Demographic Security Of The State As An Integral Part Of Its Economic Security.

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ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the definition of theoretical issues of demographic security of the state as the most important component of its economic security and the study of theoretical and practical issues of ensuring demographic security of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the present stage.

Keywords: economic security, demographic security, demography, population, natural growth, migration, criteria of democratic security.

In today's conditions of global development, demographic security is drawing the close attention of the scientific community. This issue represents a multifaceted category encompassing the interests and needs of people, their relationships, and the systems ensuring their livelihoods.

Currently, Uzbekistan is implementing large-scale reforms aimed at creating a safe and stable environment for the population, strengthening law-abiding behavior, and enhancing public culture. The country's shift towards an innovative economy necessitates research to improve demographic security indicators as a key element of economic sustainability.

As early as 1999, Academician L.I. Abalkin emphasized that economic security is an integral part of overall national security, along with components such as defense capability, social harmony, and protection against economic shocks. He noted, "Everything is interconnected: military security cannot be achieved with a weak economy, just as an effective economy cannot be sustained amid social conflicts" [4].

To further strengthen public safety and develop state policy in this area, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a decree approving the Concept of Public Safety. According to this document, public safety is defined as a state of protection for society against crimes, social and interethnic conflicts, emergencies, and other threats, contributing to its sustainable development and the protection of citizens' rights and interests. "Public security – This is a state of protection of society from illegal encroachments, social and interethnic conflicts, emergencies and other threats, contributing to its sustainable development and

ensuring the realization of human rights, freedoms and legitimate interests" [2].

Ensuring demographic and economic security requires a comprehensive assessment of the current situation, and in this process, statistics play a key role by providing methods for analyzing and interpreting demographic security data.

Scientific works offer various interpretations of the concept of "demographic security." For example, it may mean "protection of life processes and continuous generational reproduction." According to L.L. Rybakovsky, demographic security is the stable functioning and development of the population in line with national interests, supporting the integrity and sovereignty of the state [7].

M.V. Karmanov defines it as the protection of socio-economic development from demographic threats, thereby preserving the country's geopolitical and economic position [6].

S.V. Soboleva defines demographic security as the protection of life and reproduction of the population from demographic threats, supported by institutional mechanisms [8].

This topic was first developed in detail by Belarusian demographers and sociologists, leading to the adoption of the first demographic security law in the Union of Independent States (UIS) "On Demographic Security of the Republic of Belarus" was adopted. In this law, the concept of demographic security is defined as "the state of protection of vital self-reproduction processes from real and potential threats" [3].

We believe that demographic security encompasses all aspects of societal life. The population forms the basis for political, military, economic, and social security. Any threat becomes meaningful only in the context of its impact on people's lives, making demographic security a multifaceted and interdisciplinary category connected to a wide range of processes and phenomena. Demographic security should protect the interests of citizens and the state through legal and practical measures.

Consequently, demographic security is a multidimensional, interdisciplinary category, one way or another, explicitly or covertly intersecting or interacting with all phenomena and processes occurring at various levels of civilization. Demographic security must guarantee, by constitutional, legislative and practical measures, the protection and security of the demographic interests of the individual, society and the state from internal and external threats.

To analyze demographic security in Uzbekistan, we conducted an analysis of key demographic indicators over recent years (Table 1).

Dynamics of indicators of demographic security of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period from 2015 to 2023 (at the end of the year).

Table No. 1

Years / Indicators	2015	2020	2022	2023
Population, thousand people.	31022,5	34558,9	36 024, 9	36 799,8
Including: women, thousand people.	15736,6	17180,5	17890	18274,8
Men, thousand people.	15838,9	17378,4	18130	18525,0
Population density, people/km^2	69,1	77,0	80,2	82
Percentage of the working age population, %	61,0	58,3	56,8	56,7
The proportion of the population over the working age, %	9,0	10,8	11,5	11,6
The proportion of the population younger than the working age, %	30,0	30,9	31,7	31,7
The average age of the population, years	28,1	29	28,6	29

