

Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Faculty of Economics and Management

Department of Economics



Master's Thesis

**The migration of Russians in the 21st century and their
impact on the United Arab Emirates**

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CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE

Faculty of Economics and Management

DIPLOMA THESIS ASSIGNMENT

Bc. Arina Sopkina

European Agrarian Diplomacy

Thesis title

The migration of Russians in the 21st century and their impact on the United Arab Emirates

Objectives of thesis

This diploma thesis aims to analyze the causes of the process of emigration of Russian citizens to the United Arab Emirates. The main goal is to determine the main reasons that lead to the process of emigration, choosing a place for migration, the path of adaptation and identify the structure, procedure and position of the state in accepting emigrants from the Russian Federation, determine the spheres of the economic and social structure of the country and compare their changes and dynamics affected by emigration. A partial goal is to predict the future development of Russian migration.

Methodology

In the theoretical part, the main information will be collected from relevant data sources, news channels, compiled archives and reports distributed worldwide. Regarding the strata of the population and the categorization of living standards, information will be collected from the economic documents of the Russian Federation.

The statistical method will be applied in the analytical part of the thesis. Data collection and an online survey will take place among acquaintances, relatives and people who will be included in the mobile target group of the thesis.

Hypothesis:

The UAE is becoming the undisputed regional leader regarding innovation and start-ups. Thanks to a developed business community, many exhibitions and trade events, a favourable environment for the development of business and an innovative market are created. Therefore, it has become a frequent destination for the emigration of Russian citizens.

The proposed extent of the thesis

60-70 pages

Keywords

emigration causes, employment, impact, the United Arab Emirates, migrant, migration waves, the Russian Federation

Recommended information sources

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Declaration

I declare that I have worked on my master's thesis titled "The migration of Russians in the 21st century and their impact on the United Arab Emirates" by myself and I have used only the sources mentioned at the end of the thesis. As the author of the master's thesis, I declare that the thesis does not break any copyrights.

In Prague on 31.03.2023

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I would like to thank doc. Ing. Vladimír Krepl CSc, my family and business partners for their advice and support during my work on this thesis.

The migration of Russians in the 21st century and their impact on the United Arab Emirates

Abstract

The master's thesis is aimed at researching the true reasons for the process of emigration of Russian citizens to the United Arab Emirates. The main goal and objective of the work is to identify the main factors causing emigration, including the choice of place of relocation, methods of adaptation and the role of the state in accommodating emigrants from the Russian Federation. In addition, this study aims to identify the economic and social problems affected by emigration and compare their changes and dynamics. The second task is to predict and track future trends and development of Russian migration patterns. The purpose of this study is to provide information on the phenomenon of emigration and its impact on both participating countries through in-depth analysis.

Keywords

emigration causes, employment, impact, the United Arab Emirates, migrant, migration waves, the Russian Federation

Migrace Rusů v 21. století a její dopad na Spojené Arabské Emiráty

Abstract

Magisterská práce je zaměřena na výzkum skutečných příčin procesu emigrace ruských občanů do Spojených arabských emirátů. Hlavním cílem a úkolem práce je identifikovat hlavní faktory způsobující emigraci, včetně volby místa přesídlení, způsobů adaptace a role státu při přijímání emigrantů z Ruské federace. Dále je cílem této studie identifikovat ekonomické a sociální problémy ovlivněné emigrací a porovnat jejich změny a dynamiku. Druhým úkolem je předpovědět a sledovat budoucí trendy a vývoj ruských migračních vzorců. Cílem této studie je poskytnout informace o fenoménu emigrace a jeho dopadu na obě zúčastněné země prostřednictvím hloubkové analýzy.

Klíčová slova

příčiny emigrace, zaměstnanost, dopad, Spojené arabské emiráty, migrant, migrační vlny, Ruská federace

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1.List of abbreviations

RF – Russian Federation = Russia

UAE – United Arab Emirates

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

IMF – International Monetary Union

OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

WB – World Bank

EU – European Union

G7 – Great 7 (France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, USA, Canada)

CB – Central Bank

RUB – Russian Ruble

USD – US Dollar

AED – Arab Emirates Dirham

USSR – the Union of Soviet Socialists Republics

RANEPA – the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration

IT – Information Technology

COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019

IFCD – International Finance Center

GSPI – Global Soft Power Index

CEO – Chief Executive Officer

Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 – quarters of the year

DED – Department of Economic Development

SWIFT – the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication

RAEC – the Russian Association of Electronic Communications

FBI (FSB) – Federal Bureau of Investigations

UN – United Nations

CNBC – Consumer News and Business Channel

KEZAD – Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi

EAEU – the Eurasian Economic Union

CIS – the Commonwealkth of Independent States

ISCO – International Standard Classification of Occupation

GSPS – Global Soft Power Strategy

2.Introduction

The purpose of the master's thesis is to study the main reasons for the process of emigration of Russian citizens to the United Arab Emirates. The main goal is to identify the key factors that provoke emigration, including the choice of destination, ways of adaptation and the role of the state in accommodating emigrants from the Russian Federation. In addition, this study aims to identify the economic and social sectors affected by emigration and compare their changes and dynamics. The second goal is to predict future trends and development of Russian migration patterns.

To achieve these goals, a comprehensive analysis will be carried out, including both qualitative and quantitative methods. The study will use surveys, interviews, and statistics to collect information on the motives for emigration, decision-making processes related to destination choice, and the experiences of Russian emigrants in the United Arab Emirates. In addition, studying government policies and procedures related to the reception of emigrants will provide insight into the role of the state in facilitating and regulating migration.

In addition, this study will examine the impact of emigration on the economic and social structure of both countries. By analyzing data on employment, remittances and investment patterns, this study aims to identify the sectors most affected by emigration and assess the changes and dynamics resulting from these migration flows. This analysis will contribute to a better understanding of the economic and social consequences of emigration for both the country of origin and the host country.

Finally, this dissertation will attempt to predict future trends and developments in Russian migration patterns. By examining historical data, demographic changes and geopolitical factors, the study aims to provide insight into the potential trajectories of Russian emigration to the United Arab Emirates. This forward-looking analysis will contribute to improved policy development and planning in both participating countries.

In conclusion, the master's thesis aims to focus on the causes, processes and consequences of emigration of Russian citizens to the United Arab Emirates. By addressing the above research objectives, this study aims to provide valuable information about the phenomenon of emigration and contribute to a broader understanding of the dynamics of migration in the modern world.

3. Objectives and Methodology

3.1 Objectives

This diploma thesis aims to analyze the causes of the process of emigration of Russian citizens to the United Arab Emirates. The main goal is to determine the main reasons that lead to the process of emigration, choosing a place for migration, the path of adaptation and identify the structure, procedure and position of the state in accepting emigrants from the Russian Federation, determine the spheres of the economic and social structure of the country and compare their changes and dynamics affected by emigration. A partial goal is to predict the future development of Russian migration.

3.2 Methodology

The methodology section of the master's thesis uses a mixed methodological approach to collect and analyse data related to the migration of Russians to the UAE and its impact on the Arab Emirates. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods will be used for a comprehensive analysis of the topic.

Qualitative research methods will be used to collect detailed information and insights from relevant data sources, news channels, collected archives and reports distributed worldwide. These sources will be carefully reviewed and analysed to identify key topics, trends and patterns related to the migration of Russians to the UAE. There will also be interviews or focus group discussions with relevant stakeholders, such as Russian migrants in the UAE, to gather first-hand opinions and experiences.

Quantitative research methods will be used to collect statistical data and conduct an online survey among acquaintances, relatives and individuals who belong to the mobile target group of the dissertation. The survey will be aimed at collecting demographic information, as well as data on the motivation, experience, and performance of Russian migrants in the UAE. Appropriate statistical methods will be used to analyse the survey data and identify any significant correlations or patterns.

Triangulation by cross comparing the collected qualitative and quantitative data will be used to confirm the conclusions and ensure the reliability of the study. This will help to provide a more complete and detailed understanding of the migration of Russians to the UAE.

The pilot source of information and gathered data were from interviews with Russian migrants in the UAE. Data were treated through the Quantitative and Qualitative methods.

The survey and interview method among the target group of the research work was used as a secondary source of information collection. The secondary source of information processing included conclusions and data comparison between different target groups, combined with certain criteria to obtain broader and more accurate information. The theoretical part of the master's thesis contains a comprehensive analysis of the causes of emigration of Russians, both internal and external, as well as an assessment and data on the economic contribution of Russian migrants to the UAE in recent years, in connection with the military conflict between Ukraine and Russia. The data presented in the theoretical part, such as the diversification of the UAE economy, data on the economic situation in both the Russian Federation and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the role of Russian migrants in entrepreneurship and investment, formed and provided the basis for the practical research objectives of this study.

In the practical part, the author collected data using a survey, which consisted of collecting information and interviewing a potential target audience, involving the use of a digital survey tool created on Google Forms.

The theoretical part of the master's thesis contains a comprehensive analysis of the causes of emigration of Russians, which are the primary sources of information. On internal and external issues, as well as an assessment and data on the economic contribution of Russian migrants to the UAE in recent years, in connection with the military conflict between Ukraine and Russia. The data presented in the theoretical part, such as the diversification of the UAE economy, data on the economic situation in both the Russian Federation and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the role of Russian migrants in entrepreneurship and investment, formed and provided the basis for the practical research objectives of this study.

4. Literature Review

4.1 Evolution of Migration Pattern in the 21st Century

Contemporary Dynamics of Global Migration

Population migration has been a popular topic in both public and academic spaces for several decades now. The interest in migration processes around the world is due to their scale and importance for various aspects of society. This thesis is especially true for the last century, because it is the XX century that is called the "century of migration".

Migration processes are often identified as the main causes and factors of social change in the world. Under these conditions, the comprehensive study of migration has become one of the most relevant areas in humanitarian and social research. (Immigration policy mismatches and counterproductive outcomes: unauthorized migration to the U.S. in two eras, 2020).

The phenomenon of migration has evolved significantly in the 21st century, driven by various factors such as economic globalization, political instability, and demographic changes. This literature review aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of migration patterns in recent years, focusing on the migration of Russians to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and its impact on the Arab Emirates.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the number of migrants around the world has increased by 62% (from 173 million in 2000 to 281 million in 2022), refugees by 86% (up to 26 million in 2022), internally displaced persons - by 2.6 times (up to 55 million in 2022). At the same time, migration directions are changing much more slowly: both in 2000 and in 2022, the country with the highest share of international migrants was the UAE, and the region was Oceania. (Immigration policy mismatches and counterproductive outcomes: unauthorized migration to the U.S. in two eras, 2020)

The 21st century has witnessed a significant increase in international migration, with millions of people seeking better opportunities and improved living conditions in foreign

countries. Scholars have highlighted that globalization and technological advancements have facilitated this mobility, allowing individuals to connect and explore opportunities beyond their national borders (Castles, 2000). This global connectivity has contributed to the diversification of migration patterns, with new destinations emerging as popular choices for migrants.

4.2 Theoretical Frameworks in 21st Century Migration Studies

Migration studies in the 21st century have been shaped by various theoretical sources that substantiate and provide an understanding and explanation of the complex dynamics of modern migration models. (Castles, 2000)

One of the outstanding theoretical foundations used in migration studies is the point of view of neoclassical economics. This view views migration as a rational decision made by individuals seeking to maximize their economic benefits and improve their living conditions (Massey et al., 1993). According to this approach, people migrate in response to wage differences between their countries of origin and destination. In the context of Russian migration to the UAE, the perspective of neoclassical economics can be used to analyse the economic factors that encourage Russians to seek work and business opportunities in the UAE, such as higher wages and favourable tax regimes.

Also, one of the theoretical foundations that can be applied to the study of migration is the perspective of social integration. This perspective focuses on the processes by which migrants integrate into the social, economic, and cultural structure of the host society (Ports & Rumbaut, 2001). Social integration encompasses various aspects, including integration into the labour market, access to social services, and cultural assimilation. In the context of Russian migration to the UAE, the perspective of social integration can be used to analyse the problems and opportunities faced by Russian migrants in terms of labour market segmentation, labour rights and social integration.

Finally, the governance perspective provides a framework for understanding the role of public policies and institutions in shaping migration patterns and outcomes (Biomes and Geddes, 2018). This view recognizes that migration is a governance issue involving multiple actors, including States, international organizations, and non-State actors. In the case of Russian migration to the UAE, the governance perspective can be used to analyse

the role of the UAE government in attracting and regulating Russian migration through its policies, such as the creation of free economic zones and flexible visa rules. (Miller, 2009)

4.3 Historical background of Russian immigration to the UAE

Russian immigration to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

In this section of the literature review, I would like to draw attention to the historical background of Russian immigration to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and consider and trace the development of trends in relations between Russians and the UAE in recent years. Understanding the historical dynamics and interactions between these two entities is crucial to understanding the motives and characteristics of Russian immigration to the UAE.

1. Early communication: historically, Russia and the UAE have had limited direct interaction due to their remote location and differences in political systems. However, indirect links can be traced back to centuries-old trade routes and cultural exchanges. The Russian Empire and the Persian Gulf region, including the United Arab Emirates, maintain trade relations primarily related to the export of Russian goods (Alejandro Portes, 2005)

2. Soviet era: during the Soviet era, relations between Russia (then the Soviet Union) and the UAE were shaped by geopolitical dynamics and ideological differences. Soviet support for Arab states, including military aid to Egypt during the Arab-Israeli conflict (since 1920), led to the deterioration of relations with Gulf countries, including the United Arab Emirates. However, the two countries established diplomatic relations in the 1970 s, laying the foundation for future interactions.

3. Economic relations: at the end of the 20th century, economic relations between Russia and the UAE began to develop, mainly due to the growing economic importance of the UAE and the increasing integration of the Russian economy into world markets. The UAE has become an attractive destination for Russian companies and investors, especially in sectors such as construction, real estate and energy (Peters, 2007).

4. Post-Soviet era: after the collapse of the Soviet Union, relations between Russia and the UAE expanded significantly. The UAE's economic boom and the liberalization of the Russian economy have created trade and investment opportunities. Russian tourists are

also increasingly visiting the UAE, attracted by its warm climate and luxurious tourism infrastructure (Rogan, 2011).

5. Waves of immigration from Russia: immigration from Russia to the UAE increased significantly in the early 2000 s. Economic factors such as job opportunities and wage prospects play a crucial role in attracting Russian immigrants. The UAE's favorable business environment, tax incentives, and infrastructure development strategies attract Russian entrepreneurs and professionals seeking new opportunities. (Solomon, 2019)

6. Cultural and social exchange: cultural and social exchanges between Russia and the UAE have increased in recent years. The UAE has become a popular tourist destination for Russians, with Russian language and culture being valued thanks to the UAE's educational and cultural institutions. Furthermore, the UAE's cultural diversity and tolerance contribute to the integration of Russian immigrants and the formation of Russian communities (Rogan, 2011; Sizov, 2017).

The population of Dubai increased significantly by 100,000 people at the end of 2023, according to the Dubai Statistical Center. The increase was driven by the attraction of Russian billionaires, millionaires, and valuable personnel who helped create numerous job opportunities in the emirate over the past two years.

As of December 17, 2023, the population of Dubai stood at 3.65 million, up from 3.55 million at the start of the year. The growth in 2023 exceeded that of 2022 with 71,495 additional residents joining the emirate. This trend can be attributed to economic opportunities and a favorable business environment offered by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Various factors, including employment prospects, wage potential, and infrastructure development, have played a critical role in driving the migration trend in the UAE. These factors include the availability of skilled workers, the potential for entrepreneurship, and the ability to create job opportunities for skilled professionals. Moreover, the cultural diversity and tolerance in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have facilitated the integration of Russian migrants. This has led to the formation of Russian communities within the country. (Wessendorf, 2018)

The historical ties between Russia and the UAE have developed over time. They have transitioned from limited direct interactions to a more extensive relationship characterized by economic cooperation and cultural exchange.

