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**THE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION IN THE
AKTOBE REGION**

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Abstract. The article presents the basic aspects determining the demographic situation in the Aktobe region, provides and analyses the rates depicting the level and dynamics of demographic development of the region, the threat to demographic security, points out the factors slowing down the solution of demographic issues in the region. There is a comparative analysis of demographic rates of the region and of equivalent rates helping to find out the specific features of the situation in the Aktobe region. The estimating conclusions are made on the demographic situation, tendencies and problems in the demographic development of this region.

On the basis of statistical data, the specific weight of the urban and rural population of the Aktobe region, the sex and age composition of the rural population, the dynamics of natural growth, migration processes are analyzed. One of the main problems of the region is the uneven settlement of the population. Currently, the Aktobe region needs to improve its socio-economic development indicators, so it is impossible to change anything without taking into account the peculiarities of the demographic factor. Thus, we can say that the demographic factor is one of the fundamental factors influencing the change in the economic situation in the region, and it itself depends on the level of socio-economic development of the territory. Comparing the indicators characterizing the territorial features of the demographic situation and the data related to the level of socio-economic development of the districts, it can be concluded that a village with high demographic indicators, as a rule, is characterized by a high level of socio-economic development.

Key words: demographic situation, population, population dynamics, natural movement, migration, the Aktobe region.

The demographic situation in the country and its regions is the most important component of economic security as its state and tendencies in the development determine the opportunities and proportions of forming the labor resources in the country. Negative tendencies in changing the basic demographic rates (rates of birth, mortality, natural population growth, migration balance, population structure by age and gender) in a certain historical period of time impact the future.

Therefore their systematic analysis and assessment make it possible to expose demographic threats, develop and take timely measures to ensure demographic security. The study of the demographic issues in the region is actual also due to the fact that the priority in the social and economic development of the regions and the country as a whole is to increase the level and life quality of the population on the basis of progress in the economy, social sphere, including sustainable development in improving the demographic situation [1, 2]. In her article, Nyusupova emphasizes the importance of human capital [3].

The favorable geographical location of the Aktobe region specified the features of the settlement of the territory. Currently it is the region that is intent to improve the rates of its social and economic development and without taking into account the specific features of the demographic factor any changes are unlikely. So we can say that a demographic factor is one of the fundamental ones impacting the change in the economic situation in the region while it itself depends on the level of social and economic development of the territory.

Methods

The theoretical and methodological basis of the research was provided by the works of national geographers in the field of regional studies (S.A. Tarkhov, G. Nyussupova, G. Aidarkhanova, T.A. Tereshenko et al) [4, 5, 6]., of specialists in various aspects of rural development (T.G. Nefedova, A.I. Alekseenko, Ch. Akimbekova) [7, 8, 9].

The study of rural areas of the Aktobe region was carried out applying general scientific and special methods: cartographic, statistical, comparative, computer data processing method, the use of GIS data.

Results and discussion

As of 2020 the population of the Aktobe region amounted to 887,9 thousand people. 506,8 thousand of them live in the city of Aktobe, the centre of the region. Among 381,1 thousand people referring to the region's districts 128,1 thousand people live in towns of the district level and the remaining 253 thousand people live in rural areas. The population of the region has irregular settling thus forming centering points around Aktobe and in areas with a favorable geo-economic position. Therefore it should be noted that the region is specified with differences in the level of development of territories. As a result of the migration process the settling of the territory transforms into a "spotty" one when inhabited spaces are separated by uninhabited spaces. The major part of the population live in settlements in the districts where main railway line pass across, respectively, in areas located far from the railway lines the size of the population is small.

The population density in the districts is differentiated. For example the density of population in Bayganin, Shalkar, Irgiz, Aitekebiy districts characterized with large land areas does

not get 1 person per 1 km² of the territory. The size of population is thin, its density in Oiyl, Kobda districts which have smaller territories, makes up 1,3-1,6 person per 1 km². In Martuk and Alga districts located near the regional center the population settles more compact, i.e. more than 4 people per 1 km² (Fig.1) [10, 11].

