

ALBANIAN EMIGRATION: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

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Abstract

Survey evidence establishes the magnitude and determinants of emigration from Albania during the first years of transition. By 1996, between 300,000 and 400,000 Albanians were working abroad. These tended to be young men from large, low-income, rural families and sent more than \$800 million back to Albania in remittances in 1996. These remittances increased consumption and living standards and were, along with human capital acquired abroad, important in private sector development. They also had an income effect that served to reduce unemployment in Albania by reducing female labor supply.

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1. Introduction

The abandonment of Albania's policy of isolation from the rest of the world in the early 1990s resulted in a flood of emigrants leaving the poorest country in Europe. The International Monetary Fund (IMF, 1997) reported that: "The turbulent economic and political climate in the aftermath of the demise of communism fueled mass migration; an estimated 15-20 percent of the labor force fled the country, mostly to neighboring Greece and Italy. Remittances from these sources continue to be the largest single source of foreign exchange inflows (about 13 percent of the GDP in 1995)." The size and impact of remittances for the Albanian economy continued to be substantial and to exceed FDI and foreign aid well into the new century and the second decade of transition (Zwager *et al.*, 2005).

We provide empirical evidence on the fundamental questions of Albanian emigration: who emigrated and what impact did these emigrants have on the Albanian economy? Our analysis is based on a household survey conducted in the summer of 1996.

2. The Survey

The survey covered a representative national sample of 1000 households drawn from all 26 administrative districts in Albania.¹ One city, town or village from each district was randomly selected from the Albanian map. In the chosen location, a predetermined number of households based on the district's share of the total number of households in Albania was selected from the list of household heads maintained in the local electricity office.²

One adult member of each household was contacted at their residence and interviewed in person by a student from Tirana University. We inquired about the demographic characteristics and employment status of all household members, family income, remittances (if any) received from abroad, and desire to emigrate. If anybody from the family was currently or had in the past been working abroad, we collected data on the flows of migrants, their destinations, legal status, employment status, as well as their financial contributions to their families.³

1. This sample is relatively large given that the total number of households in the 1989 Albanian census was 675,456. Although an administrative reform in 1991 created 10 additional districts for a total of 36, we used the 26 that prevailed in the 1989 census.

2. Each electricity office assigns every household an identification number ranging from 1 to the total number of households in the area. Informed local officials maintained that almost no households were not registered with the electricity office, making this roster a superior sample frame compared to other options such as outdated census registers.

3. More details on the survey, as well as the survey instrument itself, are in Konica (1999).

Respondents received a payment of \$1 US, half the prevailing average daily wage in Albania. If no response was obtained the first time, a second attempt was made on a different day. No household required more than two attempts to be contacted. Of the 1000 selected households, 972 useable responses were obtained. Sample statistics mirror those for the full population for most variables including household size, age, marital status, education, and religious confession. There are only two variables where our sample differed from national statistics. First, unemployment is higher than in official statistics (an unemployment rate of 22.5 percent versus an official rate of 14.8 percent) because the official rate is based on registry figures while ours is based on actual household responses. Second, we show a greater share of the population living in urban areas (47 percent) than official statistics (40 percent), due to population movement into cities, especially Tirana, during the transition. Given the general representativeness of the sample (and the obvious explanations for the limited differences from population statistics), we are confident of its randomness.

3. Characteristics of Emigrants

Since 1991 Albania has experienced massive outflows of its workforce. Various sources claim that by the mid-1990s more than 20 percent of the Albanian labor force was working in Greece and Italy, mostly illegally.⁴ Forty-six percent of Albanian households in our survey had at least one member working abroad at some point during the period July 1990-July 1996. At the time of the interview in the summer of 1996, 29 percent of all households had at least one member working abroad. The extent of emigration was markedly different from other transition economies where, in general, less than one percent of the labor force left for the West following the collapse of communism (European Commission, 1995).

Table 1 and Figure 1 contain annual estimates of the number of Albanian emigrants during the first years of transition. Our survey estimates are reasonably close to those from the IMF, especially given that our estimates do not include emigration by entire families who left no close relatives behind in Albania. They are, however, lower than those from the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which probably include ethnic Albanians from Kosovo and Macedonia. We estimate the total outflow of emigrants from Albania between 1990 and 1996 to be more than 750,000.⁵ Since return migration, both voluntary and involuntary, has also been common, however, we estimate the accumulated stock of emigrants in 1996 at between 300,000 and 400,000. This outflow constituted about 20 percent of the Albanian labor force or around 10 percent of the total Albanian population of 3.2 million. Table 1 also shows

4. See, IMF (1997) and the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, cited in Haderi *et al.*, (1999).

5. Double-counting those who emigrated, returned and emigrated again.

that Greece and Italy were by far the largest recipients of these emigrants. Between 1990 and 1996, over 70 percent of Albanian emigrants went to Greece and more than 15 percent to Italy.⁶ The next most common destinations were the U.S. (4 percent) and Germany (2.5 percent).