This recent surge in Russian migration to the UAE is linked to economic factors and the favorable business environment in the country.

4.4 Modern factors affecting the migration of Russians

The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has a great impact on migration processes, especially among Russian citizens seeking to leave their native country. The purpose of this section of the research paper is to consider the current factors that stimulate migration in Russia in the current external conflict. It will also take into account the political and economic reasons leading Russians to emigrate and seek asylum in other countries.

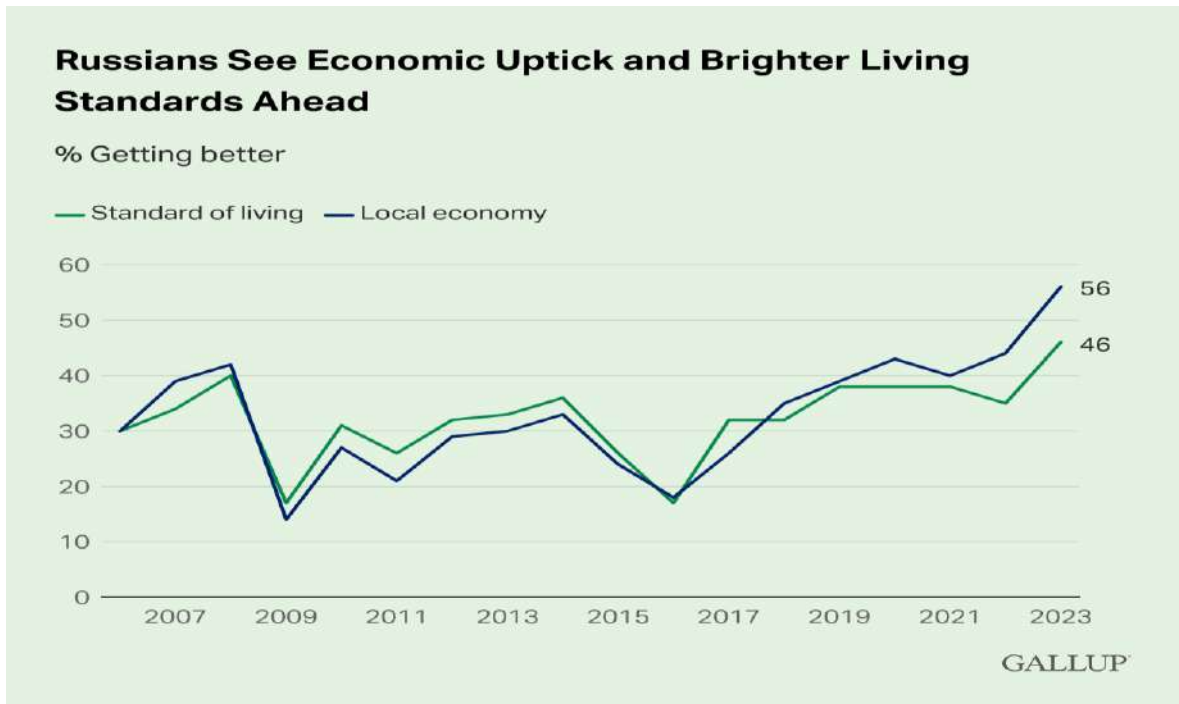
1. Economic factors:

A. Economic instability.

The war in Ukraine has exacerbated economic instability in Russia, which has led to a significant decrease in living standards, an increase in inflation over several years (2020-2022) and job cuts in most industries.

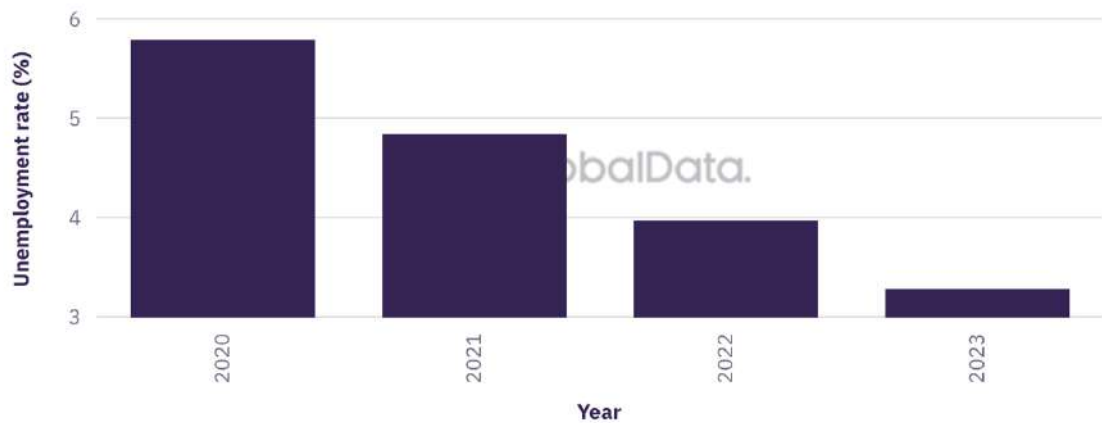
While several Russians remain optimistic about the direction of their economy, there are signs of strain. The proportion of people satisfied with their current living standards fell from 57% to 49% this year, and a third (34%) struggled to afford food at times, which is up from 27% in 2022. In October, Russia's central bank raised its main interest rate for the fourth time in 2023, to 15 %, in an effort to stem inflation. (GALLUP, 2023)

Figure 1.. Russians Economic Uptick and Brighter Living Standards



Source: GALLUP

Figure 2. The Unemployment rate of Russia (2020 - 2028, %)¹



Source: Global Data

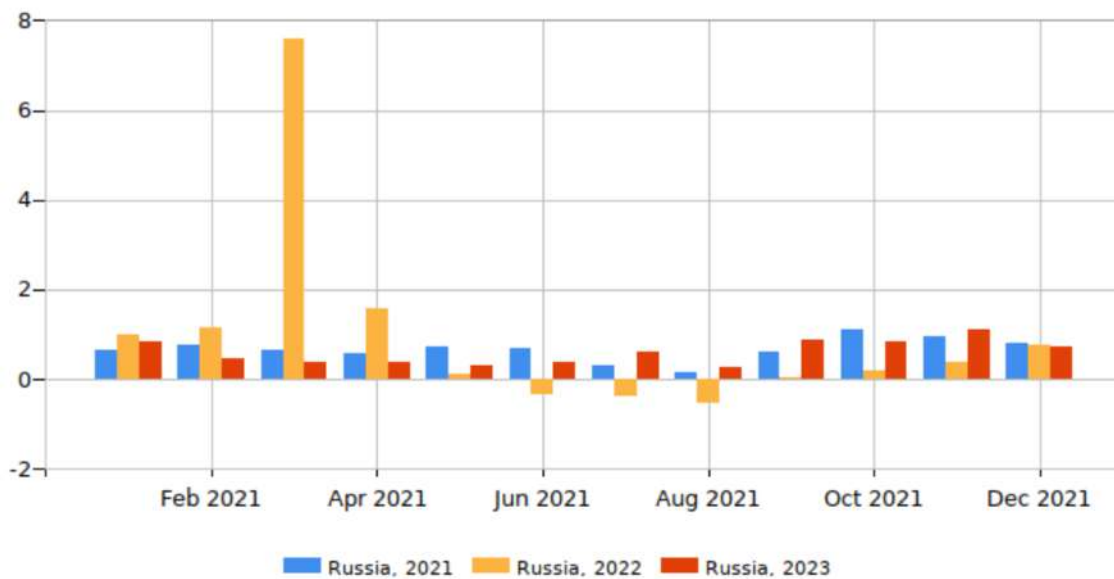
According to government data, about one million jobs were created in January-March 2021. The unemployment rate in Russia, according to Global Data estimates, rose to 5.7%

¹ Global Data

in 2020, mainly due to the loss of jobs in the economy due to COVID-19. In 2022, it was fixed at 4.60% and has tended to decrease over the past few years.

In recent years, the number of workers in Russia has decreased significantly. According to government officials, the country has seen unemployment rise by 30% in recent months since the start of the military conflict in Ukraine. (GALLUP, 2023)

Figure 3. Russia Inflation Rate²



Source: Trading Economics

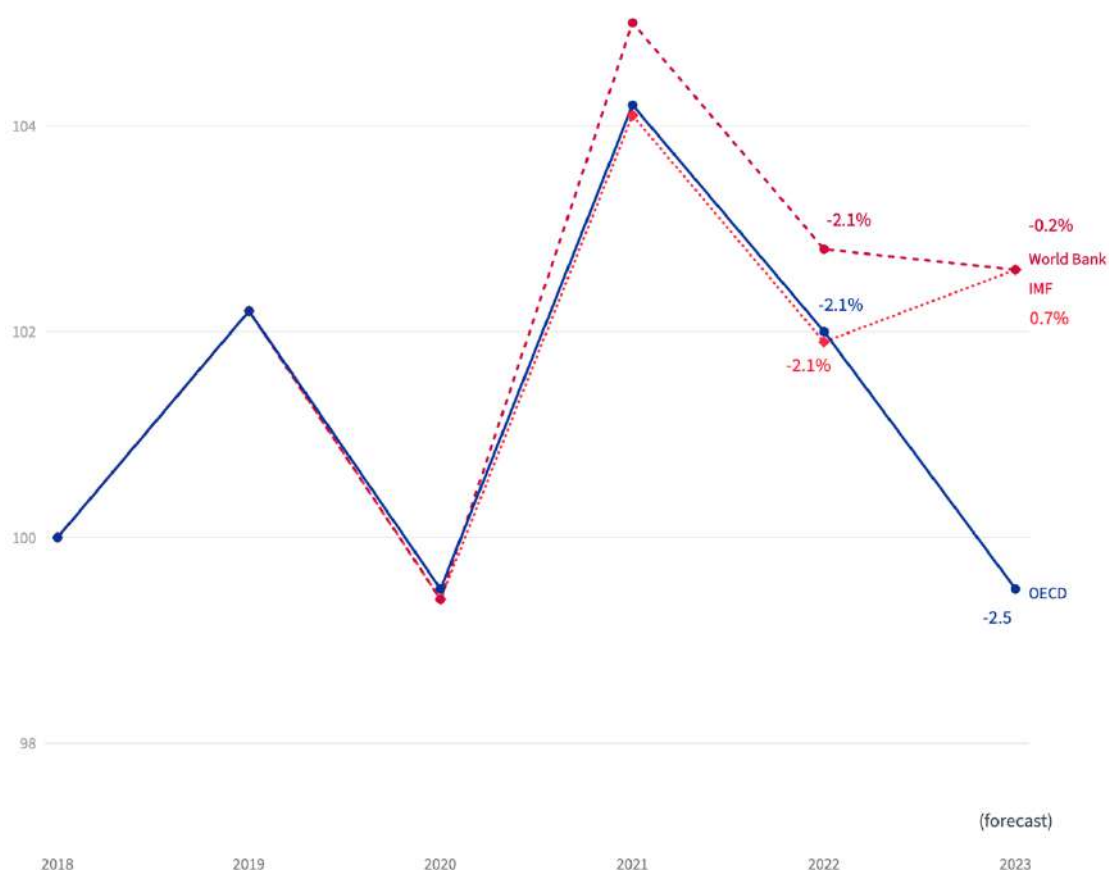
Inflation rate in Russia was 11.92% in 2022. That is 3.53 more than it was in the preceding 2021 and 4.51% more than in the following year of 2023. In 2022 Russia ranked #1 in the world by yearly inflation rate.

According to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2022 was a bad year for the Russian economy. It is estimated that in 2022, Russia’s gross domestic product (GDP) dropped by 2.1 %. (GALLUP, 2023)

² Trading Economics

Russia’s economy may continue to shrink in 2023. Its GDP is forecast to decline by 2.5% in the worst-case scenario (OECD) or by 0.2% according to the World Bank. The IMF expects growth in 2023 (0.7%).

Figure 4. Russia’s GDP – evolution from 2018 to 2023³



Source: Statista

Chart showing Russia’s GDP growth year-on-year between 2018 and 2022 based on estimations and forecasts from the OECD, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The chart shows that, in 2022, Russian GDP is estimated to drop by 2.1% according to all three institutions. In 2023, Russian GDP is expected to drop by 2.5 % according to the

³ Statista

OECD and by 0.2% according to the World Bank. IMF forecasts growth by 0.7%.
(GALLUP, 2023)

The economic downturn, in addition to international sanctions, has had a negative impact on such areas as manufacturing, finance, energy and other economic sectors. As a result, it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to maintain stable employment and maintain a decent quality of life. (Union, 2023)

B. Limitation of investment and business opportunities.

The military conflict has created an unfavorable investment environment in Russia, scaring away both domestic and foreign investors. The resulting economic stagnation and limited business opportunities have forced entrepreneurs and professionals to think about leaving the country in search of better opportunities in other countries and markets.

Since Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Council has adopted 10 packages of sanctions against Russia and Belarus. The sanctions aim to weaken Russia's ability to finance the war and specifically target the political, military and economic elite responsible for the invasion.

The sanctions imposed by the EU and its partners on Russia's financial system reduce Russia's ability to finance the war.

€300 billion of Russian Central Bank reserves are blocked in the EU, other G7 countries and Australia (two thirds of which are blocked in the EU). The sanctions imposed by the EU and its partners on Russia's financial system reduce Russia's ability to finance the war.

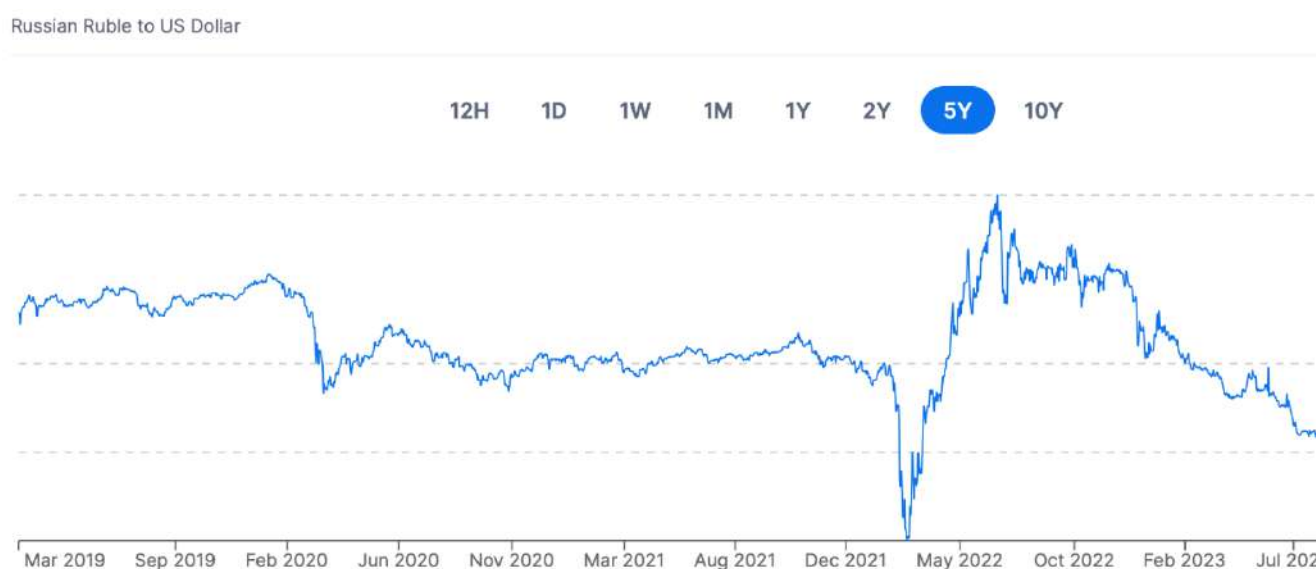
€300 billion of Russian Central Bank reserves are blocked in the EU, other G7 countries and Australia (two thirds of which are blocked in the EU).

