, or adopt their own forms of economic activity associated with their ethno-cultural traditions.

Key words: adaptation, Armenian diaspora community, return migration, integration, migration processes, Russia, socio-economic well-being, labor migrants.

Introduction

Russian scientific literature has established a tradition of analyzing migration processes, migration policy as a source of growth or decline in the number of diasporas in Russia, and various aspects of migrants' adaptation. Russian researchers focus on the social, economic and political prospects of Eurasian integration and legal issues of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states. The relevance of the research is to study the contribution of migrants to the socio-economic well-being of Russia and Armenia. The aim of our work is to determine the socio-economic well-being of Armenian labor migrants in Russia, as well as to prepare proposals to increase the efficiency of migrants' potential use to improve the quality of life in the host country (Vartanova, 2022). The fundamental scientific task set in the study is to develop a methodological approach to studying the socio-economic situation of migrants in Russia's regions and their contribution to socio-economic well-being. The research is based on the study of the situation of migrants from the Republic of Armenia in Russia and the processes of their embedding

in the host society (Guzhavina, Hayrapetyan, 2022). The potential for practical application of the expected scientific results, including taking into account the priorities of the demographic development strategy of the Russian Federation, lies in the possibility of effective response of the Russian society to great challenges, taking into account the interaction of human and nature, man and technology, social institutions at the current stage of global development, including using the methods of humanities and social sciences.

Literature review

In the Russian Federation, leading scientists of the Institute for Demographic Studies of the FCTAS RAS, and in Armenia, scientists of the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia conducted an interesting sociological research. The collective monograph "Integration VS Repatriation: Socio-Economic Potential of the Armenian Diaspora in Russia" (Integration..., 2022) analyzes the problems of mobility of migrants from Armenia, social well-

being and adaptation of labor migrants. The paper also presents a theoretical analysis of the results of sociological studies conducted in Russia and Armenia under a joint research project. Scientific works conducted by researchers of the Institute for Demographic Studies of the FCTAS RAS is devoted to the applied sociological study of the socio-economic potential of the Armenian diaspora in Russia and its repatriation potential for the foreseeable future (Osadchaya et al., 2022a; Osadchaya et al., 2022b).

The problems of formation of socio-economic potential of the diaspora are poorly studied by modern science. The Armenian diaspora, which was formed in Russia in the 17th century, is a traditional diaspora with deep historical roots. Its influence on the economy, social policy, culture, interethnic relations and other spheres of life of the population in the host country and country of origin is steadily increasing (Topilin et al., 2021).

The analysis of the features of implementing demographic policy in Russia and the CIS countries in the period of socio-economic transformation, as well as the new conditions for the functioning of the diaspora in the socio-territorial space of Russia has been reflected in the works of scientists. For example, the systematic measurements of the dynamics of changes in the "human potential of Russia under the conditions of integration processes, based on the idea of the empirical model of integration, planning and forecasting" (Osadchaya, Vartanova, 2022a), conducted by G.I. Osadchaya and M.L. Vartanova, lay the foundation for the study of socio-economic potential of representatives of the Armenian diaspora.

The approach formulated by us earlier, according to which "the assessment of human potential dynamics is based on modern approaches to the study of the problems of demographic

potential of societies" (Osadchaya, Vartanova, 2022a), is valuable. At the same time, to strengthen Eurasian integration, it is advisable to form a single labor market in this territory.

In some cases, scholars carry out comparative studies, trying to conduct an in-depth analysis of global experience regarding the socio-economic effects of migration, accumulation and use of its potential. For example, the work of E.S. Sadova proves that "the socio-economic potential of migrants is laid during their stay on the territory of the host country" (Sadova, 2022). As a result, realization of the socio-economic potential of migrants acquires positive significance both for the migrant themselves, and for the region and the whole country.

The socio-economic potential of return migrants is directly related to their state of health, as well as to the medical services and goods that are available to them. Moreover, we are talking not only about compulsory or additional health insurance programs, which are not always available to labor and return migrants and members of their families, but also about projects implemented by public organizations. For example, O.A. Volkova and A.A. Gorsky study medical charity, which is understood as "the activities of nonprofit organizations in the sphere of helping citizens to receive medical services: raising funds for treatment, rehabilitation, assistance to accompanying persons, psychological support" (Gorsky, Volkova, 2020).