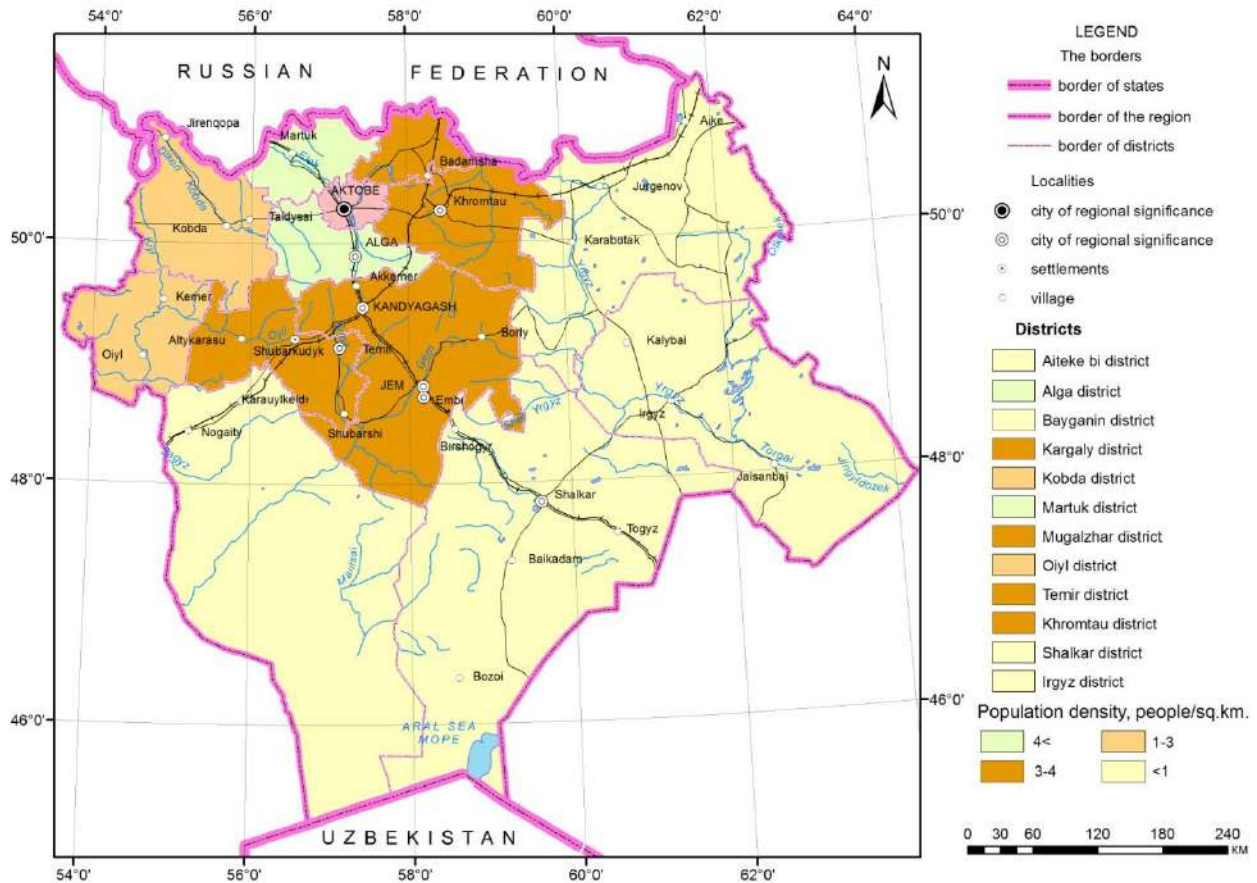


Figure 1. The proportion of the population in districts of the Aktobe region within the urban and rural residents (%),(compiled by the authors based on the ([10, 11] data)

If we analyze the dynamics in the second decade of the XXI century, in 2010-2016 the number of urban and rural populations grew slowly keeping to 62/38 percent. This trend can be regarded as an increase of the population based on natural growth. In the period 2017-2020 the percent of the urban population increased to 72%, and the share of the rural population decreased to 28%, respectively. The active development of this tendency can be explained by the reallocation of labor force between industry, which provides jobs to people, and agriculture. In its turn the depopulation of the rural population is the main factor limiting the sustainable development of rural settlements. The lag of rural areas in terms of social standards of living, low motivation of labor due to low profitability of agriculture and other branches of agriculture, no decently paid jobs are the

main reasons why rural residents first get a job in nearby large settlements and regional centers, leave their villages and then settle in cities (Fig. 2) [10, 11].