Among our survey respondents, 82 percent of emigrants to both Greece and Italy were illegal at the time of emigration, having either no visa or a false visa. By way of contrast only 23 percent of emigrants to other countries were illegal. Among those currently abroad in mid-1996, 62 percent of those in Greece, 47 percent of those in Italy were illegal as compared to 13 percent of those in other countries. This difference reflects both ex-post changes of status among emigrants who entered their destination illegally⁷ and differential rates of return among legal and illegal emigrants.

As can be seen in Table 2, 61 percent of Albanians who had left the country since 1990 had returned home by the summer of 1996. Among those who returned, about half were sent back by authorities in the destination country and half opted to return voluntarily. Voluntary returnees were slightly more common among emigrants to Greece than other countries, probably reflecting seasonal emigration for agricultural work. On the other hand, Greek authorities returned a substantially higher fraction of arriving Albanians than authorities in other countries. Table 2 also shows that voluntary returnees stayed abroad approximately twice as long as those forced to return to Albania. Migrants who returned voluntarily from, or who were still abroad in, Greece tended to have shorter durations than those to other countries, reflecting the lower costs of back-and-forth migration across a common land border. Families of those currently abroad were asked how long their members intended to reside abroad before returning to Albania. One quarter said the emigration was planned to be permanent, 58 percent for a long time period (generally three years or more) and the remainder for a short interval.

In order to assess the size of potential future emigration, we asked whether any current member of the households interviewed desired to emigrate and what had prevented them from doing so. Another 20 percent of the Albanian labor force reported that they would emigrate if they could do so legally. A few additional respondents

6. This destination incidence is almost identical to that reported by Kule *et al.* (2002) in a survey from 1998. For more on Albanian immigration to Greece, see Cavounidis, 2004.

7. There are many ways in which migrants who arrive in a country illegally can regularize their status. One common method involves marrying a native. Four and a half percent of our sample who were currently abroad at the time of interviewing and who were not married when they left Albania had subsequently married nationals of their destination country. Other possibilities include applying for refugee status or participating in the periodic programs of legalization conducted by host countries. Italy conducted one such program in 1990, prior to the bulk of the Albanian immigration and another in 1996 that may have affected some of our respondents, although Albanians were among the least likely illegal immigrants to take advantage of this program (see Reyneri, 1998).

stated that they would like to emigrate but had not done so for family reasons, primarily the responsibility of caring for elderly parents or infant children.

4. Determinants of Emigration

Although the decision to migrate is based on numerous economic, psychological, social and political factors, economists have focused on wage and unemployment differentials. For risk-averse workers, destination employment probabilities may be a more important determinant of migration than wage rates, at least in the short run (see Treyz *et al.*, 1993 and Hatton, 1995).

Borjas (1991) and Molle and van Mourik (1989) point out the importance of political and psychological factors in the home countries as determinants of migration. UN/ECE (1995) claims that cultural and other non-economic factors appear to be acting as powerful barriers to emigration from the former Soviet republics to western Europe or North America despite vast wage and unemployment differences. While official unemployment rates in Albania, Greece and Italy tended to be similar for much of the 1990s, wage differences were vast. In 1996 the purchasing-power-parity-adjusted mean monthly earnings of full-time workers were approximately \$200 in Albania as compared to over \$1800 in Greece and \$2600 in Italy. These massive differences, combined with the geographical proximity of Greece and Italy, relatively lax border controls and a knowledge of Italian or Greek among many Albanians, have obviously overcome psychological barriers to create the vast migration flows documented above.

We turn now to an investigation of which Albanians have joined this flow. Table 3 compares the characteristics of Albanians reported to be residing abroad in our survey, and those who desire to be emigrants (defined as those either currently living or desiring to live abroad), with those remaining in Albania. They indicate that emigrants are differentially likely to be young, male, single, and high school graduates (although somewhat less likely to have university degrees) than the general population.⁸ In addition to lack of family ties and longer time horizons, the propensity for young migrants can be explained by higher unemployment rates among young workers in post-communist Albania. Unlike male emigrants, female emigrants are more likely to be married and to emigrate with their partners. As might be expected, those who express a desire to emigrate but who have not yet done so are younger and more likely to be married than those who have already left Albania.