The number of births, total people.	734141	841817	932200	961 962,0
The number of dead, people.	152035	175625	172100	172757,0
Natural population growth, people.	582106	666192	760100	789205
Total fertility rate	2,5	2,9	3,3	3,4
Fertility rate	23,5	24,6	26,2	26,4
Mortality rate	4.9	5,1	4.8	4.7
Life expectancy at birth, years	73,6	73,4	74,3	*74,7*
Maternal mortality, people	139	156	130	153
Maternal mortality rate	18,9	18,5	13,9	15,9
Infant mortality rate	11,4	9,4	8,7	8,5
The number of arrivals, people.	139280	191086	214800	218794,0
The number of those who left, people.	168579	203629	221319	233175,0
Migration balance, people	-29299	-12543	-6500	- 14381
Demographic load factor of the population	0,64	0,71	0,76	0,76
Replacement rate	3,3	2,86	2,75	2,74

Source: Compiled and calculated by the author based on the data http://www.stat.uz, http://qender.stat.uz.

Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia and ranks third in population among UIS countries, behind only Russia and Ukraine. The population continues to grow. In 1991, at the time of the Soviet Union's collapse, Uzbekistan's population was just over 20.5 million. According to the State Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as of January 1 2024, the population reached 36.8 million, and by July 1, 2024, it was 37.134 million. Thus, since 1991, the population has increased by 16.634 million.

Changes in the population of Uzbekistan by gender composition are shown in Figure 1.

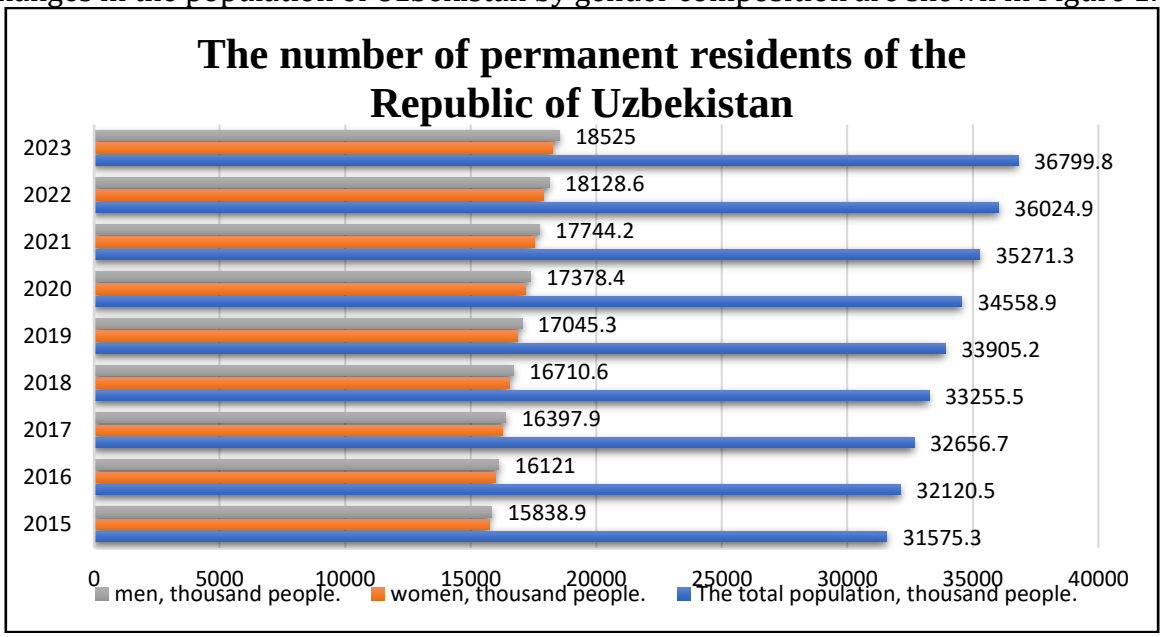

Fig. 1. Dynamics of changes in the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan by gender.

Source: Compiled and calculated by the author based on the data http://www.stat.uz, http://qender.stat.uz.

In terms of gender demographics, in 2023, men accounted for 18.525 million people, or 50,34% of the total population, while women numbered 18.275 million, or 49,66%. In 2015, there were 1,006

men per thousand women, and by 2023, this ratio had risen to 1,014 men per thousand women, indicating an almost equal number of men and women in the country.