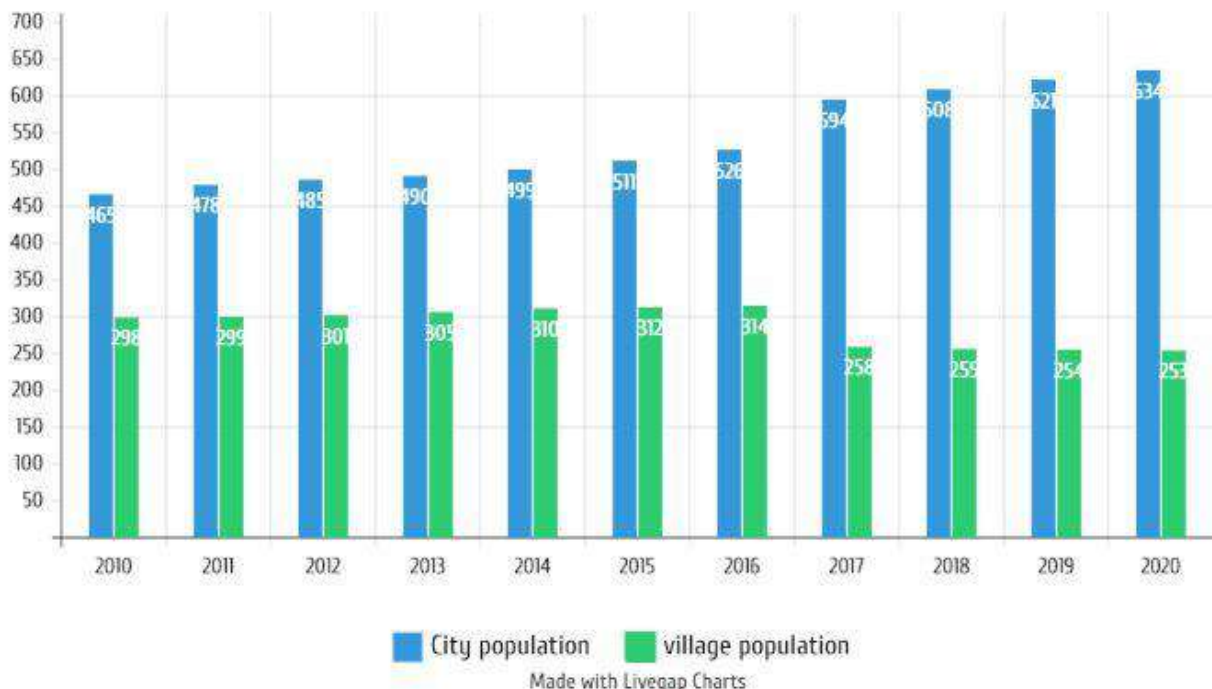


Figure 2. Dynamics of the population of the Aktobe region within the urban and rural residents / k = thousand people / (compiled by the authors on the basis of data [10, 11])

The transformation of rural settlements with high economic potential into attractive regions creates a social and economic task of large scale. This task should be put into action in the new program of rural development and, first of all, ensure the social, cultural and financial position of the rural population with efficient social standards; create conditions for efficient labor and productive employment of the population; promote the successful functioning of agricultural structures, increase their competitiveness in foreign and domestic markets. The reason for the sharp change in rates of 2017 was the extension of the Aktobe urban territory through the incorporation of rural settlements near the city of Aktobe due to the large population influx [12].

In identifying the work resources the age-sex structure of the rural population is formed on the basis of rise in births. In 2020 the average age of male citizens in rural population made up 30,6 years, and of women – 32,8 years. In 2010 these rates were 29,3 and 32,6, respectively (Fig.3).

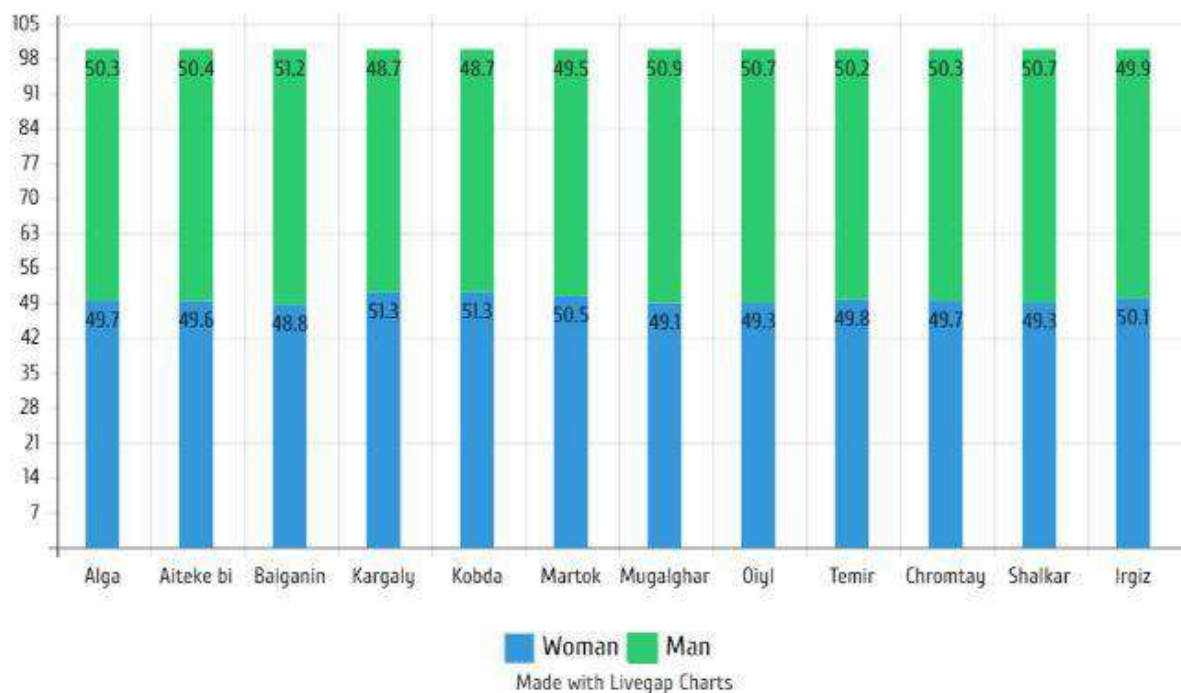


Figure 3. Sex composition of the rural population of Aktobe region (compiled by the authors based on the [10, 11] data)

Regarding the sex composition of the rural population a relatively large proportion of the female population prevails in the Kobda, Kargaly, Martok and Irgiz districts. Consequently the proportion of men prevails in the rest of the districts.