V.N. Rakacheva and Yu.V. Rakacheva consider the mechanism of transformation of national identity in modern migration processes (case study of the Armenia–South of Russia migration network) (Rakacheva, Rakacheva, 2022).

The research results concern socially significant differences in the perceptions of the ethnocultural ideal among respondents of the titular Armenian ethnic group and the Armenian diaspora (Berberyan, Tuchina, 2016), elements of self-esteem in the

context of ethnocultural norms and values, as well as socio-economic well-being of Armenian migrants from Armenia in Russia.

Foreign works also present interesting studies of Armenian migration (see, for example, Hairapetyan, 2020).

A fundamental contribution to its study was made by the scientific works of G.A. Poghosyan, Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, on the prospects of repatriation or integration of the Armenian diaspora in Russia (Poghosyan, 2022a; Poghosyan, 2022b).

A number of foreign researchers assess international migration policy (Faist, 2013) and the importance of diaspora (Brubaker, 2005). M.M. Kritz reviewed the main problems of international migration (Kritz, 1987), and the works of (Todaro, 1969) describe the model of labor migration. Considerable attention is paid to the processes of influence of social, political and economic factors on migration (Ryazantsev, Bragin, 2023).

Source review allows concluding that the problem of migration risks and reproduction of migrants' human capital (Marzpanyan et al., 2016) was most often touched upon in a fragmented manner and mainly on the examples of return of labor migrants from economically developed countries. Researchers conclude that migration eventually leads the country (of return) to a higher level of economic development. It happens because migrants returning from developed countries have better education, better health, more savings, more comfortable working conditions, more competitive position in the labor market, higher incomes.

The analysis of the genesis of the formation of socio-economic well-being of migrants from Armenia and the assessment of the degree of cohesion and corporatization of Armenian migrants

in Russia helped to make a comprehensive study of the place and role of migrants in the Russian socio-territorial space, the influence of Armenian migrants on the internal and external socio-economic policy of the country of residence (Leskova et al., 2021), the features of adaptation, integration, and self-organization of migrants from Armenia.

Methodology and methods

The choice of methodology is conditioned by the specifics of the subject under consideration, our research approach to measuring this phenomenon, the aim of the work, as well as theoretical constructs of economic integration and social cohesion that allow articulating the results more clearly. The article expands the understanding of integration practices in the Armenian diaspora community in Russia and the specifics of its functioning.

The methodological strategy is represented by quantitative and qualitative methods that provide a comprehensive analysis of the research problem. In the qualitative analysis, we used the following data collection and processing methods: data systematization; questionnaire survey methods; interviews; document analysis; expert evaluation method.

The relevance of the work helps to develop a scientifically sound approach to identifying the dynamics of changes in the socio-economic potential of migrants in Russia.

The current migration situation in Armenia is characterized by a tendency to increase the number of citizens leaving for permanent residence and employment outside the Republic. At the same time, the Russian Federation still remains the dominant state in terms of Armenian labor migrants' choice of a foreign country for work and place of residence.

We analyzed the features of integration of Armenian migrants in Russia on the basis of a quantitative empirical study conducted in April—

June 2021 by researchers of the Department for the Study of Socio-Demographic Processes in the EAEU of the Institute for Demographic Research of the FCTAS RAS. The number of respondents was 1,273 people (in Moscow agglomeration – 658 people, in the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories – 310 and 305 people, respectively). We assume that the depth of integration is characterized by job satisfaction, housing conditions, material well-being, tolerance and complementarity of migrants in interaction with the local population, and identity.

Monitoring research and analyzing information sources of positive/negative memory includes:

1) development of social technologies to localize/neutralize negative information and replace negative information with positive information;

2) development of cultural and educational exchanges; creation of a common cultural space;

3) overcoming the negative effects associated with the "desovietization" of the past, introducing censorship on the falsification of past events;

4) more effective use of sociological survey tools.

We also used general methodological methods and techniques of research: analysis, synthesis, induction, abstraction, modeling to develop theoretical and methodological approaches of analysis, model of empirical research, coordinated analysis tool in the mode of monitoring the dynamics of the contribution of migrants from Armenia to the socio-demographic well-being of Russian regions.