The restrictive measures do not target Russian society. That is why areas such as food, agriculture, health and pharmaceuticals are excluded from the restrictive measures imposed.

C. Currency depreciation.

Economic sanctions and sharp fluctuations in oil prices led to a fall in the Russian ruble, which reduced the purchasing power of the population and made it much more difficult to purchase basic necessities and maintain a comfortable lifestyle. This financial pressure has also served as one of the reasons for many Russians to seek better economic prospects abroad.

Figure 5. RUB to USD Chart⁴



Source: Markets Insider

Historically, the Russian ruble reached a historic high of 150 in March 2022.

2. Political factors:

A. Repression and lack of political freedom: The war in Ukraine, in addition to the military invasion, was accompanied by the suppression of political statements and statements that differ from the position of the state, media censorship and severe forceful restrictions on civil liberties. The space for political opposition and the lack of transparency and accountability of the government has led to disillusionment among segments of the

⁴ Markets Insider

Russian population, manifested in the form of rallies, protests and actions. Such political unrest has prompted some dissenting people to seek refuge in countries that offer greater political freedom, peaceful orders and respect for human rights. The risk of regime changes or social protests in the Emirates is minimal, and this is an important factor for large businesses and human life.

B. Nationalist sentiments and patriotism: War is always deeply imbued with nationalist ideas. The Government promotes a narrative of patriotism and national unity. However, for those who do not share this ideology, the actions of the government or are concerned about the actions of the state's law enforcement agencies, emigration can be seen as a means to distance themselves and avoid conflict and join other political values by changing their place of residence and affiliation.

The war in Ukraine and the conflict in general, the situation in the country has created a complex set of economic and political factors that push Russians to emigrate and seek new opportunities elsewhere. Economic instability, deteriorating investment prospects and currency depreciation have significantly affected the standard of living and employment opportunities in Russia. Meanwhile, political repression, lack of political freedom and nationalist sentiments have prompted many Russians to unexpectedly think about leaving the country in search of a more open and inclusive political environment for their lives. Understanding these factors forms the basis of the causes and motives of the process of modern migration for host countries.

4.5 Theories of Transnationalism and Globalization in a Migration Context

The main theoretical framework commonly used in migration studies is the transnationalism perspective. Transnationalism is a popular conceptual trend in migration studies, which suggests considering migration as a two-way phenomenon that affects the development of both sending and receiving societies and at the same time connects them. The term "transnationality" was first proposed by Randolph Bourn in his essay

"Transnational America" in 1916 to describe a new type of thinking in relations between cultures. R. Burne's transnationality is reduced to identity, and also indirectly suggests a non-classical dimension of social space. Before p. Burne, back in 1907, similar ideas were expressed by the proponent of American cosmopolitanism, Jane Addams, in the work "The Latest Ideals of the World". In the 90s of the twentieth century, sociologists began to widely use the term proposed by R. Burne and its derivatives in studies of migration processes. In this area, the category of transnationalism generalizes the activity of migrants, which is not structured in accordance with the model of the interstate system but is implemented according to other laws and principles. The realization of these principles has led to the formation of a "new paradigm" that dominates migration research today - "transnational instead of international" migration. This perspective recognizes that migrants maintain and develop social, economic, and political connections across national borders, effectively living transnational lives (Glick Schiller et al., 1995). Transnationalism emphasizes the importance of social networks and social capital in facilitating migration and maintaining connections between migrants and their home countries. In the case of Russian migration to the UAE, a transnationalism perspective can be used to analyse the role of social networks and connections in facilitating and maintaining this migration flow, as well as the impact of remittances and transnational activities on the home country. Comparing the review of information and literature with the migration of Russians to the UAE due to the war in Ukraine, the perspective of transnationalism provides a deep foundation for understanding the role of social networks and connections in facilitating and maintaining this migration flow. (Schiller, 2013)

From the point of view of transnationalism, migration is considered as a two-way phenomenon that affects both the sending and receiving societies, connecting them in various ways. The concept of transnationality, first introduced by Randolph Burne and later popularized by sociologists studying migration processes, recognizes that migrants maintain social, economic, and political ties across national borders. (Nationalism: What We Know and What We Still Need to Know, 2021)

In the case of Russian migration to the UAE, the prospect of transnationalism suggests that social networks and connections play a crucial role in facilitating and maintaining this migration flow. Russian migrants can rely on their existing social networks in the UAE,

such as family members, friends, or acquaintances, who provide information, support and employment or business opportunities. These social networks serve as a link between the sending and receiving countries, helping migrants cope with the difficulties associated with settling into a new environment. (Mayhew, 2009)

In addition, the prospect of the transnationalization process indicates the impact of transnational activities on the homeland (in this case, the Russian Federation). Russian migrants in the UAE can send money back to their families through affordable payment systems or invest in businesses or real estate in Russia, making any contribution to the economic development of their home country.

They can also engage in transnational activities: participate in cultural events or maintain political ties, which further strengthens their ties with Russia and connects the cultures of both countries. (Mayhew, 2009)

4.6 Geopolitical Shifts and Forced Migration: The Russian – Ukrainian War

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has led to significant geopolitical shifts both in the region and in the world, which has led to forced migration of people from Ukraine and Russia to other neighbouring countries. This conflict has not only had a devastating impact on the lives of those directly affected by the violence but has also caused a wave of displacement and migration as individuals seek protection in other parts of the region.

The theoretical foundations of understanding forced migration in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war can be approached through the prism of transnationalism. As discussed earlier in my work, transnationalism emphasizes the interconnection of sending and receiving societies, emphasizing the role of social networks, remittances, and transnational activities in facilitating and maintaining migration flows. (Elsevier, 2023)

In the case of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, transnationalism clearly makes it clear how people cope with the problems of forced migration and seek asylum in neighbouring countries, including the Emirates.

Remittances also play an important role in the context of forced migration, as individuals can send money back to their families in their home countries to maintain their livelihoods and well-being. In the event of a Russian-Ukrainian conflict, remittances from displaced persons can help alleviate the economic difficulties faced by their families and communities back home. (Maidanik, 2023)

4.7 Russian Migration Patterns Russian- Ukrainian conflict

Emigration from Russia after the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army in 2022 is the largest wave of emigration from the country since the collapse of the USSR. It is based on a set of reasons: political persecution in the case of activists, politicians and journalists, fear for their safety in war conditions, disagreement with the actions of the authorities, and the expectation of a significant deterioration in the economic and humanitarian situation in Russia. (Maidanik, 2023)

The wave of migrations in 2022 began on February 24, the first day of the Russian army's invasion of Ukraine. If for most of Vladimir Putin's reign the main reason for moving was economic reasons, then after February 2022 it was social and political. Migrants from the 2000s and 2020s are often characterized by conservative political views. That is why Russian-speaking diasporas in different countries have always been considered by the Russian authorities as instruments of "soft influence" on a par with state propaganda. Those who left after the start of the war with Ukraine are more often critical of the Russian government. They do not support the policy of the Russian authorities, often actively oppose it, and many are persecuted at home. (Putin, 2021)

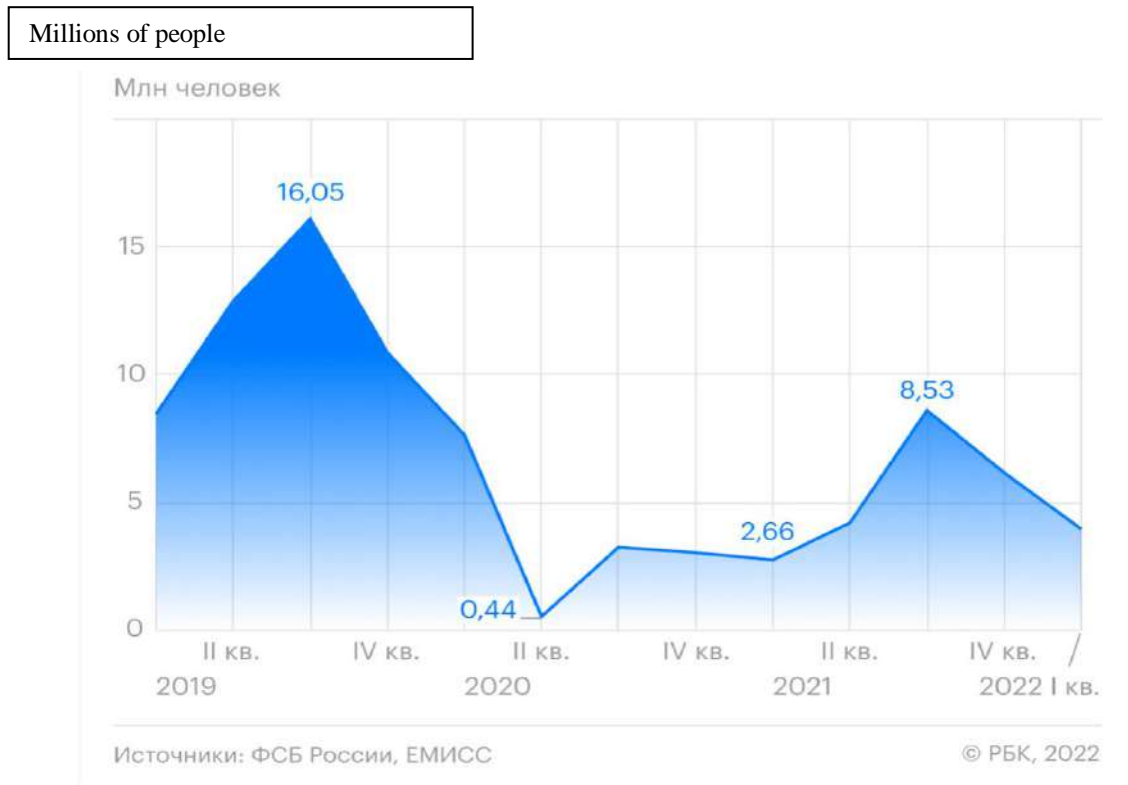
Sociologists and historians divide the factors of international migration into pushing and attracting ones. According to this classification, the wave of migration in Russia in 2022 also differs from the previous one. If before the outbreak of hostilities people were attracted by opportunities in more developed countries, then those leaving Russia after the

outbreak of hostilities often found themselves in a less secure and secure position (Russian Migration Policy and Its Impact on Human Development, 2009)

Estimates of the total number of Russian post-war emigrants vary and it is impossible to determine the exact number of immigrants. For example, the staff of the Institute for Social Analysis and Forecasting of the RANEPA stated about 100-150 thousand people who left in the first month after the invasion began. The Russian Association of Electronic Communications reported at least 70 thousand IT specialists who left Russia at the end of February and March 2022 and predicted that another 100,000 programmers would leave in April. By mid-August, estimates of the total number of those who left varied in the range of 150-800 thousand people.

The Federal Security Service reported 3.8 million citizens leaving the country in the first quarter of 2022. According to statistics published by the agency, from July to September 2022, the number of Russian trips abroad was even less than in the same period before the COVID-19 pandemic (9.7 million versus 16.1 million in 2019). (AFP, 2024)

Figure 6. Citizens leaving the Russian Federation⁵



Source: Federal Security Service of Russia, EMISS

Since the end of February, when Russia launched a special operation in Ukraine, the departure of Russians abroad has presumably increased, although official data describing this trend has not yet been released. The RAEC estimated that 50-70 thousand OT specialists left the country in February—March. (AFP, 2024)

The intensity of the outbound flow was indirectly confirmed by the volume of passports requested: in the first quarter of 2022, 1.2 million new travel documents were issued, which is 87% more than in 2021. However, this figure includes a certain number of passports issued to Ukrainian citizens in the occupied territories, which makes it difficult to accurately assess.

The announcement of mobilization on September 21 provoked a new outflow of citizens, mostly men. According to Forbes, between 600,000 and 1 million people left the country

⁵ Federal Security Service of Russia, EMISS

in two weeks. The FSB reported that as of September 25, more than 260 thousand men had left the country. Most of those fleeing mobilization went to neighbouring countries, where they can enter either without a visa or with an internal Russian passport. The United Arab Emirates has become one of the key countries that meet the requirements. (AFP, 2024)

4.8 Legal and Policy Context

Evolving Immigration Policies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Over the past few decades, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), one of the oil-rich countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, has become a popular destination for temporary migrant workers seeking employment opportunities and higher living standards. In 2013, the UAE was the fifth largest country in the world in terms of international migrants (7.8 million migrants out of a total population of 9.2 million). (Labour Migration in the United Arab Emirates: Challenges and Responses, 2013)

At the time of the founding of the United Arab Emirates in 1971, just over 344.5 thousand people lived in the country. Oil production gave the first and still valid impetus to the development of the UAE, but later the government began to make significant efforts to diversify the economy, which led to a sharp increase in the number of jobs for specialists. Over the years, more and more new businesses and enterprises have been created in the UAE, and employment opportunities for professionals in various fields have expanded, including medicine, information technology, education, tourism, e-commerce, web design, artificial intelligence, and others. The increase in the number of jobs in different sectors has led to an influx of less skilled labour.

The United Arab Emirates has undergone significant changes in recent years, and one of the most noticeable is the dramatic increase in population. According to various estimates, between 9.96 and 11.42 million people lived in the country in 2021. If we take the statistics of the United Nations, since 2010 the number of inhabitants has increased by 1.72 million people (from 8.27 to 9.99 million). (Data, 2024)

The vast majority of Emirati residents are foreigners: expats make up about 90% of the population, which is one of the highest results in the world.

Dependence on foreign labour, which is necessary to maintain economic growth and a high standard of living in the country, led the UAE Government in 1971 to introduce a temporary program for visiting workers called the Kafala Sponsorship System, which allows foreign citizens and companies to hire migrants to work. The Kafala system has posed a number of new challenges for both the UAE's domestic policy and its external directions. The main ones are ensuring economic opportunities for UAE citizens and eliminating gaps in the generally accepted opinions that human rights violations in the UAE take place in relation to migrants.

The country recognizes that its economy is heavily dependent on foreign workers, so it is in its interest to make it as easy as possible for them to come and stay. A large number of multinational companies are based in the UAE, which often have to transfer employees from one country to another – the UAE visa policy greatly simplifies this process.

Over the past few years, the UAE Government has been substantially reforming its laws to address problems with migrants, as many condemn the Kafala system due to the abuse of rights towards immigrant workers. The last of the measures prescribed in the program were - prohibiting the employer from confiscating workers' passports; introducing measures to protect workers' wages. In addition, the Kafala system poses many problems for UAE legislators, in particular, the problem of effective control of program costs (according to research, the UAE government invests about \$3,000 per foreign-born employee to provide "national infrastructure" and services, for example, security, police costs, various subsidized programs). (MirBezViz, 2023)

Every year, the UAE Government is faced with non-compliance with labour laws in relation to foreign workers, and especially female servants.

To solve a whole range of problems, the UAE Government is reforming its legislation, as well as bilateral agreements with countries of origin of migrants. International cooperation creates an opportunity for the United Arab Emirates to modernize its existing immigration policy. UAE officials demonstrate willingness and openness to cooperation on labour standards with foreign countries and international corporations.