Population growth in the republic is mainly driven by an increase in natural growth and a reduction in migration levels. Natural growth has shown steady growth: in 2015, it was 582106 people, reaching 666192 in 2020, and increasing to 789205 by 2023, which is 35.58% above the 2015 level (see Figure 2).

Today, Uzbekistan's population remains relatively young by global standards, although in recent years there has been a gradual increase in the average age. In 2010, the average age was 28.1 years; in 2022, it reached 28.6 years, and by 2023 it had grown to 29 years. This slight but steady increase in the average age indicates the onset of population aging.

The total fertility rate (the number of children born per woman of fertile age) for this period ranged from 2.4 to 3.5, which is sufficient for the natural reproduction of the population.

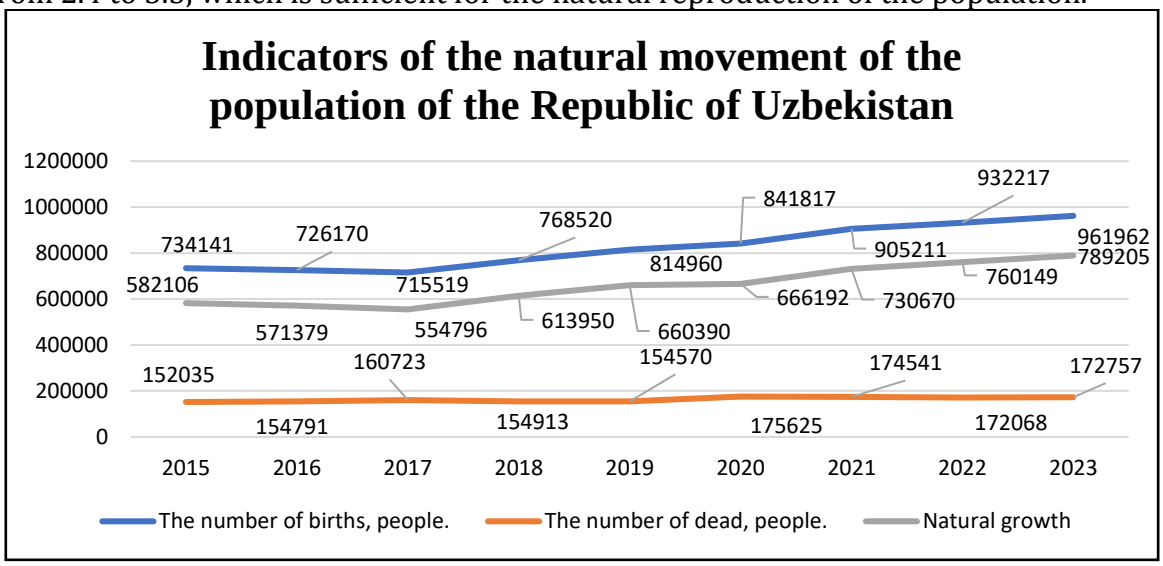

Fig. 2. Dynamics of changes in natural population growth for the period from 2015 to 2023.
Source: Compiled and calculated by the author based on the data http://www.stat.uz, http://qender.stat.uz.

The population density on January 1, 2023 is 82 people per square kilometer and is one of the highest in Central Asia.

The life expectancy of the republic's population is also increasing. The average life expectancy in 2023 increased to 74,7 years compared to 2015, in which the indicator was 73,6 years.

There is also a decrease in migration of the population from the republic. So, if in 2015 the migration balance was - 299 people, then in 2023 it was already -14381 people, i.e., it decreased almost twice (Fig. 3).