Genesis of formation of socio-economic potential of Armenian labor migrants

After the collapse of the USSR, post-Soviet countries experienced quite complicated social processes associated with both changes in the socio-political model and socio-cultural shifts (Hairapetyan, Pokrovskaya, 2022).

Traditionally, migration from CIS countries has been associated with the unsatisfactory socio-economic situation there and emotional pessimism. In this respect, the desire to leave is conditioned by the fact that people are looking for a place where life is better. Despite the fact that Armenia is not the most depressed republic, life in many places in the Russian Federation and other countries is still much better. Statistics from recent years have shown that since 2020 Armenia has seen a sharper increase in out-migration compared to previous years, with about three percent of the total population leaving Armenia in 2021.
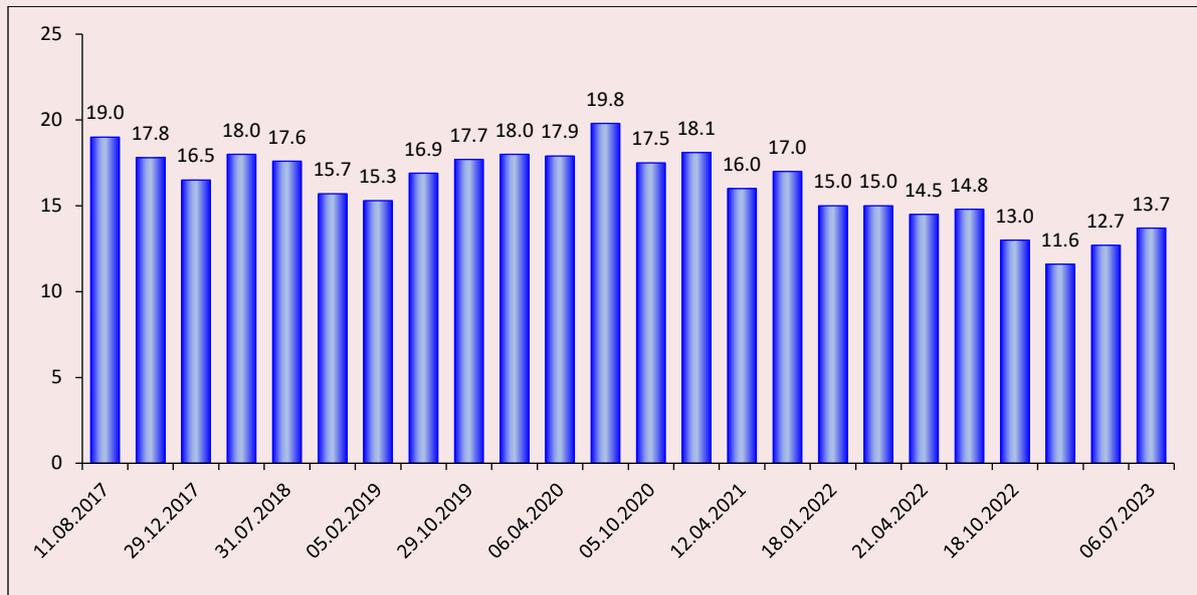
It is traditionally believed that there are a large number of reasons for migration, among them both economic and political. Following economic reasons, there are social reasons as well. For a person to decide to migrate, even to a neighboring state, a set of reasons is necessary. According to the respondents' estimates, the following can be attributed to the main factors causing the migration of Armenians to Russia.

1. Military actions. The catastrophic effects of the military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh in the fall of 2020 and the large number of people who lost their homes in their homeland due to these events. Most of all people felt fear for life. First of all, these are the risks associated with the threat of military action and the possible escalation of the situation on Armenia's borders.

2. Poverty. It includes a deteriorating economic situation in Armenia, rising prices for basic necessities, general environment of political and economic crisis.

3. Standard of living and employment. Opportunities for the formation and realization of entrepreneurial activity, earnings; lack of jobs, small businesses cannot provide full employment. Moreover, there is working-age population outflow, which, naturally, forms a growing threat associated with depopulation of the country.

