

Population Migration of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and its Territorial Features

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the population migration processes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan are analyzed from a periodic and territorial point of view.

Keywords:

Population migration, migration balance, external migration, immigration, emigration, migration index.

Population migration is a process of people changing their place of residence permanently or temporarily. Migration is one of the important sectors of the geography of the population, which is inextricably connected with all socioeconomic, demographic and political processes and factors. For example, from an age point of view, the main part of the participants in the migration process is labor resources, from the gender point of view, the main part of the migration process is men. In addition, migration processes lead to the territorial location of the population, its age and gender, national and ethnic, religious and even lead to a change in racial content. The social-economic, political and environmental conditions of the region are an important factor in the process of population migration. People have long been found in areas where they feel comfortable with naturalistic-climatic conditions from the ancient, and at present this process is becoming increasingly important to social-economic factors. This is mainly due to the problem of employment, the scope of income and the development of social infrastructure. For example, currently, part of

the unemployed population of the republic temporarily goes to work in neighboring countries. Therefore, orderly management of population migration is one of the important strategic tasks of our state, which requires scientific research.

The history of population migration in Karakalpakstan has undergone many changes over the past hundred years and it has been very complex. In particular, the drought in the 1930s caused many Kazakhs to immigrate to the republic. At that time, the national composition of the population of Karakalpakstan was formed, especially its climate and natural conditions, which were suitable for rice cultivation and cattle breeding, became the main factor in the immigration of Kazakh and Korean people to the region. At this point, it should be noted that some people were exiled to Central Asian republics during this period.

In the subsequent period, especially during the Second World War, the relocation of the population and industry from the territories temporarily abandoned to the enemy to the east, including Uzbekistan, led to

the arrival of even more nationalities to the republic. In the years after the war, qualified personnel and specialist workers, mainly representatives of Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian and other nationalities immigrated. These processes influenced the formation of the national structure of the population in Karakalpakstan as well.

Thus, the result of population migration in Karakalpakstan was positive until the 90s of the last century, and the population grew rapidly due to the high rate of natural reproduction. With the disintegration of the former union and the emergence of independent states in its place, the process of migration in the republic has changed dramatically. The fact that the population of Karakalpakstan is multi-ethnic, representatives of other nationalities, as well as the ecological situation in the region related to the drying up of the Aral Sea and the serious impact of its consequences on nature, in particular on the health of the population, led to an increase in ethnic and ecological migration in the region. A

large flow of external migration was typical for the northern and central regions of Karakalpakstan.

During 1991-2021, the total immigration in Karakalpakstan was 456.7 thousand people, and emigration was 712.7 thousand people. As a result, the balance of migration was equal to minus 256.0 thousand people. The migration figures have not been the same in previous years and we can see it in Figure 1 below.

From the data of this diagram, it can be understood that in the early years of the republic, immigration and emigration were high, and this process decreased until the year 2000. During 2000-2012, immigration was stable, while emigration increased significantly. As a result of this, the balance of migration has changed sharply to the negative side. This can be mainly attributed to the problem of water shortage observed in 2000-2001. After 2015, the emigration process has significantly decreased, but it remains higher than immigration.

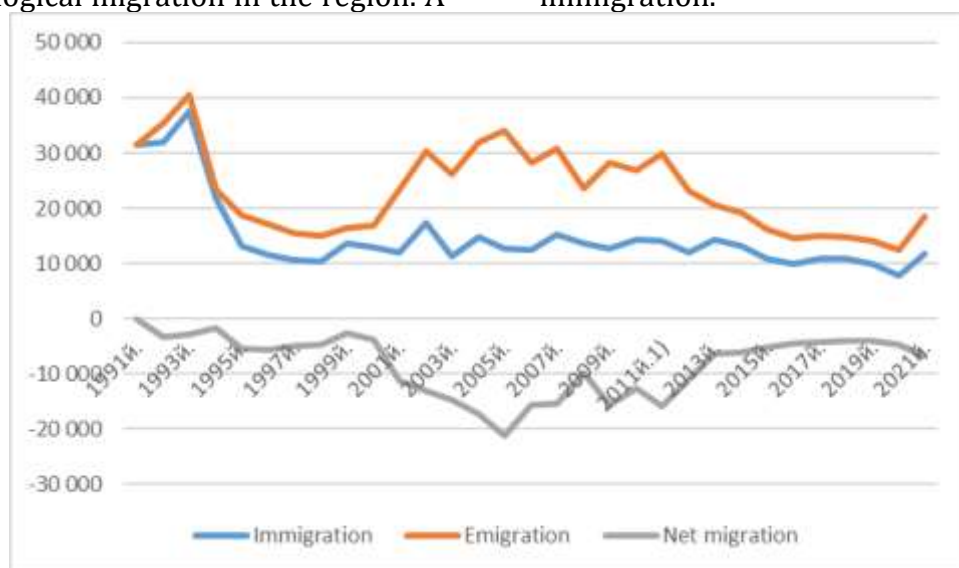


Figure 1. Migration processes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan (1991-2021)

As mentioned above, changes in migration indicators during 1991-2021 have very large differences. In particular, immigration decreased from 31.4 thousand people to 11.8 thousand people, emigration decreased from 31.6 thousand people to 18.6 thousand people, while the balance of migration increased from minus 0.1 thousand to minus 6.8 thousand people. During this

period, the highest immigration of 37 700 people and the highest emigration of 40 500 people were observed in 1993. The highest indicator of the residual migration minus 21.3 thousand people was recorded in 2005.

