

Impact of Migration Flows on the Demography and Economy of Central and Eastern European Countries

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Abstract:

Central and Eastern Europe, comprising countries such as Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and others, is experiencing complex migratory dynamics that deeply influence its demographics and economy.

This study examines the effects of migration over the 2000–2021 period using a fixed-effects model based on panel data, highlighting both the positive and negative consequences for the region.

From a demographic perspective, the region is facing an emigration of young graduates and skilled workers, leading to a brain drain. This dynamic, combined with declining birth rates, accelerates population aging, particularly in Bulgaria and Romania. This phenomenon results in a decrease in the number of young active workers, placing growing pressure on the labor market. Furthermore, the rapid urbanization of major cities creates major challenges in terms of infrastructure and housing.

Economically, migration has contrasting effects. The immigration of workers particularly Ukrainians supports the economies of countries such as Poland by offsetting labor shortages and filling gaps in sectors like construction and services. However, the emigration of skilled workers harms essential sectors such as healthcare, education, and industry, thereby hindering innovation and economic development in the region.

Thus, migration in Central and Eastern Europe has both positive and negative consequences, affecting demographics and the economy in complex ways.

Keywords:

Migration, Demographics, Economy, Central and Eastern Europe, Panel Data Model.