Figure 1. Unemployment rate in Armenia, 2017–2023, %

Source: Unemployment rate in Armenia. Available at: https://take-profit.org/statistics/unemployment-rate/armenia/

Table 1. Unemployment rate in Armenia

Indicator	Meaning	Period
Unemployment rate	13,7%	1 quarter of 2023
Number of the employed	853 thousand people | 0.853 million people	June 2023
Total number of the unemployed	47.1 thousand people | 0,047 million people	June 2023
Source: Unemployment rate in Armenia. Available at: https://take-profit.org/statistics/unemployment-rate/armenia/		

GDP rate and unemployment directly depend on each other. For instance, in the last decade Armenia has maintained an unemployment rate equal to 18−20% of the total working-age population on average *(Fig. 1)*.

However, nothing was done to somehow change the situation by reducing the number of the unemployed and slowing down the working-age population outflow abroad. On the contrary, the migration of citizens was seen as a new temporary source of treasury replacing the existing foreign trade deficit (Zhirnova, 2020). In the first quarter of 2023, the unemployment rate rose to 13.7% *(Tab. 1)*, its maximum level reached 21.1%, and its minimum level was 6.3%, which indicates its decrease compared to previous periods.

Armenian diasporas are among the oldest and well established in many countries, such as France and the United States of America. Currently, the Armenian diaspora community "is ranked in the "world ethnic grid" as one of the top ten in the world in terms of numbers and one of the top three in terms of influence and resources. The total number of Armenians in the world far exceeds the population of the Republic of Armenia itself" (Leontieva, Mkrtchyan, 2020).

Russia is a friendly state with a stronger economy than Armenia. Armenians more often leave for neighboring countries, where it is possible to easily formalize legal residence and work. Most of them are young people who want to work, get stable money and spend their time in an interesting way. As a rule, people leave because they do not find what they need for life at home. First of all, they want to realize their ambitions, to provide for their families or to achieve something to start a family. A key aspect of migration is the economic issue, and Moscow, Krasnodar and other large Russian cities have more opportunities for development.

It is much easier for Armenians to move than for Russians, who often go "nowhere". If there is such a situation among Armenians, it is related to instability caused by military actions on the borders. In other words, most often the outflow is caused by military actions and unfriendly statements of the parties to the conflict about their continuation. Traditional factors of outflow in Armenia were, on the one hand, the socio-economic situation and, on the other hand, the fact that a powerful pull factor outside Armenia is the presence of network migration ties with the diaspora.

Thus, the diaspora itself acts as a magnet attracting new migrants. This is especially visible in educational migration, when children are sent to study in a country where they have relatives or acquaintances. Therefore, it is possible that Armenia has in a sense fallen into a migration trap, becoming one of the few countries in the world with a larger diaspora than the population of the ancestral land, which in a new turn provokes a more active immigration outflow from the country.

Results

Socio-economic well-being of a country is a set of resources that, when fully utilized, allow producing the maximum volume of gross national product (GNP). Region's socio-demographic well-being is an integral indicator of the effectiveness of its socio-demographic development, a marker of satisfaction and success of life, which reflects the social well-being, level of well-being, quality of life, opportunities for realizing matrimonial, reproductive, migration attitudes, is an indicator of socio-economic security of the public system as a whole.

Socio-demographic well-being is characterized by comfortable living conditions for people, in which their creative potential and opportunities are fully revealed, positive (upward) demographic dynamics, which is sustainable for at least five years, characterized by positive total population growth due to natural and migratory growth, the ratio and dynamics of birth and death rates, its balanced gender and age structure with optimal proportions of youth and pensioners, availability of labor resources necessary for socio-economic development.

Socio-economic well-being of labor migrants is the cumulative ability of people accumulated in pre-migration and migration periods to demonstrate in practice their financial, material, educational, professional and qualification, socio-communicative, psychophysical, gender, age and motivational resources and opportunities to improve their life situation and achieve comprehensive self-realization.

Russia is the major migration destination, which is explained by the simplicity of the visa regime and the minimal number of restrictions. Knowledge of the Russian language is also rather important[1].

