

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION AND MIGRATION FLOWS

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Abstract: This article analyzes the interrelation between the geographic distribution of the population and migration processes, as well as their socio-economic and demographic consequences. The spatial distribution of the population, internal and external migration flows are presented based on statistical data. The study also examines the factors influencing migration, its role in regional development, and the associated challenges.

Keywords: geographic distribution, migration, demographic movement, internal migration, external migration, urbanization, regional development.

Introduction

The geographic distribution of the population refers to the spatial arrangement and density of people across specific territories. This pattern is closely linked to economic, ecological, political, and social factors. Migration—the permanent or temporary change of residence—is a dynamic process that actively shapes population distribution.

In Uzbekistan and other developing countries, the scale of migration flows is increasing. This growth significantly affects demographic balance, the labor market, infrastructure, and regional development.

Methods

This study employs the following scientific-methodological approaches:

- **Statistical analysis** based on data from the State Committee on Statistics of Uzbekistan;
- **Cartographic method** for visualizing population distribution and migration routes;
- **Descriptive analysis** to assess the intensity, directions, and causes of migration flows;
- **Comparative method** for evaluating internal and external migration dynamics over the past decade.

Results

1. Geographic Distribution of the Population

2. The population distribution in Uzbekistan is uneven:

- Densely populated regions: Fergana Valley, Tashkent city, and Tashkent region (300–500 people per km²);
- Sparsely populated regions: Republic of Karakalpakstan, Navoi, Bukhara, and Jizzakh regions.

Urbanization has intensified population concentration in central urban areas.

3. **Internal Migration Flows**

- Main direction: rural → urban, regions → capital;
- Key reasons: employment, education, better service opportunities;
- Highest inward migration: Tashkent city and region;
- Highest outward migration: Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Namangan, and Andijan regions.

4. **External Migration**

- Major destinations: Russia, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Turkey;
- Reasons: higher-income jobs, temporary labor migration, educational opportunities;
- According to official data, more than 2.1 million people participated in labor migration abroad in 2024.

5. **Consequences of Migration**

- **Positive:** increased income, remittances, skills and experience acquisition;
- **Negative:** regional demographic imbalances, “brain drain,” family separations, social stress.

Discussion

Uneven population distribution and migration flows pose significant challenges for regional development.

The acceleration of internal migration leads to reduced economic activity in rural areas and increasing population density and social burden in urban centers.

Achieving balanced distribution is possible through:

- regulating official migration,
- creating new jobs,
- developing rural infrastructure.

External migration should be managed by directing labor resources effectively and ensuring legal protection for citizens working abroad.

Conclusion

The geographic distribution of the population and migration flows are directly interrelated and play a critical role in the socio-economic stability of a country. Through balanced demographic policies, rational use of domestic resources, and systematic regulation of labor migration, these processes can be guided in a positive direction.

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