

MIGRATION AND MIGRATION BEHAVIOUR

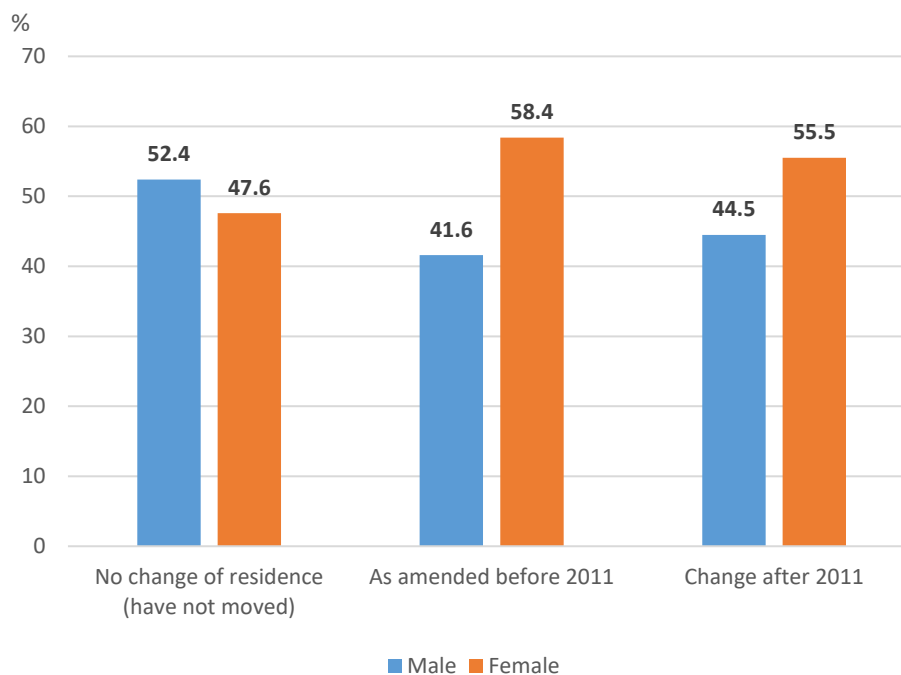
Sample survey accompanying Census 2021

The survey on migration and migration behaviour aims to study the socio-demographic characteristics of the persons who form migration flows; the factors that determine the migration behaviour and attitudes of individuals for internal (in the country) or external (abroad) migration.

The survey covers all persons aged 15 - 74 years who usually live in 16 373 randomly selected dwellings. 12 906 persons in the indicated age group were successfully surveyed.

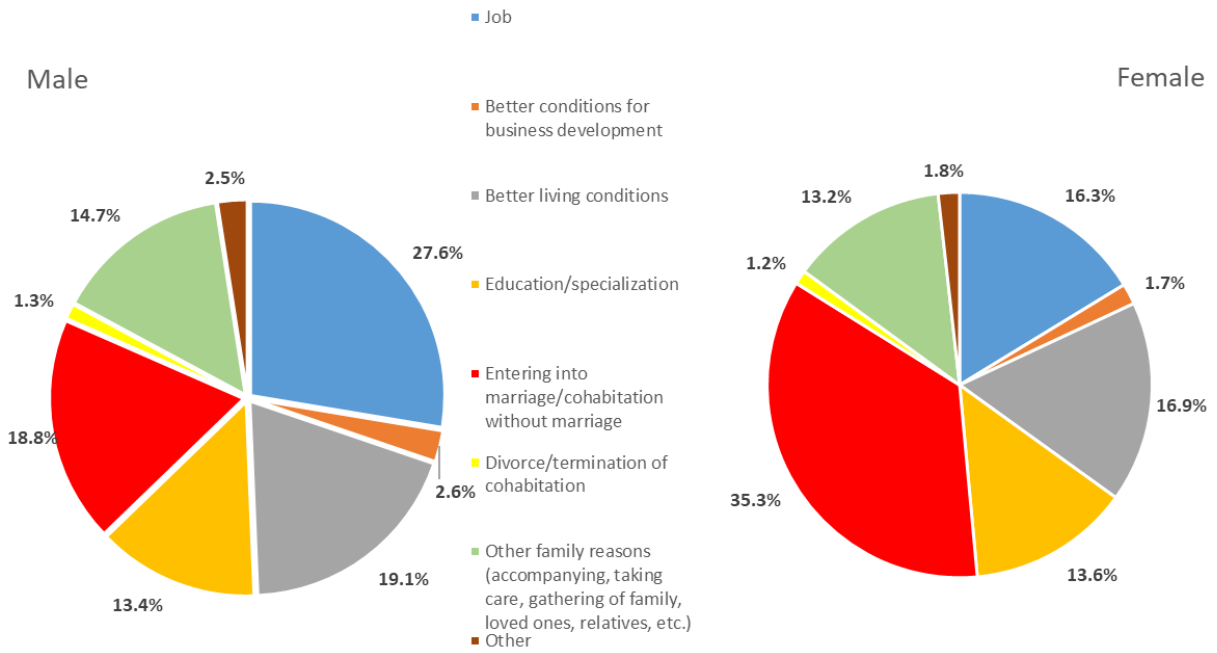
According to data from the representative survey, 52.4% of women and 47.6% of men in the country have changed their place of residence at least once in their lifetime. In the period between the two censuses (2011 - 2021) was the last change of residence for 44.5% of men and 55.5% of women aged 15 - 74 years.