Historically formed in Russia, the Armenian diaspora plays an important role in socio-economic processes, affecting all spheres of life both in the

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[1] How many Armenians in Russia 2020–2021: Number, diaspora. Available at: https://armeniagid.com (accessed: January 31, 2022).

host country and in the historical homeland. The history of Armenians in Russia goes back more than a thousand years, since the times of close contacts with the Byzantine Empire. The presence of Armenians in the territory of Kievan Rus has been recorded since the 11th century. Tsars Ivan the Terrible and then Alexei Mikhailovich promoted the settlement in Moscow of many Armenians − merchants, craftsmen and doctors. Armenians have been living in Moscow for 800 years[2]. The advancement of the Armenian diaspora as an ethno-cultural and ethno-political phenomenon is rooted in the features of the formation of its socio-economic potential throughout the history of good-neighborly relations between Russia and Armenia (Topilin et al., 2021).

Up to 3 million Armenians permanently reside in the Russian Federation, of which almost half have Russian citizenship and almost 1 million have Armenian citizenship (2021 data)[3]. The majority of Armenians with Russian citizenship are Russian citizens of Armenian origin who have lived in Russia since the Soviet era and after the 1990s, as well as descendants of Armenians of Tsarist Russia. About half of them compactly reside in the three large southern regions of the Russian Federation − the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories, and the Rostov Region. Armenians are most numerous in Moscow (100 thousand people, almost 1% of the total population of the city) and the Moscow Region. Saint Petersburg is in 7th place (over 20 thousand people, 0.5%). If we consider the regional level, most Armenians live in the Krasnodar Territory. For instance, only in Sochi they are the second largest nation − 20% of the population (80 thousand);

in Krasnodar − about 30 thousand (about 4% of the population), in Armavir, which was founded by Armenians in 1839, − almost 20 thousand (8.4%). There are 42 thousand Armenians (3.5%) in Rostov-on-Don, 20 thousand (13%) in Pyatigorsk, 18 thousand (4.5%) in Stavropol, and 15 thousand (1.5%) in Volgograd[4].

Based on the results of interviews with representatives of the Armenian diaspora living in Moscow and the Moscow Region, the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories, the opinions of migrants' families and our experts largely confirmed the survey results of Armenian migrants in Russia regarding their socio-economic well-being and expected conditions for returning home. This research allows distinguishing four groups in the Armenian diaspora structure in Russia: the largest is the central group, two peripheral groups and one marginal group. The first group is a solid core representing the majority of Armenians (70−73% of respondents). This group demonstrates high values of such variables as trust, unity of judgment, which represent the subjective level of cohesion, and joint participation in solving issues of the Armenian diaspora community and everyday problems of its representatives − the objective level of cohesion (Fig. 2).

One of the peripheral groups (15−16%) is characterized by distrust in the community, key institutions and insufficient investment in the reproduction of social capital, which may indicate insufficient inclusion (insufficient social inclusion) in the social and economic life of the community and characterize personal features.
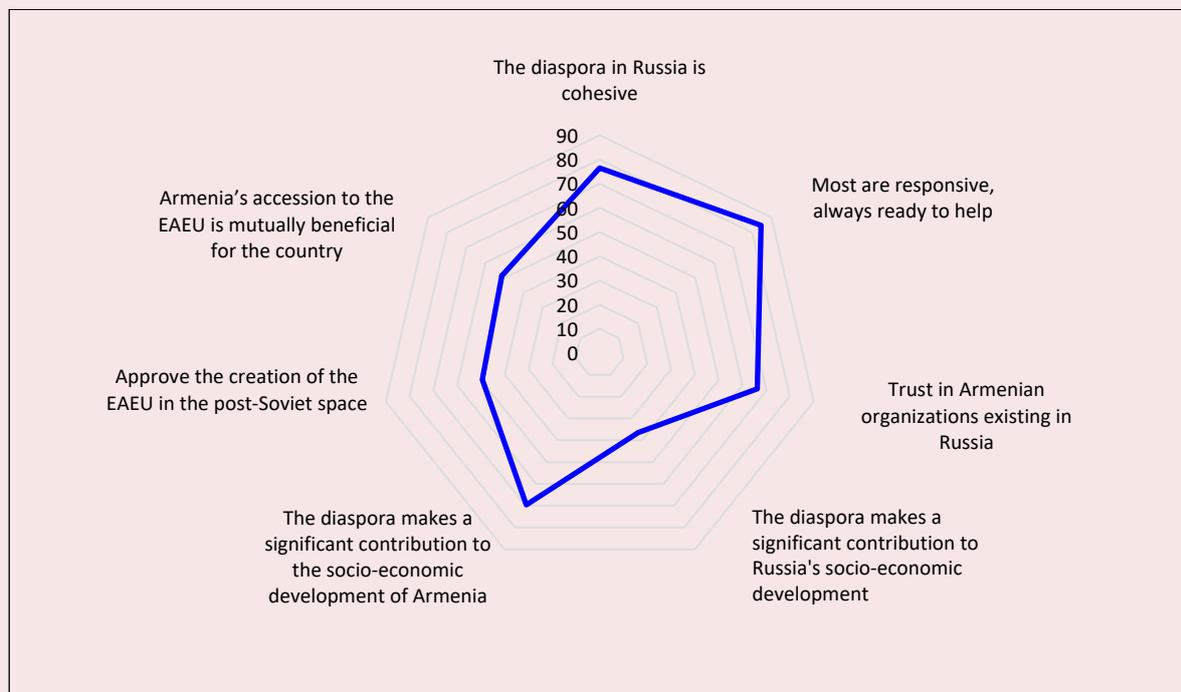
Socio-economic well-being of labor migrants from Armenia can be characterized in the context of whether they have their own housing in Russia and for their return to Armenia. First, some migrants