Labour migration flows in the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Persian Gulf will increase. The United Arab Emirates is one of the most liberal countries in the Persian

Gulf and actively seeks to resolve issues of migration and human rights. But at the same time, they are facing many other pressing problems, as well as struggling to balance the needs of the labour market. At the moment, the UAE's immigration legislation needs serious revision and reform since there are more weaknesses in it than strengths.

Based on existing initiatives such as Abu Dhabi Dialogue, international cooperation with countries sending migrants, it becomes possible to expand data collection and knowledge sharing efforts in the study of migration flows, which will ensure scientifically sound policies and improve the management of labour migration in the region in the future.

Nevertheless, the threats of the existing migration policy are of greater importance than its potential, which makes it necessary to update and adjust the existing directions of immigration reforms. (Henderson, 2006).

A number of economic, legal, and social reforms carried out by the authorities in recent years to improve the business environment, stimulate foreign direct investment, attract skilled workers, and provide incentives for business expansion have played a major and important role in determining migration policy.

In particular, we are talking about simplifying the application procedure for new UAE visa programs.

So, in 2019, the country began issuing Golden Resident visas. Such a visa is an analogue of a residence permit, a permit to reside in the UAE for 10 years. In 2022, the government, having taken away and analysed the sharp jump and influx of migrants, especially from Russia, softened the conditions of the program, reducing the minimum amount of investment and expanding the categories of beneficiaries and the range of potential visa recipients. In addition, the requirement to come to the United Arab Emirates at least once every six months to maintain a visa was lifted. The term of registration of the document is 2-3 months. (MirBezViz, 2023)

A visa can be obtained for investments in real estate in the amount of 2 million AED (\$544,500) or for opening and running a business. Qualified specialists with a monthly salary of more than 30 thousand AED (about \$8170), gifted scientists and talented students can also count on a 10-year visa.

People over the age of 18 who have passed a security check and those who meet the fully specified criteria can receive a golden visa. Family members receive a visa together with the main applicant. After the expiration of the period (subject to possession of the necessary assets), the visa can be extended for 10 years an unlimited number of times. Naturalization citizenship can be obtained after 30 years of living in the UAE with a Golden visa. At the same time, multiple citizenship is prohibited in the country.

By obtaining a visa, Russian investors can optimize taxes, open a bank account for international transactions and receive additional income from assets in the UAE. The visa holder can use medical and educational services.

There is also the possibility of obtaining. A green visa that provides qualified workers with a five-year residence permit without a sponsor or employer. The minimum level of education is a bachelor's degree or its equivalent, and the salary must exceed 15 thousand AED (about \$4080) per month.

Real estate buyers can count not only on a Golden visa – there is a more affordable option: when buying an object worth 750 thousand roubles. AED (about \$205 thousand) you can get a two-year residence visa with the possibility of extension. Together with the owner of the property, all members of his family (parents, spouse, unmarried daughters, and sons under the age of 25 receive a visa. (MirBezViz, 2023)

In addition, in March 2021, the UAE introduced a digital "nomadic visa" for a period of one year, which allows you to live in the Emirates while working for a company in your home country. Dubai also offers a five-year retirement visa for foreigners over the age of 55.

For example, in 2022, in addition to a regular tourist visa, a five-year multiple-entry tourist visa appeared in the UAE, which allows the holder to stay in the Emirates for up to 90 days. It can be extended for a similar period, provided that the total period of stay in the country does not exceed 180 days a year.

The UAE has also introduced a number of new types of visas for different purposes:

- 1) Visa for job search
- 2) Business entry visa
- 3) Entry permit for temporary work
- 4) Entry permit for study purposes
- 5) Entry permit to visit relatives or friends

For the first time, candidates will not have to prove the presence of a host or sponsor. All entry visas can be extended for 30 days twice.

Those who intend to stay for a long time will need to quickly apply for a “resident visa” - an analogue of a residence permit. In order to stay in the country for a long time, you will need compelling reasons. These can be work, study, opening a business, investing, or buying real estate, as well as marrying a UAE citizen.

A foreigner residing in the UAE on the basis of a residence permit cannot travel outside the country for a period of more than six months, otherwise his residence permit will be cancelled. (MirBezViz, 2023)

The most common reason for moving to the Emirates is employment. You can come to the country as a tourist and study the local labour market on the spot or enter on a special visa to look for work.

If possible, you will need to apply for a work visa. The employer will contact the authorities; the migrant will only need to fill out application form, provide a copy of your passport and photograph. After this, you can already apply for a resident visa. It will be valid for three years.

From 2022, certain categories of highly professional workers have the right to apply for a residence permit for up to 10 years:

- professionals from many fields, including medicine, science and technology, information technology, business and management, education, law, culture, and social sciences.

Candidates must have a valid employment contract with an employer in the UAE, and also belong to the first or second professional level in accordance with the classification of the Ministry of Human Resources and the international classification of occupations ISCO.

(MirBezViz, 2023)

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education and a monthly salary of no less than 30,000 AED (\$8,168).

This type of residence permit can be applied for by talented people in the fields of culture, art, sports, digital technologies, inventors, as well as figures in other vital fields.

Foreigners who want to own or be a partner in a start-up registered in the UAE in the category of small and medium-sized enterprises and generating an annual income of at least 1 million AED (\$272,294) can also apply for a residence permit for a period of ten years. (MirBezViz, 2023)

To obtain a “golden residence”, foreigners in this category only need to obtain approval of the idea from an official business incubator, the Ministry of Economy, or the competent local authorities. Founders or co-founders of any business can apply for a golden visa of a successful start-up project if they sold their company for AED 7 million or more. Valuable specialists such as outstanding doctors, scientists, engineers, cultural figures, as well as managers and businessmen can receive a resident visa for 10 years. A separate program exists for programmers. Together with the main applicant, a spouse and children receive a residence permit. (MirBezViz, 2023)

The UAE does not approve, although it does not prohibit, marriages with foreigners. A woman from another country who marries a UAE citizen can receive a residence permit on this basis, and after 7 or 10 years, citizenship. (MirBezViz, 2023)

The development of the UAE: a soft power strategy and the creation of an attractive state for migrants

In 2013, the UAE Vision 2021 development concept was published. According to the document, Abu Dhabi strives to create a modern state, economy and society focused on innovation, progress, sustainable development and increased competitiveness. As part of the implementation of the Vision 2021, the Ministry of Happiness was established in the UAE, headed by 22-year-old Ohoud Al-Rimi. These steps were aimed not only at

improving the efficiency of public administration, but also at attracting international attention and a positive assessment of the state's activities. (Youha, 2013)

The continuation of the implementation of the Vision 2021 was the consolidation of the institution of soft power at the official level. The UAE leadership has taken care of the creation of an independent body responsible for the development of this area. The UAE's established Soft Power Council, whose main task is to develop the attractiveness of the state, presented a Soft Power Strategy two months after its foundation. It is based on four key objectives:

- on the development of a single development direction for various sectors, including economics, humanities, tourism, media and science.
- on the development of the UAE's role as a "gateway to the region".
- on consolidating the UAE as a regional leader in culture, art and tourism.
- on building and maintaining the UAE's reputation as a modern and tolerant state welcoming people from all over the world. (Youha, 2013)

One of the key elements of soft power is the attractiveness of the economic model of the state. Somewhat earlier, the UAE leadership, realizing the limitations and dependence of the state's economy on the oil resource, began working to increase the attractiveness of economic investment in the country. With the help of the redistribution of income from the oil sector, a developed infrastructure was built. The ultimate goal of this policy was to create an international financial hub. A special economic zone, the International Financial Center (IFCD), has been created in the Emirate of Dubai, which is of key economic importance. (Yalçın, 2015)

The IFCD is the largest financial hub for the Middle East, African and South Asian markets. Today, the offices of hundreds of international companies are located on the territory of the Center, and their number is increasing every year. The UAE, which offers interest-free taxation, as well as special legislation for IFCS based on case law, annually increase the inflow of foreign direct investment into the country's economy; their volumes exceeded \$ 10 billion in 2022.

The country has an effective anti-corruption system (the best in the region), which should increase the security of entrepreneurship in the state and improve the quality of the business environment. At the same time, Transparency International accuses the UAE of weak democratic institutions and insufficient fight against money laundering. According to the organization, the regulatory authorities do not pay attention to the criminal origin of funds invested in real estate in Dubai. (Yalçın, 2015)

The economy of the UAE is based on oil industry, trade markets and logistics services. As a rule, globalization controls capital and workforce; therefore, the country became a center of international business and foreign migration. Since the 1970s, the UAE have experienced radical changes, and the in-flow of migrants has increased — the population increased from 180326 to 277471. In 1975, the population doubled to 55887 and migrant workers accounted for 293788. Since the late 1970s, the number of immigrants increased gradually. For example, in 1980, the number of immigrants also doubled to 559960, in 1985, their number increased to 657400, in 1990 — to 866300, in 1995 — to 1.29 million, in 2016 — to 4.89, in 2018 — to 7.38 (49 % in Dubai, 29.6% in Abu Dhabi). The immigrant flow to the UAE is determined by the movement of international capital and labour force. (World Bank national accounts data, 2024)

It can be noted that in terms of economic diversification, the UAE is a leader among the Gulf countries, reducing the role of minerals in the economy. The model of creating economic zones, first implemented in the Emirates, became the prototype for the emergence of similar economic enclaves in other countries of the region (in Saudi Arabia and Qatar). The special emphasis on attracting foreign capital, despite the specifics of their origin, demonstrates the importance of investments for the UAE economy. Nevertheless, this may negatively affect the image of the state brand and relations with other countries of the world where these capitals were received.

4.9 Human Rights and Social Impact of Migrants on UAE

The United Arab Emirates is confidently gaining new positions in the world rankings and competing not only for financial investments, but also attracting human resources, creating the image of the UAE as a comfortable and peaceful place to live. Agencies

In real estate OAE1, investment portals cite the results of various studies in which the UAE is ahead of European countries in many indicators of comfort and safety of life. In 2023, the UAE was recognized as the most "trending" country among the countries of the Middle East and Africa, ranked 1st among the countries of the Middle East and 6th in the world in the list of the best countries to live and work in, according to the leading global network for expats Inter Nations. At the beginning of 2023, the capital of the UAE, Abu Dhabi, was recognized as the safest city in the world according to Numbeo, a global service about the cost and quality of life. Dubai and Sharjah are also in the top 10. The United Arab Emirates took 15th place in the Global Soft Power Index ranking, rising two positions from 17th place in 2021. The desire to compete with countries external to the Arab region in the field of employment is confirmed by many innovative solutions for the country but can be most vividly illustrated by the initiative to introduce a 4.5-day working week in the UAE with weekends on Saturday and Sunday. (ReportsHumanDevelopment, 2022)

At the same time, the rating methodology used by private companies may be reasonably questioned, but the presence of real qualitative changes is confirmed by the dynamics of the UAE's indicators in the main global human development ratings with a long history and verified calculation methodology.

Thus, in 2022, the UAE took the first places in the human development ranking in the Arab region. Migration of the population is the most important process for modern states with a developed and developing economy. Migration mainly compensates for the shortage of labour resources in many sectors of the economy, and the population is increasing.

The UAE and Russia have a positive migration balance and are among the world's largest centers of influx of migrants from near and far abroad. At the same time, the regulatory and legal regulation of migration processes in the countries under consideration differs significantly from each other, which allows us to talk about different options for legislative support for attracting and working with migrants in these states.

(ReportsHumanDevelopment, 2022)

Based on the main provisions of the current legislation of the Russian Federation and the analysis of trends in external labour migration, it is possible to conceptually formulate some priorities of migration policy:

- Systematization and updating of Russian legislation in order to attract highly qualified specialists from other countries and facilitate the procedure for obtaining citizenship. Here, it is important to conduct careful monitoring of problems and existing contradictions between federal and regional regulatory legal acts adopted by the levels of government.
- Improving the work of government agencies, including at the level of diplomatic missions, and public organizations in order to educate, train and assist citizens who wish to return or move to the Russian Federation. (ReportsHumanDevelopment, 2022)
- Research and study of the experience of various countries in solving the problems of attracting and organizing work with migrants, including the UAE, in terms of introducing new effective tools for regulating labour migration. (ReportsHumanDevelopment, 2022)

Human Rights of Migrants

According to Mesudi, when 50 % or more of society is made up of migrants, traditions cannot be properly preserved. Mesudi believes that migrants can adapt to local traditions through social learning, and empirical research proves that acculturation is characteristic of the second generation, which passes on to the cultural values of the host society. This argument works if migrants are a minority and the host country wants to integrate them into the national culture. In the UAE, the situation is different: migrants dominate the local culture because they make up the majority; however, they can bring great benefits and contribute to the development of the country and its communities. Migrant workers have changed the social structure of the UAE, influencing social interaction and transforming everyday culture. In his analysis, Gramsci Freire defines cultural hegemony as an instrument of power dominance that depends on the education system, the political system, natural resources and even everyday vocabulary. He believes that cultural hegemony forms political and social conflicts — it is a tool by which one class controls other classes and creates systems dominated by ideology.

This statement explains the situation in the UAE, where one group dominates the other. Gramsci mentioned that the ruling class believes in the approval of other classes and their acceptance of his leadership.

Indeed, tolerance and acceptance are the most discussed issues in the UAE.

The Government creates a special environment for immigrants to integrate them into all sectors of society; at the same time, the UAE preserves and promotes its unique traditions, culture and heritage, which is becoming increasingly difficult, given that 90% of the population are immigrants. (Dubai, the sustainable, smart city, 2022)

According to Katiravelu, there is always a situation of inequality — the wages of foreign workers are extremely low; however, they can cope with the difficult circumstances of everyday life. Kathiravelu studied the social, economic and immigration status of international workers and identified Dubai as an example of inequality. She presents immigrants as victims and ignores their impact on the local social environment (most immigrants are male workers who live in downtown neighborhoods).

Gramsci studied the influence of an invisible force, and this idea is rooted in Marxist theory, according to which ideology, beliefs and shared values reproduce class relations and hide conflicts. (Dubai, the sustainable, smart city, 2022)

This idea explains the situation in the UAE: migrant workers for the most part have invisible power and can hide contradictions. The situation is unpredictable; all migrant workers have common interests (for example, wage increases), regardless of their differences.