Young people make up the major part of the rural population. 28,4% of the rural population are children and teenagers from 0-14 years old and 6,9% are made up by elderly people over 64. Regarding the sex composition of the population Irgiz, Temir, Uyil, Baiganin districts can be referred to "young" districts. It is due to the fact that in these areas the share of children and teenagers at the age of 0-14 years old is more than 30% and the share of elderly people at the age of 65 years and older makes up only 5-6%. The "elderly" districts include the Martok, Kargaly, Kobda districts bordering on Russia. In comparison with the other districts the share of elderly people in these places is higher, that is 8-9%. Consequently the share of children and teenagers is less than 25% (Fig.4).

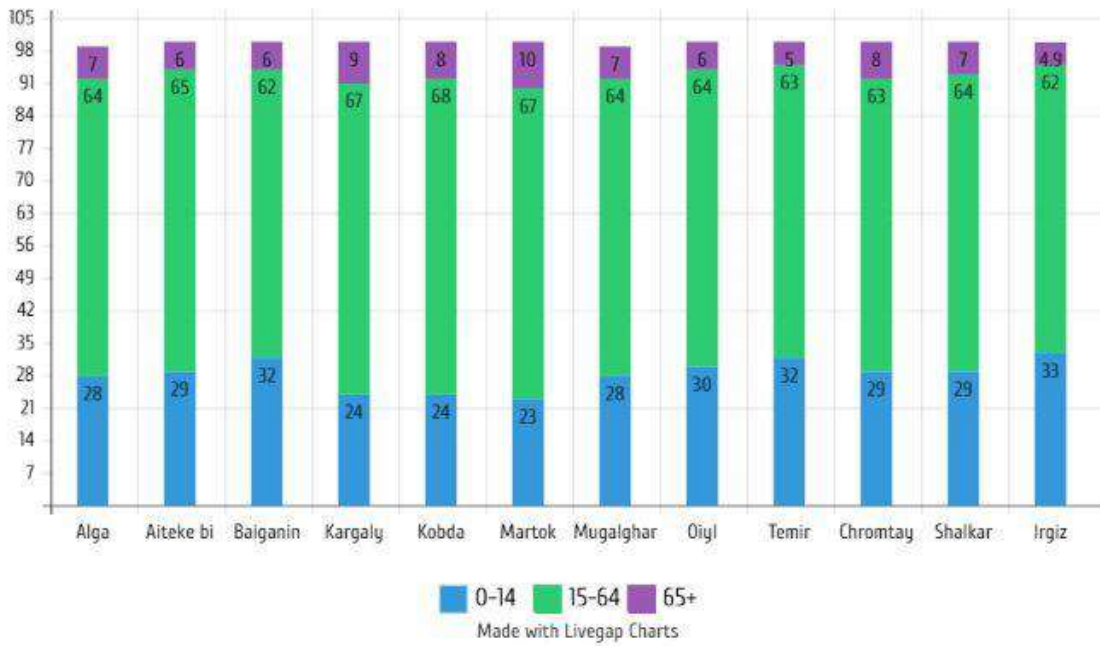


Figure 4. Age composition of the rural population of the Aktobe region (Compiled by the authors based on the [10, 11] data)

In 2010-2020 the size of the population living in rural settlements differs in the growth within the districts. The size of rural population has a steady growth in Temir, Baiganin, Alga districts, the decreasing process is observed in Mugalzhhar, Kobda districts, in the other districts the growth of rural population varies (Fig.5).

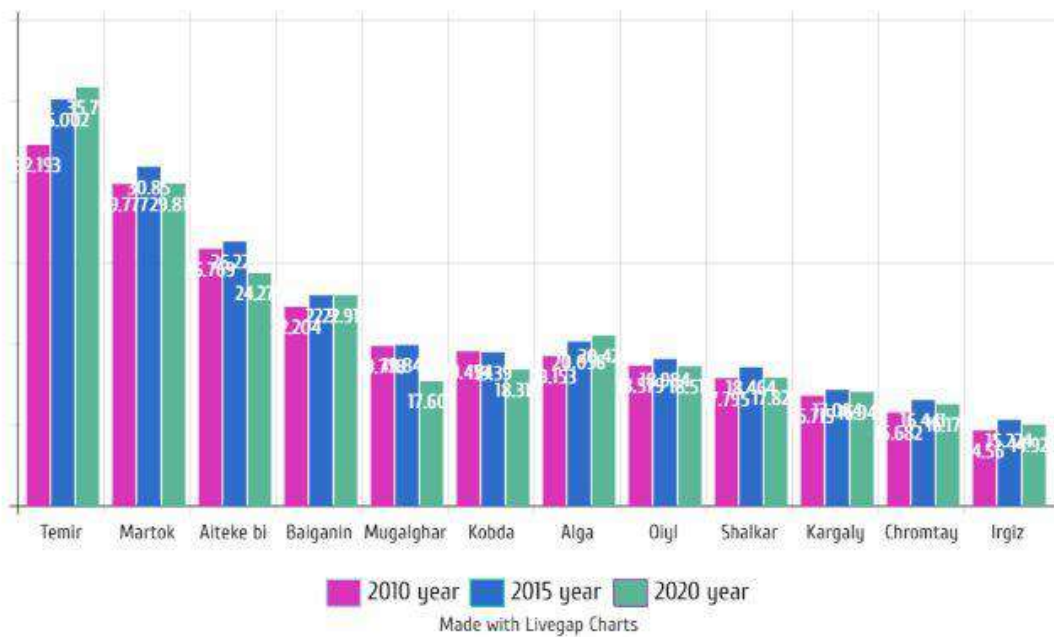


Figure 5. The size of the rural population within the districts for 2010-2020 (Compiled by the authors based on the [10, 11] data)