Fig. 1. Population aged 15 - 74 years by period of establishment in settlements and sex, 2021



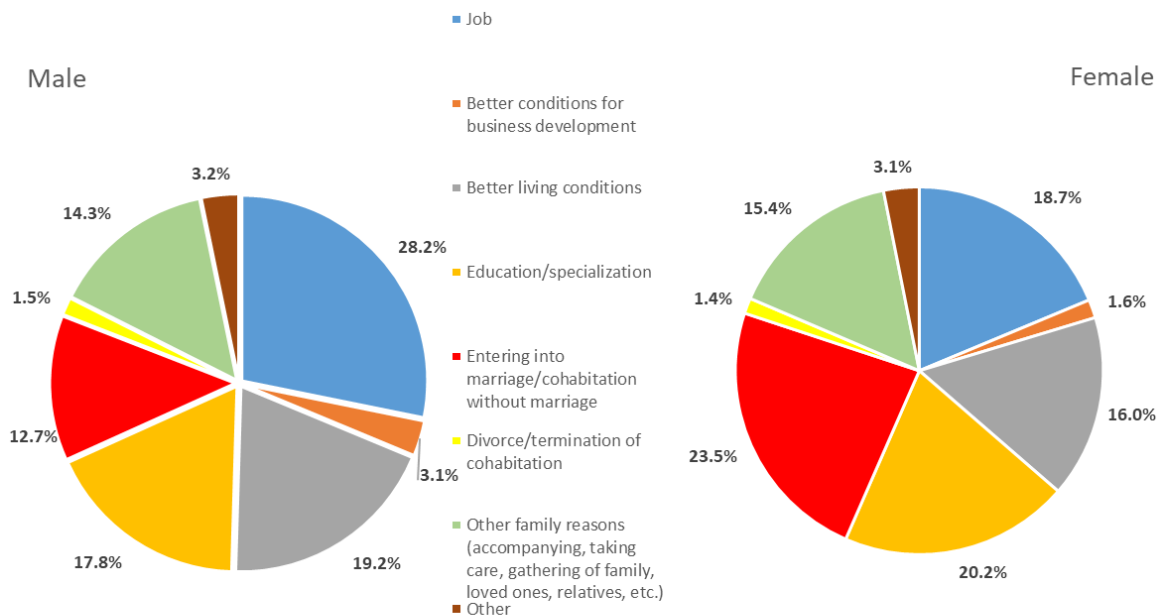
In the structure of the reasons for the last change of residence, regardless of when it happened, the leading one is 'Marriage/cohabitation' (28.3%), followed by 'Work' (21.1%) and 'Better living conditions' (17.8%). Differences are observed depending on the gender of the individuals. While for 35.3% of women entering into marriage/cohabitation without marriage is the reason for the change of residence, for men the main factor for the last migration is work (27.6%). Search for better living conditions led to settling in the current settlement for 19.1% of men and 16.9% of women. Education is the reason for the current place of residence of 13.4% of men and 13.6% of women who migrated at least once in their lifetime.

Fig. 2. Main reason for the last change of residence regardless of the period of establishment, 2021



Analyzing the data on the last change of residence, which occurred in the period between the last two censuses, the change in the structure of the main reason for this is noticeable. The leader is already ‘Work’ (22.9%), followed by ‘Education’ (19.1%) and ‘Entering marriage/cohabitation’ (18.7%) is only in third place.