Santucci explains that Gramsci's analysis of social conflict emphasized the ability to The ruling class to achieve a better position in the struggle. He believes that the ability of any social class to achieve hegemony depends on its ability to unite intellectuals and absorb traditional literati of previous historical periods. The most important feature of each class aspiring to power is the struggle to represent and assimilate the ideology of traditional intellectuals. This assimilation occurs faster and more effectively if the group makes further changes to its intellectual composition. (Gramsci, 2023)

Socioeconomic Impacts

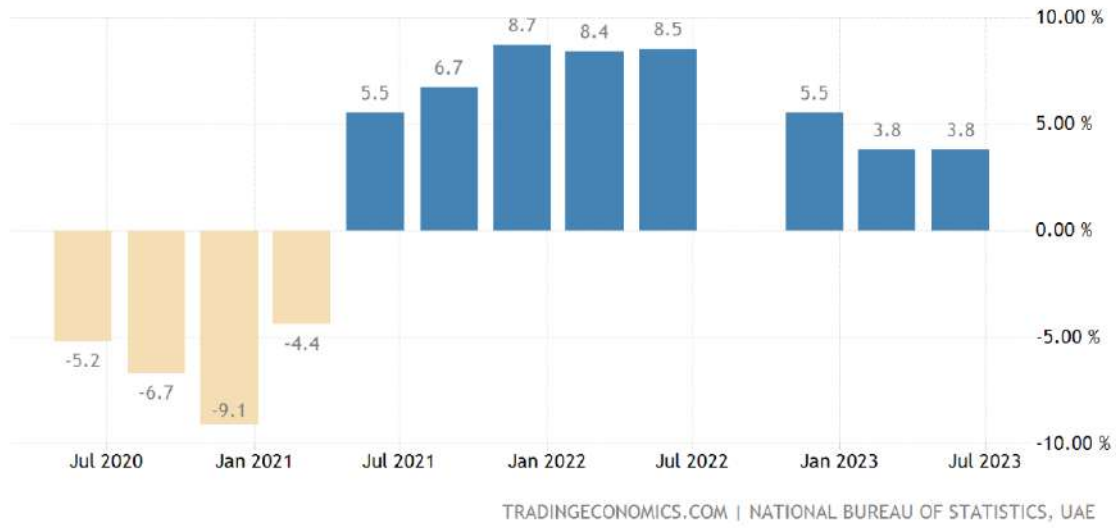
The UAE has a high GDP and a diversified economy. It is the largest economy in the Arab world after Saudi Arabia. Oil and gas production, tourism and international finance are important sectors here. Although there are many low-paying jobs in the country, expatriates' wages and, in general, their standard of living are usually higher than at home. (International Monetary Fund, 2023)

As of October 2023, the UAE ranks 32nd in terms of nominal GDP (\$503.9 billion) with a share of 0.5% of global GDP and 20th in terms of GDP per capita in the world (\$47,793). The average growth rate of the country's real GDP since 1980 (3.4%) was ahead of the same indicator for the region (3.1%) but was below the average among developing countries (4.4%). According to IMF forecasts, similar dynamics will continue after 2022 and only closer to 2027, the UAE's real GDP growth rates will come close to the average growth rates of developing economies. (International Monetary Fund, 2023)

It is worth noting that the volatility of the UAE's real GDP growth rates was quite high at the beginning of the analysed period and decreased after 2000. The reason for the increased volatility of the indicator before 2000 is the strong dependence of the economy on oil prices (which are closely interrelated with global economic activity). And the decrease in volatility can be explained by a gradual decrease in the share of oil GDP in the total GDP structure of the country. (Statista, 2024) Over the past 40 years, the state has managed to significantly diversify the economy. In 1980, oil and gas GDP provided more than half (55.2%) of the country's total GDP, by the beginning of 2000 the figure had almost halved (to 28.7%), and by the end of 2023 it amounted to 24.5%. (International Monetary Fund, 2023)

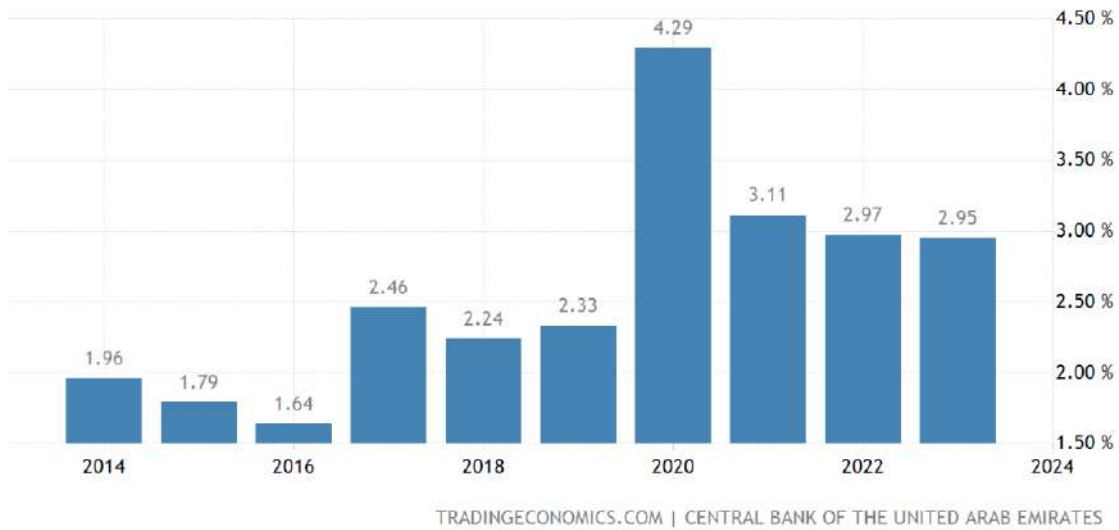
Unemployment Rate in the United Arab Emirates decreased to 2.95 percent in 2023 from 2.97 percent in 2022. Unemployment Rate in the United Arab Emirates averaged 2.39 percent from 1985 until 2023, reaching an all-time high of 4.29 percent in 2020 and a record low of 1.15 percent in 1985. (UAE Ministry of Economy)

Figure 7. United Arab Emirates GDP Annual Growth Rate⁶



Source: Trading Economics

Figure 8. United Arab Emirates Unemployment Rate⁷



Source: Trading Economics

⁶ Trading Economics

⁷ Trading Economics

4.10 Economic Contributions of Russian Migrants

In light of the recent events that took place after February 24, companies from Russia actively began to look for opportunities to develop their international business, using the unique potential of the United Arab Emirates. Sergey Sorp, a leading expert on the relocation of Russian business to the UAE, entrepreneur, investor, managing partner of the SORP Group (Dubai), told us about this trend. (UAE Ministry of Economy)

Russian migrants have played a significant role in the economic development of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in recent years. The literature on the economic contribution of Russian migrants to the UAE highlights the various ways in which they have contributed to the country's economy, including through entrepreneurship, investment and skilled labour.

Entrepreneurship: Russian migrants in the UAE are actively engaged in entrepreneurship, setting up businesses in various sectors such as real estate, hospitality, and retail. These enterprises not only contributed to the diversification of the UAE economy, but also created employment opportunities for both local residents and other expatriates in the country. For example, Russian-owned restaurants, cafes, and boutiques have become popular among residents and tourists of the UAE, contributing to the growth of the hotel business and retail trade.

Pavel Lyulin, Vice President of the Union of Retail Chains, noted that Russian businesses and many Russians are already working in Dubai. In his opinion, entering this market will be logical and rational from the point of view of the company's development.

"Moreover, a record number of Russian companies opened offices there last year," Pavel Lyulin added.

Such domestic brands as Belle YOU, Nikita Efremov, Post Meridien, Lichi, Sodamoda are already represented in the UAE market, said Anna Lebsak-Kleimans, CEO of Fashion Consulting Group.

As previously reported, Osteria Mario and Shvili restaurants, owned by the Russian holding Tigrus, will open in Dubai in March 2023. They will work in the Dubai Hills Mall shopping and entertainment center, as well as in the Dubai Marina area.

Tigrus Holding will try to work in Dubai both independently with a local partner and according to the classic franchise model. The payback period of the projects is expected to be about three years. The company plans to open about thirty restaurants in the UAE.

Earlier, the first establishments in Dubai were already opened by Alexey Vasilchuk, co-founder of Restart Vasilchuk Brothers. Boris Zarkov, the White Rabbit family, and Dodo Pizza, Russia's largest pizza chain, are also planning expansion into the UAE.

Together with the registration of the company, the entrepreneur receives a resident visa. The owner of the company obtains a residence permit for three years, and those who are employed in a controlled company — for two years with the possibility of extension. They also receive protection from the automatic exchange of tax information.

In March 2023, the Dubai Department of Economic Development (DED) registered 2,459 new companies, which is 35.4% higher than the result of March 2022, which amounted to 1,816 enterprises.

According to DED, this impressive growth has led to the creation of 9,661 jobs.

According to the department's statistics, 58% of new companies received commercial licenses, 39.3% - professional, while the number of tourist and industrial licenses amounted to 1.9% and 0.8%, respectively.

The number of applications for reserving commercial designations, which usually precede business registration, increased by 11.4% year-on-year in March to 3,656. The number of initial approvals reached 2,921, and the number of business permits issued increased to 1,677.

In addition, the Department of Business Registration and Licensing issued 190 fixed-term licenses, and the volume of issued trader licenses increased from 179 in March 2022 to 226 in March 2023, that is, by 26.3%.

This positive trend has been observed since the beginning of 2023. In February, more than 2,200 trading licenses were issued to start-ups, which is 37% higher than the data for February 2022.

Last month, DED representatives noted that the entry of new companies into the market would benefit such sectors of the city as real estate, construction, and hospitality.

As a result of the registration of new companies, more than 8,500 vacancies were opened in February.

In addition, in February, DED processed 25,269 applications for registration and obtaining licenses, which is 27% more than in February 2022.

4.11 Economic impact

Russian migrants have also made significant investments in the UAE, especially in the real estate market. Many Russian investors have purchased real estate in Dubai and other emirates, which has led to an increase in demand and prices for real estate in the country.

As a vivid example of the presence of Russian business in the UAE, such Russian companies in Dubai as Lukoil Overseas Holding Ltd., Kaspersky and Rosneft can serve. And the senior management of Lukoil Overseas Holding Ltd. earlier this year decided to open its regional central office in Dubai. All staff are fully provided with accommodation and living conditions.

It is important to note that the United Emirates includes seven Emirates, each of which has its own legislation. For example, the tax legislation of the Emirates is not regulated at the federal level: each Emirate uses its own tax policy. This allows us to significantly expand the opportunities and prospects for business in the UAE. Each Emirate has its own specifics, and, accordingly, separate benefits and opportunities to optimize the costs of tax and customs duties.

Russian companies in the UAE are actively involved in many market sectors. Many representatives of domestic businesses, ranging from small and medium-sized businesses to the largest corporations, seek to enter the international market in the United Arab Emirates. It can be noted that there is an incredible boom in the domestic tourism business, today there is no travel company in Russia that would not have established contacts with

the United Arab Emirates. Russian business in the UAE is actively involved in the development of the tourism industry.

The attractiveness of the United Arab Emirates for foreign investors is largely due to the presence of specialized territories that maximize the optimization of customs and tax duties of the state, these are the so-called free trade zones. Free economic zones exist on the territory of the United Arab Emirates and are increasing in quantity every year. (UAE – Russia: 2023-24 Trade and Investment Dynamics, 2023)

Such free economic zones are under the control of state-owned companies and offer unique business opportunities. A business operating in such a free economic zone is guaranteed to become profitable, which is what attracts more and more foreign investors to the country. Russian companies in Dubai use all the opportunities provided by the state, including the possibility of 100% participation of foreign shareholders and the absence of restrictions on the movement of financial assets. (Statista, 2024)

Many companies representing Russian business in the UAE carry out their commercial activities in free zones. The Emirates has the most simplified procedure for state registration of companies. For companies in the Emirates, it is permissible to own real estate and establish companies in the domestic market. Companies in the UAE are used to optimize customs and tax charges, as well as to ensure complete confidentiality of information affecting real business owners.

Local authorities are directly interested in attracting foreign investment capital into the economy, therefore, they are implementing a policy of high loyalty to foreign investors and creating ideal business conditions. Russian companies in Dubai are successfully earning and reinvesting their income.

Economic relations between the United Arab Emirates and Russia are actively developing. The total volume of trade turnover between the states is increasing every year. Russian business in the UAE is gaining momentum. There is a great interest of Russian investors in the field of precious metals, household appliances and equipment, automobiles, chemical products, wood, and food products. Russian business in Dubai is represented by a wide range of small, medium, and large companies in various sectors of the economy, ranging

from travel agencies to large multinational oil corporations. (UAE – Russia: 2023-24 Trade and Investment Dynamics, 2023)

Russian companies in Dubai are well aware that the Arab Emirates market is very capacious and quite promising, opening up great opportunities. At the interstate level, the energy and fuel complex, nuclear and electric energy, civil aviation and metallurgy, innovative technologies and space shipbuilding, agriculture and transport are among the most promising areas.

Well-known domestic companies operating in the UAE market include Kamaz, Stroytransgaz, Technopromexport, Russian Helicopters and many others. Medium and small businesses are also involved in international economic and trade relations. In addition to trade and economic relations, there is an active exchange of international experience in business organization, and Russian companies in Dubai are actively involved in the development of international trade and friendly relations.

In 2022, 700 Russian companies were established in the UAE which increased their number to 4,000 presently operating in the Middle Eastern country. With the growth in the number of Russian immigrants, the demand for the services of Russian companies in the UAE has also increased.

Within weeks of Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, waves of Russian nationals came to Dubai to reside and invest their money into property, where it would be safeguarded from Western sanctions. Several real estate professionals in the glitzy, tourist-popular emirates told CNBC that Russian parties made up the highest proportion of transactions by nationality for the past year among their client bases. Sajwani estimated Russian nationals comprised about 15% of his customer base. (re:Russia, 2023)

Dubai was already seeing its hottest real estate market in years within the early months of the war. Sales in the sector rose 45% year-on-year in April 2022 and 51% in May, according to the Dubai Land Department.

In 2022 alone, Russians purchased real estate in the UAE for a total amount of more than US\$500 million. Related to this trend is the growing tourist flow from Russia to the UAE

which exceeded pre-pandemic figures – 1.2 million trips in 2022, which is some 60% more than in 2021.

To boost bilateral investments; the UAE has opened a Russian section within the Abu Dhabi trade hub in the KEZAD economic zone, which is aimed at attracting Russian enterprises from the Eurasian space to activities in a favourable investment environment. This is especially important against the backdrop of the upcoming signing of an agreement on free trade in goods between the EAEU countries and the UAE.

Russians have invested almost \$200 million in Dubai real estate.

Russians are one of the largest groups of investors in the Dubai real estate market, writes the Khaleej Times newspaper. Dubai, United Arab Emirates. According to one of the heads of the local real estate agency Akar Rel Estate, over the past year more than 300 Russians have invested more than \$190 million in the Dubai real estate market.

Experts say that up to 60 properties worth US\$1 million or more are sold in the UAE to investors from Russia and the CIS countries every month. And this trend has every chance to continue and intensify, despite new sanctions from other countries against Russia and even thanks to them. Before making predictions about the future of the Dubai real estate market, we need to look back at the entire year 2022 and identify the main driving forces for the processes taking place in the housing market. (Union, 2023)

Experts agreed that Dubai will soon become the leader in demand among Russian home buyers abroad. The real estate market in Dubai is booming today, with sales volumes up by more than 80% in January, partly because the dirham is not subject to such major fluctuations as the dollar or euro.

There are two different types of Russian-speaking investors buying property in Dubai: those who plan to rent out the purchased property, and end users. And in the current difficult international situation, a stable income from real estate in the UAE can become a lifeline for Russians.

Already 75% of end users from Russia are interested in purchasing predominantly exclusive real estate in Dubai, for example, apartments costing about US\$ 3 million. And among these buyers there are owners of very large fortunes. (re:Russia, 2023)

In addition, Russian investors have been involved in various other sectors such as construction, transport, and technology, contributing to the overall economic growth of the UAE.

“Russian investments in the UAE economy until the beginning of 2023 amounted to about \$1.1 billion, investments of Russian companies in the country were in such areas as industry, logistics, real estate, agriculture and technology,” said the UAE Minister of Economy. UAE companies have also “invested in many vital areas” in Russia, including food, beverages, real estate, and energy”. (Putin, 2021)

“The UAE was the first destination among Arab countries for Russian investment and the largest Arab investor in Russia in recent years,” he said. Al-Mari added that there are many Russian tourists in the country. “What we see is an increase in relationships, and we see an increase in interaction between people,” he continued. (Putin, 2021)

Qualitative approach in those areas in which the parties seek to interact, in particular in the areas of science, artificial intelligence, green energy and technology. “These are the areas we are focused on moving forward,” he said. (Putin, 2021)

On June 1, 2018, the Presidents of Russia and the UAE, Vladimir Putin, and Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, signed a Declaration of Strategic Partnership between the two countries. Trade between Russia and the UAE has been increasing over the past few years. Thus, trade turnover between Moscow and Abu Dhabi at the end of 2022 increased by 68%, to \$9 billion, Deputy Prime Minister and Head of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation Denis Manturov reported in February 2023 on the side-lines of the international defence exhibition IDEX 2023 in Abu Dhabi. (UAE Ministry of Economy)

5. Practical Part

5.1 Introduction to Practical Research

In the theoretical portion of this research project, a study was conducted and an analysis of various sources of information was undertaken, with the aim of identifying the causes of Russian migration and factors that influence Russian migration. The theoretical portion of this analysis included an examination of both internal and external factors, as well as socioeconomic reasons for Russian migration, and an evaluation of the economic impact of Russian migrants on the United Arab Emirates in recent years. This evaluation was carried out in the context of the ongoing military conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which escalated to an official state of full-scale war in early 2022. The data presented in the theoretical section of the research combined information on the diversification of the UAE's economy and the current economic situation in Russia and the UAE. The theoretical section also noted the significant role of Russian migrants in entrepreneurship and their contribution to recent investments in various economic sectors. The data and main findings presented in the theoretical portion of this research formed the basis for achieving the practical research objectives and verifying previously made assumptions.

