

Modern Demographic Processes in the Cities of the Republic of Kazakhstan

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Abstract

The result of the growth of the cities' population is the migratory and natural movement of the population. The special attention in this article is given to the research of natural movement of the population of cities of Kazakhstan, this indicator of natural movement of the population is defined by the demographic processes in the future. Therefore, the given information about the natural movement of the population can be considered as the original generalizing indicators of the processes that happen in population movement.

Problem Urgency

At the beginning of the XXI century the natural increase becomes the leading component of the growth of Kazakhstani population. In 2000-2010 the processes of natural reproduction defined the dynamics of population size.

In 2010 compared with 1999, the natural increase has increased for 8,7 % —it is basically owing to the growth of the general factor of birth rate which has increased in the analyzed period for 7,9 % (for 9,4% in cities and for 5,5 % in countryside). At the same time the general mortality rate coefficient decreases faster in the cities than in the country sides. These distinctions have caused a higher natural increase of urban population. And if in 1999 the natural increase indicator in villages was for 3,5 times more than in the cities, then in 2009 the situation became opposite. It is explained not only by high indicator of the natural movement, but also by a growing migratory stream from a village into a city of the population of childbearing age (Demographic year-book, 2010).

According to the development process of an urbanization in Kazakhstan the level of birth rate in an urban population has decreased in comparison with the rural one, and further there is also a decrease in birth rate in rural area. In some cases it can lead to the fact that the birth rate level in cities becomes higher which causes are social-economic and demographic factors, in particular the fact that there is more balanced sex ratio in the cities.

In 1999 – 2010 the changes in dynamics number of city and rural population were observed, they enable us to allocate some stages of the given process's development. In this period the similar thing occurs not for the first time: in 1990th of the XX-th century the number of urban population was reduced more intensively than the number of the rural; in 1999 – 2005 the number of urban population increased, and rural one decrease; in 2006 – 2009 the quantity of townspeople reduced and countrymen increased, it was due to the administrative-territorial changes, transformation of some city settlements into the rural area.

For the change of an aggregate number of the population of the Republic Kazakhstan, first of all the natural increase influences which is formed under the influence of changes of birth rate and death rate of the population.

Between the census period of 1999 – 2009 the natural increase in the republic grew from 4,7 ‰ till 13,5 ‰ and it increased for 3 times, i.e. from 70,1 thousand of people in 1999 till 214,7 thousand of people in 2009.

The main source of the population increase between the census periods of 1999 – 2009 is the high level of birth rate (the birth rate coefficient in 1999 is 14,5 ‰ and in 2009 it is 22,2 ‰). Rather low death rate (in 1999 - 9,87 ‰, and in 2009 - 8,87 ‰) is observed. During this period the natural increase coefficient of an urban population increased from 2,2 ‰ in 1999 till 13,2 ‰ in 2009.

The analysis of statistical data showed that in 1999-2009 575 thousand people were born in the republic. The general factor of the birth rate in 1999 is 14,6‰, and in 2009 it is 22,2‰.

Nowadays in Kazakhstan there are over 4019 women of childbearing age which is about 30 % from the general population of the republic. As it is known, the birth rate is characterized by rather high degree of flexibility in relation to the sociopolitical and economic changes. The development of re-formation processes, the complication of social and economic living conditions, the change of behavioural stereotypes, appearance and wide availability of various means of contraception – all it has played a certain role in the process of birth rate decrease in 1990th years. In some families (especially in new families) there was a reorientation to a desirable quantity of children; spouses began to postpone a birth of the next child more often for a certain day. Refusal of more numbers of children's birth has led to a change of the births' diagram that promoted the increase of first-borns among newborns in 1990th. Thus, the essential distinctions were observed between a situation in city and rural districts. In cities the orientation to the birth of the first child was more and more, and in rural areas the traditions of a possession of many children – a share of the third children and more sequence of a birth were still supported though it was reduced, nevertheless it remained considerable. Thus, the birth rate indicators by the end of 1990th were supported, basically, thanks to the birth rate in the rural area of a considerable number of the 3rd or more birth order of children (Demographic year-book of Kazakhstan regions, 2006).

