

## CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES: TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Vositjon Imomov

Candidate of Economic Sciences,

Institute for Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research,

Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent

**Abstract:** This article analyzes the demographic situation and examines changes in population growth rates. At the same time, the factors influencing the birth and death rates and the trend of migration processes are clearly indicated. Based on the results of the analysis, forecasts of changes in demographic indicators and population growth are given.

**Keywords:** demography, population, births, deaths, migration, labor resources, forecast, systematic analysis

### Introduction

Research institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, together with foreign partners, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, have developed forecasts of the country's demographic development for the period up to 2050.

The forecast is based on a deep analysis of the main regularities and factors of changes in the population size and its sex and age structure for the period from 1950 to 2018. As a forecasting method, the methods widely used in international practice were used, which make it possible to consider the main indicators of demographic reproduction (fertility, mortality, immigration, emigration).

In terms of the prospects for fertility - in the country as a whole, the birth rate will continue to decline as a result of a steady increase in the well-being of the population, an increase in its cultural and educational level, and an increase in urbanization processes. So, if in 2018 the number of live births per woman was 2.57, then in 2030 2.35 is expected, in 2040 - 2.24 and by the end of the forecast period (2050) - 2.16 live births ... The decline in the total fertility rate will continue both among the rural and urban population. That is, the birth rate is expected to stabilize at the level of simple replacement.

Mortality assumptions imply that the rate of decline in indicators measuring the intensity of this process will remain the same as in previous years, or even increase.

As a result of an increase in the standard of living of the population, a qualitative improvement in the health care system, the intensity of mortality will gradually decrease. This will lead to an increase in the average life expectancy of women and men. Life expectancy will increase over the period 2018-2050 for men from 70.86 years to 75.62 years, for women - from 74.35 to 78.66 years. In general, a more rapid decline in mortality among men compared with women should lead to a convergence of indicators of the average life expectancy of men and women.

### **The Main Findings and Results**

The increased openness of Uzbekistan, the expected more active participation of the country in the international division of labor will contribute to an increase in the migration loss of the population in the period until the beginning of the 2030s, with its subsequent stabilization at the level of 40 thousand people per year. The main results of the demographic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period 2018-2050. are as follows.

1. In the next three decades, the total population of the Republic of Uzbekistan will grow steadily and is most likely to reach 44.5 million people by 2050 (according to the average version), that is, it will increase by 37%. At the same time, during this period, the rate of population growth will differ. During the first eight years of the forecast period, the annual population growth rate is expected to decline rapidly, from an initial 1.6% to 1.0%, and then temporarily stabilize until a new phase of decline after 2040 begins from 0.85% to 0.6% by 2050.

Natural population growth will continue to play a decisive role in the demographic development of Uzbekistan in the future, although its contribution is expected to decline from 536 thousand people to less than 300 thousand people per year by the middle of the 21st century.

2. The decline in population growth rates will cause further aging of the population of Uzbekistan. It is expected that during the forecast period, the average age of the country's population will increase from 29.3 years to 36.9 years by the end of 2050, or increase by almost 8 years. At the same time, the average age of the female population of Uzbekistan will be 37.9 years, and the male population - 36.5 years.

3. Larger and in many respects unprecedented changes will be observed in the age structure of the population.

According to the forecast, despite the decline in the period 2018-2050, the birth rate and the share of children aged 0-17 years in the total population from 33.3% to 25.7%, their total number will be quite stable - about 11.4 - 11.8 million people. As for young people aged 18-23, as a potential contingent for higher education, their number will also be quite stable - 3.5 million people in 2018 and 3.6 million people each in 2030 and 2050.

However, in order to increase the level of coverage of children, adolescents and youth with secondary general and vocational education, to radically improve the quality of education by reducing the number of shifts, to optimize the occupancy of classes in order to create conditions for expanding individual forms of work with students, introducing advanced pedagogical technologies, further expansion of material technical base of educational institutions of all types, staffing them with qualified teaching staff.

4. Special attention should be paid to the forecast results in terms of the dynamics of the working-age population. While maintaining the established boundaries of working age, the number of this category of the population in the forecast period will increase from 8.6 million people in 2018 to 23.4 million people by 2050, or will increase by 26%. This indicates that in the long term, Uzbekistan will be a labor-secured region, which makes increased demands on the solution of the most acute social problem in the long term - ensuring employment of the population.

At the same time, despite a significant increase in absolute indicators, it is expected that the relative share of people of working age will decrease significantly - from 56.9% in 2018, to 55.8% in 2040 and 52.3% in 2050.

5. The results of the forecast indicate that in the period 2018-2050, a sharp increase in the number of persons of retirement age and an increase in their share in the age and sex structure of the population should be expected.

According to the forecast, the number of persons of retirement age (women 55 years old, men 60 years old and older) will increase from 3.2 million to 4.37 million in 2025, 5.2 million in 2030, 7.16 million in 2040 and 9.6 million people in 2050

The share of this category of the population in the total population of the country will grow from 9.7% in 2018 to 22.0% in 2050.

The rapid aging of the population will inevitably raise the question of changing the officially established retirement age and reforming the entire pension system, ensuring its financial stability.

6. In the next thirty years, the demographic burden on the economically active population will increase. So, if in 2018 there were three potential dependents for four potential producers, then in 2050 this ratio will be approximately nine dependents to ten producers.

Calculations of these indicators through the analysis of which category of dependents has a greater influence on the demographic load, shows that the share of dependents of childhood over the forecast period will decrease from 58.5% to 49.0%, while the share of elderly dependents will increase sharply from 17.1% to 41.0%. It can be concluded that the main component of the growth of the total indicator of the share of dependents after 2025 will be the increase in the indicator of the share of elderly dependents.

### Conclusion

Thus, the observed changes in population dynamics will have the greatest impact on three socially important areas - social services and social protection of the population, the public health system and the labor market. And in the aggregate, and on the dynamics of economic growth. The results of the forecast of the demographic development of Uzbekistan can serve as a tool for the development and implementation of specific measures of state policy, the development of any adequate and potentially successful targeted strategies, programs of economic and social development of the country.

### References

---

1. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Employment
2. Statistical reports on demographic indicators
3. Scientific materials of research institutes
4. [www.stat.uz](http://www.stat.uz)
5. [www.cedr.uz](http://www.cedr.uz)