



## Demographic Research in Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** This article deals with the first demographic indicators of the Republic of Uzbekistan, their changes over the years, as well as the migration of Uzbeks, demographic indicators until the beginning of 2021.

**Keywords:** "demography", demographics of Uzbekistan, migration, population of Uzbekistan,

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### Introduction

The term "demography" has been used in Uzbekistan mainly since the 1960s. Demography has its own goals and objectives as an independent science. Its main purpose is to study the characteristics and factors of the regeneration of a particular region and country, the population of the world and the nation, research in this area, identify problems, identify solutions, and show the future.

Objectives of demography: to study the laws and social conditions of demographic processes such as birth, marriage, marriage and divorce (annulment of marriage) as a factor in the reproduction of the population, the re-establishment of families and marriages, conduct research on the relationship between age, gender and family composition, population composition and demographic processes; to study the location, migration, socio-economic, spiritual and other characteristics of the population as a factor in the reproduction of the population, to study the demographic tendencies (attitudes to demography) and to determine its future quantitative and qualitative changes.

As mentioned above, demography, as an independent discipline, has its own research methods. These include: statistics, historical comparisons, mathematics, logical thinking, and sociology. Because the population is subject to a certain social lifestyle, demographic processes also depend on a particular mode of production and attitude. The population is a product of complex social and natural development. As a result, the population increases due to various factors. In this respect, the subject of demographic analysis is close to the subject of analysis of economics, sociology, geography, medicine,

style sciences, and uses the achievements of these disciplines, while providing them with valuable information. Demography studies the laws of population growth and development of each socio-economic system separately. Because the law of population growth, which is specific to each socio-economic formation, also has a direct impact on the demographic situation. This can be seen in the case of Uzbekistan.

The demographics of Uzbekistan are the demographic features of the population of Uzbekistan, including population growth, population density, ethnicity, education level, health, economic status, religious affiliations, and other aspects of the population. The nationality of any person from Uzbekistan is **Uzbek**, while the ethnic Uzbek majority call themselves Uzbeks. Much of the data is estimated because the last census was carried out in Soviet times in 1989.

Uzbekistan is Central Asia's most populous country. Its 32.5 million people (2018 estimate)<sup>[1][2]</sup> comprise nearly half the region's total population.

The population of Uzbekistan is very young: 34.1% of its people are younger than 14. According to official sources, Uzbeks comprise a majority (80%) of the total population. Other ethnic groups, as of 1996 estimates, include Russians (5.5% of the population), Tajiks (5%), Kazakhs (3%), Karakalpaks (2.5%), and Tatars (1.5%).<sup>[3]</sup> Uzbekistan has an ethnic Korean population that was forcibly relocated to the region from the Soviet Far East in 1937–1938. There are also small groups of Armenians in Uzbekistan, mostly in Tashkent and Samarkand. The nation is 88% Muslim (mostly Sunni, with a 5% Shi'a minority), 9% Eastern Orthodox and 3% other faiths (which include small communities of Korean Christians, other Christian denominations, Buddhists, Baha'is, and more).<sup>[4]</sup> The Bukharan Jews have lived in Central Asia, mostly in Uzbekistan, for thousands of years. There were 94,900 Jews in Uzbekistan in 1989<sup>[5]</sup> (about 0.5% of the population according to the 1989 census), but now, since the collapse of the USSR, most Central Asian Jews left the region for the United States or Israel. Fewer than 5,000 Jews remain in Uzbekistan.<sup>[6]</sup>

Much of Uzbekistan's population was engaged in cotton farming in large-scale collective farms when the country was part of the Soviet Union. The population continues to be heavily rural and dependent on farming for its livelihood, although the farm structure in Uzbekistan has largely shifted from collective to individual since 1990.

### Migration

As of 2011, Uzbekistan has a net migration rate of -2.74 migrant(s)/ 1000 population.<sup>[3]</sup>

The process of migration changed after the fall of the Soviet Union. During the Soviet Union, passports facilitated movement throughout the fifteen republics and movement throughout the republics was relatively less expensive than it is today.<sup>[41]</sup> An application for a labor abroad permit from a special department of the Uzbek Agency of External Labor Migration in Uzbekistan is required since 2003. The permit was originally not affordable to many Uzbeks and the process was criticized for the bureaucratic red tape it required. The same departments and agencies involved in creating this permit are consequently working to substantially reduce the costs as well as simplifying the procedure. On July 4, 2007, the Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov signed three agreements that would address labor activity and protection of the rights of the working migrants (this includes

Russian citizens in Uzbekistan and Uzbek citizens in Russia) as well as cooperation in fighting undocumented immigration and the deportation of undocumented workers.<sup>[42]</sup>

### Uzbek Migration

Economic difficulties have increased labor migration to Russia, Kazakhstan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, South Korea, and Europe over the past decade.<sup>[43]</sup> At least 10% of Uzbekistan's labor force works abroad.<sup>[44]</sup> Approximately 58% of the labor force that migrates, migrates to Russia.<sup>[42]</sup> High unemployment rates and low wages are responsible for labor migration.

Migrants typically are people from the village, farmers, blue-collar workers, and students who are seeking work abroad. However, many migrants are not aware of the legal procedures required to leave the country, causing many to end up unregistered in Uzbekistan or the host country. Without proper registration, undocumented migrants are susceptible to underpayment, no social guarantees and bad treatment by employers. According to data from the Russian Federal Immigration Service, there were 102,658 officially registered labor migrants versus 1.5 million unregistered immigrants from Uzbekistan in Russia in 2006. The total remittances for both groups combined was approximately US \$1.3 billion that same year, eight percent of Uzbekistan's GDP.<sup>[42]</sup>

Until the middle of the twentieth century, Uzbekistan had a very high mortality rate due to the relatively low socio-economic standard of living. Although the birth rate is high, the population has grown very slowly. Since the second half of the twentieth century, radical socio-economic changes have taken place in the republic. Mortality rates are declining and life expectancy is rising. As a result, the country's population has grown dramatically. There have also been positive changes in its quality. Demographic research in Uzbekistan, both quantitative and qualitative, is one of the key factors in the development of the population, ie the state of demographic processes, the study of factors, the identification of problems and the development of scientific proposals for their solutions. The population of our country is growing year by year. The permanent population of the Republic of Uzbekistan as of January 1, 2021 amounted to 34,558.9 thousand people, an increase of 653.7 thousand people or 1.9% since the beginning of the year. In particular, the urban population was 17,487.5 thousand people (50.6% of the total population), the rural population was 17,071.4 thousand people (49.4%). The population continues to grow rapidly. This opens up new avenues and jobs for demographics.

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