It is impossible to define the contribution to change of a demographic situation of each of the listed factors, at least, on the basis of the available information. We will try to reveal the general tendencies. The evolution of age structure in 1999-2009 continues favorably to affect the general factors of natural movement of the population. In 2009 from the age of 20 till 39 the number of the most active reproductive part of the population has increased (for 10,3 %). Growth of a number of births became the consequence of it.

The indicator of birth rate in 2009 in the cities of the Southern Kazakhstan was 28,7 ‰, that is more for 8,7 ‰ than in 1999. The population of "growing" group in 1999-2010 has increased for more than 1,5 million people, thus 62,3 % of growth have been provided in 2005-2010. The obvious demographic donor of Kazakhstan are the southern areas — in 1999-2010 they defined the dynamics of the population growth of the country. Especially in the south the highest concentration of the population— 36,5 % in 2010 is observed.

By 2009 the population of Kazakhstan compared with 1989 was almost restored, but thus its ethnic structure has cardinally changed. The majority of defining a demographic situation now is the Asian ethnoses presented by the people of Turkic group. Number of Kazakhs, Uzbeks, the Uyghurs for 20 years (1989-2009) has increased for 1,5 times, and has made 67,4 % of the population of the country (in 1989 — 42,9 %). The European ethnic group (Russian, Ukrainians, Tatars, Germans) for the same period has decreased for 1,9 times, its relative density has decreased from 51,0 % in 1989 to 28,2 % in 2009.

At the present stage the birth rate growth in Kazakhstan is caused also by several factors. First, reproductive age has reached the generation, who were born in 1980th. Secondly, some improvement of social and economic living conditions has led to the realization of effect so-called «the postponed births». Thirdly, the orientation of new families to reduction of intervals between the births, especially the first and second child is observed accurately enough. But as a whole the rates of urban population increase nowadays is much more above than the rates of the rural population, and the urban population defines the general dynamics of population of Kazakhstan — in 1999 -2010 the population growth of the Republic of Kazakhstan was done thanks to the townspeople.

The birth rate peak in Kazakhstan was in 1987 – this time the greatest quantity of children was born in the republic. But the process of gradual reduction of number has already begun from 1988 till including 2001. From 2002 the birth rate growth in Kazakhstan is observed.

The given republican tendency was also characteristic for rural population of Kazakhstan: here the reduction of quantity of born proceeds till 2001 and from 2002 the growth begins. A bit different situation has happened in cities of the republic. So, from 1989 till 1999 the quantity of born in cities annually reduced, and it was quite quickly. Birth rate lifting in cities began from 2000. It is necessary to notice that from 1999 the quantity of born in cities numerically surpassed the quantity of born in rural area: if in 1999 the coefficient of birth rate was 13,1 ‰, then in 2009 it was 22, 6‰, that is the growth for 9,5 ‰. The given tendency is the same nowadays. In rural area the process of birth rate decrease had a slower character.

The dynamics of population of Kazakhstan, as well as earlier, regionally differentiated. Two groups of regions are allocated: a) with the increasing population (Southern, Western cities of Kazakhstan, and also the capitals — Astana and Almaty) and b) with the decreasing population (East, Northern and Central cities of Kazakhstan).

Among the cities of the Republic of Kazakhstan the biggest on population and the most densely populated cities are still the South Kazakhstan oblast (part of a city population), and also a high natural increase is in the cities of 4 oblasts: Mangystau -23,2 ‰, Atyrau – 22,4 ‰, Kyzylorda – 22,1 ‰, Zhambyl – 16,82‰, Almaty – 14,3 ‰ (fig.1). The listed cities of 5 areas are 50 % of all population of the country and if we say about Almaty city, it turns out that almost 59 % of inhabitants of the country have concentrated in the specified 6 large administrative-territorial cities of the republic.