System-based support and stimulation of natural growth through social benefits as in a number of countries is strategically important for Kazakhstan. Social benefits and maternity grants are an important factor in increasing the birth rate. In Kazakhstan there are such payments and benefits for working women and non-working women as well. Over the past 3 years the rate of natural growth in rural settlements of the region has significantly decreased. It can be explained by the drop of the birth rate to 5 thousands which until 2017 remained at 6 -7 thousand and in 2020 the mortality rate returned to the previous level (Fig.6).

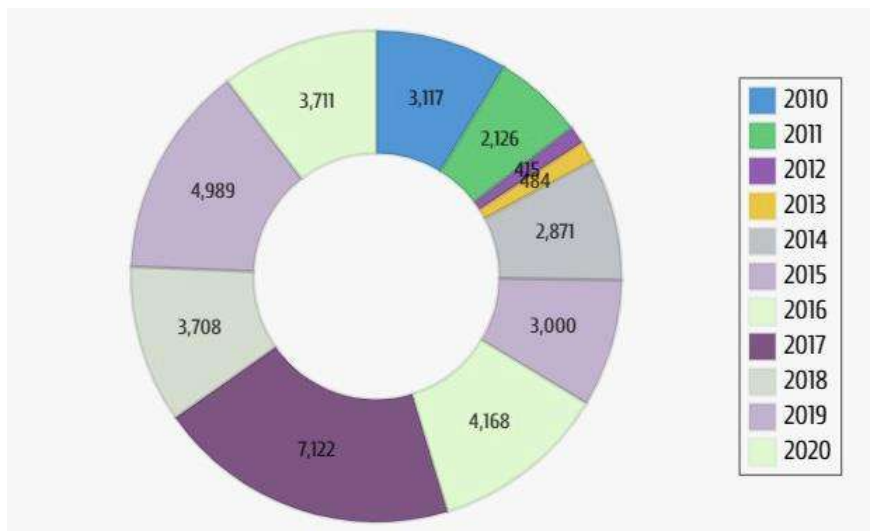


Figure 6. Dynamics of natural growth of the rural population in the Aktobe region (Compiled by the authors based on the [10, 11] data)

In 2020 the highest birth rate in rural settlements within the districts is in the Temir district and the highest mortality rate is in the Martuk district. Compared to the other districts the natural growth of the rural population is higher in the Bayganin (641 people), Temir (433 people) districts. The justness of the social and economic situation in these areas is explained by the high birth rate. In the Kargaly and Martuk districts bordering on Russia the natural population growth is less than the mortality rate and in the Kobda district these rates are mutually equal. Despite the fact that the number of rural population in Kargaly, Kobda districts is approximately equal to the number of rural population in Uyil, Khromtau, Shalkar districts the birth rate is low, the mortality rate is high. It can be explained by a decline in the social and economic situation in the Kargaly and Kobda districts, the activity of young people in the process of external migration (Fig.7).

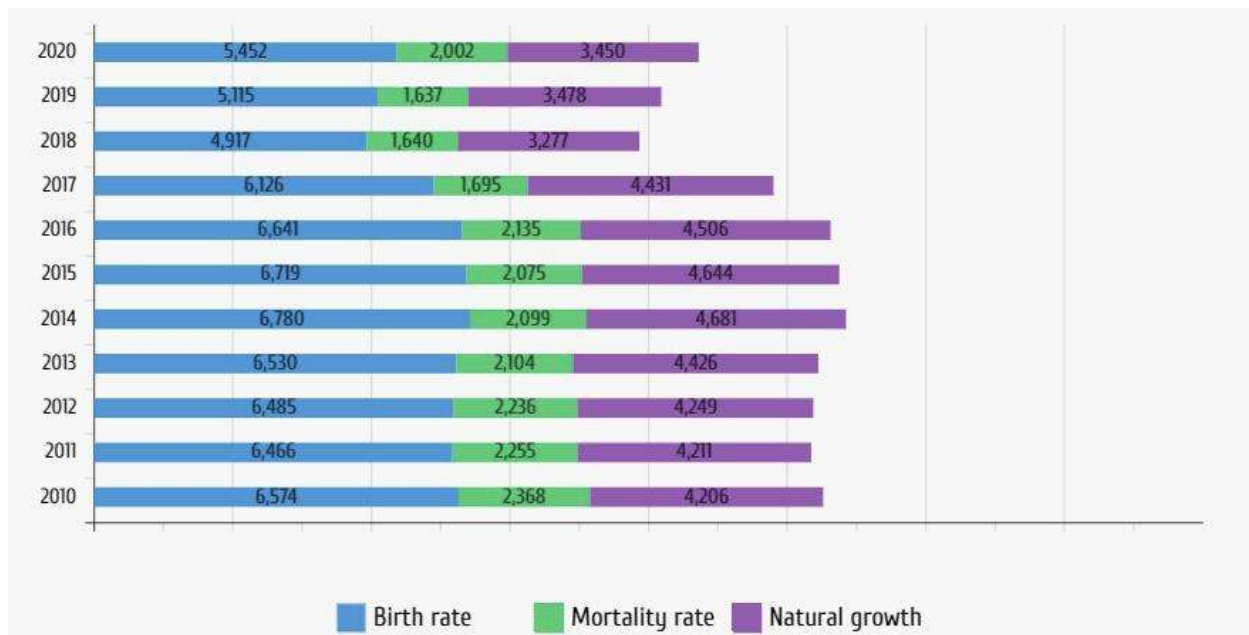


Figure 7. The rate of natural growth of the rural population in 2020
(Compiled by the authors based on the [10, 11] data)