Fig. 3. Main reason for the last change of residence made in the period 2011 - 2021



The most significant is the decrease in the share of women who migrated for the last time in the period 2011 - 2021 due to marriage (23.5%). Among men, such a decrease was also registered, up to 12.7%. At the same time, there is a significant increase in the number of persons for whom education was the main reason for the last migration in this period.

In recent decades, with the change and consolidation of the free movement of people, both the flows of people leaving or returning to the country, as well as short-term emigrants, tourists and people travelling abroad, have increasingly increased.

The survey data show that in the last ten years (2011 - 2021), 7.5% of persons aged 15 - 74 years stayed abroad for more than three months without interruption. Of these, 37.0% were outside Bulgaria for a period of three to six months, 18.1% - from six months to one year, and 44.9% - for more than one year. The main reason for their stay outside the country, regardless of the length of stay, is work.

1. Reasons for staying abroad for more than three months without interruption during the period 2011 - 2021

%

Reasons	From 3 up to 6 months	From 6 months up to one year	For more than one year
Work (including business trip)	66.8	76.5	61.1
Education and specialization	5.8	10.9	12.4
Visiting relatives, friends	18.9	3.6	0.8
Family reasons	5.5	7.9	9.5
I lived (was born) outside Bulgaria	1.8	1.0	13.8
Other	1.2	0.0	2.4

The data show that the leading reason why the persons who were abroad returned to the country was termination of employment (expiration of contract) - for 20.1% of them. The following are the family reasons for return - rejoining family/parents/relatives (18.1%) and other family reasons, incl. care for relatives (17.0%).

Potential internal migrants

When studying the mobility of the population, the socio-demographic characteristics of individuals are important. Different groups of people differently perceive the impact of a complex of factors (social environment, characteristics and opportunities provided by the settlement, personal environment), as a result of which a different type of migration behaviour is formed.

Depending on the attitude and readiness of people **to migrate within the country**, using the answers to selected questions from the survey questionnaire, four groups of potential internal migrants were formed:

- with a migration decision already made;
- without a decision to migrate - intend to move in the near future, but have not made a final decision yet;
- with a weakly expressed decision to migrate - they hesitate whether to emigrate and have not made a final decision yet;

- no willingness to migrate.

The survey data show that 2.4% of people aged 15 - 74 years have already decided to change their current place of residence in the country, and 2.9% intend to move, but have not made a final decision yet. 8.5% have a weak willingness to migrate, and 86.2% of persons in the respective age group have no willingness to migrate.

Minor differences in intra-country migration intentions are observed by gender. In all groups of potential internal migrants, the share of men is slightly higher than that of women, and 84.9% of men and 87.3% of women have no willingness to migrate.

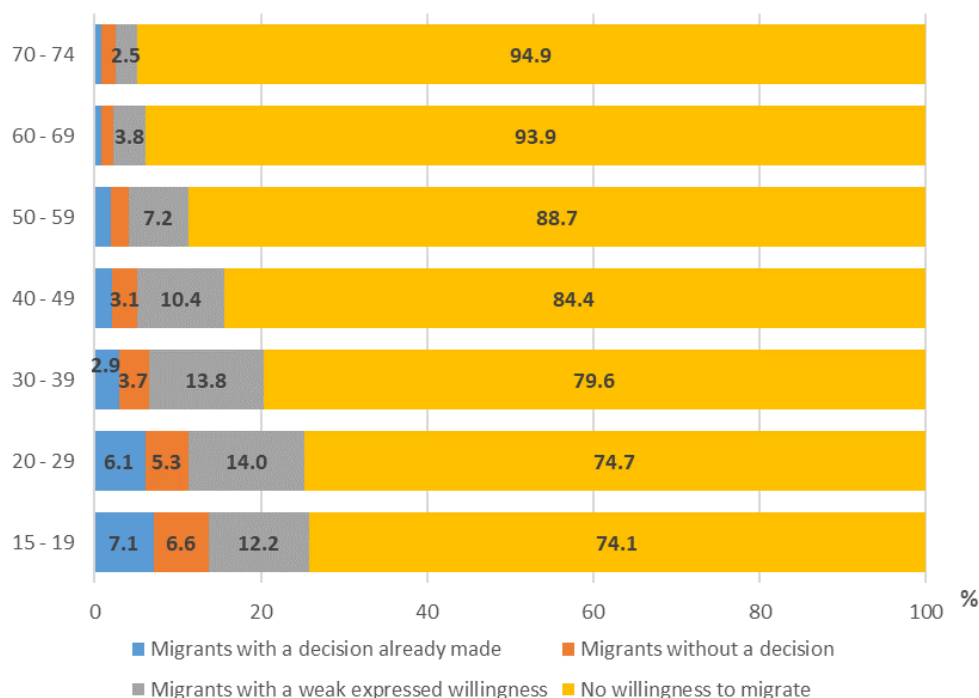
A comparison of data on potential internal migrants from the current survey and that conducted in 2011 shows that there have been no significant changes in attitudes towards internal migration.