In 1991-2021, population migration also had sharp differences by region. To this, first of all, the geographical location and natural-climatic conditions of the rural districts are the

main factors, and secondly, it was influenced by the social-economic situation, as well as the national-ethnic structure of the population. During this period, 62.5% of total immigrants to the republic went to Takhiatash, Turtkul, Khodjeyli, Chimbay, Ellikkala districts and Nukus city, and 59.1% of those who emigrated from Beruni, Kungrad, Takhiatash, Khodjeyli, Chimbay districts and Nukus city. Furthermore, 72.7 percent of the total migration balance belonged to Amudarya, Kungrad, Takhiatash, Takhtakupir, Khodjeyli, Chimbay, Shumanay districts and Nukus city.

Of course, it is difficult to reveal the territorial differences of migration with the above absolute indicators for rural districts. Because the rural districts with high migration processes also have an advantage in terms of population. Therefore, in order to determine the territorial differences of migration processes in the republic, the migration index expressed in the ratio of the population of each rural district and the shares of the migration balance was calculated. In this case, the

migration index is conditionally equal to 1.00. If this index is greater than 1.00, it is an emigration area, or if it is less than the conditional index, then it is an immigrant area. From the analysis of the table, during the researched period, the strongest emigration area with a migration index of 3.66 was Takhtakupir district, the strongest immigration area was identified in Turtkul district with an index of 0.17, and the difference in migration index between them was 3.49.

According to the geographic location of these two rural districts, they occupy the most extreme northern and southern parts of the republic. According to the national structure, Kazakhs make up the majority of the population of Takhtakupir district, and Uzbeks in Turtkul district. It can be concluded that the migration processes taking place in Karakalpakstan in 1991-2021 were significantly influenced not only by social-economic conditions, but also by ecological and ethnic factors.

Table 1. Population of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and its migration indicators

Administrative units	Number and share of population				Residual migration, (thousand people)	The share of the migration balance, (%)	Migration index
	1991 y.		2021 y.				
	Population	Share, (%)	Population	Share, (%)			
Amudarya	113,5	8,9	201,4	10,5	-15,6	6,1	0,58
Beruni	115,5	9,1	194,5	10,1	-15,1	5,9	0,58
Bozatau	17,1	1,3	21,7	1,1	-0,6	0,2	0,20
Qarauzak	37,0	2,9	53,3	2,8	-8,7	3,4	1,23
Kegeyli	50,7	4,0	73,2	3,8	-14,8	5,8	1,51
Kungrad	93,2	7,3	131,6	6,8	-25,7	10,0	1,47
Qanlikul	31,0	2,4	51,7	2,7	-3,9	1,5	0,56
Muynak	26,1	2,1	32,3	1,7	-8,3	3,3	1,94
Nukus	44,3	3,5	51,1	2,7	-6,3	2,5	0,93
Takhiatash	46,0	3,6	74,7	3,9	-15,3	6,0	1,54
Takhtakupir	39,5	3,1	40,4	2,1	-19,7	7,7	3,66
Turtkul	121,9	9,6	217,7	11,3	-4,9	1,9	0,17
Khodjeyli	121,7	9,6	124,3	6,5	-44,3	17,3	2,68
Chimbay	76,0	6,0	113,4	5,9	-16,1	6,3	1,06
Shumanay	37,8	3,0	56,6	2,9	-15,8	6,2	2,09

Ellikkala	88,2	6,9	162,0	8,4	-7,1	2,8	0,33
Nukusu city	211,1	16,6	323,8	16,8	-33,7	13,2	0,78
Total by Republic:	1270,6	100,0	1923,7	100,0	-256,0	100,0	1,00

The table was compiled based on the data of the Statistical Department of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

In general, the administrative units of the republic can be divided into the following three groups according to the migration index:

- ✓ Takhtakupir, Khodjeyli and Shumanay districts, where the migration index is very high;
- ✓ Qarauzak, Kegeyli, Kungrad, Muynak, Takhiatash and Chimbay districts, where the migration index is high;
- ✓ Amudarya, Beruni, Bozatau, Qanlikul, Nukus, Turtkul, Ellikkala districts and the city of Nukus have a low migration balance.

The first group covers 14.4 percent of the territory of the republic. Its population share decreased from 15.7 percent to 11.5 percent in 1991-2021. These indicators were 72.3, 25.9 and 24.9 percent in the second group and 13.3, 58.3 and 63.6 percent in the third group, respectively.

It should be noted that in the observed years, the negative indicators of the migration balance were significantly higher in Bozatau district. However, the main reason for its placement in the third group is that the district was abolished in 2003 and reorganized in 2019. Because the territory of the residual migration during the past 16 years was added to the districts of Kegeyli and Chimbay, which were included at that time.

In conclusion, migration processes in Karakalpakstan during the researched period, except for the last years, had sharply negative indicators. Especially in the northern and central districts of the republic, due to the high negative indicators of population migration, the population in some districts has grown slowly or decreased. Territorial features of population migration were influenced by social-economic, ethnic and ecological factors of the region, as well as administrative-territorial changes.

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