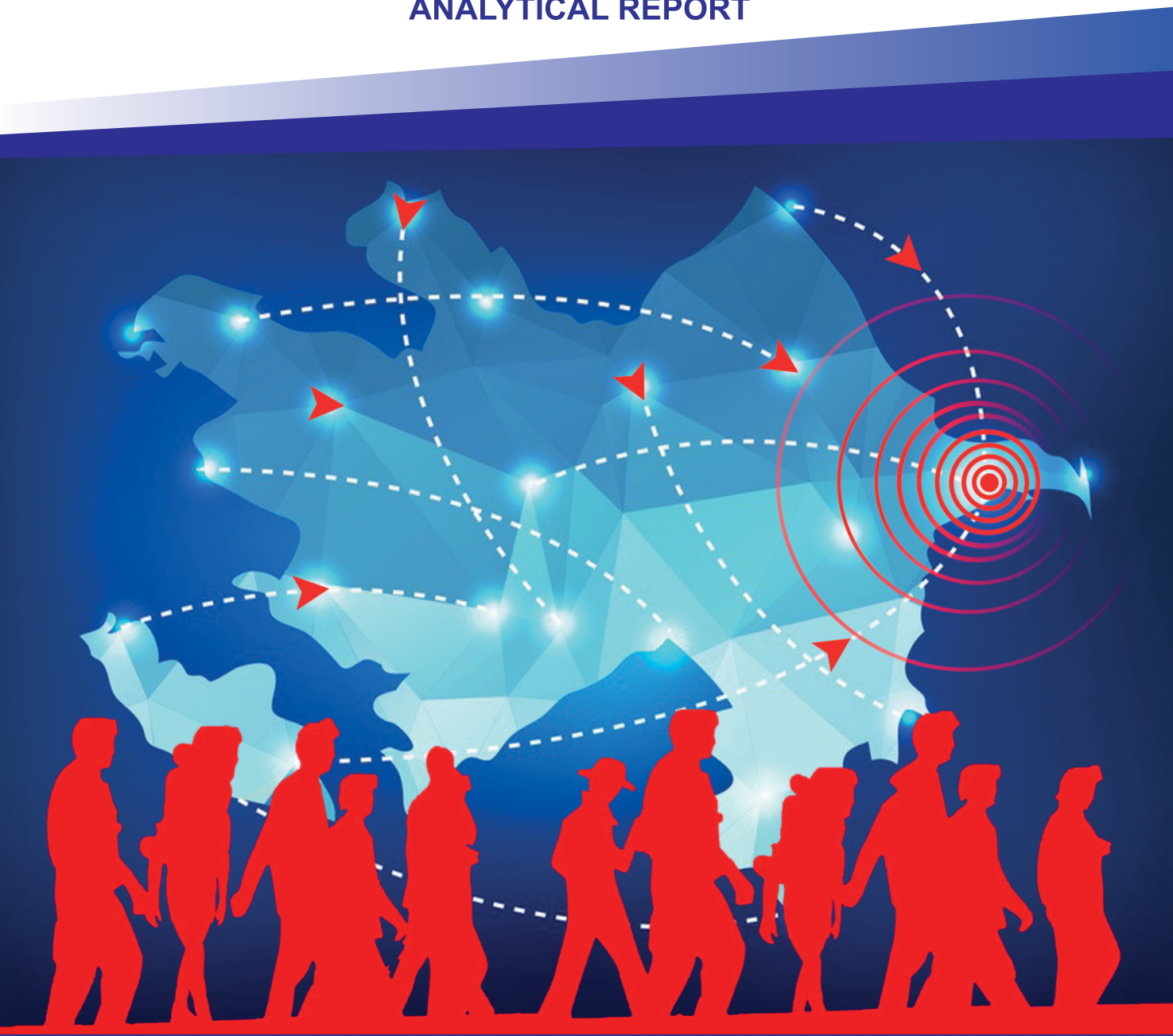




**SOCIAL ASPECTS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION
AND URBANIZATION IN AZERBAIJAN
ANALYTICAL REPORT**



**SOCIAL
RESEARCH
CENTER**



About the Social Research Center

The Social Research Center (SRC) was established by Decree No. 525 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated February 8, 2019. It operates as a public legal entity, systematically analyzing the development dynamics of social relations. The SRC identifies current trends, forecasts changes in this field, and investigates their potential impact on society. Applying modern information technologies and scientific approaches, the SRC conducts social research and surveys public opinion. Its findings are then provided to governmental bodies for consideration and action.



SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTER

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**SOCIAL ASPECTS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION
AND URBANIZATION IN AZERBAIJAN**

ANALYTICAL REPORT

(based on the results of a sociological survey research)

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GENERAL ISSUES OF RESEARCH

Importance and relevance of the research

Migration is one of the most important social outcomes and processes that have occurred in human history. People are forced to migrate from their places of residence for various reasons. The rapid development of the scientific and technical revolution and globalization processes had a direct or indirect impact on the pace and level of migration in the last two centuries. Migration is a complex phenomenon. The formation of large cities and the emergence of megacities as a result of urbanization make this process even more complicated. It conditions the emergence of new problems in multifaceted socio-economic, ecological, geopolitical and ethno-political aspects. Movement/migration processes, which in many cases take the form of a mass flow towards cities, radically change the environment and natural landscape of the city and disrupt its traditional harmony.

The recent global migration flows, spurred by geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East, have escalated to the point of becoming a humanitarian crisis, prompting significant changes in migration legislation across Europe and the broader Western world. Intolerance towards new migrants and the rise of attitudes characterized as migrant phobia have proliferated on a global scale. Extremist nationalist factions advocating hostility towards migrants have reshaped the political landscape in the Western region, gaining prominence in the political arena. Their exclusionary behavior has led to dissatisfaction, conflict, and increased crime rates in urban environments. This marks the end of an era where immigrant labor was valued, and the failure of multiculturalism policies has been acknowledged.

In today's globalized world, there is a pressing need to examine migration trends in Azerbaijan, analyze the economic and social disparities within migration patterns, and evaluate their impact on the country's socio-economic development and demographic landscape. Therefore, the research conducted by the Social Research Center, which delves into the social aspects, causes, and consequences of internal migration in Azerbaijan for the first time, holds significant importance for the government, public organizations, and academic research en-

deavors.

In the late 80s and early 90s of the last century, more than one million compatriots who were expelled from their historical lands as a result of the Armenian occupation policy and ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijan became refugees and internally displaced persons, which was the beginning of violent migration processes within the country. Temporary settlement of the refugees and internally displaced persons was achieved as a result of implementing a deliberate migration policy by national leader Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan which independence was newly regained and where there had no structure and institutions with migration services until then. Despite the scale and problems of refugee flows, the emergence of serious social conflicts within the country was eliminated. As an important component of the state's social policy, conditions were created to ensure the minimum social needs and vital needs of the refugees.

The migration process cannot be considered the movement of the population from one region to another region, city or country. The above-mentioned process is related to multifaceted problems such as the functional development of the economy, social life, geographical conditions and related settlements, as well as population settlement. The difference between the place of birth of the population and the last place of residence within the country indicates the regional internal migration of the population. People move from villages to larger settlements in internal migration.

In general, the positive aspects of voluntary migration as a natural adaptation process in social systems should be indicated. In these cases, the productivity of production increases and the distribution of labor capacity is reorganized. This ensures a relative balance between the social structure and institutions. However, this process does not necessarily give the same positive result for all countries and cities. The urbanization process should be natural/voluntary and objective-based for a high-quality urban life to exist, as well as urbanization and urban integration should be taken into account within this framework.

There is a close connection between economic development and migration. Global industrialization has accelerated the process of internal migration and urbaniza-

tion. In the study "Migration, displacement and Education" prepared by UNESCO in 2019¹, it was indicated according to the comparative indicators of 61 countries that 20 percent of the world's population has changed their previous place of residence where they had lived for 5 years. According to the report, the highest rate of internal migration from rural to urban areas occurs in low- and middle-income countries. According to the analysis of the indicators of 53 countries, the average age at which people leave their place of residence and move to another place is 23.

During the survey conducted by the Social Research Center (SRC) within the framework of the study "Social aspects of internal migration and urbanization in Azerbaijan", it was determined that the average age of the citizens of the Republic when they first moved from their place of birth was 23. In general, the level of internal migration, the age period when the population migrates more, its reasons, social, political and economic aspects are presented for the first time in Azerbaijan in this study conducted by SRC. In the first years of independence, forced displacement caused by the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenia complicated the migration process across the country. Therefore, the mentioned scientific-analytical study covers two periods after regaining independence in terms of chronological scope:

1. *Forced (violent) migration that occurred during the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in 1988-1994;*
2. *Natural migration from the period of increasing oil revenues (1994-2018).*

The social aspects of the migration process in Azerbaijan, and the factors that encourage migration can be grouped into the following several directions:

○ Socio-political factors in the region and rural areas. This includes the lack of differential employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, pressure and influence of society, weak opportunities for continuous education and specialization, poor development of political discussions, lack of agricultural land or low productivity, military operations, natural disasters, etc. factors.