These findings were supported by theoretical facts and statistical evidence. In the practical section, an analysis of specific data and responses from individuals divided into target groups was conducted, utilizing real sources (a self-created questionnaire and interviews on the Google Docs platform). Communication with these individuals confirmed their hypotheses and led to more accurate results. Through the analysis of the data collected and the discussion in this study, additional insights into the migration of Russians and the factors and influences that contribute to this, as well as its impact on the United Arab Emirates, were gained.

This research enabled a more informed understanding of the issue of migration and its implications for socio-economic development in the country. The practical part of the study includes a description of the research undertaken, the target audience, the survey design and the data collected. The discussion and findings section presents a detailed analysis based on empirical evidence and findings from previous research.

5.2 Research Design

Methodology Overview

The methodology section of the master's thesis will use a mixed approach combining qualitative and quantitative research methods. Qualitative research methods will include collecting detailed information and insights from relevant data sources, news channels, archives, and reports around the world. Interviews and discussions with Russian migrants in the UAE will also be conducted to gather first-hand opinions and experiences and further analyse the information received.

As for quantitative research methods, they will include collecting statistical data and conducting an online survey among acquaintances, relatives and individuals belonging to the target group of the dissertation. The study will focus on demographic information, motivation, experience, and performance of Russian migrants in the UAE.

To ensure the reliability of the study, triangulation will be used by cross comparing the collected qualitative and quantitative data. This approach will provide a more complete understanding of the migration of Russians to the UAE. Ethical considerations will be paramount throughout the research process, with informed consent from participants and their privacy protected in accordance with ethical guidelines and standards.

The methodology of this master's thesis will provide a thorough analysis of the emigration of Russian citizens to the UAE, aimed at promoting a broader understanding of the dynamics of migration in the modern world.

5.3 Data Collection

Sources of Data

The theoretical part of the master's thesis contains a comprehensive analysis of the causes of emigration of Russians, both internal and external, as well as an assessment and data on the economic contribution of Russian migrants to the UAE in recent years, in connection

with the military conflict between Ukraine and Russia. The data presented in the theoretical part, such as the diversification of the UAE economy, data on the economic situation in both the Russian Federation and the United Arab Emirates, and the role of Russian migrants in entrepreneurship and investment, formed and provided the basis for the practical research goals of this study.

In the practical part the author has gathered the data with the help of a survey, which consisted of the collection of information and the method of interviewing a potential target audience involved the use of a digital tool - a survey created on Google Forms. The linked was directed to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdyKmWn5_uf0TnH2CyWTS3_CxtCc0Qqyg_KYIjWWx_lGtMpbuw/viewform to study the migration of Russians to the Arab Emirates.

The survey was distributed among Russian migrants in the United Arab Emirates through social networks and shared chats and groups on social networks, where Russian migrants in the United Arab Emirates actively communicate and exchange information. The potential audience reach is 3,000 people, of whom 849 people participated in the survey and gave detailed answers. The responses names are anonymous, and any participants could have stopped the participation at any time, in this case the survey would not be considered as finished.

The stages of conducting the survey and collecting information:

1. Setting goals and objectives of the study: the main purpose of this study was to study the real causes of migration of Russians to the Arab Emirates, analyse their adaptation and integration into local society, socio-economic activity and contribution to the economy and society of the country.
2. Survey development: in order to achieve the above goals, it was necessary to develop a structured survey on an online platform
3. Creating a survey on Google Forms: creating a survey on the Google Forms platform provided convenient access to the survey via the Internet, the ability to automatically collect and analyze data from respondents, as well as convenient and fast distribution of links from surveys to target people.

4. Dissemination of the survey: The survey was distributed among Russian migrants in the United Arab Emirates. Instagram Facebook and popular social networks were used for this purpose, and among large groups in Telegram, where Russian migrants actively communicate and share their experiences.

5. Processing of the information received: for a complete and accurate data analysis, statistical information was processed, and graphs were created in Excel for clarity and writing conclusions.

In the practical part of the study, interviews and surveys were conducted with Russian migrants in the UAE to collect information about their business activities not only in numbers, but also in general terms, about investments in various sectors of the country (the most significant part is real estate investments) and about the overall contribution to the economy and development of the country as a whole. The information gathered during these interviews and surveys provided a direct link to theoretical conclusions and hypotheses about the economic contribution of Russian migrants and confirmed the hypotheses put forward earlier:

1. Russian migrants choose to emigrate to the UAE primarily for economic opportunities, including entrepreneurship, investment, and skilled labour.

2. The state plays a significant role in accommodating Russian emigrants in the UAE through policies and procedures related to migration.

3. Emigration of Russian citizens has a significant impact on the economic and social structure of both Russia and the UAE, with sectors such as real estate, hospitality, and skilled labour being most affected.

4. Future trends in Russian migration to the UAE are likely to be influenced by demographic changes, geopolitical factors, and economic opportunities in both countries.

Practical research tasks were aimed at studying how, in what way and in what volume Russian migrants contributed to the diversification of the UAE economy through entrepreneurship in sectors such as real estate, hospitality and retail.

In addition, the practical objectives of the study were to study the role of Russian migrants in attracting foreign investment to the UAE and creating employment opportunities for both local residents and other expatriates from around the world, based on statistics conducted in the first theoretical part of the research work.

By collecting data on migration trends, the causes influencing the migration process of Russians to the Emirates, investment and employment structure among Russian migrants, the study established a link between the theoretical foundations of economic contribution and the real life and entrepreneurial experience of Russian migrants in the UAE, which is derived from actual interaction with the target group of people in this dissertation.

In general, the practical research objectives of the master's thesis are based on a theoretical analysis of the economic consequences and reasons of migration from Russia to the UAE by providing empirical data and information from the experience of Russian migrants themselves, as well as relying on statistical data from official sources and statements by official representatives of both countries (the Russian Federation and the United Arab Emirates).

The main source of data collection and practical information is interviews - surveys of real people who belong to the target groups of this study – Russian Migrants in UAE. After analysing the first part of the survey, we managed to collect information about 187 respondents who participated in the survey. The respondents were divided into groups according to several criteria: age criterion, level of education and degree of study, profession and branch of work, level of annual income and marital status.

5.4 Data analyse and Findings

Segmentation of the respondents

The respondents were divided and segmented into 5 groups according to criteria and data which was gathered through the survey

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdyKmWn5_uf0TnH2CyWTS3_CxtCc0QqygKYljWWx_lGtMpbuw/viewform).

1. Group of young people:

Age: 18-24 years

Education level: do not have a higher education, may be in the process of studying at a college or university.

Professional experience: novice employees, possibly temporary part-time jobs during training. Mostly online professions in social networks and blogging.

Income level: lower-than-average income from temporary part-time jobs/parental support.

Average annual income: \$40,000 - \$45,000 per year.

Marital status: they do not have family obligations, are not married and are in a loving relationship that does not affect their choice of life path in any way.

2. Group of young adults:

Age: 25-39 years.

Education level: completed bachelor's or master's degree, have a full-fledged higher education, have 1-2 years of work experience.

Place of work/employment: stable employment in official companies or startups. 30% of the respondents in this group have their own business.

Income level: above average. From \$60,000 per year and above.

Marital status: 90% of respondents have an official marriage and long-term family relationships.

3. The middle-aged and high-income group:

Age: 40-54 years old.

Level of education: full-fledged higher education and higher degree: Doctor.

Place of work/employment: more advanced and intellectual professions, scientific activities, own companies and businesses, stable and successful career.

Income level: high income level. From \$500,000 per year and above.

Marital status: married and have a family.

4. The middle-aged and middle-income group:

Age: 40-54 years old.

Level of education: various, full-fledged higher education or secondary vocational education.

Place of work/employment: stable work in the office, work in a corporation, remote professions, temporary part-time jobs.

Income level: average income level. 50,000\$ - 55,000\$ per year.

Marital status: have families and a long-term marriage or are divorced from a partner but raise children together.

5. A group of elderly people

Age: 55 years and older.

Level of education: diverse, from school education to full-fledged higher education.

Place of work/employment: retired or close to retirement or are supporting their children or relatives.

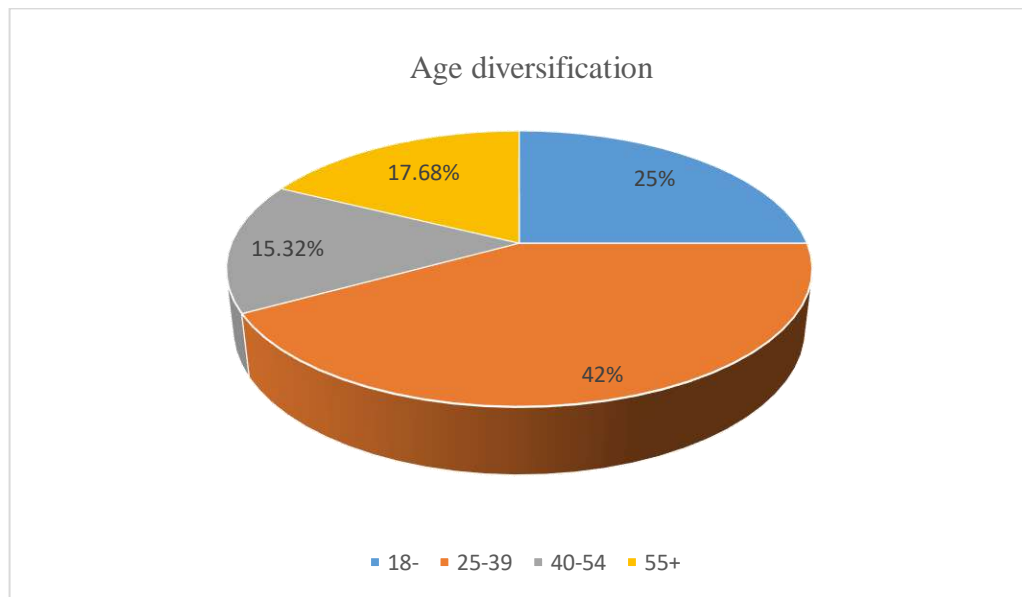
Income level: retirement income or other sources of income.

Marital status: elderly married people or single.

Quantitative Analysis

According to the study, the age balance of modern migrants is as follows: the age group from 18 to 54 years old, those who are of working age was 82.32% and the group over 55 years old: 17.68%.

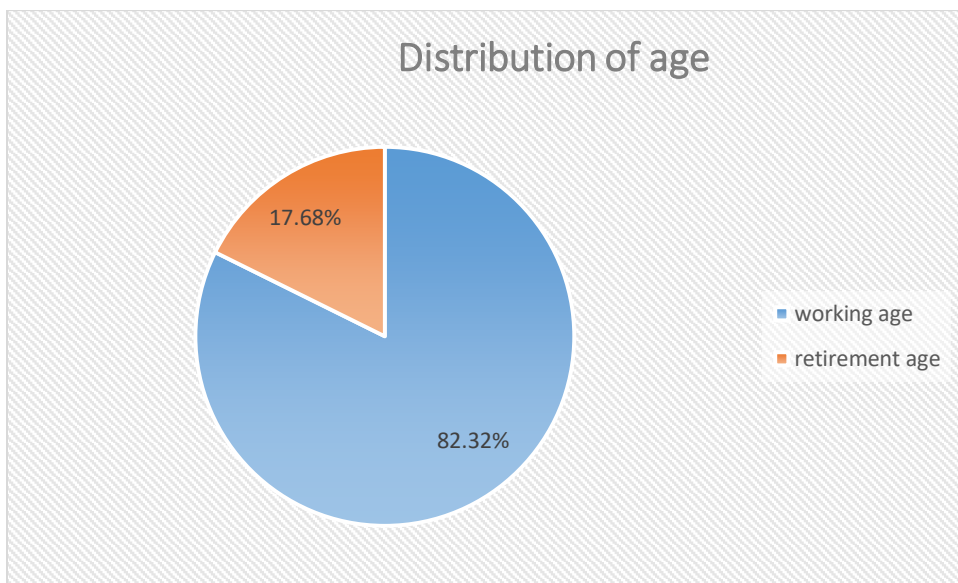
Chart 1. Age Diversification of respondents



Source: Excel, Author

In general, it is worth noting that a larger percentage - 82.32% of all respondents are of working age.

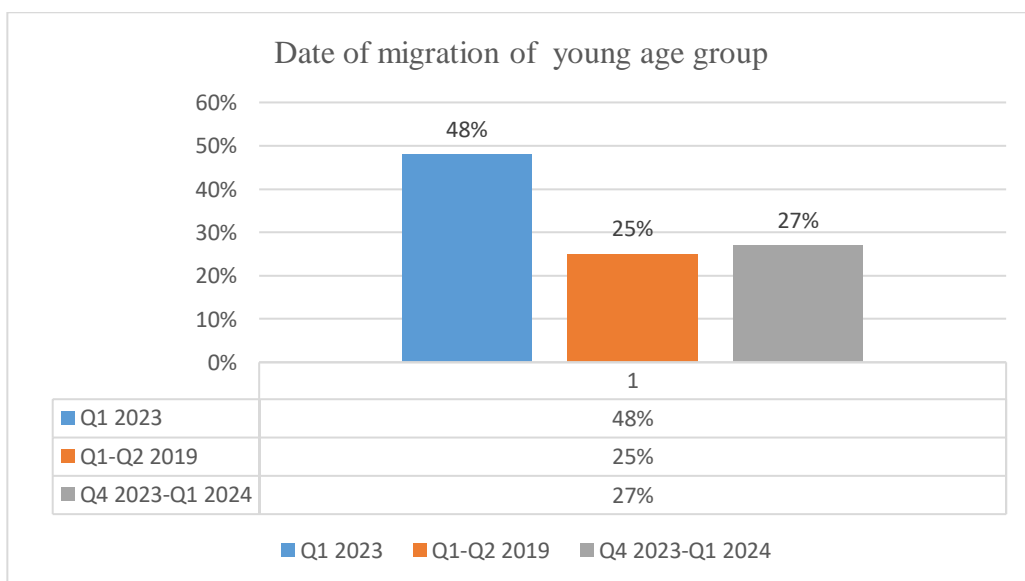
Chart 2. Distribution of age of respondents



Source: Excel, Author

The majority of Russians between the ages of 18 and 24 left Russia in early 2023, 48% of respondents said. A smaller part - 25% of the respondents of this group moved to the Emirates in the period from the beginning of 2019. The remaining 27% migrated in late 2023 and early 2024.

