



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT
Institute of Public Policy and Administration

Labor Migration in Kyrgyzstan: Trends and Issues

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Outline

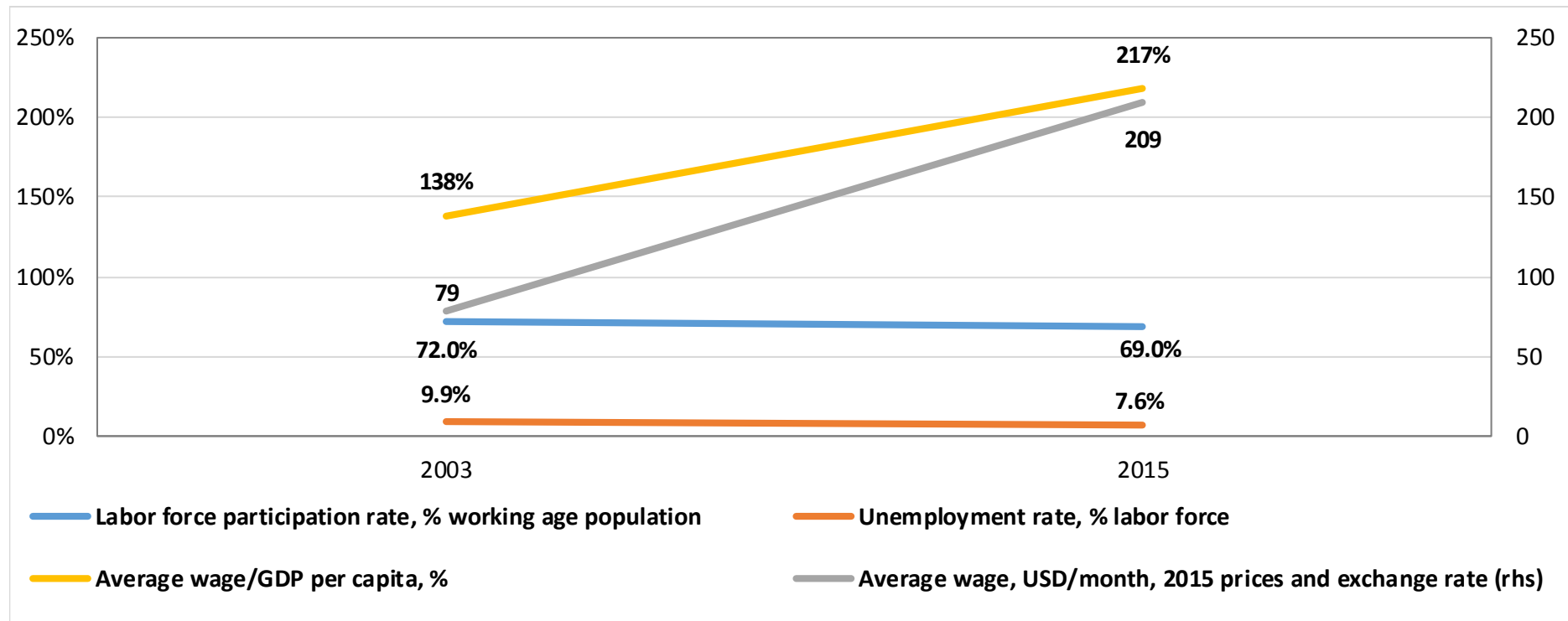
- Current situation
- The impact of migration on domestic labor market
- The impact of the recent changes and shocks on migration and remittances
- Long-term outlook and development issues
- Policy options

Current Situation

- Some **500 thousand** Kyrgyz labor migrants plus some **180 thousand** people from Kyrgyzstan who acquired Russian citizenship in the last 15 years – more than 25% of total labor force
- Several tens thousand in Kazakhstan and other countries
- Remittances of around **30% GDP** of which more than 90% come from Russia
- Substantial indirect effects (boost for domestic demand, imports and government revenue from import taxation etc.)