Table 4 focuses on households in Albania and compares those with one or more members abroad to all households. Emigrants are disproportionately from rural areas,

8. These percentages are similar to those reported by mostly legal immigrants themselves Gedeshi (2002).

and from relatively large, low-income families. This may be due to the fact that the communities located near the Greek border are primarily agricultural and provide a ready source of labor for Greek farms.⁹ Urban residents, on the other hand, face more difficulties in traveling abroad and in finding work, and tend to be more common among those who desire to but have not yet emigrated. The result with respect to income¹⁰ needs to be interpreted with caution. It is unclear whether lower-income households are more likely to send their members abroad, or whether households with a member abroad have lost part (perhaps the best part) of their potential earners. Religious community does not appear to be linked to emigration.

Of course, the results in Tables 3 and 4 do not hold other factors constant in examining each relationship. Table 5 reports the results of three probit estimates of emigrant status. The sample is all household members in our survey over age 15. The first equation estimates the probability of currently residing abroad while the second estimates the probability of either currently residing abroad or desiring to emigrate. Finally we assume that actual emigration status reflects intensity of desire and divide the sample into three groups, those who are neither emigrants nor wishing to emigrate, potential emigrants, and actual emigrants, and then estimate an ordered probit model.

The results in Table 5 confirm the simple correlations in Tables 3 and 4 that Albanian emigrants are more likely to be of working age,¹¹ single males,¹² hold a high school degree, and be from a large and low-income family.¹³ The greater propensity for emigrants to be from rural areas disappears once one controls for the larger family sizes and lower incomes in these areas. Albanians in the West and South of the country are more likely to be emigrants than people from the North-East, reflecting their closer proximity to the main destination countries and, perhaps, differences in cultural and family backgrounds.

As noted above, however, many Albanians would like to emigrate but have not yet moved abroad. Our next set of results considers all respondents who have either

9. Our sample is too small to produce reliable estimates by geographic division, but these are generally in line with those from other sources that find emigration to be highest from regions along the Greek border. (See, for example, Carletto *et al.* 2004).

10. Defined as income earned domestically, thus excluding remittances.

11. The highest propensity to be an emigrant is found among those between 30 and 35.

12. Among women, married women are more likely to emigrate than single women, probably due to tied migration with their husbands.

13. The income results differ from those in Papapanagos and Sanfey (2001) where there appears to be little relation between the intention of Albanians to leave the country and their income level. Income inequality increased greatly, however, between their 1992 data and our 1996 survey.

emigrated or said that they would like to emigrate.¹⁴ Once the desire to emigrate is included, university graduates are as likely as high school graduates to be among the emigrant pool. It is likely that the higher unrealized desire to emigrate among university graduates reflects their desire for employment that uses their training and, therefore, requires legal status and a difficult-to-obtain visa. The pool of potential emigrants is also, not surprisingly, younger than those who have actually emigrated. Less expected is that regional differences remain strong, indicating that these may be based on differential desires rather than ease of access. Ordered probit results in the final column of the table are fully consistent with those discussed so far.

In sum, migration decisions of Albanians in the early transition appear to be economically rational, reflecting both the differential rewards of working abroad and the relative cost differences across potential migrants. We turn now to the impact of this migration flow on those left behind and the Albanian economy in general.

5. Role of Remittances

The role of remittances in promoting economic development has received a great deal of attention in recent years (see, for summary discussions, OECD, 2005, World Bank, 2006 and Ozden and Schiff, 2006). An emerging consensus holds that remittances serve to reduce poverty but may exacerbate income inequality overall. They appear to reduce labor force participation, particularly among women, but also to increase entrepreneurial activity (Ozden and Schiff, 2007). León-Ledesma and Piracha (2004) have similarly found that remittances increase investment, employment and productivity in the post-communist counties of Eastern Europe.

5.1 Magnitude of Remittances

The household survey data indicate that a large proportion of Albanian households received remittances during the first half of 1996 in cash and/or in kind both from household and non-household members. Almost 46 percent of all Albanian households and 86 percent of families with one or more members abroad received some form of remittance during this six-month period. In addition to cash transfers, there were substantial remittances in kind, mainly in the form of clothing and household appliances. More than 26 percent of Albanian households and 42 percent of those with members abroad received remittances in kind.

The average monthly amount of cash remittance per family in 1996 claimed by respondents, including families that received no remittances at all, was approximately \$105. Families that had at least one emigrant member at the time of interviewing received average monthly cash remittances of over \$344. Viewed from the point of

14. See Castaldo *et al.* (2007) for other work discussing the emigration intentions of Albanians.

view of the emigrants, average monthly cash remittances, including those from emigrants who sent nothing home in 1996, were about \$227, almost three times the average Albanian monthly wage in 1996.