The following reasons can be identified for the high mortality rate of the rural population: low living standards of the rural population, mortality from unnatural causes, poor availability of high-quality medical services, unemployment, instability of the social and economic situation. The quality of drinking water used daily is also the cause of high morbidity and mortality. To date the central water supply in the Aktobe region covers 88,8% of the rural population (224,9 thousand people) or 60,6% of rural settlements (191 settlements).

The focus on the migration process in rural settlements of the region for 2010-2020 displays that the rates show a negative difference on condition that the rates of 2013 are not considered. This year the regional level of the migration difference has made up +484, among the districts this rate has made up +1193 in the Martuk district. It is obvious that in due time additional research is required to define this phenomenon, (Fig.8).

In 2020 the region has a negative difference in the migration process in rural settlements. The negative difference in the migration process within the districts varies in the range from -52 to -652. The lowest negative difference in the migration process is in the Alga district, the highest one is in the Temir district. If we analyze the migration process in rural settlements within the limits of "who arrived in" and "who left", then the number of people who relocated to rural settlements of Martuk (1332 people), Temir (1027 people) districts is higher than in the other districts. Regarding

the number of people who moved out the above-mentioned Martuk (1581 people), Temir (1679 people) and Aitekebi (1111 people) districts are also ahead of the other districts.

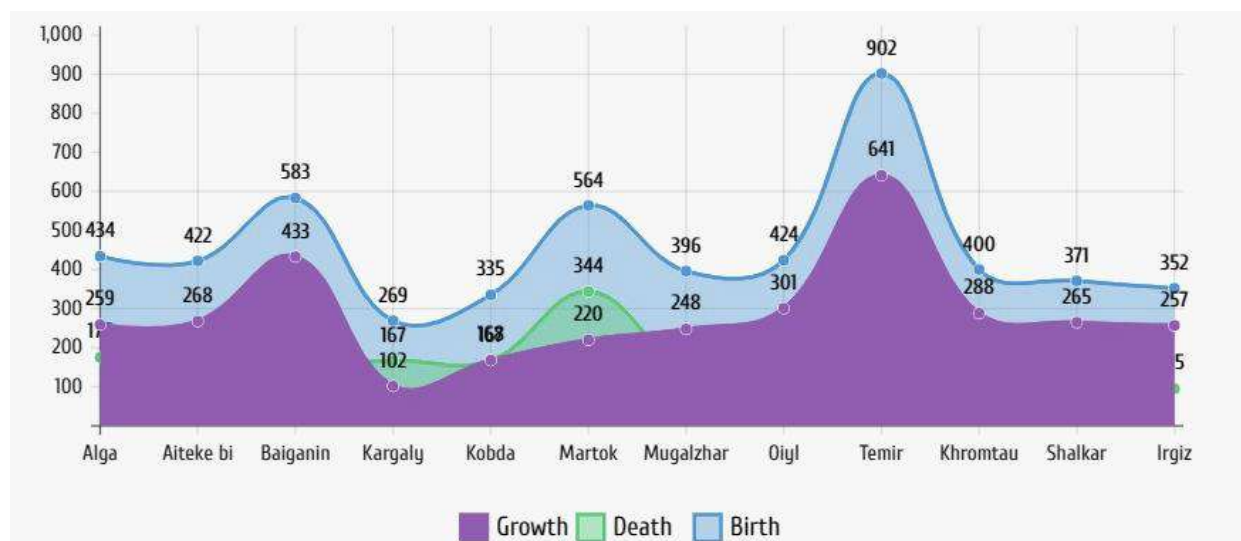


Figure 8. Dynamics of the rural population in the context of the migration difference
(Compiled by the authors based on the [10, 11] data)

Effective management of migration processes requires from state institutions to pay special attention to the solution of issues aimed at improving the social and economic situation in the region, investing in human capital, creating modern infrastructure for rural settlements and transparent procurement. The problem is that measures and projects being developed in the context of state programs to support business in rural settlements, to invite qualified specialists to villages, to develop the infrastructure of villages are unable to steady internal migration processes.

The global trend of urbanization is also observed in the Aktobe region. Such large-scale migrations bring pressure on the infrastructure of cities which may cause social tension.

7 districts of the Aktobe region have 100% of the population living in rural settlements. In the Alga, Mugalzhar, Shalkar, Khromtau districts the share of the urban population exceeds 50% which can be explained by the presence of district-level towns in the regions. The urban population in the Temir district makes up only 5,6 %. This is due to the fact that in the district there is an urban center Temir which has a 150-year history as a rural type with the population of 2 132 people.