In the last 20 years the general number of the population of Southern-Kazakhstan (especially the South Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda, Almaty oblast and Almaty) and in the last 10 years the number of inhabitants in the West Kazakhstan region (in the cities of Mangystau, Atyrau and Aktobe oblast) grew annually and faster. In the years of formation as the capital of the country the number of population of Astana has increased from 300 thousand to 700 thousand i.e. for 2,3 times. At the same time the number of inhabitants in other cities of 4 oblast of the North Kazakhstan region decreases annually, and continues reducing till nowadays. The general number of population in the East and the Central Kazakhstan has also considerably decreased.

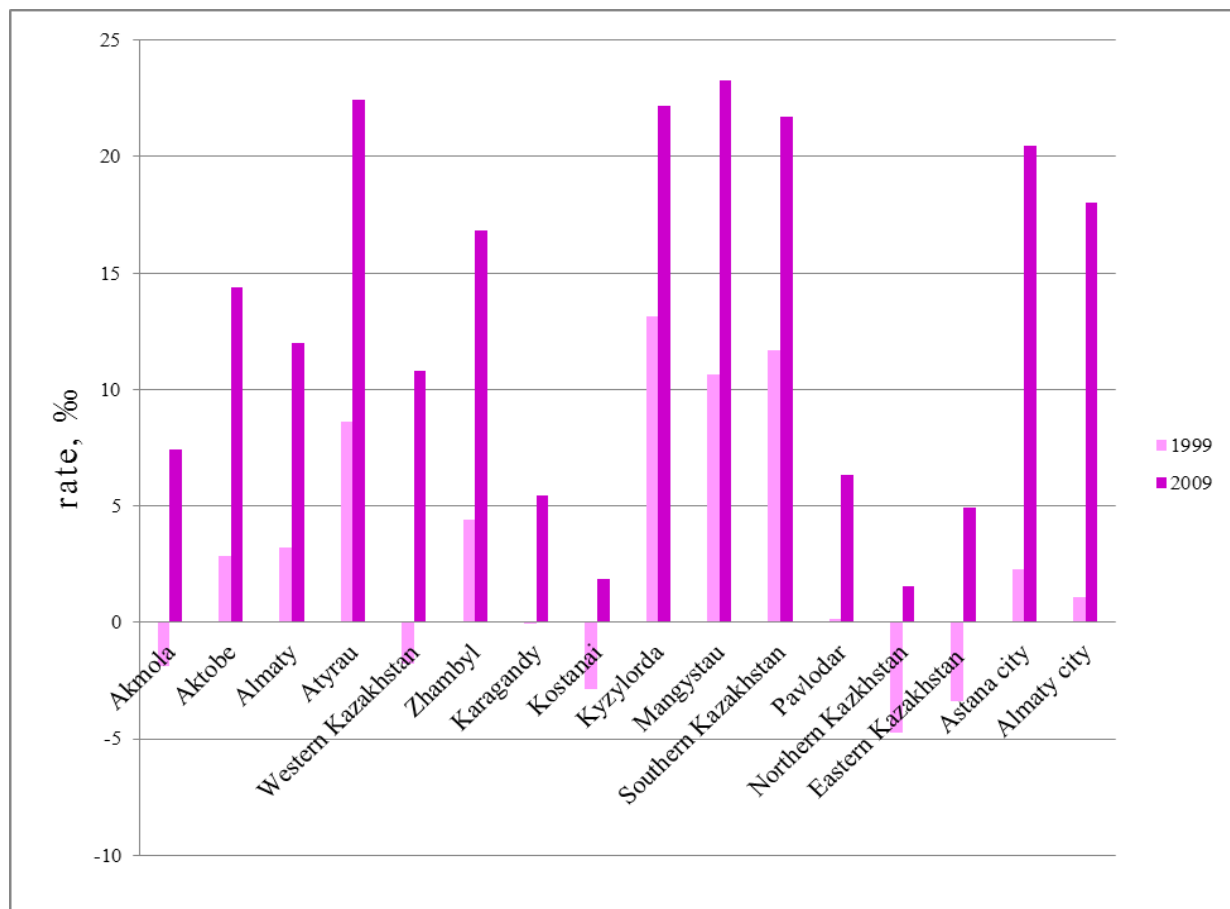


Fig. – 1. Rate natural increase urban population of the Kazakhstan for 1999 – 2009

