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**The dynamics of the urban
population in Kazakhstan in
modern conditions**

The modern world in the first place is the urban structure of the population. More than half of the world's population are city dwellers. Urbanization has long been a leading trend of world's development, but in the presence of common features urbanization process has its own characteristics in different countries, which are expressed by the level and pace of urbanization. According to the level of urbanization it can be distinguished by following ways: highly-urbanized, medium and weakly-urbanized countries. The first group consists of countries in which the proportion of the urban population is more than 50%, the second group includes countries where the share is 20-50%, and the third group consists of countries where proportion of the urban population is less than 20%. Kazakhstan is part of a group of highly urbanized countries, the proportion of it's urban population in 2012 was 54.7%.

Key words: number of urban population, concentration areas, migration processes, level of urbanization, demographic development, ethnic groups, a trend.

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**Қазіргі жағдайдағы
Қазақстанның қала халқының
динамикасы**

Қазіргі заманғы әлемдік ең алдымен халықтың қала құрылым болып табылады. Тольғырақ жаһандық халықтың жартысынан астамы қала тұрғындары. Урбанизация ұзақ әлемдік дамудың жетекші үрдісі болды, бірақ әртүрлі елдерде урбанизация ортақ ерекшеліктерін қатысуымен урбанизация деңгейі мен қарқыны көрсетілген өз сипаттамалары. Жоғары урбандалған және аз урбандалған елді орташа урбандалған: урбанизация деңгейі анықталуы мүмкін. Үшінші топ азаматтардың 20%-дан кем үлесі бар елдердің тұрады, екінші топ қала халқының үлесі 20-50%, бірінші топ қала халқының үлесі 50%-дан астамы, ал мемлекетті біріктірген елдерге кіреді. Қазақстан жоғары урбандалған елдер тобының бірі, 2012 жылы қала халқының үлесі болып табылады, ол 54,7%-ды құрады.

Түйін сөздер: қала халқы концентрациясы аумақтар, көші-қон, урбанизация деңгейі, демографиялық даму, этникалық топтар, үрдіс.

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**Динамика численности
городского населения
Казахстана в современных
условиях**

Современный мир – это, прежде всего, городская структура населения. Больше половины мирового населения составляют горожане. Урбанизация давно стала ведущей тенденцией мирового развития, однако при наличии общих черт процесса урбанизации в разных странах имеются свои особенности, которые выражаются в уровне и темпах урбанизации. По уровню урбанизации можно выделить: высокоурбанизированные, среднеурбанизированные и слабоурбанизированные страны. К первой группе относятся страны, в которых доля городского населения составляет более 50%, во вторую группу входят страны, где доля городского населения – 20-50%, и третью группу представляют страны с долей горожан менее 20%. Казахстан входит в группу высокоурбанизированных стран, доля городского населения в нем в 2012 году составляла 54,7%.

Ключевые слова: Численность городского населения, концентрация, регионы, миграционные процессы, уровень урбанизации, демографическое развитие, этносы, тенденция.

**THE DYNAMICS OF THE
URBAN POPULATION
IN KAZAKHSTAN IN
MODERN CONDITIONS**

At present time Kazakhstan is in the world's urbanization trends. The absolute number of urban population has been increasing since 2000 and in 2012 there are 9,114,614 people. Table 1 shows the dynamics of the number of urban residents in post-census period [1].

Table 1 – Dynamics of the urban population in 2010-2012

	Total		
	2010	2011	2012
Republic of Kazakhstan	8806952	8961336	9114614
Akmola region	342336	342421	341722
Aktobe region	465366	478165	484960
Almaty region	430534	437406	443500
Atyrau region	246450	253746	260396
West Kazakhstan	283672	290000	297091
Zhambyl region	409026	411310	410499
Karaganda region	1048181	1055902	1063394
Kostanay region	441242	443244	446423
Kyzylorda region	290401	295420	301615
Mangystau region	269457	275842	281878
South Kazakhstan	988774	1007806	1025546
Pavlodar region	508731	511817	514381
North Kazakhstan	237998	238781	238376
East Kazakhstan	804550	808330	811588
Astana	649139	697129	742918
Almaty	1391095	1414017	1450327

The absolute number of residents in 2010-2012 increased from 8,806,952 to 9,114,614 people, the annual growth rate is about 15-16 thousand people. The largest numbers of urban residents are in Karaganda and South Kazakhstan regions – 1063394 and 1025546 respectively. Annual growth is stable within 13-16 thousands.

Lowest rate of the total urban population lives in Atyrau and North Kazakhstan regions, and in the North Kazakhstan number of residents actually declined in 2012 comparatively to 2011.