Table 7 provides various estimates of the overall importance of remittances in the Albanian economy. Multiplying the average yearly remittances of \$1250 received by households in our survey in 1996 by the estimated total number of Albanian households (675,456) implies that cash remittances entering Albania in 1996 were over \$840 million.¹⁵ Our estimates of the volume of remittances is significantly larger than that from official sources, especially considering that official estimates include, but our estimates exclude, remittances in kind. This difference suggests that a large fraction of remittances enters the country unrecorded.¹⁶ It should be noted, however, that our survey took place during a year of unusually high remittances,¹⁷ a fact that may reflect increased inflows of cash transfers due to the high interest offered by pyramid savings schemes which, in 1996, had not yet collapsed. As seen in Table 7, our estimates of the volume of cash remittances for 1996 was about one third of Albanian GDP. They were the largest single source of foreign exchange inflows, equal to almost four times exports and nine times foreign direct investment.

5.2 Determinants of Remittances

Following Funkhouser (1995), remittance behavior can be modeled by assuming that an emigrant values both his or her own utility and that of their family (or friends) in the sending country in a ratio that depends on a vector of his/her individual characteristics, the characteristics of those remaining behind, and his or her experience abroad. The emigrant will send the amount of remittances to his or her family that equates the marginal utility from an increase in consumption by recipients with the marginal utility lost from the decrease of the emigrant's own consumption. In general, the higher the emigrant's earnings are abroad (proxied by work status and experience) and the stronger the relationship of the emigrant to those remaining behind,

15. An alternative estimate of the volume of remittances can be obtained by multiplying our lower and upper estimates of the number of Albanians abroad in 1996 by the average amount of yearly cash remittances sent by each emigrant. These figures of between \$780 and \$970 million are consistent with those from the household-based estimate.

16. Gedeshi (2002) reports that only 19 percent of emigrants used the banking system to transfer funds home. This percentage may be biased downwards, however, by the fact that respondents were primarily legal emigrants who were interviewed during transit at ports and who, therefore, had the option of carrying funds on their persons. See also Kule *et al.* (2002) and Arrehag *et al.* (2005) for discussions of the limited use of the banking system.

17. Bank of Albania estimates of remittances in 1996 were approximately twice those in 1995 and 1997.

the higher the level of remittances will be. The existence of multiple emigrants from the same household should reduce remittances from any given emigrant. Finally, the time profile of remittances is indeterminate and depends on the relative sizes of discount factors.

Theoretically, the level of remittances could be negative, with families transferring funds to members abroad. Such reverse remittances, however, were never observed in our data. There are, instead, frequent zero values where emigrants do not send funds home. Therefore, a tobit (censored regression) model is appropriate for the structure of the data. We must also take into account the fact that emigrant status itself is not independent of remittance decisions, since a desire to be able to provide remittances is a major motivation for emigration. Thus, our estimates of remittance behavior control for sample selection effects by including an inverse Mills ratio derived from the emigration probit regression reported in Table 5.

Results in Table 8 show remittances sent to households in Albania are positively related to the employment status of the emigrant, the presence of a spouse in Albania, the emigrant's legal status, as well as whether the emigrant had arranged a job in the foreign country prior to departure. The existence of other emigrants from the household, apart from the emigrant's own spouse, decreases the amount of cash remitted. The amount remitted appears to be unaffected by emigration length or the emigrant's gender.¹⁸

5.3 Use of Remittances

Households used remittances for various purposes, as shown in Table 9. During 1996, 22 percent of remittances were spent on food and clothing. Another 13 percent was used to buy furniture and household appliances, while 18 percent was used to buy or build housing units, partially easing the severe housing shortages in Albania. A further 20 percent was invested in family businesses. Thus, remittances equaling \$170 million were used in productive investments during 1996, approximately twice the level of foreign aid to, or foreign direct investments in, Albania that year.

As shown in Table 9, the highest percentage (27 percent) of total remittances during 1996 was saved by the recipient. This high rate of saving was probably influenced by the high interest rates promised by the pyramid schemes prevalent at that time. Although these schemes collapsed in early 1997, it would be a mistake to assume that the remittances invested in them were lost. Indeed, the schemes collapsed because they paid early investors out of funds provided by later investors and eventually end-

18. As was seen in Table 5, gender is an important determinant of emigration behavior. This is the only coefficient significantly affected by the sample selection correction. Without such a correction, female emigrants appear to send lower amounts home.

ed with no assets. Thus, remittance monies invested in pyramid schemes would have been paid out to early investors and used for consumption or business formation. For a discussion of the role of remittances in the Albanian pyramid schemes, see Korovilas (2005).

5.4 Impact of Remittances on Private Sector Development

Although Albania had absolutely no private sector under communism, by 1996 it had a higher percentage of private-sector employment than almost any other Eastern European country.¹⁹ Cuka, *et al.* (2003) and Muent *et al.* (2001) report that remittances were a major source of capital for business start-up and expansion. Both Kule *et al.* (2002) and the Albanian Center for Economic Research (1995), in independent studies, report that approximately 17 percent of the capital used to establish private businesses in the mid-1990s came from remittances from Albanians working abroad.