Although the ethnic composition of the population varies across the region, the share of the local population – the Kazakhs makes up 83,7%. If we analyze the share of representatives of the

other ethnic groups then the Russians make up 10,7% and Ukrainians – 2,3%, the share of representatives of the other ethnic groups does not exceed 1%.

The main point of changes in the ethnic structure of the region over the past twenty years is a significant increase in both the absolute number and the share of state-forming nationalities - the Kazakhs, on the one hand and a decrease in the number and share of representatives of European ethnic groups, especially the Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Germans on the other hand, that is connected with the intensive migration out of Kazakhstan and the changes in reproduction vision. Especially the Russian nation is marked with an intensive decrease in number and share. Traditionally both in the pre-revolutionary and in the Soviet period the Slavic communities mainly lived in the settlements of the northern near-border, central parts of the region (Kargaly-28,8%, Martuk district-29,1%, Khromtau-16%, Kobda-14,9%, Alga district-13,7%). The Tatars lived mainly in the settlements of Kargaly (1,4%), Martuk (1,7%) districts, and the Germans - in Alga (1%), Kargaly (4,5%), Kobda (1,1%), Khromtau (2,7%), Martuk (1,2%) districts. In 7 districts of the region (Ayteke bi, Bayganin, Mugalzhar, Uyil, Temir, Shalkar, Irgiz), the share of the Kazakhs who form the state is over 90%.

Economically active population (labor force) is a part of the population of a certain age to measure the economic activity of the population providing labor for the production of goods and services. The number of economically active population includes the people in work and the unemployed in all spheres of economic activity.

The provision of employment of the population in the region is carried out through the creation of new vacancies, the employability of unemployed persons. In the context of state programs a comprehensive plan is being implemented on the promotion of employment of the population to ensure employment of the socially disadvantaged sections of the population.

In 2020 the people in work in rural settlements of the region make up 126,8 thousand people (Fig.9). Over the past five years a reduction tendency is being observed in the workforce in rural areas, to be exact by 39,8 thousand. It makes up 29% of the rural population. The number of persons over 15 who are not part of the workforce makes up 188.4 thousand people. Among 120.4 thousand people who are in work 79% of the workforce are employees, respectively 21% are self-employed.

The following categories may be considered for 56,5 thousand rural residents who are not part of the labor force: 29,7% - full-time students, 5,5% - housekeepers, 41,4% - retired persons, 4,2% - unable to work due to health reasons, 15,6% - the other reasons.

In 2018-2020 by the impact of the decrease in the natural growth of the rural population of the Aktobe region and the relocation of representatives of non-titular ethnic groups to their

historical homeland, as well as increased migration flows to cities of district and regional levels the process of population reduction in rural settlements is observed as part of the urbanization process. The decline in the rural population has resulted in the reduction of the total number of rural settlements. Accordingly, there have been changes both in the ratio of rural settlements with different size of the population and in the allocation of the population in them.



Figure 9. Labor force per districts (compiled by the authors based on [12])

An objective assessment gave the opportunity to identify six types of rural settlements. Large rural settlements have little growth and stability. 2,5% of settlements in the region or 8 settlements have the population of more than 5 thousand people, where 23,6% of the rural population live. Also 6,2% of the rural population live in 4 rural settlements with a population from 3 to 5 thousand people.

In the region there is a process of continuous population reduction in small, medium-sized and medium-major settlements and their "dropping" to smaller categories by population. There are 49 (15,2%) rural settlements with the population from 1 to 3 thousand people in the region. One third of the rural population, i.e. 30,1%, live in such settlements. In total more than half of rural settlements in the region is made up by medium-sized (25,1%) and small (26,3%) villages. That is, 22,2% of the population live in 81 rural settlement of medium level and 12,1% of the population live in 85 small villages. Only 5,9% of the rural population live in 96 small settlements with the population less than 250 people.

The typical location of the population varies within the districts. There are a large number of small villages with a population of up to 249 people and small villages with a population of up to 500 people in the Alga, Kobda, Martuk, Mugalzhar, Khromtau, Shalkar districts. As a rule such

small villages are located in a network of densely populated settlements (Kobda, Martuk, Alga) or they are small settlements providing services to the railway industry (Mugalzhar, Khromtau, Shalkar). The specific character of such locations has been formed in connection with the peculiarities of land development and land use. In most cases the historical factor of a location together with natural and landscape conditions also determined the type of the settlement: when large areas of a dense network of the smallest settlements are replaced by smaller territories of these settlements, the area/place of allocation is large. A distinctive feature of such settlements from the rest is the high density of rural settlements (4-5 RS per 100 km²).

The number of medium-sized settlements with a population of up to 1,000 people is high in Kobda, Aitekeby, Martuk, Mugalzhar, Irgiz districts. Such settlements are smaller, less densely located than small ones.

Medium-major settlements with a population of up to 3,000 people prevail in Aitekebi, Uyil, Shalkar, Mugalzhar districts. Here several rural settlements with a large size of population were formed mainly during the development of virgin lands, Medium-major settlements are associated not only with the factor of natural conditions impacting the character of a settlement but also with spatial and historical processes of settling the territory of the region.