Ratio of urban and rural population in the Republic of Kazakhstan has changed insignificantly and the main trend in 2009-2012 was the numerical superiority of citizens over the villagers. Proportion

of the urban population decreased slightly compared to 2009, reaching 54.6%, down 1.8 points. However, this is not evidence of de-urbanization but it is due to the growth of the total population.

The country can be divided into two groups of regions – regions with high urban population and regions with low numbers of citizens. They are shown in Table 2 [2].

Table 2 – Grouping of regions by urban population

	Total			
	2010	2011	2012	In% to the entire population of the region (2012)
Republic of Kazakhstan	8806952	8961336	9114614	54,7
Northern Kazakhstan	1530307	1536263	1540902	51,9
Akmola region	342336	342421	341722	46,7
Kostanay region	441242	443244	446423	50,8
Pavlodar region	508731	511817	514381	69,9
North-Kazakhstani	237998	238781	238376	40,2
Western Kazakhstan	1449029	1481413	1507429	60,9
Aktobe region	465366	478165	484960	61,8
Atyrau region	430534	437406	443500	81,7
West-Kazakhstani	283672	290000	297091	48,5
Mangystau region	269457	275842	281878	51,7
Central Kazakhstan	1048181	1055902	1063394	78,3
Karaganda region	1048181	1055902	1063394	78,3
Southern Kazakhstan	1934651	1968282	1998056	39,2
Zhambyl region	409026	411310	410499	38,9
Kyzylorda region	290401	295420	301615	42,3
Almaty region	246450	253746	260396	36,4
South-Kazakhstani	988774	1007806	1025546	39,1
Eastern Kazakhstan	804550	808330	811588	58,2
East-Kazakhstani	804550	808330	811588	58,2
Astana	649139	697129	742918	100
Almaty	1391095	1414017	1450327	100

As it can be seen from the above data, the highest level of urbanization is in the Central, Western and Eastern regions of Kazakhstan. Today to the traditionally urbanized regions added the West Kazakhstan, which even beat the East one. The level of urbanization in the Atyrau region is the highest in the country – 81.7%, which is directly related to the rapid growth of the oil industry in this region.

Despite the fact that the absolute number of the urban population in the Southern Kazakhstan is the

highest, the level of urbanization in the region is the lowest relatively with other regions and the average in the country. In 2012 it is only 39.2%

At present the process of urbanization in Kazakhstan is characterized by positive dynamics – the evidence is the growth of population in large cities (it's one of the main indicators of urbanization).

If to the beginning of 2006, only three cities had a population of over 500.000 people – Almaty, Astana and Shymkent, but in 2012 in two cities

– Karaganda and Aktobe – the number of urban residents exceeded significantly to 400.000 and was close to half a million .

Today there is the only one city-millionaire in Kazakhstan. It is Almaty. The number of over 1 million people in Almaty was to the beginning of 1982 [8].

So, for more than 30 years Almaty is the only megalopolis in Kazakhstan. Almaty has been developing dynamically since 2001, and during its post-census period population is increasing annually by 12-13 thousand people according to official statistics. In 2012 the population of Almaty was 1,450,327 people, and now it probably has already exceeded 1.5 million.

Percentage of the urban population of Almaty has also increased: in 1999 it was 13.4%, in 2008 – 16.0%, in 2012 – 15.9%. That's according to the official statistics, but keeping in mind that a great number of unregistered population (migrants from other regions and rural areas, migrant workers from neighboring countries, illegal immigrants, refugees) is highly concentrated in Almaty, and it is as a magnet attracts as the largest metropolis in Kazakhstan. That is, in fact, the number of people in Almaty, as it might be expected, is over 2 million people.

The population of Astana is growing rapidly, especially with the announcement of it as the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan. So, from 1989 to 2007 the population of Astana has increased 2.2 times (from 276,003 to 602,684 people), and in 2012 reached 742,918 people. The pace of annual growth of the city population allows to forecast 1 million people by 2030. Proportion of the population of the capital of the urban population of the Republic has increased from 2.9% in 1989, 3.9% – in 1999, 7.3% – in 2008 to 8.2 in 2012.

Today Astana is the second most populous city in Kazakhstan, the third is Shymkent and the fourth is Karaganda.

Several cities have the more than 300,000, including Taraz, Pavlodar, Ust-Kamenogorsk and Semipalatinsk. Over 200 thousand people accounts in Atyrau, Uralsk, Kostanay, Kyzylorda, Petropavlovsk and Turkestan. More than 100 thousand people live in such cities as Kokshetau, Taldykorgan, Temirtau, Rudnuy and Ekibastuz [3].