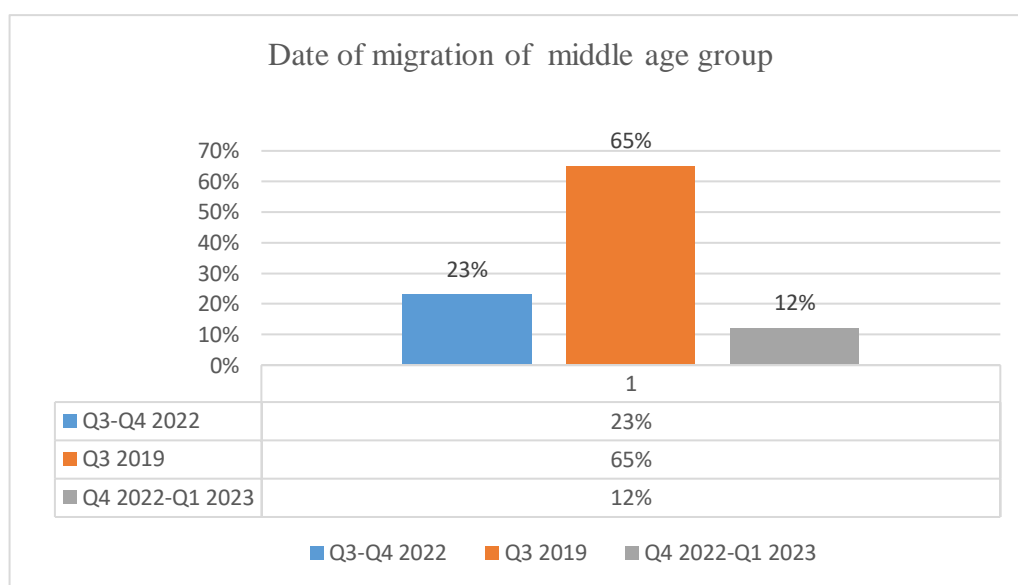
Chart 3. Date of migration of young group 18-24 y.o



Source: Excel, Author

It is important to note that 27% of respondents who migrated in the last year (2023-2024) are still in thoughts and doubts about changing their permanent place of residence. 75% of the respondents in this group left Russia in order to try living in the Emirates but are also considering migrating to another country or thinking about a possible return to their homeland. At the same time, 65% of the surveyed middle-aged groups with a certain level of wealth left Russia in the second half of 2019. In the age groups of 25-54 23% of respondents had a desire to move in the middle of 2022 and continued to grow slowly - this was stated by 65% and 20%, respectively.

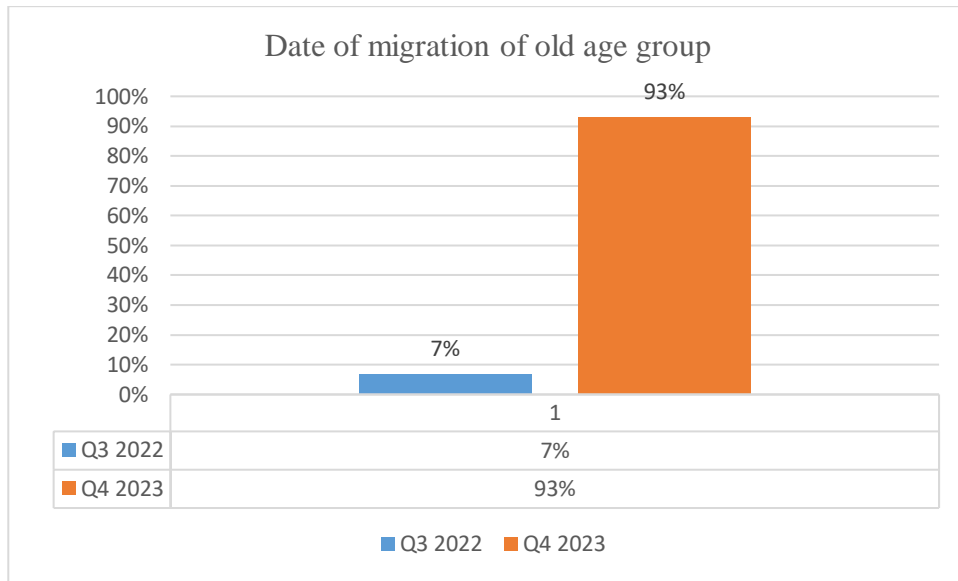
Chart 4. Date of migration of middle age group 25-54 y.o



Source: Excel, Author

Representatives of the older generation took the longest to decide about migration: 7% of respondents aged 55 and over left in the middle and end of 2022. The remaining majority - 93% - left Russia by the end of 2023, followed by younger relatives, children, and grandchildren.

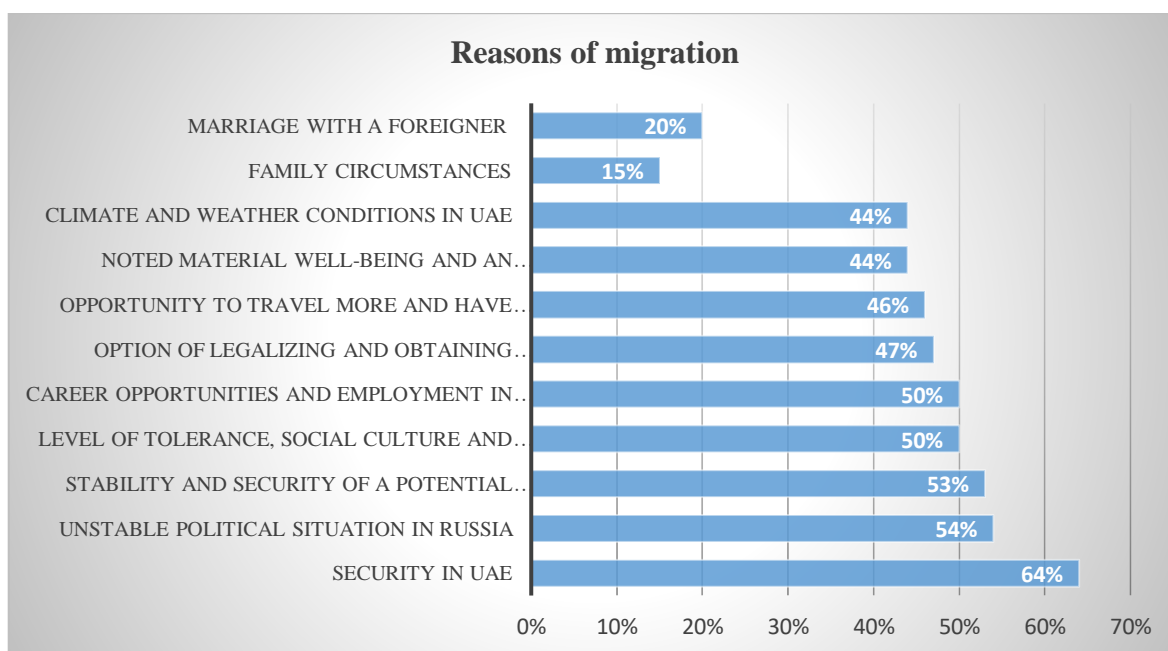
Chart 5. Date of migration of old age group 55+ y.o



Source: Excel, Author

After receiving data from the first part of the survey - for analytics and information about status, marital status, and educational level, it was found out that: 85% of all respondents are officially or civilly married. Half (50%) of them have minor children. 92% of those who left for the Arab Emirates had higher education, and 14% had an academic degree. A third of the respondents (33%) work independently and for themselves (freelancers, entrepreneurs, company owners, owners of large or network businesses), and half (50%) are specialists in various fields working officially in companies or corporations.

Chart 6.Reasons of migration from Russia to UAE



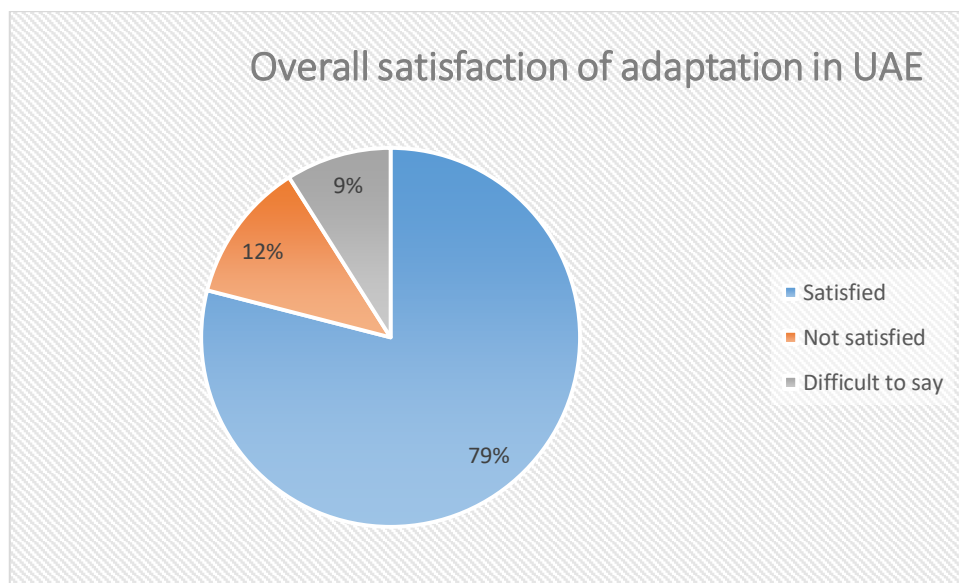
Source: Excel, Author

Data has been collected from survey respondents on the reasons that influenced the migration process. The respondents had the opportunity to choose several answers for this question. The majority of respondents - 64% of respondents indicated the reason for security as the main factor that influenced their decision to move. 54%, which is more than half of the respondents, noted the unstable political situation in the country as one of the main factors that influenced their decision to move. Slightly less - 53% of respondents noted the stability and security of a potential country (the Arab Emirates) as an important factor for them when choosing a country to move the whole family with minor children. 50% of the respondents noted the level of tolerance, social culture and social policy and democracy in society as a factor that pushed citizens to choose a country and migrate. Exactly half of the respondents mentioned career opportunities and employment in the UAE as the reason. 47% of respondents noted the option of legalizing and obtaining official documents from another country as a factor that influenced their decision to move. 46% of respondents named the opportunity to travel more and have access to the whole world as one of the motives. Exactly 44% of the survey participants noted material well-being and an attractive economic climate and potential development and stability in the country as the reason for

migration. Exactly the same percentage of respondents - 44% of respondents indicated the climate and weather conditions as an important and significant moment when deciding. The share of respondents who noted the option "family circumstances" as an important factor in deciding to move was about 15%. A slightly higher percentage - 20% - noted marriage with a foreigner as the reason for moving to the Emirates.

According to the results of the respondents' answers to the question "How do you assess your overall adaptation in a new country?" - the vast majority, which amounted to 79% - expressed overall satisfaction with life and the level they received in a new country. These 79% of respondents note a number of characteristics, such as security, stability and the economic situation in the country, ease and convenience in obtaining documents and the legalization process in the UAE.

Chart 7. Overall satisfaction of adaptation in UAE

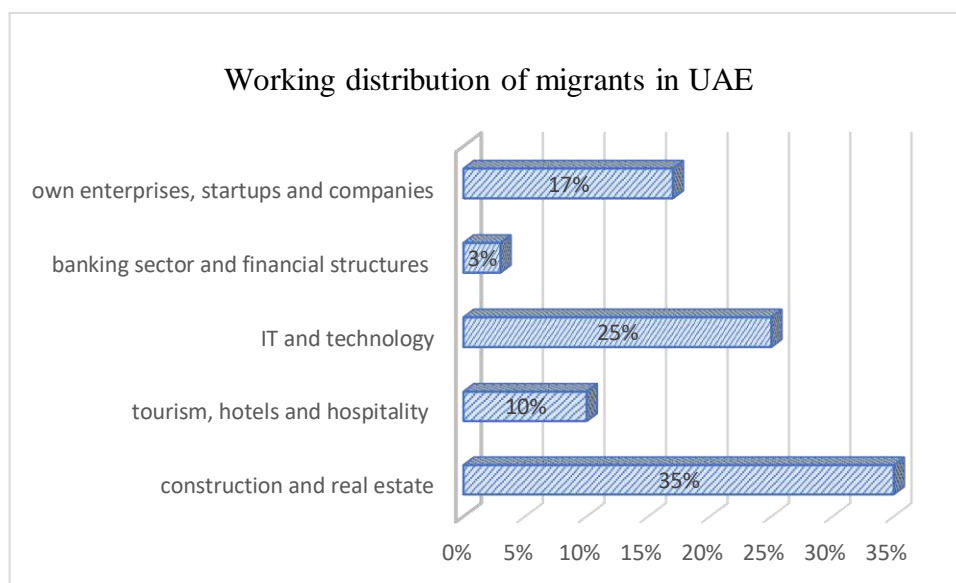


Source: Excel, Author

88% noted the option "safety", which became the first and leading factor in assessing the situation after moving, the next point was "environmental situation" - 86% of respondents. In third place were "stability of the situation in the country", "infrastructure", "environmental situation" - these indicators were noted by 83% of all respondents. 70%

noted “business conditions “and “work opportunities”, which slightly exceeded the mark of the” level of education”, which was highlighted by 66% of all respondents. As for the social support of migrants, 64% expressed satisfaction with the “level of social support from the state”, and 57% of respondents approved and appreciated the quality of medicine.

Chart 8. Working distribution of migrants in UAE



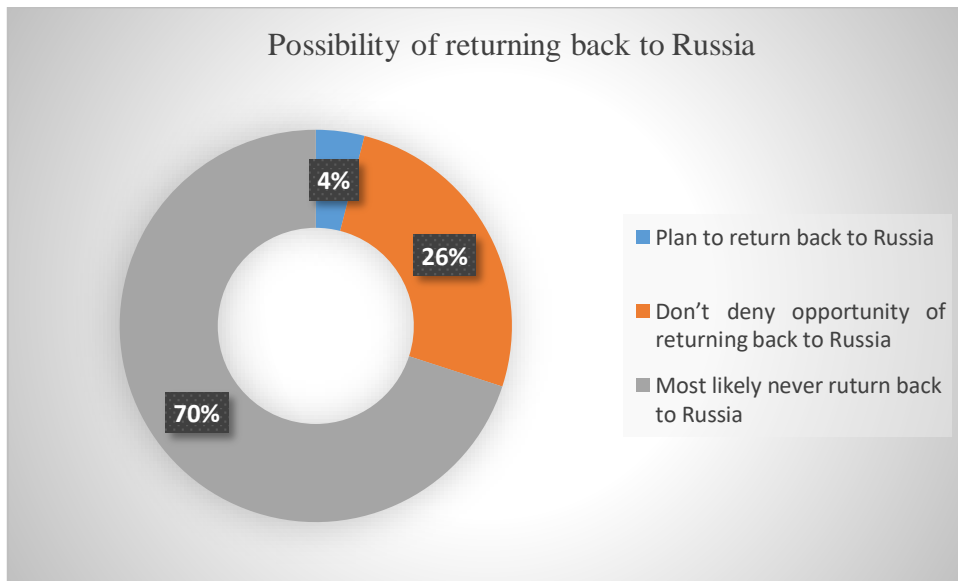
Source: Excel, Author

35% of respondents who are of working age work in construction and real estate. Tourism and hospitality were in second place: 10% of migrants work in tourism, hotels, and hospitality in the UAE.

A smaller percentage - 25% work in the field of IT and technology, as well as 3% in the banking sector and financial structures of the UAE. As well as the remaining 17% of respondents work for themselves and have businesses and projects in various fields.

More than half of the respondents have minor children. Half of them were born after the move. 83% of parents are confident that their children will be happy in their new place. For 80%, it is important that their children speak Russian well. This is a real problem, since the vast majority of children (90%) do not study in Russian, and everyday communication at home, as a rule, is not enough to preserve the language. 70% of all respondents noted "language proficiency" as the main problem and difficulty in migration.