Conclusion

So positive changes in the rates of lifetime of the population, the growth of the level of education and of a number of characteristics of the life quality in the region have provided relatively high places for the Aktobe region in the rating of life quality of the population. The main demographic problems in the region posing risks to the development of the demographic situation and consequently to social and economic development in general can be considered:

- demographic decline;
- a significant outflow of qualified population, mainly to other regions of the country that led to the formation of a negative migration balance;
- the growth of the demographic pressure, decrease in the share of the economically active population;
- the level of personal income is relatively low compared to the national average value.

Intensive migration of the population in the region is reflected in the dynamics of the region's population which results from the outflow of the population to the republican centers, the cities of Astana and Almaty and internal migration to the basic points of economic growth in the region (Aktobe and Kandyagash). In connection with the current situation in the region such trends as "aging of the population" and the outflow of labor resources are specified.

It is required to focus on the solution of these problems when working out a long-term development strategy for the region. The most important strategic decisions, in our opinion, should be taken in relation to the development of healthcare; to the increase of the birth rate and life time of the population; to the development of social policy; to the increase of incomes and developing of human capital assets in the region.

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АҚТӨБЕ ОБЛЫСЫНДАҒЫ ДЕМОГРАФИЯЛЫҚ ЖАҒДАЙДЫҢ ЕРЕКШЕЛІКТЕРІ

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Аңдатпа. Мақалада Ақтөбе облысындағы демографиялық жағдайды айқындайтын негізгі аспектілер келтірілген, өңірдің демографиялық даму деңгейі мен динамикасын, демографиялық қауіпсіздікке қатерді көрсететін көрсеткіштер сараланып, талданды, өңірдегі демографиялық проблемаларды шешуді бәсеңдететін факторлар көрсетілген. Ақтөбе облысындағы жағдайдың өзіндік ерекшеліктерін анықтауға көмектесетін өңірдің демографиялық көрсеткіштері мен баламалы көрсеткіштерге салыстырмалы талдау жүргізілді. Демографиялық ахуал, осы өңірдің демографиялық дамуындағы үрдістер мен проблемалар туралы бағалау қорытындылары жасалды.

Ақтөбе облысындағы қала және ауыл халықтарының үлес салмағы, ауыл халқының жыныстық-жастық құрамы, табиғи өсімінің динамикасы, көші-қон процестері статистикалық мәліметтер негізінде сараланды. Облыстағы басты проблемалардың бірі – халықтың әркімнің қоныстануы. Қазіргі уақытта Ақтөбе облысы өзінің әлеуметтік-экономикалық даму көрсеткіштерін жақсарту керек, сондықтан демографиялық фактордың ерекшеліктерін ескермей, бір нәрсені өзгерту мүмкін емес. Осылайша, біз демографиялық фактор аймақтағы экономикалық жағдайдың өзгеруіне әсер ететін іргелі факторлардың бірі деп айта аламыз, ал оның өзі аумақтың әлеуметтік-экономикалық даму деңгейіне байланысты. Демографиялық жағдайдың аумақтық ерекшеліктерін сипаттайтын көрсеткіштерді және аудандардың әлеуметтік-экономикалық даму деңгейіне қатысты деректерді салыстыра отырып, демографиялық көрсеткіштері жоғары ауыл, әдетте, әлеуметтік-экономикалық дамудың жоғары деңгейімен сипатталады деген қорытынды жасауға болады.

Түйін сөздер: демографиялық жағдай, халық саны, халық санының динамикасы, табиғи қозғалыс, көші-қон, Ақтөбе облысы.

ОСОБЕННОСТИ ДЕМОГРАФИЧЕСКОЙ СИТУАЦИИ В АКТЮБИНСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ

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Аннотация. В статье рассмотрены основные аспекты, определяющие демографическую ситуацию в Актюбинской области, приведены и проанализированы показатели, отражающие уровень и динамику демографического развития региона, угрозы демографической безопасности, определены факторы, сдерживающие решение демографических проблем в данной сфере. Проведен сравнительный анализ демографических показателей области и аналогичных показателей, что позволило выявить особенности состояния Актюбинской области. Были подведены итоги оценки демографической ситуации, тенденций и проблем ее развития в данной сфере.

На основе статистических данных проанализированы удельный вес городского и сельского населения Актюбинской области, половозрастной состав сельского населения, динамика естественного прироста, миграционные процессы. Одна из главных проблем области – неравномерное расселение населения. В настоящее время Актюбинская область нуждается в улучшении показателей своего социально-экономического развития, поэтому невозможно что-то изменить без учета особенностей демографического фактора. Таким образом, можно сказать, что демографический фактор является одним из фундаментальных факторов, влияющих на изменение экономической ситуации в регионе, а сам он зависит от уровня социально-экономического развития территории. Сравнивая показатели, характеризующие территориальные особенности демографической ситуации, и данные, относящиеся к уровню социально-экономического развития районов, можно сделать вывод, что село с высокими демографическими показателями, как правило, характеризуется высоким уровнем социально-экономического развития.

Ключевые слова: демографическая ситуация, население, динамика численности населения, естественное движение, миграция, Актюбинская область.