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[2] History of Armenians in Russia. Armenian diaspora of Russia. Available at: https://nashaarmenia.info/2023/09/10/армяне-россии/ (accessed: November 10, 2023).

[3] Federal State Statistics Service. International migration. Available at: https://rosstat.gov.ru/folder/12781 (accessed: February 5, 2022).

[4] Armenian diaspora in Russia. Available at: https://armeniagid.com/kultura/armyanskaya-diaspora-v-rossii (accessed: March 22, 2020).

Figure 2. Indicators of social cohesion of the central group of the Armenian diaspora community in Russia, % of respondents

Source: (Osadchaya et al., 2022a).

have their own housing either in Russia or in Armenia; second, a large share of migrants live in Russia with relatives and may return to the housing of their parents or relatives when returning to the homeland; third, migrants rent housing in Russia and will also have to rent housing when returning. Of the three categories, the highest level of socio-economic well-being (depending on the availability of housing) belongs to those migrants who have their own housing in Armenia and are planning to buy or have already bought it in Russia.

According to the results of the analysis of interviews carried out by researchers from the Institute for Demographic Studies of the FCTAS RAS, the economic potential of migrants from Armenia can be related to the fact that migrants: 1) earn money; 2) receive the desired quality profile education; 3) acquire skills for self-realization; 4) broaden their general outlook.

Thus, most often it is about earning money, which can contribute to the accumulation of economic potential of labor migrants. When asked in which sector of the economy Armenians in Russia mainly work, the respondents answered as follows:

— "in a variety of fields, from entrepreneurship to medicine, but most of the people I know have their own firms".

— "entrepreneurship, small and medium-sized retail trade, although many people are now actively moving into IT, and this is right because the times have passed when lawyers and solicitors were needed. You have to keep up with the times".

— in the Krasnodar Territory, primarily it is restaurant business, construction, and private medical clinics;

— in the Moscow Region traditionally they are the spheres of construction and repair of highways, construction business in general.

In the employee cluster, members of the Armenian diaspora with a higher level of qualification are more represented. These are mainly people who operate machinery. Many also work in the production sphere, which is connected with the activities of representatives of Armenian nationality in Russian business, who are more willing to hire their compatriots.

The results of the qualitative research conducted using the interview method confirm the quantitative data *(Tab. 2)*.

Thus, the employment of the Armenian diaspora representatives in the context of Moscow and the Moscow Region, the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories can be characterized as follows:

— in Moscow, the largest share of Armenians is employed in trade (20%), in science and technology (10.9%), and 6–7% each in manufacturing, transportation, health care, education, and information technology;

— in the Krasnodar Territory, they are in trade (17.6%), transportation and communications (17.9%), agriculture, hunting and forestry (13.4%), manufacturing (11.4%), real estate transactions, renting and services (11.4%);

— in the Stavropol Territory, they are in trade (20.7%), agriculture, hunting and forestry (14.5%), manufacturing (10.8%), construction (8%), about 7% in health care and social services, education, and transportation and storage of products.

