

NINA TSVETKOVA. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION
AND THE GULF COUNTRIES (ON THE EXAMPLE OF
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE UAE)

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Abstract. The article examines the problems of international labour migration on the example of the UAE. Pull factors influencing labour migration are analyzed. The article also studies the specifics of the UAE: strict policy of state regulation and the kafala system. It is indicated that the UAE has become the country with the highest immigrant share of the population. The paper analyzes dynamics of labour migration to the UAE and changes in the structure of migration by country of origin. In 2024, the first place was occupied by immigrants from India. There are various categories of immigrants from India that the article examines: low-skilled workers, specialists and entrepreneurs. The research shows that Indians make a significant contribution to the development of education and healthcare.

In modern times, international labour migration is taking on added importance.

From the point of view of economic theory, international labour migration is a form of international economic relations: the international movement of the factor of production (labour). For many years, the author of this article has been lecturing on this issue in the course "International Economic Relations". Migration is primarily associated with the foreign-domestic wage gap. Quite a lot has been said about the pull and push factors in migration. Pull factors for immigrants are higher wages, better living standards, as well as potential social benefits. Many people are motivated by the opportunity to send money home, thus helping their family members they have left behind. Push factors of migration are political and economic, among the latter there are low income (or lack thereof) and high unemployment rate (especially critical is the high unemployment rate among the young population, and in some countries in Asia and Africa – among young people with higher education). Ironically, the greatest international labour migration took place not in the era of globalization, but in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; at that time, the immigrant-receiving countries – the USA, Australia and Argentina – had not yet implemented policies to control the flow of immigrants. In the age of mass labour migration that occurred in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the relationship between cross-border labour migration and these two groups of factors was particularly evident. "Real wages were much lower in the origin countries than in the destination countries." If we take the real wage rate in the US in 1870 as 100 per cent, then in the countries of origin of migrants it was as follows: 43 per cent of the US wage rate in Ireland, 24 per cent – in Sweden and Norway, and 23 per cent – in Italy [1].

Today, significant wage gaps still persist, being one of the main reasons for immigration to countries with higher wages not only among labour migrants, but also among refugees (for them, however, push factors are prevalent – political instability, war and threats to life).

The OECD provides data and analytical materials on two categories of international migrants: 1) *foreign-born*, excluding