2. Attitudes towards internal migration by sex, 2011 and 2021

%

Attitude	2011		2021	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Migrants with a decision already made	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.2
Migrants without a decision	3.0	2.7	3.2	2.6
Migrants with a weak expressed willingness	8.3	6.9	9.3	7.8
No willingness to migrate	86.3	88.0	84.9	87.3

Fig. 4. Attitudes towards migration within the country by age group, 2021

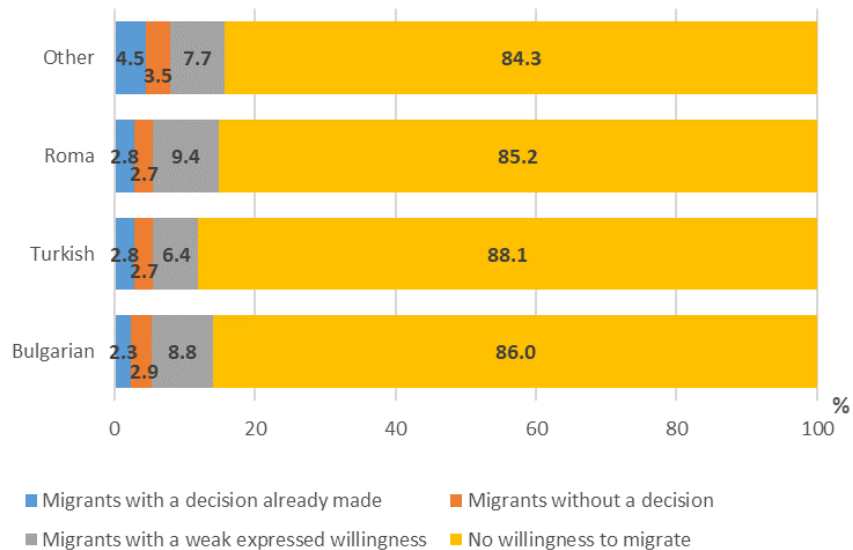


In 2021, the highest share of persons with a decision to migrate within the country is among young people aged 15 - 19 years (7.1%) and 20 - 29 years (6.1%). As age increases, the share of this group of potential migrants decreases. The data are similar for the second group of persons who intend to relocate, but have

not yet made a final decision. The shares of those with a weak decision to migrate are larger. Their share is the largest in the age group 20 - 29 years (14.0%), which decreases to 2.5% with increasing age.

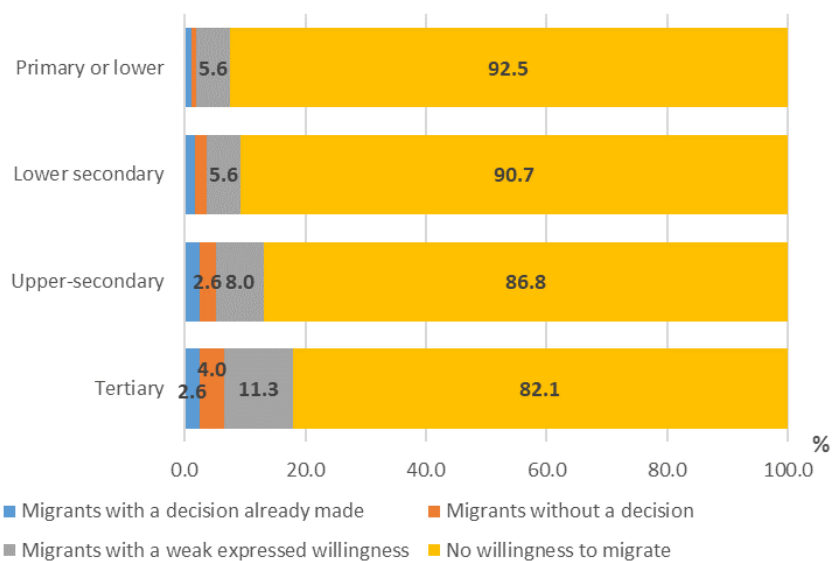
The relative share of potential migrants with a decision already made is the smallest among persons who self-identified as Bulgarians (2.3%), and the largest among representatives of other ethnic groups (4.5%). The self-identified Turkish ethnic group (88.1%) most often do not express a willingness to migrate within the country.