According to the results of the survey conducted among the Armenian diaspora members, we can say that the range of their occupations is quite wide and has no limitations. Mostly Armenians are not represented in the service sector, but some of them have organized such a business. There are a lot of highly qualified personnel among Armenians, but over time they become a little less. Nevertheless, the seasonality of the works carried out is obvious, especially in megapolitan cities, for example, in Moscow — asphalt paving and road construction in general. If we talk about representatives of the Armenian diaspora living in the Stavropol Territory, the main types of work they perform are trade and construction. They are mostly self-employed, i.e. trade or other types of business.

Thus, the formation and adaptation of the Armenian diaspora in Russia is taking place step by step, and then the formation of the next generations who are no longer satisfied with the niche in the trade sphere. As a rule, these are established socio-economic groups that can afford to pay for their children's expensive education. Naturally, over the many years of living in Russia, a new round of vertical social mobility has already been formed, contributing to the improvement of the level of education, i.e. young people have the opportunity to study at the best universities, in specialties and professions that are in demand on the labor market in Russia. Diaspora employment in some segments

Table 2. Types of employment of the Armenian diaspora in Russia and Armenia according to the survey results, %

Respond option	Moscow and Moscow Region		Krasnodar Territory		Stavropol Territory	
	in Armenia	in RF	in Armenia	in RF	in Armenia	in RF
Other (indicate)	33.3	10.2	12.9	3.5	24.4	8.6
Head	6.0	8.2	8.1	12.6	6.9	6.6
Qualified employee	23.5	44.6	40.3	43.9	28.1	52.7
Unqualified employee	15.8	13.7	16.1	10.9	23.1	14.8
Entrepreneur, businessman	5.8	9.0	4.0	7.0	3.8	5.8
Individual entrepreneur, self-employed	7.0	8.5	12.9	19.1	9.4	9.5
Freelancer	8.7	5.8	5.6	3.0	4.4	2.1
Source: own compilation.						

Figure 3. Types of employment of the Armenian diaspora representatives, %

	Other (indicate)	Head	Qualified employee	Unqualified employee	Entrepreneur, businessman	Individual entrepreneur, self-employed	Freelancer
☐ Stavropol Territory	8.6	6.6	52.7	14.8	5.8	9.5	2.1
☐ Krasnodar Territory	3.5	12.6	43.9	10.9	7.0	19.1	3
☐ Moscow	10.2	8.2	44.6	13.7	9.0	8.5	5.8

☐ Stavropol Territory ☐ Krasnodar Territory ☐ Moscow

Source: own compilation.

of the post-industrial economy, e.g. in management, public administration, is also increasing. Some displacement occurs when diaspora representatives are to some extent mothballed in employment in their places of residence. This point requires study and consideration not only in terms of territorial dynamics, but also in the context of social mobility of the population. For example, Moscow is likely to have more people employed in the spheres of management, medicine, and education *(Fig. 3)*. In Russia, the types of employment will not differ greatly, and if there is a difference, it will not be due to the mentality, education level or employees' capabilities, but primarily due to the direct difference between the economies of the regions.

The research also reveals some aspects of socio-economic situation and social attitudes of the Armenian diaspora. In particular, the Armenian diaspora generally assesses some aspects of their life in Russia satisfactorily[5]. According to statistics, the average per capita cash income in 2020 amounted to 75655.2 rubles per month in Moscow; 36165 rubles in Krasnodar Territory; 23791.3 rubles in Stavropol Territory. At the same time, the number of population with monetary incomes over 60 thousand rubles (according to the survey): Moscow and the Moscow Region − 47%; the Krasnodar Territory − 14.5%.

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[5] How many Armenians in Russia 2020−2021: Number, diaspora. Available at: https://armeniagid.com (accessed: January 31, 2022).

Rising rates of return have the potential to stimulate economic growth as an economically productive population with new and improved skills emerges. However, they can also constrain development, as returnees tend to be economically poor.