In our sample, members of 175 out of 972 households operated a family business. These businesses employed 231 out 3,668 individuals in the sample. Approximately half of these businesses were in wholesale or retail trade, 11 percent in manufacturing, 10 percent in food service and the rest in a variety of other industries. We have estimated a probit equation relating the probability that an individual is involved in private business to individual as well as family characteristics including age, age squared, gender, educational level, family size, urban residence, region of residence, the presence in the household of returned emigrants, and amount of remittances in 1996.²⁰

As expected, the results presented in Table 10 indicate that characteristics such as being middle-aged, male, having a higher level of education and being a member of a household with many adults increase the propensity to be employed in a household business. Households located in the capital, Tirana, were, on the other hand, less likely to start private businesses, perhaps reflecting high start-up costs of acquiring property or greater competition from established enterprises. With respect to emigration effects, the presence of at least one returned emigrant in the household is a highly significant factor increasing the probability that the family owns a business. This

19. The EBRD reports private-sector share of GDP in 1996 to be 75 percent, equal to the Czech Republic and greater than all other transition economies.

20. We are aware that the presence of returned emigrants and the size of remittances may be endogenous to the desire to start a business and, therefore, that results should be interpreted with caution. The interpretation that the results reports are causal, rather than due to selection is, however, supported by the results not reported here that the link between being a returned emigrant and starting a business is weaker for those who returned involuntarily due to the actions of foreign authorities, even though there is no reason to suppose that their decision to leave for work abroad was due to different factors than those who did not get caught.

result suggests that the human capital acquired in a market economy, embodied in returning emigrants, may play an important role in business establishment.²¹ Remittances received in 1996 themselves are not predictors of the probability of having a family business. They may, instead, have been invested, even if ill-advisedly, in pyramid schemes, awaiting the returning emigrant before businesses were started. This pattern of return migration before business formation suggests a channel through which the link between remittances and private enterprise may work. In addition, although we are unable to quantify this effect, there is obviously a demand-side impact on business formation due to the increased purchases of retail goods and construction activity seen in Table 8.

5.5 Effects of Remittances on the Albanian Labor Market

In this section, we examine the relationship between emigration by members of a household and labor force participation of the members of that household who remain behind in Albania.²² Theoretically, there are two, off-setting, effects on labor force participation of the remaining members in a household. The loss of a domestic earner in the household may lead to increased work by others. If leisure is a normal good, however, the labor force participation of the remaining members of the household may be reduced due to increased household income arising from remittances. The sizes of these two effects are determined by individual preferences for income and leisure, and are likely to differ according by gender. Thus, we analyze men and women separately, with results presented in Table 11.

The results suggest that the labor force participation of men is not significantly affected by either the existence of emigrants from the household or the amount of remittances received. Increased remittances, however, make women significantly less likely to work.²³ Overall, the female labor force participation rate in Albania fell from 84 percent in 1991 to 59 percent in 1996, concentrated in households with greater remittances. Further investigation will be needed to determine if it represents a labor supply response to greater remittances or if the amount of remittances is influenced by lack of employment opportunities for family members remaining at home. The fact that the association appears for women but not for men, however, strongly suggests that it is a labor supply response, as does the fact that there is no link between la-

21. Kule *et al.* (2002) report that half of all employers surveyed say that a period of time spent working abroad makes a job applicant a more attractive potential employee, owing to skills acquired while an emigrant.

22. In theory the analysis of supply of labor hours would also be interesting but the data revealed very little variation in this figure except for unreliable reports by the self-employed.

23. Similar findings that remittances affect female but not male labor supply, have been reported for Mexico (Amuedo-Dorantes and Pozo (2006)) and El Salvador (Acosta (2006)).

bor supply behavior and the presence of an involuntarily returned emigrant as would be expected if emigration were motivated by lack of opportunity for, or preferences of, remaining family members.

6. Summary and Conclusions

Remittances were clearly an important factor in the Albanian economy in the years following the collapse of communism. They were the single largest source of foreign exchange, far exceeding both foreign direct investment and foreign aid.²⁴ Remittances played a significant role in maintaining standards of living in times of economic chaos. They were also significant in stimulating the development of the private sector, both by supporting demand and by providing capital for business development. The role of “remitted” human capital embodied in returning emigrants appears to have been particularly important. Finally, emigration and associated remittances served to lower unemployment rates both by removing potential workers and through reduced labor supply on the part of those receiving support from abroad.