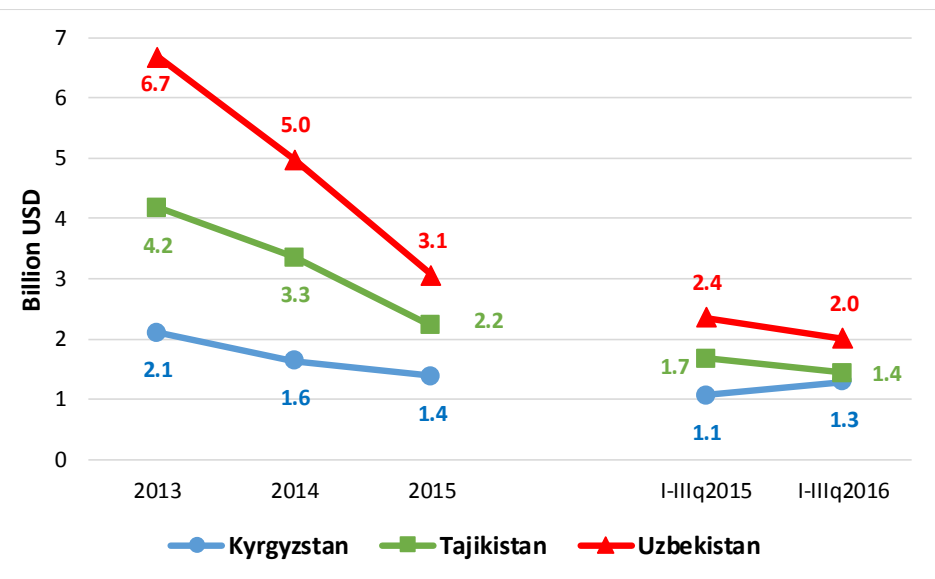
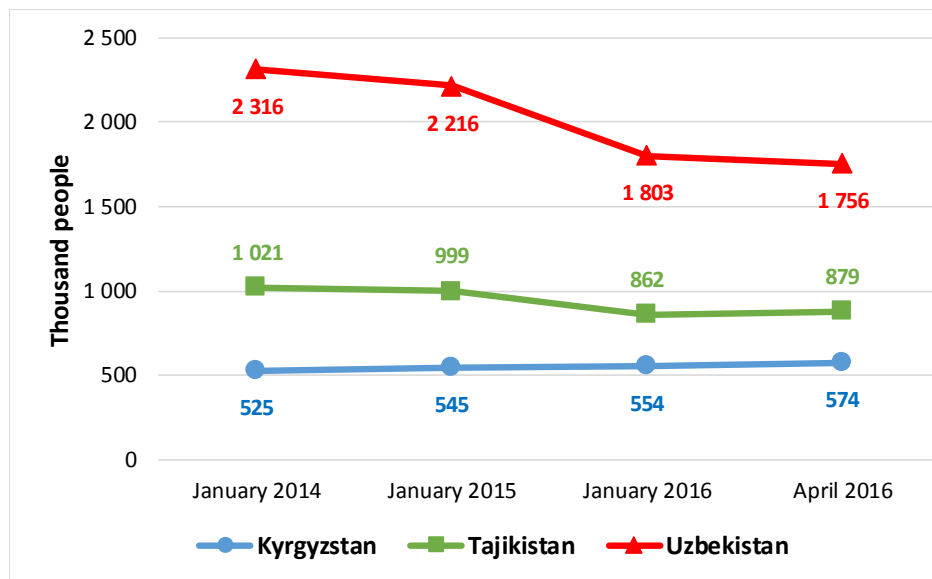
Migration and Domestic Labor Market

- Declining labor force participation rate and unemployment rate
- Wages grow faster than the economy