The COVID-19 pandemic also qualitatively changed the flows of labor migrants from Armenia to Russia (increased duration of stay, more responsible attitude to registration of stay, etc.) and led to only a temporary decrease in the quantitative indicators of migration. We found that the volume of remittances from individuals to Armenia recovered by 2021, but the crisis phenomena led to a decrease in the share of funds coming from labor migrants in the Russian Federation, which began to be replaced by other sources (Ryazantsev, Kuznetsov, 2022). Representatives of the Armenian diaspora are quite active in Armenian life and interact with the embassy. The key role is given to the Union of Armenians of Russia as a structure that unites members of the Armenian diaspora in the Russian Federation. In fact, it is the only organization whose activities cover the entire region and which involves in its activities the largest number of persons of Armenian nationality living in Russia. The Russian authorities see the diaspora as an assistant in the rapid adaptation of migrants. There are very few Armenian schools in Russia or schools where the Armenian language is studied in depth. However, not all Armenians living in Russia consider themselves to be members of the diaspora. Their level of cohesion is not the highest. The Armenian diaspora in Russia has no serious support in Armenia[6]. Strengthening the socio-economic well-being of migrants is the basis for maximizing the positive impact of international migration on the sustainable development of countries of origin

(from where migrants leave), transit (where they stay during their movement) and destination (where they arrive)[7]. To improve the life situation and comprehensive self-realization of migrants, the following directions of development and increasing the efficiency of the use of the socio-economic potential of migrants in Russia are appropriate:

— financial (income growth);

— material (improving living conditions and infrastructure);

— educational (improving educational level, mastering new competencies);

— qualification (improving qualification level, employment status);

— socio-communicative (social networking);

— psychophysical (accessibility of health insurance programs, receipt of medical services and purchase of medicines);

— age and gender (social adaptation of different socio-demographic groups of the population);

— motivational (self-actualization skills development).

Thus, the research results are our theoretical and methodological approach to the study of socio-economic potential of the Armenian diaspora and the model of applied sociological research of socio-economic potential of the Armenian diaspora in Russia[8].

Conclusion

The research results allow combining the research potential of scientists from Russia and Armenia in the theoretical and empirical understanding of the phenomenon of diaspora (Vartanova, 2022), as well as in the creation of

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[6] Armenian diaspora in Russia. Available at: https://armeniagid.com/kultura/armyanskaya-diaspora-v-rossii (accessed: January 31, 2022).

[7] Demoscope Weekly, 887−888, dated January 25−February 7, 2021. Institute of Demography of the National Research University Higher School of Economics Available at: http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/2021/0887/barom04.php (accessed: September 12, 2023).

[8] International Integration: REU Experts and Armenian Academicians on Mutual Cooperation. Available at: https://www.rea.ru/ru/news/Pages/seminar-armenia.aspx (accessed: September 9, 2023).

scientific and educational content on the topic of the study for use in the educational process in the areas of "Sociology", "Economics", "Management", etc., in the process of professional training, retraining and advanced training.

The study also provides an opportunity to combine the scientific potential of Russian and Armenian scientists in the theoretical and empirical understanding of the phenomenon of return migrants, namely:

1) to work out a set of measures for the executive and legislative authorities of Russia's regions on the effectiveness of measures to implement the national project "Demography" (Ryazantsev, Rostov, 2022), to adjust the current concept of migration policy in order to improve the socio-economic development of the country;

2) to develop a scheme for sociological monitoring of the comparative link of migrants' return to their home country, taking into account their contribution to the socio-economic development of Armenia.

The study of the socio-economic well-being of migrants also depends on the migration statistics currently collected and analyzed by Russian and foreign researchers being integrated and available to all relevant agencies.

Thus, the results of the analysis of the socio-economic well-being of migrants in Russia can be used to develop programs aimed at improving the efficiency of using the socio-economic potential of migrants from Armenia, improving the comprehensive self-realization of migrants in Russian society, for sociological monitoring of region's social well-being, objective assessment of the contribution of the Armenian diaspora to the implementation of the Strategy of socio-economic development of Russia – 2023[9] and for the planning period 2024–2025, to create an empirical basis for management decision-making in the area of social, demographic and migration policy

We believe that migration policy will bring positive results, taking into account the possibilities of forecasting migration processes and specific migration flows, comprehensive assistance from the state authorities of the Russian Federation, assistance to migrants from Armenia in adaptation and integration to new places of residence.

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