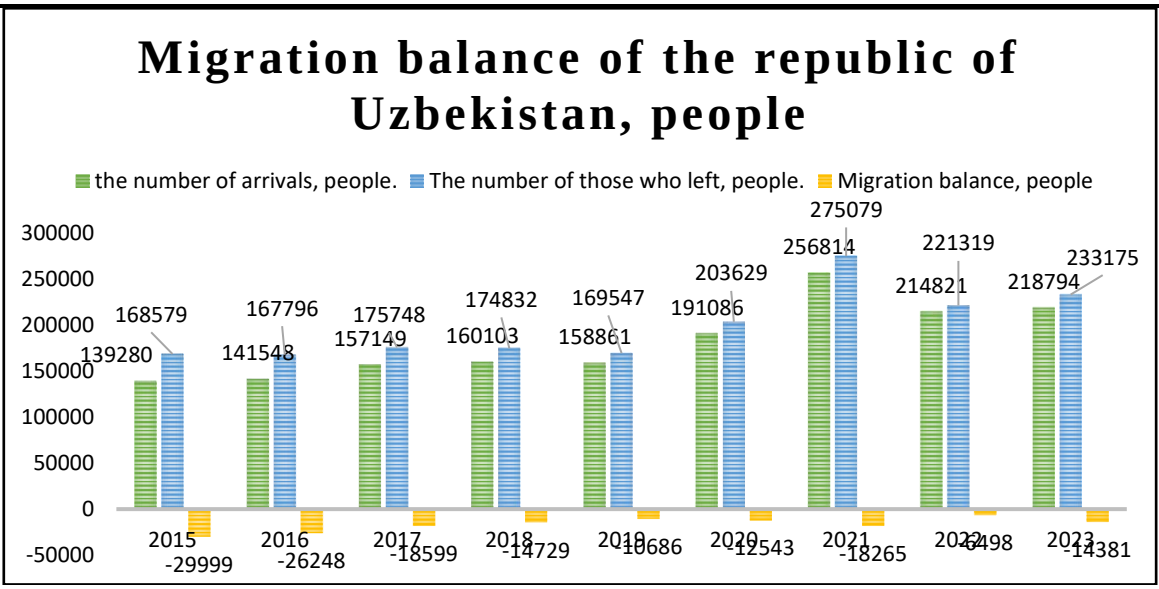

Fig. 3. Dynamics of changes in mechanical population growth for the period from 2015 to 2023.
Source: Compiled and calculated by the author based on the data http://www.stat.uz, http://qender.stat.uz.

Ensuring demographic security requires particular attention to the state of the labor force. In 2023, the share of the working-age population was 56,7%, down from 61% in 2015, a decline of 4,3%. Conversely, the share of the population above working age increased from 9% in 2015 to 11,6% by the end of 2023, indicating an aging process. A decline in the number of working-age groups could make it challenging to maintain the economy and social system in the future as support needs for older age groups increase.

An important indicator of demographic structure is the demographic load coefficient, which shows the proportion of the population requiring support from working citizens. In Uzbekistan, this coefficient rose from 64% in 2015 to 76% in 2023, indicating that each working-age resident has to support more children and elderly people. This imposes significant responsibilities on the working population, increasing the economic burden and the need for social support measures.

The reproduction of the population, i.e., the process of renewing generations of people, is one of the main processes of reproduction of society.

Population reproduction, or the generational replacement process, plays a key role in the country's demographic balance. The replacement rate — the number of children per 1000 people above working age — decreased from 3,3 in 2015 to 2,74 in 2023. This indicates a slowdown in generational replacement rates, which could lead to a decline in the working-age population over time.