Today the vast majority of cities in Kazakhstan are presented by the so-called small and medium-sized cities. By the beginning of 2012 there were 59 small towns (with a population of less than 50 thousand people) in the country. [4]

Part of the small towns managed to overcome depressive tendencies in their demographic development and their population is slowly but steadily increasing. These cities include Kandyagash, Emba, Zhem, Khromtau and Shelkar in Aktobe region, and the entire cities of Almaty region (except Ush-Tobe), of Atyrau and West Kazakhstan, of Zhambyl (except Shu), of Kostanay and Mangystau regions. All small towns of Akmola and North Kazakhstan regions continue to lose population. In the East Kazakhstan region population growth occurs only in one small town – Zaysan. Despite all the development programs Kazalinsk city is rapidly losing population, which is primarily due to the severe environmental situation.

In general, the adopted measures to revitalize small towns have began to bring some results and more than half of the cities have positive demographic development tendencies. Today a new state program for development of monotowns has been approved, which aims to create the industrial and innovation infrastructure in them.

Urban population has always been involved in the migration process actively. In Kazakhstan, for the period after the 2009 census, the total balance of migration has positive indicators. However, in some regions began to grow tendency of negative migration balance, that the data in Table 3 demonstrates [5].

Table 3 – Migration of the urban population

	Arrived			Departured			Balance of migration		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Republic of Kazakhstan	273836	277157	275563	224027	231483	236289	49809	45674	39274
Akmola region	8677	8579	8289	11163	10686	11013	-2486	-2107	-2724
Aktobe region	6726	14104	6820	8275	8287	7864	-1549	5817	-1044

Continuation of table 3

	Arrived			Departured			Balance of migration		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Almaty region	12784	12057	12919	12040	12196	13806	744	-139	-887
Atyrau region	6500	6076	5019	3803	4639	4185	2697	1437	834
West-Kazakhstani	9587	8703	9500	6032	5701	5876	3555	3002	3624
Zhambyl region	9121	6079	1770	10984	10566	9805	-1863	-4487	-8035
Karaganda region	26591	23187	23031	23152	20997	22204	3439	2190	827
Kostanay region	12668	11680	13019	11917	10678	10982	751	1002	2037
Kyzylorda region	5894	5499	5577	6106	7409	6555	-212	-1910	-978
Mangystau region	8343	8696	7630	6919	7852	7885	1424	844	-255
South-Kazakhstani	15648	17901	15640	20087	22238	21934	-4439	-4337	-6294
Pavlodar region	11044	9021	9416	9513	8584	9899	1531	437	-483
North-Kazakhstani	5868	5591	4524	5747	5116	5298	121	475	-774
East-Kazakhstani	18774	19079	20835	19005	18322	21024	-231	757	-189
Astana	49875	59391	59196	17996	25545	28061	31879	33846	31135
Almaty	65736	61514	72378	51288	52667	49898	14448	8847	22480

Negative migration balance is in Akmola, Aktobe, Almaty, Kyzylorda, Zhambyl, Mangystau, South Kazakhstan, Pavlodar, North Kazakhstan and East Kazakhstan regions. Only Atyrau, West Kazakhstan, Karaganda and Kostanay regions, as well as Almaty and Astana cities have a surplus. Consequently, the trend of migration of urban population in most areas is kept, both abroad and

to the larger cities of the country and to the most industrialized regions.

Ethnic migration of urban population has a positive balance of the Kazakhs, the Uzbeks, the Uighurs, and the Tatars. Negative balance of migration is of the Russians, the Ukrainians and the Germans. Migration rates of urban population by ethnic groups are shown in Table 4 [6].

Table 4 – Migration by ethnic groups

	Arrived			Departure			Balance of migration		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Total	273836	277157	275563	224027	231483	236289	49809	45674	39274
Kazakhs	215099	217771	217381	160058	170607	171455	55041	47164	45926
Russians	34913	33621	33130	43217	40204	43809	-8304	-6583	-10679
Uzbeks	1681	2047	1917	1102	1432	1260	579	615	657
Ukrainians	4141	3784	3650	4276	3800	4039	-135	-16	-389
Uighurs	2448	2413	2844	1974	2067	2310	474	346	534
Tatars	2945	2888	2871	2863	2742	2830	82	146	41
Germans	2544	2451	2400	2775	2453	2637	-231	-2	-237
Others	10065	12182	11370	7762	8178	7949	2303	4004	3421

In the period from 2009 to 2011 year there was a decrease of the mutual balance of migration: from 49809 to 39274 people. It is especially noticeable on the background of reducing balance of migration of the Kazakh urban population, which decreased during this period from 55041 to 45926 people. Alarming trend is the negative balance of migration among the

Russian population, which increased from -8304 to -10 679 people. Those characteristics are indicative balance of migration for the Ukrainians and the Germans. Consequently, the urban population of Kazakhstan is becoming increasingly mono-ethnic, with a predominance of the Kazakh and other Turkish-speaking ethnic groups.

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