Fig. 5. Attitudes towards intra-country migration by ethnic group, 2021



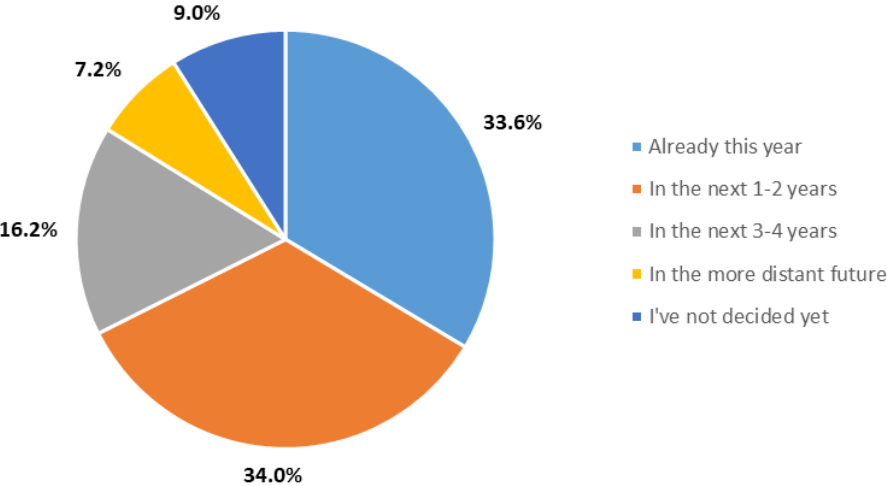
The comparison of the data by level of education shows that there are some differences in the attitudes towards changing the place of residence within the country. Low-educated persons are less likely to express a willingness and intention to migrate within the country, while among persons with upper-secondary or tertiary education the shares of potential migrants are higher. Among persons with primary and lower education, 92.5% have no willingness to migrate, while among those with tertiary education, the share is 10.4 percentage points lower.

Fig. 6. Attitudes towards migration within the country by education levels, 2021



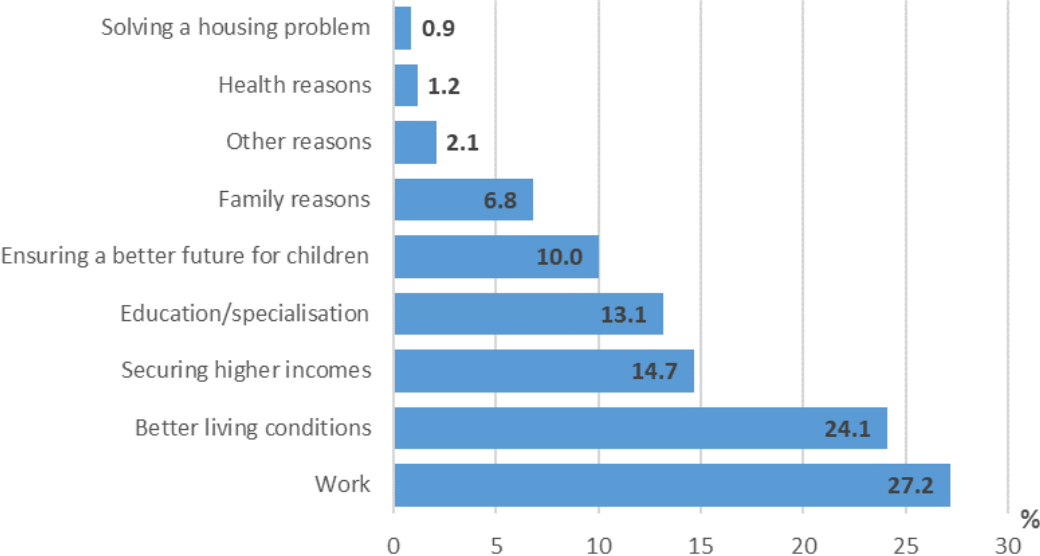
More than two-thirds of the people who have already decided to move to another settlement in the country will realize their intentions within two years. In the next three to four years, 16.2% intend to migrate, 7.2% - in the more distant future, and 9.0% have not decided yet exactly when.