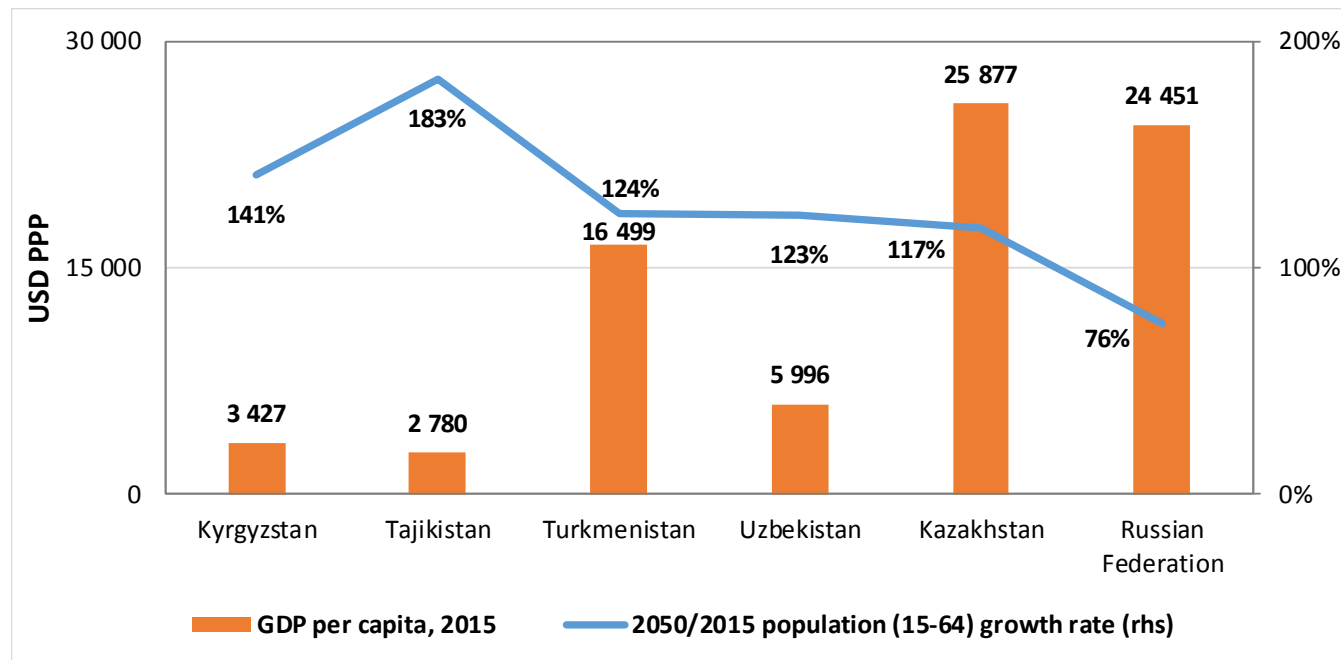
The Impact of Recent Changes

- Migration from and remittances to the Central Asia have been seriously and adversely affected by the fall in oil prices
- Accession of Kyrgyzstan to the EAEU has softened the negative impact of the regional crisis



Long-Term Trends

- High birth rates in Central Asia including Kyrgyzstan and lower birth rate in Russia are going to stay in the future
- The gap in economic development is very large
- Labor migration is win-win solution in the long-term, hence, migration is going to continue



Issues in Migration

- Labor market implications in both sending and receiving countries
- Social costs of migration
 - social insurance
 - children and families
 - public health
- Education system development: how to structure professional education?
- Transport system development – human flows must be properly accounted for
 - aviation and other passenger transport

Policy Implications

- Reducing transaction costs for Kyrgyz migrants abroad (legal protection, supply of information etc.)
- Social security and pension insurance for migrants
- Facilitating and regulating intermediaries
- Facilitating preservation of ties and return of migrants including double citizenship, retention of land ownership and other property rights etc.
- Emphasis on quality of education
- Support to pre-school, primary and secondary **general** education

Thank you!