Overall, the conclusion is that remittances from emigration have been, and will continue to be, of vital importance to Albania’s economy and its growth prospects. This raises the issue of whether assistance from the international community to the Albanian transition might better come from relaxed visa requirements to promote the flow of emigrants and remittances rather than through direct aid. The influence of emigration on development in Albania could be further enhanced if receiving countries directed formal aid programs to assisting returning emigrants in establishing small and medium-sized enterprises.

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24. The impact of remittances is magnified because, unlike official aid, they go directly to Albanian citizens and are not subject to diversion to the benefit of corrupt individuals or institutions. See Murphy (1998) for a discussion of the propensity of official aid to Albania to be stolen or squandered.

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Table 1: Extent and Destination of Albanian Emigration

	Estimated Outflows	Estimated Returned Emigrants	Net Yearly Emigration	Stock of emigrants ^b		IMF Estimates of Stock of Emigrants	Greek MoFA Estimates of Stock of Emigrants	% to Greece	% to Italy	% to Other Countries
				Lower estimate	Upper estimate					
1989	690	0	690	690	690	na	na			
1990	17,253	1,380	15,873	16,563	17,943	na	na	48.0	8.0	44.0
1991	80,742	23,463	57,279	73,842	97,305	110,000	243,000	66.7	27.3	6.0
1992	75,911	39,335	36,576	110,418	149,753	200,000	351,000	75.5	13.6	10.9
1993	109,726	73,150	36,576	146,994	220,144	232,000	381,000	76.7	13.2	10.1
1994	122,148	102,825	19,323	166,317	269,142	295,000	353,000	74.0	18.1	7.9
1995	156,653	116,627	40,026	206,343	322,970	295,000	413,000	73.6	17.6	8.8
1996 ^a	187,708	80,052	107,656	313,999	394,051	na	na	72.8	17.7	9.5

^a Estimates for 1996 based on extrapolation of the survey results for the first half of 1996.

^b The lower estimate is the accumulated stock of emigrants on December 31. The upper estimate is the number abroad at any point during a given year.

