

the media, to improve the legal literacy of the population.

The implementation of these measures will help improve the situation in the labor market in China, thereby improving the economic situation in the country and the social situation in general.

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THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ON LABOUR MARKET

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During the recent decades the process of globalisation has significantly increased international migrations, especially to rich countries. The study of migrants and their economic motivations and consequences has become a very important item in the international research and policy agenda. The ageing of the population, the growing demand and decreased supply for personal and household services in rich countries have increased the demand for foreign workers who can fill those gaps. At the same time, highly educated workers, especially scientists and engineers, have increased their international mobility driving an international competition for talent, needed to fuel innovation in science, technology and their applications to advanced sectors. Migration therefore has been a phenomenon of great relevance in broadening the opportunities and sustaining socio-economic change in advanced market economies at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Both skilled and unskilled immigrants have been playing an important role.

Large episodes of migration toward rich countries – primarily reflecting a search for better economic opportunities – are not new in history and have occurred even when transportation costs were much higher than today. Currently, immigrants in advanced economies make up about 12 percent of the population, up from 7 percent in 1990.

Migrants to emerging market and developing economies constitute only 2 percent of the population and are composed to a significant extent of refugees [1].

Immigration does not only affect the receiving country; it can also have important consequences for the sending countries. The outflow of (high-skilled) people from developing countries could alter the human capital stock in these countries, thereby affecting economic and social conditions [2]. This issue deserves attention and could be internalized by receiving countries when designing their migration policies.

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TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: CONSEQUENCES AND REGULATORY DIRECTIONS

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Temporary employment has grown in a considerable number of countries in the past years [1, 2] and this expansion has raised concerns that temporary jobs may be an additional source of insecurity and precariousness for workers. Concerns also have been expressed that temporary jobs may lead to growing labour market segmentation and dualism [3, 4].

International Labor Organization defines temporary employment as «employment, whereby workers are engaged only for a specific period of time, includes fixed-term, project- or task-based contracts, as well as seasonal or casual work, including day labour» [5].

Temporary employment may also have beneficial effects. Indeed, the expansion of temporary employment seems to reflect, in part, individuals' and employers' increased demands for flexibility in working patterns. Some individuals may prefer to be employed in temporary rather than permanent jobs for a number of reasons, e.g. temporary jobs may involve less commitment to the employer and, hence, better opportunities to combine work with other activities (e.g. education and care giving). Other individuals may value temporary jobs as a means of entering the labour market, securing an immediate source of income while gaining work experience that can help them to move up the job ladder. Similarly, by acting as a buffer, temporary jobs may allow employers to adjust their operations more effectively to changes in competitive conditions, including business-cycle fluctuations in demand. Employers may also use temporary jobs as a least-cost way of screening potential candidates for permanent jobs in their firms.

One may question what is the best strategy for governments to follow in this area and whether there is an optimal level of regulation of temporary employment that can improve the overall performance of the labour market without exposing a subset of workers to excessive insecurity and precariousness.