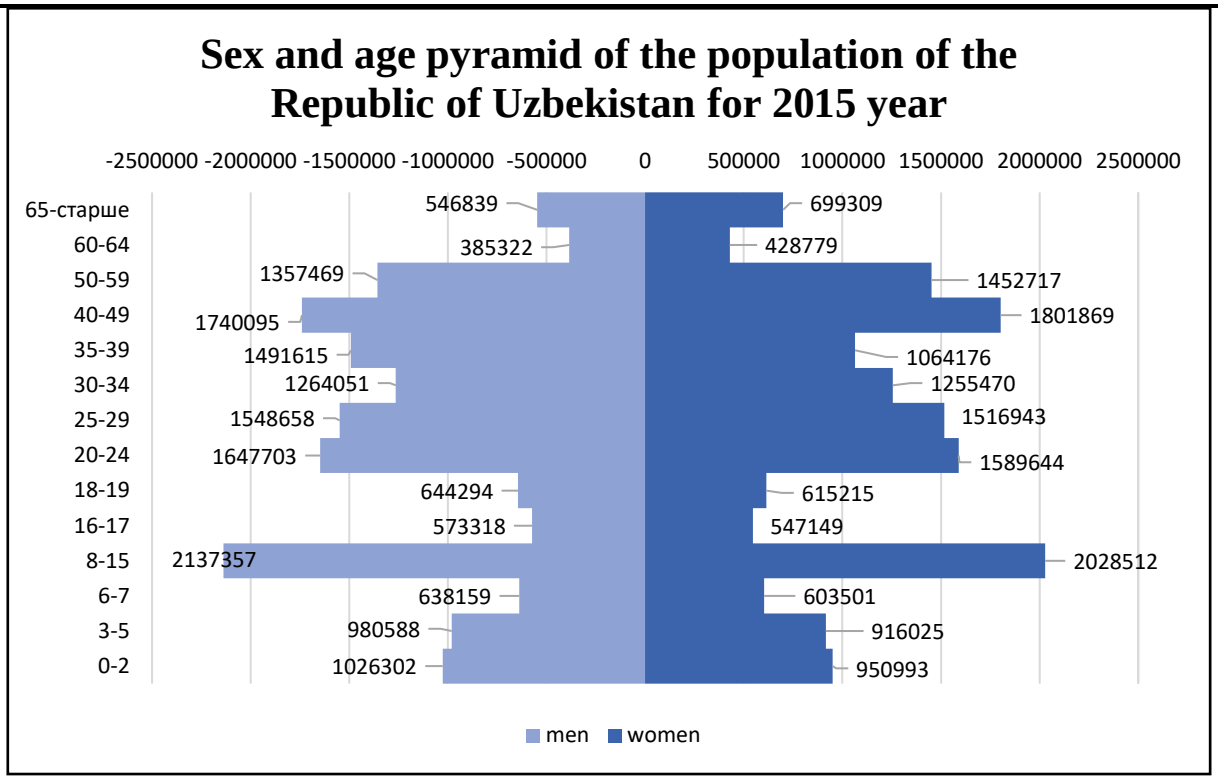

Рис. 4. Sex and age pyramid of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2015 year.
Source: Compiled and calculated by the author based on the data http://www.stat.uz, http://qender.stat.uz.

Population aging processes are also expressed in a decrease in the share of children and adolescents. Such a demographic trend is a potential challenge for the country, as a reduction in the young working population could limit the state's economic opportunities in the future (Figs. 4 and 5).

A comparative analysis of age pyramid data shows that the working-age population in the age groups of 2015 and 2023 has significantly decreased. In 2015, there were 573 318 men and 547 149 women in the 16-17 age group, and 644 294 men and 615 215 women in the 18-19 age group. In the 20-24 age group, the number of men was 1 647 703, and women — 1589 644.

In 2023, a decrease is observed in the same age categories: in the 16-17 age group, the number of men dropped to 549 691, and women to 519 894. In the 18-19 age group, the numbers of men and women were 526793 and 499 143, respectively. In the 20-24 age group, the number of men declined to 1 321 204, and women to 1 259 476. Thus, in the 20-24 age group, the population decreased by 326 499 men and 330 168 women compared to 2015.