It is important to notice that unstable dynamics of the birth rate indicators in the last one and a half decades was in parallel with the process of increase of death rate indicators. Death rate is socially determined and depends on a set of factors which is divided into big groups: endogenous (generated by internal development of a human body) and exogenous (connected with environment action). The comparison of dynamics of population's death rate of the countries with a similar development history gives a reason to say that except the negative effects of a transition period's economic crisis the high death rate in Kazakhstan is explained as a higher degree of aging of the population as the consequences of intensive emigration of able-bodied aged people to the outside of the country in the heaviest period time for the country. The aged emigrated parents who stayed in the republic recruited the list ranks of died people, which death rate indicators testify on nationalities. In 2009 the population mortality rate coefficient on separate nationalities is the following: Kazakhs – 6,4 ‰, Russian – 13,8 ‰, Ukrainians – 23,8 ‰, Uzbeks – 5,40 ‰, Germans – 10 ‰, Tatars – 14,4 ‰, the Uyghurs – 5,75 ‰, other ethnics – 22 ‰. (The Preliminary data, 2010).

Between the census period (1999 – 2009) the general mortality rate coefficient of urban population was 10,3 ‰. According to the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the statistics, the urban population mortality rate coefficient in 2009 was 9,45 ‰ or 82516 people. On the death rate, as it was already told above, there is a set of factors – both socio-economical, and biological. Among the last most important are the age indicators. In this aspect the greatest indicators of death rate are among the people at the age of 65 and older. A death rate of townspeople in all age groups is essentially above the death rate of rural area inhabitants (Demographic year-book, 2010).

In 2005 the growth of death rate indicators was 11,8 ‰, then the mortality rate coefficient decrease was observed, and in 2010 it was 8,7 ‰. Including the urban population the mortality rate coefficient was 9,6 ‰, and in countryside it was 8,1 ‰. It is necessary to note that indicators of death rate of urban population of Kazakhstan were always above than in the rural area population which reason is the younger age structure of rural area population. But here it is also important to allocate some features, in 1980th the indicator difference of city and rural area's population death rate was small. In 1990th the situation has changed – mortality rate coefficients both in cities, and in rural areas have increased. And, in the rural area they have increased slightly: from 1990 till 1993 the indicator has increased from 7,3 ‰ till 8,8 ‰, and during the period from 1993 till 1995 the indicator fluctuated within 8,1 ‰-8,9 ‰. And the mortality rate coefficient among the townspeople has increased considerably: in 1990 it was 7,9 ‰, in 2006 - 11,5 ‰ (it has grown for 3,6 points), in 2009 – 9,45 ‰. Accordingly, throughout 1990 and at the beginnings of 2000th the difference between the indicators of city and rural area death rate population has also increased. If in 1990 the difference was 0,6 points, in 2006 it was 2,8 points and in 2009 – 1,8 points.

The number of died people in big cities is very high. Thus in Astana the number of died people in 2009 in comparison with 1999 has increased for 344 persons, that is 3 ‰. In 2009 in comparison with 1999 the mortality rate coefficient of boys in cities was 12,9 ‰, and mortality rate coefficient of girls in cities was 8 ‰. These indicators in comparison with 1999 have decreased, but there is a same tendency concerning the boys. On one hand the high indicators of death rate among townspeople at the present stage are caused by the features of urban population's age structure ("growing old" demographic model), on the other hand it is the presence of additional risks in city settlements (criminogenic conditions, numerous road and transport incidents, an industrial traumatism, psycho-emotional overloads, regular stresses, distribution of dangerous diseases, possible access to drugs etc.).