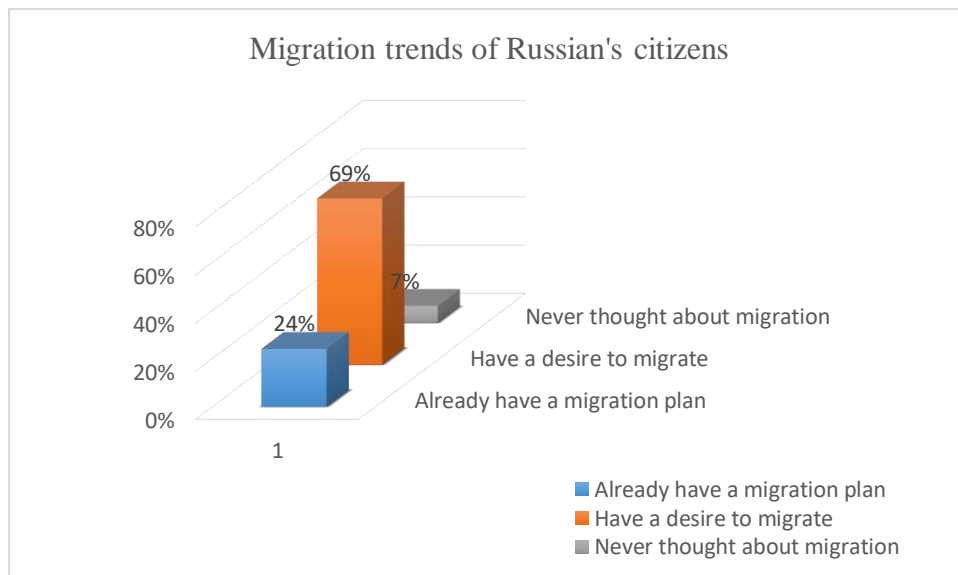
Chart 9. Possibility of returning back to Russia



Source: Excel, Author

Only 4% plan to return to their homeland, 26% do not deny such an opportunity for themselves, 70% will most likely never return.

Chart 10. Migration trends of Russian's citizens



Source: Excel, Author

24% of respondents from those who are not yet in exile, when asked about their desire to go to live abroad, answered “definitely yes” and “most likely yes”. 24% of this response was in the age groups from 18 to 39 years old.

Representatives of the older generation who are located and live in the territories of the Russian Federation would least like to leave: 7% of respondents 55 years and older. For those who have never thought about emigration, it was the remaining 69%.

5.5 Correlation with Theoretical Frameworks

One of the main goals of the survey was to find out, identify and confirm in practice the real reasons that drive Russians to move and migrate. As a result of the survey, it was possible to diversify the causes and express them in percentage terms in order to identify the most influential factors in the migration situation from Russia and form hypotheses that are substantiated by facts and statistics.

According to the Chart 6. 53% of all respondents noted that the main reason for migration was: lack of stability, confidence in the future, fear of difficulties, anxiety, panic in general.

Key words and phrases that were duplicated and repeated in 99% of respondents' answers: "They are afraid for their future, there is no stability" • "they are afraid of what will happen in Russia" • "it is unclear what will happen next" • "the ambiguity of the situation and the future" • "to survive troubled times" • "an alarming situation" • "to protect themselves from trouble and nerves" • "afraid of something" • "out of fear" • "fright" • "panic".

The same number of respondents - 10% - noted the desire to preserve their property, money, and assets as the reason.

28% cited the deterioration of the economic situation in the country, rising prices, shortages, and falling living standards as the reason. (Chart 6)

The key phrases that appeared in the answers were:

"Because of the economic crisis" • "the fear that the economy will collapse, prices are rising." "fear of deficit" • "they are afraid of crisis, default" • "they are not satisfied with the standard of living" • "poverty, poverty" • "the standard of living there is higher."

Also, 16% of the respondents migrated, the reason for which was the fear of war in Russia, including men who are afraid of mobilization and military conscription.

"Fear of an attack on Russia" • "they are afraid of war, bloodshed" • "they are afraid that there will be a war in Russia" • "they are afraid that a special operation will begin" • "they are afraid that there will be some kind of response to Russia's actions, they are afraid of the Third World War."

Chart 6 also shows that 15% left the country due to disagreement with the actions of the authorities, the political situation in the country, the ongoing military operation, and opposition views on the government and politics inside the country.

The theses that sounded most often among the data of 10 percent of respondents:

"Distrust of Putin's policy" • "do not agree with the government's policy" • "we will become like North Korea, the Iron Curtain" • "left power" • "they believe that they unfairly launched the operation" • "they are dissatisfied, they are ashamed of this special operation" • "ideological liberals, ashamed of that What's going on here."

10% left Russia due to the absence or loss of work, the possibility of full-fledged earnings and a high level of income. They migrated for the purpose of employment and earnings.

Abstracts that are collected from all the answers of the respondents:

"Unemployment" • "looking for work" • "number of jobs" • "for earnings" • "the main reason is a promising job abroad."

3% explain the reason for their migration as "the search for a better life."

Phrases that can be used to define and characterize this group:

"They think that it is better to live there" • "for an easy life" • "for a good life" • "they are looking for a better place" • "they think that it is sweeter there, but only at home is sweeter."

6. Results and Discussion

Based on the above survey and the results obtained from the respondents, it was possible to draw the following conclusions on each issue separately and form the results:

Regarding the age balance of migrants at Chart 1, 82.32% of respondents are of working age from 18 to 54 years old, while only 17.68% exceed the age of 55 and are retired. This confirms and marks the growth of the demographic dividend in the UAE economy and contributes to an increase in the workforce and economic growth in certain industries, as well as a greater number of potential workers. Also, the high concentration of migrants of working age indicates and characterizes the UAE as an attractive country for finding work, finding employment and starting their own business and opening new enterprises.

According to the data from the survey of the target audience, Russia faced the largest emigration of millionaires. The outflow amounted to 15,000 people by the end of 2022 – 15% of all high-income citizens (groups of high-income adults). This figure is 9,500 more than the outflow of high-income migrants in 2019.

It is important to note that 17.68%, which is a small percentage, but still may create potential challenges for improving and modernizing the pension system, social programs and various support measures in the UAE for this group of migrants.

The study also identified the reasons, the most important of which was security, estimated by 64% of respondents, which indicates that for the majority of respondents, ensuring their own safety and the safety of their family becomes the determining factor when deciding on immigration, and the United Arab Emirates became the country satisfying this request. The instability of the political situation has become an important reason for migration for 54% of respondents. A special wave of migration, which amounted to 70%, occurred at the beginning of 2022, when a number of political events and changes and an escalating situation were observed in Russia, and as a result, the introduction of troops into the territory of Ukraine and the beginning of a full-scale military conflict. And further general mobilization of the population. Factors such as the beginning of political protests, a series of repressions and restrictions in the political rhetoric of the state created uncertainty and instability, which contributed to the growth of people's desire to go abroad.

It is also important to note that the uncertainty in politics and the economy for the ordinary civilian population, who participated in the survey in this study, had a negative impact on the business environment, investments and income growth of the population. This fact stimulated and forced people to look for better opportunities abroad.

The third most important reason by percentage was career prospects, which accounted for 50% of all respondents.

This is quite logical, and this result, which was obtained during the study, confirmed the theoretical material and statistics presented in the theoretical part of this study.

Dubai is among the top 35 countries with the most favorable climate for attracting venture capital investments. It is this circumstance that attracts entrepreneurs involved in the development of StartUp projects, as well as IT specialists and representatives of other professions, who accounted for 42% of all respondents who migrated to the UAE. 25% of whom were IT and technology specialists and 17% were entrepreneurs and businesswomen who have their own companies, enterprises and actively invest in the business environment and economy of the United Arab Emirates.

The years of the spread of covid and the realities faced by Russians in the period 2020-2022 became the main reasons for business relocation and, as a result, the reason for migration for 53% of respondents in the above-mentioned study. The vast majority of professionals who have the opportunity to work remotely have chosen UAE cities for their lives (17% of respondents). In this study, they were identified and shaped into causes, investigated and supported by a practical survey.

It is also worth noting that the infrastructure and favorable geographical location of Dubai and the emirate as a whole have become a motive for migration, which was noted by 46% of respondents.

According to the question about the reasons, the results of which we can see in the figure - legalization and a fairly simple procedure for obtaining documents, residence permits, passports - prompted 47% of respondents to choose a country and migrate to the UAE. A foreign investor who has received UAE resident status can not only move to Dubai for permanent residence, but also move his family to this city, namely: spouse; sons under the age of 18 (if they study at the institute, then up to 21); daughters (if they are not married, their age does not matter); parents. For the development of startup projects, the UAE

government has allocated more than 40 multidisciplinary free zones in which expats and foreign investors can open companies, develop businesses, and ensure an uninterrupted flow of profits for their enterprise.

According to the question and schedule number, 79% of all respondents rated their life after migration to the United Arab Emirates satisfactorily, referring to the compliance of all expectations and reasons for migration that came together with reality. These 79% of respondents note a number of characteristics, such as security, stability and the economic situation in the country, ease, and convenience in obtaining documents and the legalization process in the UAE, which corresponds and correlates with the reasons that were identified in the question.

According to the question, it is concluded that the UAE labour market is largely filled with foreign labour. Vacancies are available in all fields, but most migrants focus on the wholesale and retail trade, construction, and real estate industries, which accounted for 55% of all respondents. In addition, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation is developing effective solutions to increase the market — for example, employers have created temporary positions and additional places to work in corporations and large companies, whose employees accounted for 18% of all respondents who are of working age (about 83% of respondents). Another result that can be drawn from the question "In what areas do you work or participate in the economy of the United Arab Emirates?" the total number of migrants working in low-skilled labor was only 10%, which may affect the development of the labor market and social and economic development of both countries. This percentage indicates that most migrants in the United Arab Emirates are employed and are developing in the fields of high qualifications and specialization, which makes a significant contribution to the development of the country's economy.

The ratio between highly and low-skilled workers has an impact on the development and dynamics of the labor market, as well as on the overall socio-economic development of both the host country (the Arab Emirates) and the country that the departing workers leave (the Russian Federation). This fact serves and becomes a motive for developing the necessary strategies and policies in the field of labor flows and the labor market for the full-fledged staffing of the UAE.

According to the results of the question about the main difficulties faced by migrants, it was the language. Lack of knowledge of the national language or low English proficiency has become the main problem for 70% of respondents, especially in the context of underage children, most of whom do not study in Russian, as well as for the elderly 55+ group. Regarding the results of the question about potential return, the figure shows that only 4% of respondents plan to return to Russia, this proves that migration for this group of respondents is only a temporary and forced solution. While 70% most likely plan to stay in the Emirates. The remaining 26% of respondents plan to stay in the Emirates for the time being, but do not exclude the possibility of returning to their homeland or further migration to another country.

The percentage of migration causes, both economic, which amounted to -58%, and socio-political, which are estimated at 42%, correspond and correlate with the basic theoretical facts and studies that were described in the initial part of this research paper. The survey results provided a very broad and extensive material base for analysing and writing results on the hypotheses put forward in the study, and also made it possible to link theoretical aspects and research with empirical data on migration processes and their impact. The Emirates attracted primarily by the absence of taxes and a favourable business environment and a field for investment, and in 2024, due to the influx of Russian bankers, crypto millionaires and "a lot of rich Russians seeking to protect assets," the UAE is becoming more like a "sandbox for the super-rich."

Last summer (2023) in the UAE, consumer inflation reached 7.1% year-on-year, then prices fell, the figures turned out to be the highest for Dubai, in February 2024 it was 5%. At the same time, only transactions with new housing and real estate are used to calculate the inflation rate, most extended contracts concluded by new migrants are not considered, and therefore the real inflation rate may be significantly higher, which affects the economic situation of the country as a whole and the price level.

7. Conclusion

Summary of Russian migration Trends to United Arab Emirates (UAE)

At the end of February 2022, Russian citizens became persona non grata for most European countries. Despite the difficult political situation, the United Arab Emirates remains neutral towards Russians.

The country (UAE) has a minimum unemployment rate, which has finally stabilized after the end of the pandemic. The developed labor market is largely filled with foreign labor. Vacancies are available in all fields, but most Russian migrants are concentrated in trade, construction, and real estate. The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization is developing effective solutions to expand the market — for example, employers can create temporary positions, and employees have the right to work in several companies at the same time, unemployment insurance has been introduced. (ReportsHumanDevelopment, 2022).

According to Intermarket Real Estate, in 2022, the number of transactions that the company conducted in Dubai with Russians tripled. The reason is the country's loyalty to customers from Russia (there are no restrictions and sanctions here), a high standard of living and favorable conditions for doing business. The UAE has not imposed sanctions against Russians, SWIFT transfers from banks that have not been sanctioned are still available there, and the possibility of direct flights to the country remains. In Dubai, 85% of the population are emigrants (35% are Russians), there is all the necessary infrastructure, and the legislative framework is favorable for doing business. In total, according to better homes, more than 86,000 home sales were registered in Dubai in 2023, which exceeded the previous record of 80,000 in 2009. In 2023, real estate worth about 208 billion dirhams (56.6 billion dollars) was sold, which is almost 80% more than in 2021.

The population growth due to visitors, the growing number of tourists, the attractiveness of financial infrastructure and taxation for doing business — all this ensures the demand for local real estate to move and generate income.

In 2022, there was a sharp jump in demand for real estate in Dubai. The UAE market offers favorable conditions for doing business and recreation, as the state pursues a loyal

tax policy for investors and companies that have moved and relocated their business to the country. In addition, Russians investing in the UAE economy have the opportunity to obtain an analogue of a residence permit — Emirates ID. (MirBezViz, 2023)

The high pace of development of Dubai's economy, which has not been influenced by the dollar since 1973, has made the city a center of attraction for entrepreneurs from all over the world. Therefore, even residents of neighboring emirates choose it for work, coming here every day.

Despite the political situation in the world, Dubai and Russia were able to maintain friendly relations. Therefore, today many Russians choose this direction for changing their place of residence and business development.

Future directions of migration dynamics and cooperation between Russia and the United Arab Emirates

The UAE is expected to have the highest net HNWI influx in the world in 2024, projected at 4,000 people. This is 208% more than the net influx of 1,300 people in 2019 and a record figure in the entire history of observations. (UAE Ministry of Economy) The country has focused on attracting business and tourism by concluding mutual agreements on visa-free cooperation. Over the past five years, the UAE has made great strides in adapting and relaxing immigration rules to attract private capital and talent, which were discussed in detail in the theoretical part of the research work. (BayanNews, 2023)

The status of the Emirates in relation to Russia in 2024 is defined as neutral, but with friendly signs. (parlament, 2022)

Even before February 24, 2022, the Emirates had good relations with both Russia and the West. Together with the Russian Federation, the UAE developed cooperation in the field of investments and modern technologies, as well as coordinated activities within the framework of OPEC. (BayanNews, 2023)

However, the Emirates, as a country with significant oil and monetary resources, is considered one of the main partners of the United States in trade and investment, as well as a guarantor of their security.

And despite the American and European sanctions against Russia, the UAE did not join them, but continued its partnership with the Russian Federation, expanding economic ties, as well as coordinating its political actions with it.

According to open data, in the first nine months of 2024, the mutual trade turnover between Russia and the UAE increased by 42%. Today, the Emirates is one of Russia's largest foreign trade partners among Arab countries.

Both sides see high potential for further increasing mutual trade and economic cooperation to create balanced trade flows and develop the economies of both countries. (BayanNews, 2023)

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