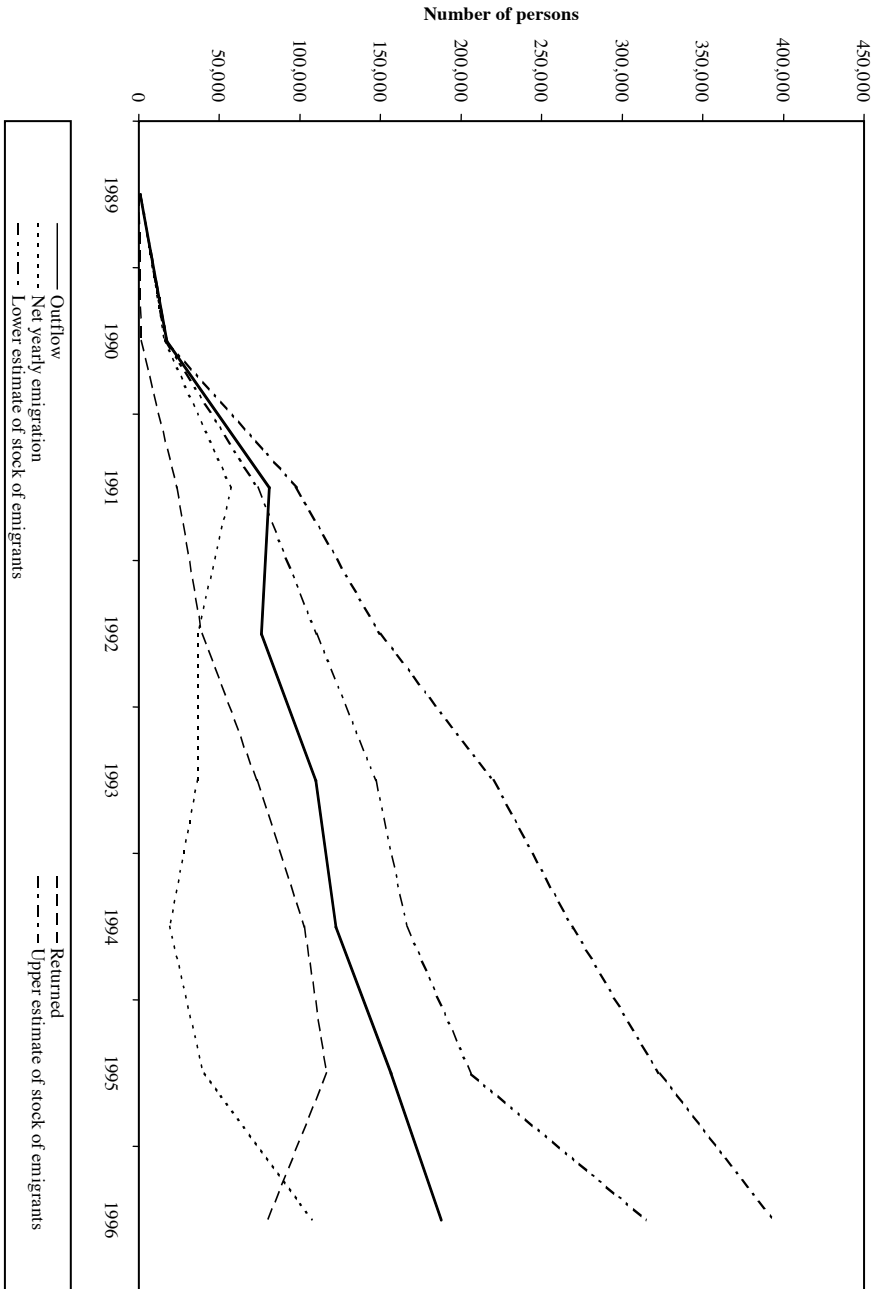


Figure 1 : Emigration and Return Migration: 1990 and 1996

Table 2 : Mean Duration of Stay Abroad for Different Categories of Emigrants: 1990-1996

	Greece	Italy	Others	Total
Returned by the police (%)	36.87	9.25	8.08	29.15
Mean duration of stay (in months)	6.40	6.50	7.12	6.43
Returned voluntarily (%)	34.64	27.17	22.22	32.09
Mean duration of stay (in months)	11.53	14.82	15.50	12.29
Still emigrants at the time of interviewing (%)	28.49	63.58	69.70	38.77
Mean duration of stay up to the time of interviewing (in months)	19.85	26.78	29.88	23.65

Table 3 - Characteristics of Albanian Population and Emigrants in 1996
(As percentage of relevant group)

	Total Population	Emigrants	Either Currently an Emigrant or Would Like to Emigrate
Age			
0-14 years	20.90	0.26	8.36
15-24 years	23.61	35.48	34.16
25-39 years	20.90	49.36	38.52
40-54 years	21.70	14.14	17.08
over 54 years	12.90	0.77	1.87
Gender (among pop. 15-54)			
Male	48.50	81.04	72.45
Female	51.50	18.96	27.55
Highest level of Education (among pop. 15+)			
Primary school (8 years)	38.55	28.37	28.44
Secondary school (12 years)	45.07	58.77	55.73
University	16.38	12.89	15.83
Marital Status (among pop. 19+)			
Married male	34.10	29.41	35.04
Married female	37.44	15.78	19.04
Single male	15.87	50.80	37.13
Single female	12.59	4.01	8.78
Urban	46.75	40.36	44.48
Rural	53.25	59.64	55.52

Table 4 : Albanian Households with Members Now or Previously Abroad Compared to All Households

	% of Total Families	% of Families with Emigrants
Urban	49.07	40.57
Rural	50.93	59.43
Family Size		
1-2 persons	3.70	1.42
3-4 persons	44.69	32.74
4-6 persons	40.12	48.04
Over 6 persons	11.21	17.79
Family Income		
1 - the lowest	32.72	45.20
2	27.78	30.25
3	21.30	13.17
4	7.72	5.69
5	3.91	2.85
6 - the highest	6.58	2.85
Religion		
Muslims	67.49	67.62
Orthodox	23.87	22.78
Catholics	8.64	9.61

Table 5 : Probit Estimates for Emigrant Status (Population over age 14)

	Emigrant		Currently an Emigrant or Desires to Emigrate		Ordered Probit
	Coeff.	dP/dX	Coeff.	dP/dX	Coeff.
Intercept	-3.503** (.367)		-1.395** (.247)		1.649 (.235) 2.491 (.237)
Age	.173** (.022)	.014	.099** (.015)	.027	.112** (.014)
Age²/100	-.263** (.031)	-.021	-.170** (.019)	-.047	-.186** (.018)
Female	-1.389** (.122)	-.133	-1.238** (.079)	-.337	-1.264** (.075)
Married x male	-.614** (.109)	-.041	-.321** (.095)	-.083	-.416** (.086)
Married x female	.288* (.143)	.025	.202* (.099)	.057	.191* (.095)
Secondary school	.183* (.076)	.015	.277** (.059)	.077	.257** (.055)
University	.055 (.108)	.004	.204* (.081)	.059	.164* (.077)
High Income HH (above 3rd categ.)	-.273** (.095)	-.019	-.267** (.068)	-.068	-.260** (.065)
Big HH (over 4 persons)	.231** (.068)	.017	-.039 (.051)	-.010	.034 (.048)
Urban	-.009 (.076)	-.0007	-.117* (.059)	-.032	-.077 (.055)
West	.236* (.109)	.018	.346** (.085)	.092	.310** (.079)
South	.440** (.108)	.043	.398** (.085)	.118	.415** (.079)
Log likelihood	-974.88		-1715.07		-2365.3464
Pseudo R²	0.2127		0.2125		0.1730
N	3668		3668		3668

