
TO DEMOGRAPHIC SECURITY ISSUES IN UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the study of demographic security of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as the most important component of its public security. The article deals with the theoretical foundations of the formation of demographic security of the state. In addition, it calculates and analyzes the dynamics of changes in the main indicators of demographic security of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period from 2010 to 2020, determines the state of demographic security of the republic and identifies potential threats.

KEYWORDS: *Public Security, Demographic Security, Demography, Population, Demographic Security Indicators, Internal and External Threats To Security.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Uzbekistan is implementing large-scale reforms aimed at ensuring a safe and secure life for the population, forming in society law-abiding behavior of citizens and a culture of public behavior. In order to continue developing the system of ensuring public safety in the country and defining the prospective directions of state policy in this sphere, the Decree of the President of the RU of 29 November 2021 "On approval of the Concept of public safety of the Republic of Uzbekistan and measures for its implementation" was adopted, according to which: "Public safety is a state of protection of society from unlawful encroachments, social and interethnic conflicts, emergencies and other threats, contributing to its sustainable development and ensuring the realization of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of man".

At present, it is obvious that the provision of demographic and, in a broad sense, public security is possible only based on an adequate assessment of the existing situation. An important role in solving this problem belongs, of course, to statistics, which, based on special methods of collection, processing and analysis of available information, is able to quantitatively and qualitatively characterize various aspects of demographic security.

There are many different interpretations of the concept of "demographic security" in the modern literature. In particular, demographic security is understood as "protection of the process of life and continuous natural renewal of generations of people" [1].

Demographic security, according to L.L. Rybakovsky, can be represented as a state of

demographic processes, which is sufficient for population reproduction without significant influence of external factor and provision with human resources of geopolitical interests of the state. "Demographic security is the functioning and development of the population as such in its age-sex and ethnic parameters, correlating it with the national interests of the state, consisting in ensuring its integrity, independence, sovereignty and preservation of the existing geopolitical status" [2].

Soboleva S.V. understands demographic security as "the state of protection of life, continuous natural reproduction of the population and the formation of demographic structures (gender, age, and family, ethnic) from demographic threats, supported by the institutional environment". [3]

We agree with the opinion of M.V. Karmanov, who believes that "demographic security is the protection of socio-economic development of society from internal and external demographic threats, ensuring at least the preservation of geopolitical, economic, ethnic, etc. status of the state". Belarusian demographers and sociologists were the first to undertake a detailed elaboration of this problem in the CIS. On the basis of their studies the first law in the CIS "On demographic security of the Republic of Belarus" was adopted. This law defines demographic security as "the state of protection of vital demographic processes from real and potential threats" [4].

From our point of view, demographic security is a category that permeates all spheres, segments, sectors of the human population without exception. The population acts as that fundamental object without which political, military, economic, social, cultural and other kinds of public security have no practical sense. It is only in relation to people that any threat acquires real contours, due to the possible negative impact on the life of society. Consequently, demographic security is a multidimensional, interdisciplinary category, in one way or another, explicitly or implicitly intersecting or interacting with all phenomena and processes occurring at different levels of existence of civilization.

The presence and level of demographic security are determined by the presence and level of economic, social, political, environmental, informational and legal security. Demographic security must guarantee through constitutional, legislative and practical measures the protection and security of demographic interests of individuals, society and the state from internal and external threats. According to some experts, the allocation of demographic security as an independent category, equivalent in importance to economic, military, political, social, ideological and other types of security, is due to the deepening demographic crisis in a number of countries.

The criteria for democratic state security include the following points:

1. Population regulation.
2. Preservation and increase of average life expectancy;
3. Preservation of the genetic and physical condition of the country's population;
4. Preservation of ethnic and genetic composition of the population;

To characterize the level of demographic security of the Republic of Uzbekistan, we selected the following key indicators, as shown in Table 1.

