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**THE LABOUR MIGRATION TRENDS IN CHINA  
ТЕНДЕНЦИИ ТРУДОВОЙ МИГРАЦИИ В КИТАЕ**

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*Abstract. This article presents the results of the research on labor migration processes in China. It identifies the main features of new urbanization: urban-rural integration, industrial interaction, conservation and intensification, ecological livability and harmonious development, and the desire of small, medium and large cities to develop in harmony with small towns and new rural communities. Improving the quality of employment for rural workers and actively and continuously promoting the transformation of rural migrant workers into citizens is the ultimate goal of new urbanization. Improving the quality of employment can greatly ensure the relatively equal treatment of labor, higher income and better quality of life for rural migrant workers.*

*Аннотация. В данной статье представлены результаты исследования процессов трудовой миграции в Китае. Выявлены основные черты новой урбанизации: городско-сельская интеграция, промышленное взаимодействие, сохранение и интенсификация, экологическая пригодность для жизни и гармоничное развитие, а также стремление малых, средних и крупных городов развиваться в гармонии с малыми городами и новыми сельскими общинами. Повышение качества занятости*

*для сельских рабочих и активное и постоянное содействие превращению сельских рабочих-мигрантов в граждан являются конечной целью урбанизации нового типа. Повышение качества занятости может в значительной степени обеспечить относительно равное отношение к труду, более высокий уровень доходов и лучшее качество жизни для сельских рабочих-мигрантов.*

Although China's traditional urbanisation did promote economic growth for a certain period of time, its crude development, which blindly pursued the expansion of towns and cities, resulted in a waste of resources, and the use of the migrant population to develop industries while ignoring the plight of their survival in the cities and towns led to a serious inconsistency between the pace of industrialisation and urbanisation, and the gap between the cities and the towns has been widened continuously. As the economy and society develop, traditional urbanisation is revealing more and more limitations.

In 2012, the Communiqué of the Central Economic Work Conference explicitly mentioned the concept of "new urbanisation" for the first time. In the 2014 Government Work Report, the concept of "new urbanisation with people at its core" was explicitly mentioned. The basic features of new urbanisation include six points, namely urban-rural integration, urban-rural integration, industrial interaction, conservation and intensification, ecological livability and harmonious development, and the pursuit of small, medium and large cities develop in harmony with small towns and new rural communities. The purpose of the construction of new towns is to protect local culture, with emphasis on the quality of urbanisation and ecological civilisation [2].

Professor Zhang Yulin first mentioned the term "migrant workers" in an article published in the journal Sociological Bulletin in 1984. The concept of "rural migrant workers" belongs to both the historical and economic spheres, and refers to those who have achieved non-agricultural employment in towns and cities, but still hold rural household registration. They are a special group of people created in the process of China's economic and social development, and are determined by China's special road of urbanisation and the nature of its urban-rural dualistic economic system.

In western developed countries, in the process of gradually transforming from an agricultural society to an industrial society, the process of urbanisation has advanced in parallel with the process of industrialisation, and when peasants go to the cities to work as workers, their status is also changed to urban residents accordingly, and there is no similarity with the phenomenon of rural migrant workers in China. China's dual household registration system, on the other hand, divides the country's population into urban and rural areas, severely restricting the free movement of rural labour, leading to a serious discrepancy between the development of urbanisation and industrialisation in China. Synchronisation has

also resulted in a large number of rural migrant workers being rejected by employers on the basis of their social status in the course of urban employment.

Rural workers can be divided into a broader and a narrower sense. Rural migrant workers in the broad sense include both rural labourers who work in local township and village enterprises without leaving their hometowns, and rural labourers who work far from their hometowns in other towns and cities without leaving their hometowns. Rural workers in the narrower sense generally refer to rural labourers who have left their hometowns. National statistics show that in 2021, there will be about 293 million rural migrant workers in the broad sense and 172 million in the narrow sense. This article takes the broad sense of rural migrant workers as the research object.

In order to implement the new urbanisation strategy, a series of liberal settlement policies have been introduced one after another, but the results have not been remarkable. It is thus clear that a proven way to promote the smooth implementation of the new urbanisation strategy is to increase the willingness of rural migrant workers to settle in urban areas. Migrant workers' decision to settle in cities and towns is the result of comprehensive consideration, and factors related to urban employment status have an important impact on their decision to settle in cities and towns. Stable jobs and incomes are the economic basis for settling in cities and towns, but the current status of urban employment for migrant workers is not optimistic. In 2021, the number of rural migrant workers will have risen to 29.251 million after the epidemic, and the number of local migrant workers will have risen to 29.251 million after the epidemic. The share of workers has increased further, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Number of Migrant Workers in China, 2016–2021

Years	Total migrant workers (mil persons)	Local migrant workers (mil persons)	Percentage (%)	Migrant workers (mil persons)	Percentage (%)
2016	281,71	112,37	39.89	169,34	60.01
2017	286,52	114,67	40.02	171,85	59.98
2018	288,36	115,70	40.12	172,66	59.88
2019	290,77	116,52	40.07	174,25	59.93
2020	285,60	116,01	40.62	169,59	59.38
2021	292,51	120,79	41.29	171,72	58.71

Enhancing the quality of employment for rural labourers and actively and steadily promoting the transformation of rural migrant workers into citizens are not only a key task of current economic and social development, but also the ultimate goal of new-type urbanization. Improving the quality of employment

can, to a large extent, bring about relatively equal labour treatment, higher income levels and better quality of life for rural migrant workers.

Focusing on the problems in the employment process of rural migrant workers, improving the employment environment of rural migrant workers, enhancing their personal human capital, allowing them to enjoy equal employment opportunities in urban areas, and improving the quality of their urban employment from multiple perspectives are important ways to enhance their willingness to settle in urban areas. Based on the above background, it is important to explore the current situation of rural migrant workers' urban employment quality and its impact on their willingness to settle down. Suggesting effective countermeasures to promote the urban settlement of rural migrant workers can provide some reference for solving the "three hundred million" problem and promoting the construction of a new type of urbanisation.

"The 14th Five-Year Plan clearly states that the new urbanisation path with Chinese characteristics should be people-centred, constantly improve the mechanism for the integrated development of urban and rural areas, and promote the coordinated and linked development of large, medium-sized and small cities and towns. It also proposes to deepen the reform of household registration, and to actively guide agricultural migrants to settle in cities with their families on a household basis. Whether or not rural migrant workers can be successfully employed in cities and towns and thus achieve citizenship is closely related to whether or not China's industrialisation and urbanisation can be advanced in a scientific and orderly manner, and at the same time plays a fundamental role in whether or not the problem of the three rural areas can be solved. Therefore, the study of the impact of the employment quality of rural migrant workers on their willingness to settle down in cities and towns is not only of great significance from a theoretical perspective, but also from a practical perspective.

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