



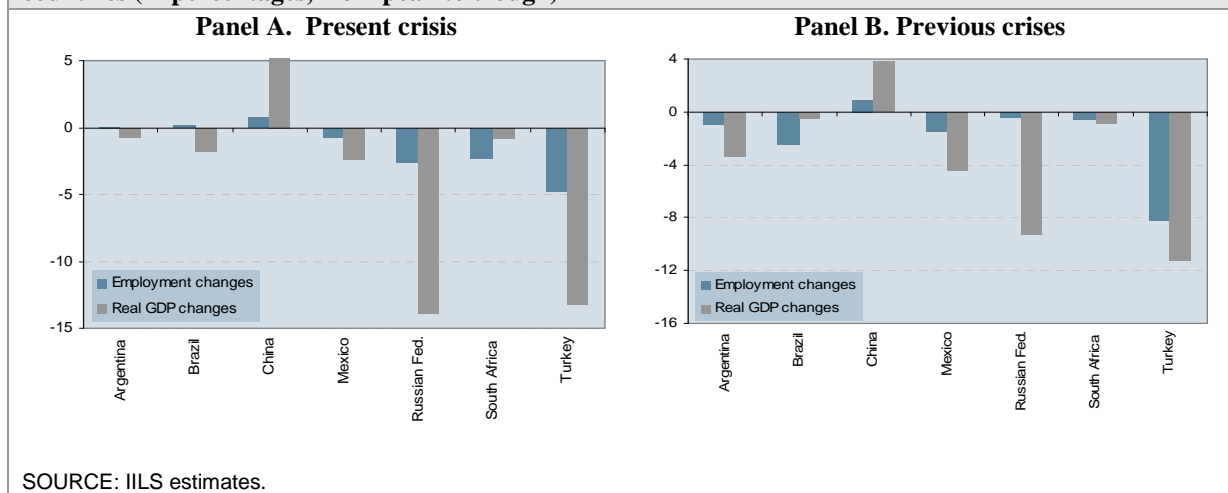
# World of Work 2009

## Snapshot of the Russian Federation

### *What has been the impact of the crisis on the world of work?*

- *Job losses:* since the onset of the crisis, 2.2 million jobs have been lost in the Russian Federation. However, employment has fallen less than GDP, as was the case in previous crises (see figure 1).
- *Unemployment peak begins to recede:* from a low of 5.7 per cent in the second quarter of 2008, the unemployment rate peaked at 9.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2009 before declining to 8.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2009. Official unemployment figures indicate a continued decline in the third quarter of this year.
- *Migrant workers affected:* many migrant workers have lost their jobs since the onset of the crisis, resulting in a sharp drop in remittances, with a particularly severe impact on Central Asia (including Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan).
- *Temporary job loss or reduced working time:* features of the Russian Federation's labour market – including greater flexibility in working hours, forced vacations, second jobs and home-based production – have buffered it against rising unemployment. More than 1.6 million employees were temporarily out of work, working part-time or on forced vacations in October 2009.

**Figure 1. Impact of current and previous crises on employment and GDP in medium GDP per-capita countries (in percentages, from peak to trough)**



### *What are the prospects for employment recovery?*

- *Interventions have been put in place:* a number of important measures have been undertaken in the wake of the crisis. Some of the measures include increased support to low-income households, employment programmes targeted at the poor, increase in base pension by 37 per cent in line with

forecast inflation for 2009, extension of unemployment benefits, expansion of training and employment measures for youth, and extensive use of formal consultation mechanisms during the current recession.

- *Growth in the working-age population may slow down the recovery of employment rates:* there are positive signs of a return to job creation, with a rise of 1.1 million new jobs in the second quarter of 2009. However, the growth of the working-age population will affect the employment rate (i.e. the rate of employment to working-age population), which reflects under-employment or “joblessness”. Hence, recovery in employment rates may take several years.

### *Policy challenges going forward...*

*Crisis measures to create new jobs, prevent layoffs and reduce vulnerability must be maintained:* the analysis in the *World of Work Report 2009* indicates that policies adopted in response to the crisis to stabilize labour markets, retain workers and protect vulnerable and unemployed workers and their families must be continued – especially in countries or regions experiencing a weak economic recovery – to avert a worsening economic crisis in the short term.

*World of Work 2009: The Global Jobs Crisis and Beyond is available at ([www.ilo.org/INST](http://www.ilo.org/INST)). For further comment, journalists are invited to contact Anne Posthuma (tel +41 22 799 8174; email [posthuma@ilo.org](mailto:posthuma@ilo.org)) or Raymond Torres (tel: +41 22 799 7908; email: [torres@ilo.org](mailto:torres@ilo.org)), Director of the ILO's International Institute for Labour Studies.*