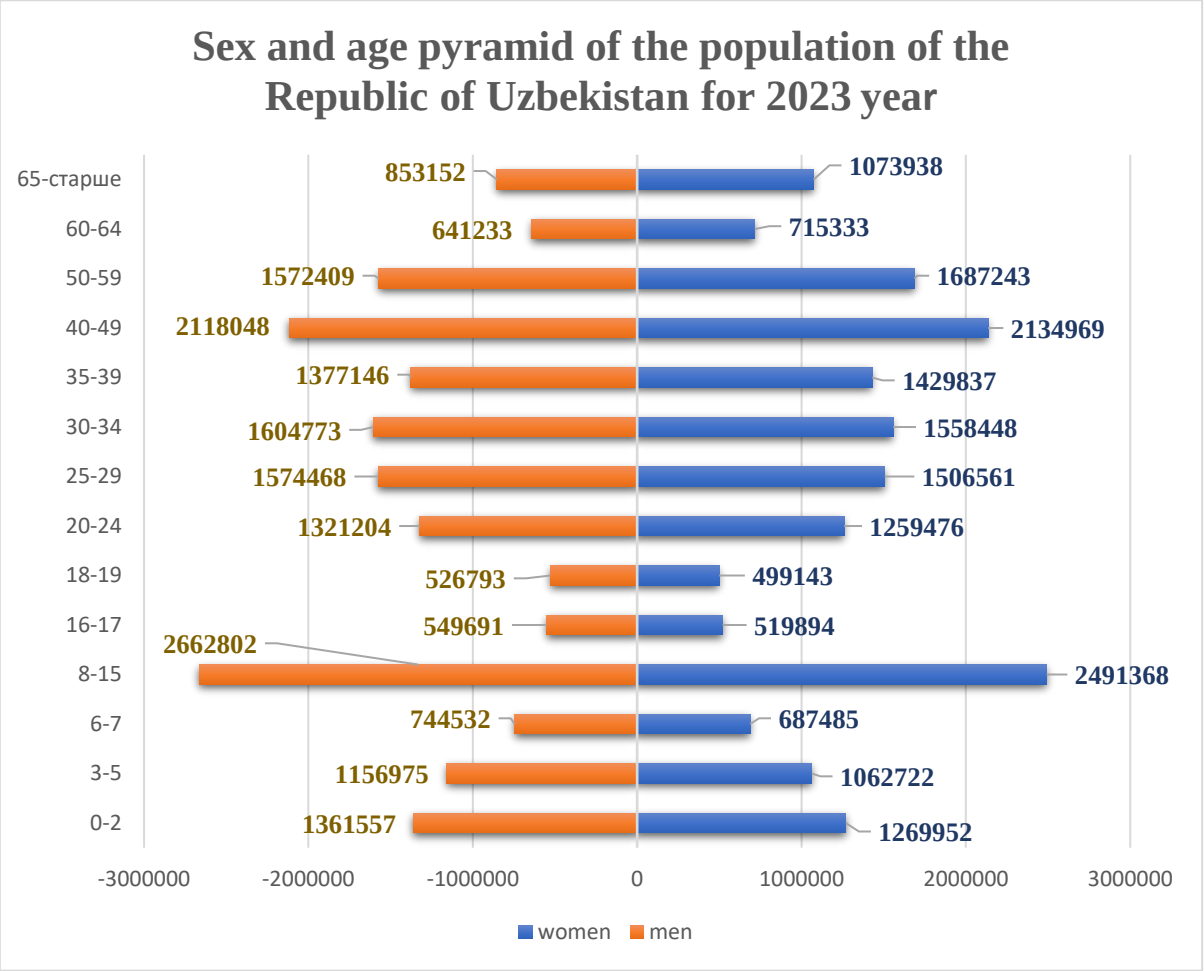

Рис. 5. Sex and age pyramid of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2023 year.
Source: Compiled and calculated by the author based on the data http://www.stat.uz, http://qender.stat.uz.

In analyzing the 60-64 age category and the 65+ age group, an opposite trend is observed compared to the younger age groups. By 2023, the population in this age group increased significantly compared to 2015. For example, in 2015, there were 385 322 men and 428 779 women in the 60-64 age category. By 2023, the number of men in this age group had risen to 641 233 and women to 715 333. Thus, the number of men in this age group increased by 255 911, and women by 286 554. Overall, the size of this age group grew by more than 1,6 times during this period, which further indicates the aging population in the republic.

The analysis indicates that the demographic situation in Uzbekistan remains generally stable and secure, thanks to a high natural population growth rate that supports population replacement, a balanced gender ratio, and increasing life expectancy. However, the data also point to a gradual increase in the average age of the population, a decrease in the proportion of children and adolescents in the total population, an increase in the demographic dependency ratio, and a decline in the replacement rate. All of this suggests a process of population aging, which poses a potential demographic threat to the republic, as it may lead to a reduction in the working-age population in the future.

To ensure the demographic security of the country, it is necessary to develop programs and measures aimed at supporting and rejuvenating the population. This requires the creation of comprehensive demographic and socio-economic programs to help maintain a balanced age structure, increase birth rates, and strengthen the role of the working-age population.

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