TABLE NO. 1. DYNAMICS OF DEMOGRAPHIC SECURITY INDICATORS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2010 TO 2020 (AT THE END OF THE YEAR)

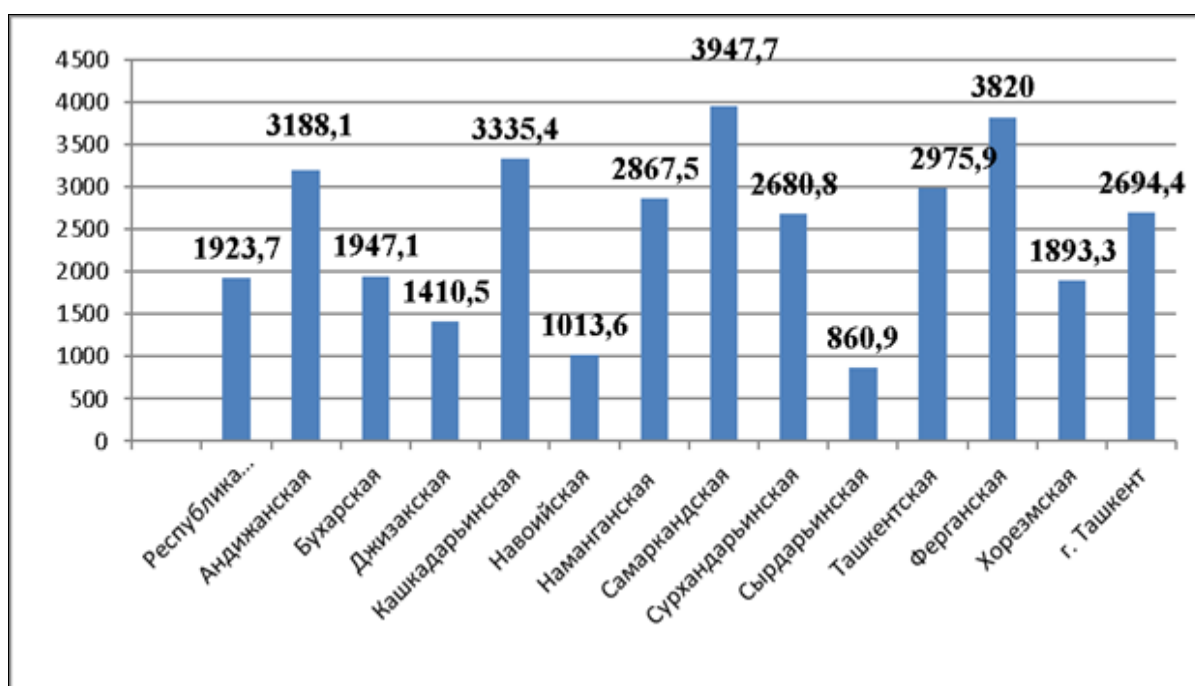
Years Indicators	2010	2015	2020
Average annual population, thousand people.	29123,4	31022,5	34558,9
Including: women, thousand people.	14554,9	15736,6	17180,5
Men, thousand people.	14568,5	15838,9	17378,4
Population density, persons/km ²	64,9	69,1	77,0
Proportion of the population of working age, %	61,1	61,0	58,3
Share of population over working age, %	7,6	9,0	10,8
Share of population under working age, %	32,3	30,0	30,9
Average age of population, years	26,9	28,1	29
Number of births, total people.	634810	734141	841817
The number of deaths, total people.	138411	152035	175625
Natural increase in population, people.	496399	582106	666192
Total fertility rate (births per woman)	2,5	2,4	2,4
Life expectancy at birth, years	73,0	73,6	73,4
Number of visitors, people.	139775	139280	191086
Number of people who left.	183858	168579	203629
Migration balance, people.	-44083	-29299	-12543
Demographic load factor	0,65	0,64	0,71
Replacement rate	4,25	3,3	2,86

Source: Compiled and calculated by the authors based on data from <http://www.stat.uz>, <http://gender.stat.uz>

Uzbekistan is the largest state in Central Asia in terms of population and ranks third in the Union of Independent States (CIS) after Russia and Ukraine. Uzbekistan is a state with a growing population. In 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed, just over 20.5 million people lived in Uzbekistan. By the end of 2010 the republic had 29123.4 thousand people. Currently, according to the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, as of January 1,

2021 the population was 34558.9 million people. In ten years, the population of Uzbekistan has grown by 5435.5 thousand people. In the first half of 2021 alone, the population increased by 301.3 thousand people to 34860.2 million as of the first of July 2021. As of the first of November 2021 the population of the republic was already equal to 35157.687 thousand people. In terms of regions, Samarkand Province (11.4%), Ferghana Province (11.1%), Kashkadarya Province (9.6%), and Andijan Province (9.2%) had the largest share of the total population.

POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN BY REGION AS OF 01.01.2021. (THOUSAND PEOPLE)



Source: Compiled by the authors on the basis of data <http://www.stat.uz>.

