

HISTORY OF DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

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Abstract

This article analyzes the dynamics of demographic processes in Uzbekistan. The population growth rate, the ratio of urban and rural populations, changes in labor resources, fertility, mortality and natural increase rates, as well as regional differences are covered. Also, the directions of demographic policy, state programs aimed at strengthening maternal and child health, and the scientific and statistical significance of the population census are considered. According to the results of the analysis, the number of permanent residents as of January 1, 2026 reached 38,236.7 thousand people, population density is increasing, and demographic processes are uneven across regions. The article argues for the need to improve regional demographic policy, plan socio-economic policy on a scientific basis, and allocate resources in a targeted manner.

Keywords: Demographic processes, population, population growth rate, natural increase, birth and death rates, labor resources, urban and rural population, population density, population census, demographic policy, regional differences, Uzbekistan.

Introduction

Demographic processes are phenomena that reflect the development of the population in time and space, and changes in its growth, mortality, gender and age composition, and quantitative changes in labor resources are phenomena that directly affect the socio-economic development of society [1]. "Demography" is derived from the Greek words "demos" - people, population and "graphos" - to write [2]. Demographic processes, first of all, have a significant impact on the socio-labor sphere and are a key factor in the development of society, directly affecting the level of employment and unemployment of the population, the average income of the population per capita, the provision of housing, and the organization of pension provision in old age.

Literature Review

In preparing this article, scientific literature, statistical data, periodicals, and legislative documents in the field were studied in detail and analyzed.

Methodology

The methods of systematization, objectivity, problem-chronological, comparison, comparative analysis, statistical research, and interdisciplinary approach were used to cover the research topic.

Analysis and results

The regions of the republic can be divided into 3 groups according to the population growth rate in 1989-2004:

- regions with relatively rapid population growth (Andijan, Jizzakh, Khorezm, Namangan, Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya regions);
- regions with moderate population growth (Bukhara, Fergana, Samarkand);
- regions with slow population growth (Republic of Karakalpakstan, Navoi, Tashkent, Syrdarya regions, Tashkent city)[3].

In 2001, 37.2 percent of the total population of Uzbekistan was urban and 62.8 percent rural, while compared to 2001, the total population increased by 139.3 percent, the urban population by 189.8 percent, and the rural population by 109.4 percent [4].

The implementation of such events in the republic as “Protection of Motherhood and Childhood”, “Strengthening the Family”, “Year of the Family”, “Year of Women”, “Year of Healthy Generation”, “Year of Mothers and Children”, “Year of Respect for the Elderly”, “Year of Prosperous Neighborhood”, “Year of Kindness and Compassion”, “Year of Rural Development and Prosperity” had a positive impact on the development of the country's population [5]. The population of Uzbekistan increased from 20.5 million to 29.5 million people during 1990–2012. In 2012, the population density was 66.5 people per km², having increased by 2 times over the past 30 years [6]. In 2011, the population of Uzbekistan was 29,123.4 thousand people, of which 14,897 thousand were urban residents and 14,226.0 thousand were rural residents. In 2012, the population of the republic was 29,555 thousand people, of which 15,143.2 thousand people lived in cities, or 51.2 percent, and 14,412.2 thousand people lived in rural areas, or 48.8 percent [7]. This indicates that the urban population is growing. In 2013, the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan was about 30.5 million people. As a result of this process, the average annual growth rate of the number of labor resources during 2007–2012 was 2.5 percent [8]. In 2011, as a result of the implementation of the Regional Employment Program, 1 million new jobs were created, of which more than 68 percent were created in rural areas, more than 64 percent in small business, private entrepreneurship and farming, and more than 28 percent were created due to the expansion of various forms of home-based work [9].

In particular, Uzbekistan's demographic policy is aimed at regulating birth rates in order to strengthen maternal and child health [10]. In particular, 2016 was declared the “Year of Healthy Mothers and Children” and the priority tasks and directions of implementation of the State Program were determined. It is worth noting that a total of 7483.3 billion soums

and 194 million US dollars in equivalent were spent on the implementation of the State Program “Year of Healthy Mothers and Children” [11].

The total population of Uzbekistan as of January 1, 2017 is 32,121.5 thousand people. In 1991-2017, the population growth rate was 153.2%, with an average annual increase of 1.7%. An analysis of the absolute population growth of the last 4 censuses and subsequent periods shows that the population of the republic has been increasing by an average of 4 million people every decade. Over the past two decades, due to a decrease in the birth rate and natural increase, as well as negative indicators of migration flows, the population growth rate of the republic has decreased sharply. In particular, in 1985-1990, the average annual population growth in the country was 2.40 percent, in 1990-1995 - 2.15 percent, in 1995-2000 - 1.75 percent, in 2000-2005, 2005-2010 - 1.20 percent, and in 2010-2015 - 1.20 percent [12].

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Approval of the Concept of Conducting a Population Census in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022” dated February 5, 2019, it was decided to conduct a population census in our Republic in 2022 [13]. Due to the long preparation and large financial requirements of this process, it was decided to conduct it in January-February 2026. A population census is a large-scale nationwide event that allows you to obtain a “snapshot” of the country’s population at a given time [14] and is a reliable source of information about the population.

The number of permanent residents in Uzbekistan increased from 33,255.5 thousand people in 2018 to 36,024.9 thousand people in 2022, or 8.3%. During this period, the growth rate of the permanent population was higher than the national average in Tashkent city (17.8%), Surkhandarya (9.2%), Jizzakh (9.1%), Kashkadarya (8.4%), Samarkand (8.4%) and Andijan (8.3%) regions, and lower in other regions. In the early years of independence, the population increased by an average of 400-450 thousand people per year, and in the 2000s by 300 thousand people, while today the average annual total increase is 750 thousand people.

The number of births in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2018-2022 has a stable growth trend, with 482.4 thousand of the births being boys and 449.8 thousand being girls, i.e. for every 100 girls

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that the uneven development of demographic processes across regions indicates the need to improve regional demographic policy. The census has formed an important statistical and scientific basis for an accurate assessment of the demographic situation, scientific planning of socio-economic policy, and targeted allocation of resources.

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