The high indicators of death rate, especially the population of able-bodied age, have led to the decrease of indicators of forthcoming life's average expected duration during the period from 1999 till 2009. Especially the life expectancy of urban population was reduced. If in 1989 the average expected life expectancy of townspeople was 68,4, then in 1999 it has fallen till the age of 65,0, and in 2000 till 64,8. From the beginning of 2000 the indicators started to increase gradually: in 2001 it was the age of 65,1; in 2006 - 65,3, and in 2009 - 68,2. There is also a difference between the life expectancy of men and women in cities: in 1999 – 59,3 and 70,8 years old accordingly; in 2006 - 59,0 and 71,9 years old, and in 2009 - 63,0 and 73,1 years old. It is necessary to note that the life expectancy of townspeople is for 2-3 years below than the life expectancy of men in villages. In 1999 the life expectancy of peasants was 66,4 years old and in 2009 - 68,4 years old. The life expectancy of rural men is higher.

In 1999 the life expectancy of men is 62,4 and of women 71,0 years old and in 2009 it was 64,2 and 72,9 years old (Demographic year-book of Kazakhstan regions, 2006, The Preliminary data, 2010, Zimovina, 2009). The authors have prepared the map of natural movement of urban population for the period of population censuses 1999 and 2009 with GIS-technologies, which approve the received conclusions (Fig. 2 and 3).

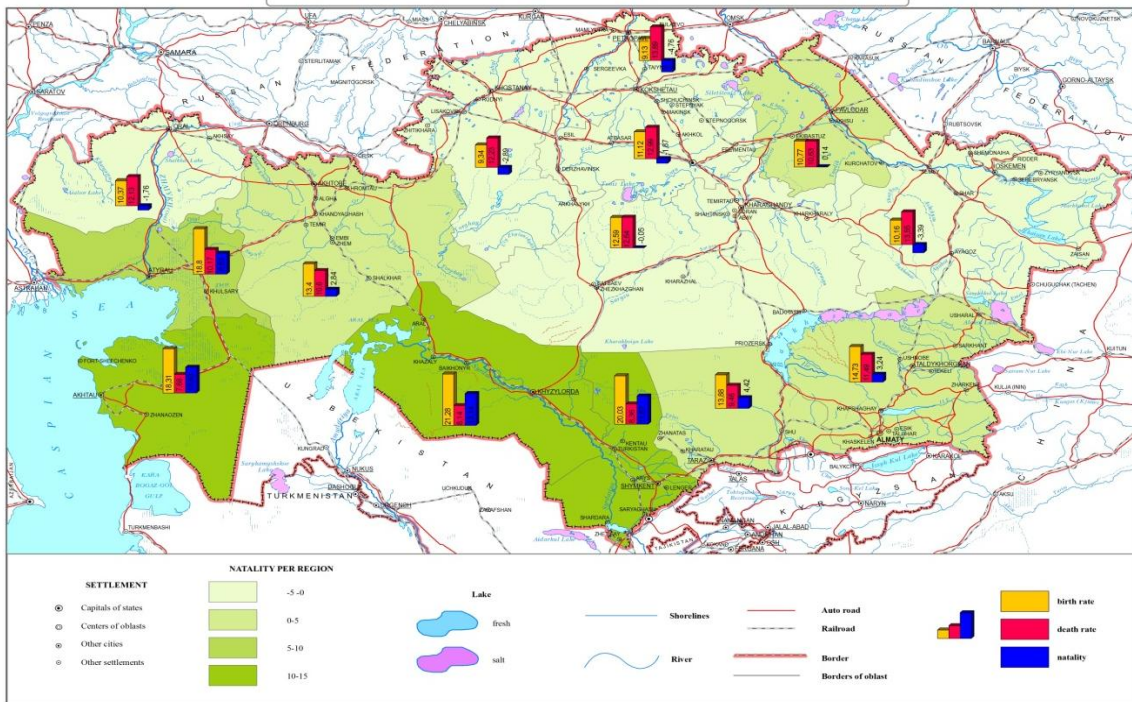
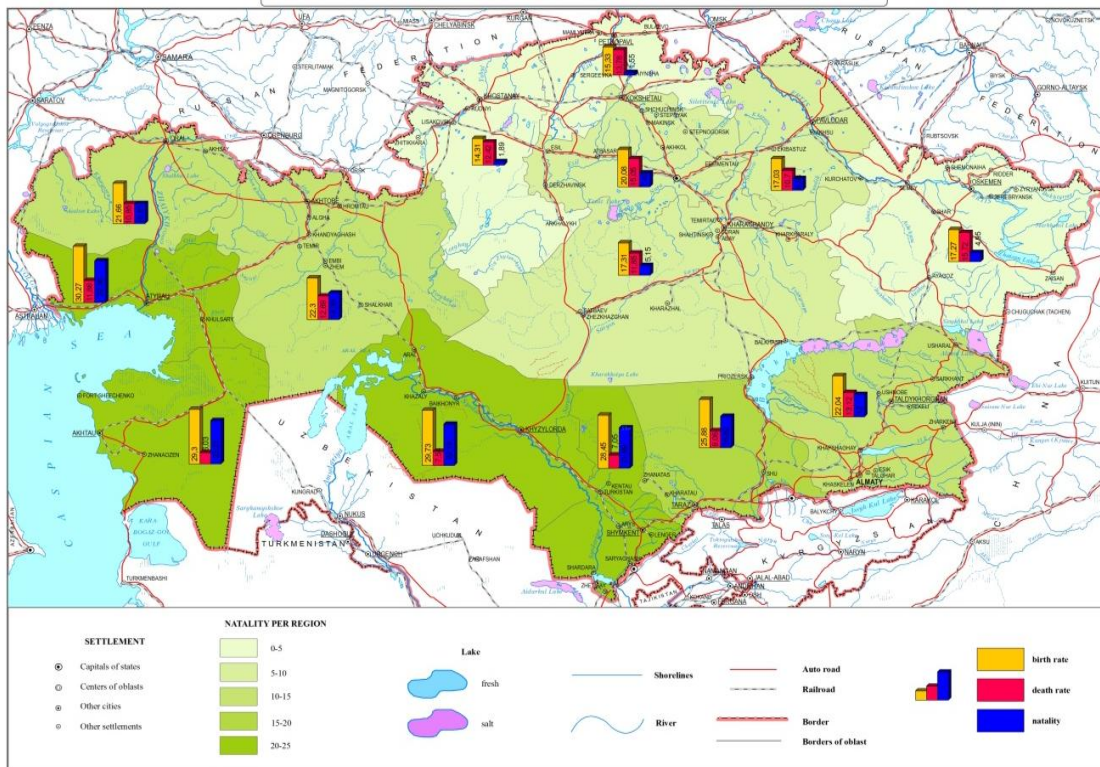