The urban population for the first half of 2021 was 17.7 million people or 50.7% of the total population. The rural population, respectively, was 17.2 million or 49.3%. Population density as of July 1, 2021 is more than 77.6 people per square kilometer and is one of the highest in Central Asia. The growth of the population of the republic is provided by the increasing natural growth of the population and decreasing migration of the population. For example, if in 1991 the number of immigrants from Uzbekistan was 371 thousand people, in 2020 there will be just over 203 thousand people.

The natural increase of the population of the republic is constantly growing. So, if in 2010 the figure was 496.399 thousand people, in 2020 accordingly more than 666.192 thousand people. In the first half of 2021, 390.7 thousand people were born, 79.7 thousand people died during this period. Consequently, the natural increase in the population of the republic in the first half of 2021 was 311 thousand people. The total fertility rate (number of children born per woman) for this period was in the range of 2.4 to 2.5, which is sufficient for natural reproduction of the population. The life expectancy of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan is also increasing. Thus, the average life expectancy in 2020 increased to 73.4 years compared to 73.0 years in 2010.

Speaking about gender demography we can say that in 2020 17378413 people or 50,29% of total population were men and 17180478 people or 49,71% were women respectively. In 2010 there were approximately 1001 men per one thousand women in the country, in 2015 there were 1006 men per one thousand women in the country, in 2020 there were approximately 1011 men per one thousand women, i.e. the sex ratio in the republic is almost equal. At present, the population of Uzbekistan is young by world standards. However, during the period under review, there was a tendency for the average age of the republic's residents to increase. Thus, in 2010, the average age of the population was 26.9 years, and in 2020 it will be 29 years. Thus, this indicator for ten years increased by 2.1 years or by 7.81% from the level of 2010.

An important component in ensuring the demographic security of the state is also the number and structure of labor resources. The share of the working-age population decreased in 2020 from 61.1% to 58.3%, i.e. by 2.8% compared to the 2010 level. The share of the population over the working age increased from 7.6% in 2010 to 10.8% by the end of 2020, which also indicates the processes of aging of the population of the republic. The population demographic load coefficient is a generalized quantitative characteristic of the age structure of the population, showing the load on society of the non-productive population, i.e. pensioners and children.

The coefficient of demographic burden of population, is determined by dividing the number of children and population older than working age by 1000 people of working age population. This indicator for the Republic of Uzbekistan increased from 65% in 2010 to 71% in 2020, which indicates an increased burden on working-age population of the country. Reproduction of population is a process of renewal of generations of people, one of the main processes of reproduction of society. The coefficient characterizing the degree of replacement of one generation by another, the replacement rate or reproduction rate, is a general measure of change in the number of generations under the influence of simultaneous fertility and mortality.

Replacement rate, which shows the number of children per 1,000 people above working age, tends to decrease in the republic from 4.25 in 2010 to 2.86 in 2020, indicating a narrowing change of generations. The processes of demographic ageing in the Republic can also be traced in the gradual decrease in the proportion of children and adolescents in the age structure of the population. Population ageing is a potential threat for the country, as it will eventually lead to a reduction in the working-age population. Practical application of these indicators is in calculating the costs required for pension provision of the population, the cost of child care, and they are also used in developing measures for social security and rational use of labor resources.

Comparative analysis of these indicators in terms of the sex and age structure of the population and other characteristics of its demographic composition, supplemented by the analysis of the dynamic series of basic and derived purely demographic indicators is the demographic basis of many areas of economic policy of the country. Thus, we can conclude that the overall demographic situation in the Republic of Uzbekistan is stable and safe, with a constantly growing natural increase in the population, which is sufficient for its natural reproduction, with an almost equal sex ratio, with increasing life expectancy of the republic's population, and with an increasing standard of living.

However, the analysis showed that during the period under consideration there was a tendency to increase the average age of the inhabitants of the republic, a gradual decrease in the proportion of children and adolescents in the age structure of the population. Population

aging is a potential demographic threat to the country, because over time it will lead to a reduction in the working-age population. The development of demographic and socio-economic programs and measures is necessary to strengthen the country's demographic security, the justification of which is impossible without a comprehensive statistical assessment of the level and dynamics of demographic security indicators. The most accurate data on the number and composition of the population and the demographic processes taking place within the country are provided by the population census, which is scheduled in the republic in early 2023.

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