* significant at 5% level,

** significant at 1% level

Table 6 : Extent of Remittances from Albanian Emigrants

Households receiving remittances in 1996	Fraction of All Households	Fraction of Households with Emigrants
Cash from household members	27.37	77.94
Cash from non household members	9.77	4.63
In kind (food, clothing, etc.)	26.13	42.35
Total (in one or more forms)	45.78	86.12

Table 7 - Remittances in the Context of the Albanian Economy
(millions of US dollars)

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
GDP	1141	710	1241	1984	2384	2556
Current Account	-249	-434	-365	-284	-181	-249
Trade Balance	-208	-454	-490	-460	-474	-692
Exports	73	70	112	141	205	229
Imports	281	524	602	601	679	921
FDI	8	32	45	65	89	97
Donations	38	307	280	153	177	91
Remittances^a	na	150	275	379	385	611
Remittances^b	na	148	230	264	300	425
Remittances^c						845.8

Sources:

EBRD Transition Report Update, April 1998, except for:

Donations: Information and Legal Support Unit. Ministry of Finance. Albania.

Remittances:

^aBank of Albania, Quarterly Statistical Bulletin, various issues.

^bIMF (1997) and IMF (1998).

^cOur survey.

Table 8 : Determinants of Remittance Behavior

	Amount Sent (\$/Month) - Tobit
Intercept	-116.837 (397.912)
Working	431.575** (137.641)
Female	-127.911 (127.650)
Age	11.907** (4.543)
Left spouse	311.307** (107.666)
Immediate relative of household head	59.408 (135.699)
Had a job prior to departure	249.700** (74.134)
Legal immigrant	187.523* (74.294)
Months since emigration	-3.198 (5.787)
Months since emigration²/100	2.324 (8.144)
Other emigrants from household	-177.663* (74.396)
South	100.191 (72.763)
Inverse Mills ratio	1392.299* (592.514)
Log likelihood	-1849.759
N	381

Standard errors in parentheses.

*significant at 5% level,

**significant at 1% level

Table 9 : Use of Remittances in 1996

	Share of Total Remittances	Yearly Average^a per HH (in US \$)	Volume in 1996 (millions of US \$)
Food and clothing	22.5	281.8	190.3
Household appliances and furniture	12.5	156.1	105.7
Housing	17.7	221.2	149.7
Savings	27.2	341.2	230.0
Investment in businesses	20.1	251.8	170.0
Total	100.0	1252.2	845.8

^aYearly average of cash remittances per household is for all Albanian households, including those that received no remittances.

Table 10 : Probit Estimates for Being Employed in a Household Business
(Population over age 14)

	Coefficient	dP/dX
Intercept	-4.493** (.423)	
Age	.133** (.020)	.008
Age²/100	-.160** (.026)	-.009
Female	-.532** (.082)	-.033
Secondary school	.313** (.103)	.019
University	.473** (.121)	.039
Number of adults in the household	.067** (.027)	.004
Households with returned emigrants	.321** (.089)	.023
Households receiving remittances	-.184 (.097)	-.010
Monthly amount of remittances (US \$)/1000	.062 (.091)	.003
Urban	.146 (.088)	.008
Tirana	-.246* (.117)	-.012
Log likelihood	-616.024	
Pseudo R²	0.1240	
N	3668	

Standard errors are in parentheses.

*significant at 5% level,

**significant at 1% level

Table 11 : Probit Estimates for Labor Force Participation
(Working or Looking for Job)

	Females 15-55		Males 15-60	
	Coeff.	dP/dX	Coeff.	dP/dX
Intercept	-6.504** (.383)		-7.166** (.434)	
Age	.446** (.026)	.152	.480** (.029)	.108
Age²/100	-.615** (.038)	-.209	-.623** (.039)	-.140
Education				
Secondary school	.189* (.091)	.064	-.096 (.114)	-.021
University	1.014** (.162)	.262	.564** (.176)	.106
Urban	-.504** (.083)	-.171	-.127 (.101)	-.028
Ratio of children to adults in household	-.240 (.127)	-.082	.420 (.295)	.094
Household with at least one child	.281** (.104)	.096	.051 (.148)	.011
Household with business	-.416** (.096)	-.150	.097 (.115)	.021
Household with emigrant	.016 (.093)	.005	.187 (.118)	.039
Monthly amount of remittance (US \$)/1000	-.381** (.122)	-.129	.084 (.167)	.018
Log likelihood	-676.976		-451.779	
Pseudo R²	0.3149		0.3977	
N	1540		1332	

Standard errors are in parentheses.

*significant at 5% level,

**significant at 1% level