Fig. 2 – Natural movement of urban population of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 1999



*The maps are made by the authors on the statistical data of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Demographic year-book of Kazakhstan, 2010)

Fig.3 – Natural movement of urban population of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2009

Conclusion

Thus, the basic indicators of natural movement of Kazakhstan's urban population are characterized in this article. On the basis of the statistical data the indicators of birth rate, death rate and a natural increase of urban population of Kazakhstan are analysed for period of 1999 –2009.

The comparative analysis of indicators of natural movement differs in a city and a rural area. So, the factor of birth rate of urban population is higher (22,6 ‰) than in rural area (21,7 ‰), but there is also a high mortality rate coefficient of an urban population. The expected life expectancy of urban population is lower than in the villages for 2-3 years. The age indicators of death rate are among the people at the age of 65 years and older. A death rate of townspeople in all age groups is essentially higher than the death rate of rural area's inhabitants. The difference in forthcoming life of men and women of cities is 9 years (as the expected life expectancy of women is 73,1 and of men - 63,0).

In conclusion we can note that the positive tendencies of a natural increase of urban population were outlined in modern Kazakhstan. And in 2010 the natural increase coefficient of an urban population was 13,4 ‰.

These conclusions are reflected in the maps prepared with the help of GIS-technologies. The regional features and the basic tendencies of demographic processes of Kazakhstan cities in the modern period are presented on them.

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