Fig. 7. Migrants with a decision already taken by resettlement period, 2021



The main reasons for intentions to migrate within the country of persons with already made decisions are ‘Work’ (27.2%) and ‘Better living conditions’ (24.1%). ‘Securing higher incomes’ was indicated by 14.7% of persons aged 15 - 74 years who decided to move, and ‘Education’ was the leading choice for 13.1%.

Fig. 8. Main reason for resettlement of migrants with a decision already made, 2021



Potential migrants

In order to establish the attitudes of people to emigrate from the country, five groups were formed, according to the willingness to travel, the form of residence abroad and how likely it is to take place in the next few years. The groups are as follows:

- Potential migrants - persons for whom it is very or somewhat likely to move to live in another country;
- Labour migrants - very or somewhat likely to go abroad to work/study for more than one year;
- Short-term migrants - very or somewhat likely to go abroad to work/study for a few months, but not more than a year;
- Tourists - persons who think it is very or somewhat likely to go abroad for a short time as tourists, to visit relatives and friends;
- Non-travellers abroad - these are persons who may have some intentions to travel abroad, but in their opinion there is little or no probability that they will take place in the next few years.

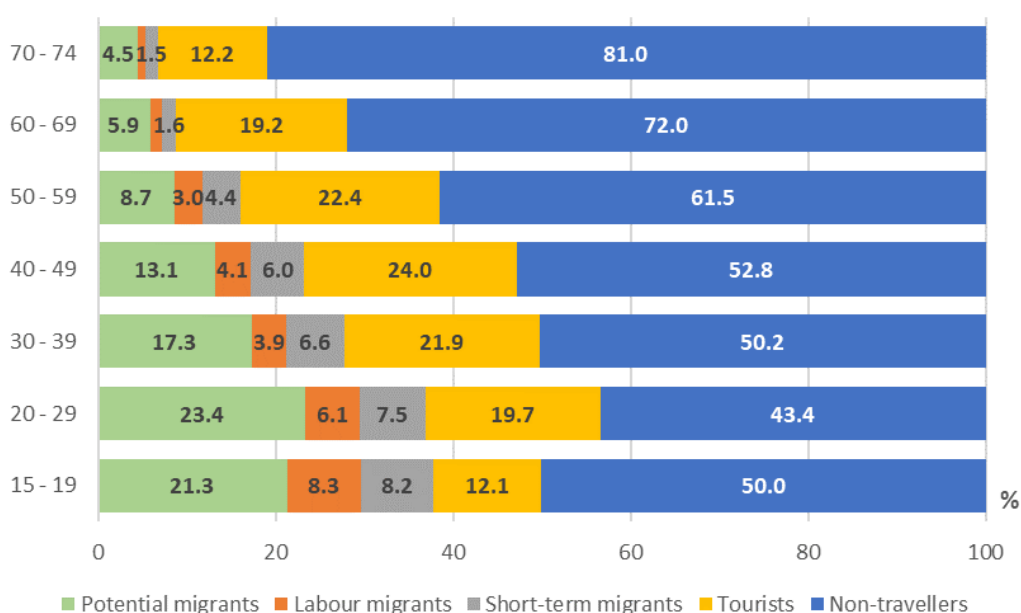
According to the data from the survey conducted in 2021, 11.9% of persons aged 15 - 74 years are very or somewhat likely to move to live abroad. Compared to 2011, the share of potential migrants increased both among men (from 7.7% to 12.9%) and among women (from 6.2% to 10.9%).

Potential labour migrants are 3.3% of persons, with men predominating (3.8%). Compared to 2011, this group decreased for both sexes. Very or somewhat likely to go abroad to work/study for a few months, but not more than a year, refers to 4.7% of the population aged 15 - 74 years.

In 2021, the share of persons who would go abroad as tourists increases, with no gender differences observed. For men, the increase was from 15.1% in 2011 to 20.2% in the current survey, and for women - from 17.0% to 20.4%.

The share of non-travellers is decreasing - from 66.8% for men and 70.4% for women in 2011 to 58.1% for men and 61.6% for women in 2021.

Fig. 9. Potential migrants by age group, 2021



Very or somewhat likely to travel abroad is characteristic of individuals in the younger age groups. The share of non-travellers is the smallest for persons aged 20 - 29 years (43.4%). This share is almost similar for people in the age groups 15 - 19 years and 30 - 39 years. As the age increases, the group of those who may have some intentions to travel abroad, but according to them there is little or no probability that they will take place in the next few years, increases, and for the age of 70 - 74 years the relative share is 81.0%.

Potential migrants are the most in the age group 20 - 29 years (23.4%), followed by persons aged 15 - 19 years (21.3%). Their share among persons aged 30 - 39 years is also considerable (17.3%). The share of labour migrants also decreases with increasing age from 8.3% among the youngest to 0.9% among persons aged 70 - 74 years.

The largest share of tourists is in the age group 40 - 49 years - 24.0%, and the smallest - among persons aged 15 - 19 years and 70 - 74 years.

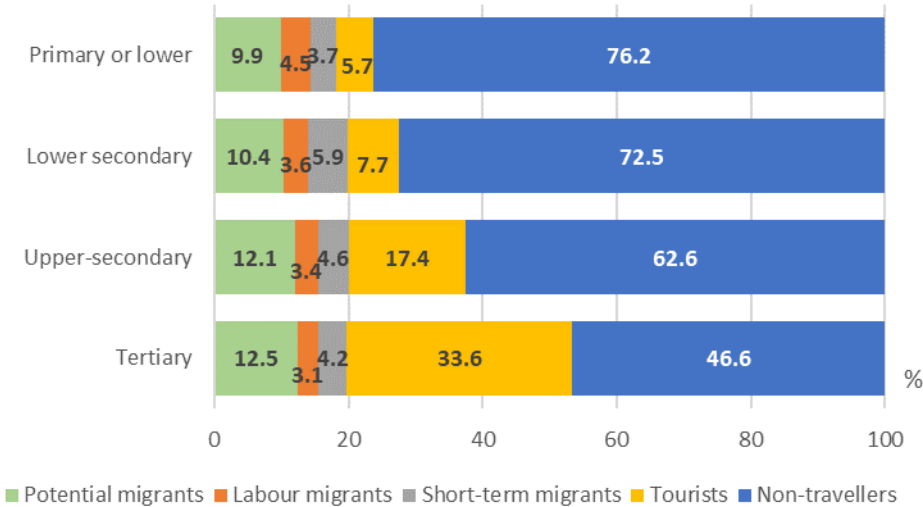
A comparison of data from the current survey and that conducted in 2011 shows that:

- the share of persons for whom it is very or somewhat likely to travel abroad on a different occasion is increasing in all age groups;
- the share of travellers as tourists increases for all ages, except for the youngest (15 - 19 years old);
- the share of labour migrants for the ages up to 49 years old is decreasing;
- the share of potential migrants for all ages increases.

In general, among young people, the attitude towards emigration abroad is increasing. In the future, this could have a negative impact on the number and structures of the population in our country. The emigration of young people leads to a decrease in the fertility quotas, which in turn affects the birth rate.

There are significant differences in the attitudes towards travelling abroad depending on the level of education of individuals. The highly educated are significantly more likely to travel as tourists in the next few years - 33.6% among those with a tertiary education and 17.4% among those with an upper-secondary education. Their share as potential migrants is also greater compared to the low-educated persons aged 15 - 74 years. The relative share of labour migrants is the largest among people with primary and lower education (4.5%), and short-term - among people with lower-secondary education (5.9%).

Fig. 10. Potential migrants by education, 2021



The change of residence from the country to abroad can take place already this year for 13.9% of the persons for whom it is very or somewhat likely to move to live in another country, and for 37.0% of them - in the next two to three years. In the more distant future (the next 3 - 5 years), 49.1% of those included in the group of potential migrants may relocate.

The economic factor is leading in terms of reasons for potential migrants to go abroad. More than half of them (57.5%) answered that the main reason for their departure was to live and work in the conditions of a higher standard of living. To receive higher incomes (to save money) is the reason for 21.9% of individuals, and for 4.7% - to realize themselves professionally. 3.2% of potential migrants aged 15 – 74 years in the country are categorical in their decision that they do not wish to live in Bulgaria anymore.