○ Attractive factors of the city. Internal population migration encompasses various factors such as reunification with relatives or chain migration, disparities in income, education, and healthcare services between rural and urban areas, the allure of large cities

and metropolises, accessibility of transportation and communication infrastructure, job opportunities, marriage prospects, improved living standards, and access to social and cultural amenities.

○ The significance of internal population migration cannot be understated, as it plays a pivotal role in the nation's growth and profoundly influences demographic processes. Human resources serve as a crucial determinant in the socio-economic development of the state, underscoring the importance of studying migration processes comprehensively.

○ Understanding the socioeconomic implications of migration in the Republic of Azerbaijan is imperative. The insights gleaned from such research can inform policymaking and legislation in this domain, thereby contributing to the effective management and regulation of migration processes to support the nation's development goals.

Purpose and tasks of the research

It consists of the study of socio-economic, and demographic aspects of migration processes in Azerbaijan and the development of scientifically based proposals and recommendations in the direction of improving the state's policy in this field. To achieve the goal set in the research, the implementation of the following tasks are being planned:

○ To analyze the population migration occurring in Azerbaijan as well as to reveal and evaluate its demographic consequences;

○ To analyze and evaluate the main aspects of migration in terms of the economic prospects of the country at the current stage of development of the market economy;

○ To find out the factors affecting the internal migration of the population;

○ To study the essence and content of the said process, its economic and demographic aspects;

○ To study the foreign experience on the regulation of internal migration processes by the state, to justify the directions of the implementation of the policy per modern conditions;

○ To evaluate the impact of population displacement on the level of employment in Azerbaijan and to determine directions for its improvement in this field.

Theoretical and methodological basis of the research

The research is grounded on the theoretical framework established by both local and international experts in fields such as urbanization, migration, migration policy, and demography. Methodologically, the study employed qualitative surveys, individual interviews based on observations, regional reports, a focus group comprising experts from diverse domains, data on households and electricity consumers, enrollment dynamics of ninth-grade students from 1995 to 2018, compilations from the State Statistics Committee (SSC) regarding demography, and population registration information obtained from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA).

In total, the research process involved the compilation of a database encompassing approximately 15 million households and electricity consumers, as well as citizens registered by their respective places of residence. This database, collated from various state institutions, spans the years 2009, 2017, and 2018, and was constructed through inquiries submitted by the Social Research Center (SRC).

It should be noted that there is no generally accepted single methodological method for studying the migration process, especially the internal migration process. Different methods are used here. Indicators of people's mobility, households, utility services (subscribers consuming gas, water, electricity, etc.), coupons used in vehicles, etc. are used in the development of the methodology in international practice. The UK Office for National Statistics uses data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency and the National Health Service Central Register to analyze internal migration. As people register for health insurance every year where they live, a large database is continuously collected at these centers⁵.

In general, migration processes are complex and differ from each other according to their types.

It is difficult to use uniform methods to collect and analyze the statistical base corresponding to these differences. From this point of view, every country or organization - either being local or regional

- develops the appropriate methodology after determining the motives of migration. Since there are no comprehensive studies in the direction of in-depth analysis of inter-

nal migration in Azerbaijan, there are difficulties related to sources or databases that can be used.

The primary challenges encountered during the research include the absence of comprehensive and precise data regarding individuals' birthplaces, current residences, real estate ownership, residency addresses, migration timelines, and related factors. These gaps pose significant difficulties in conducting thorough analyses of migration patterns. Consequently, there may be a margin of error in certain migration indicators. To mitigate this risk and ensure an error rate of no more than 3%, we employed a variety of methodologies and conducted extensive calculations focusing on both permanent and temporary migration trends. Additionally, we identified the distinctive characteristics of various forms of migration prevalent in each region to enhance the accuracy and reliability of our findings.

Database collection⁶ and comparison

To collect the statistical base at the initial stage of the research, the management of the Social Research Center sent a request to the SSC and the executive power of 77 districts about the number of existing households (excluding the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic). In response to the survey, information was obtained on more than 1.8 million households in 58 cities, 60 districts, 144 settlements and 2342 rural settlements between the years 2009 and 2018. Then, a comparison with the obtained data was made for each village, settlement and city regarding "Azerishiq" OJSC's subscribers who consume more than 1.9 million electricity.

Preliminary information on the alternative migration balance was obtained during the comparison using the formula $M=p-(a*h)^7$.

M - migration balance

p - statistical number of the population

a - electricity subscribers by population group h - farm size for each district/city.

Database comparison. The primary statistical information obtained was compared with the dynamics of the number of graduates of schools located in the territory of each city, settlement and village in 1995-2018, as well as the number of students in 2012-2018 and the registration data of the

²The number of households for 2009 presented by the State Statistics Committee based on the request of the Social Research Center is the information obtained during the 2009 population census of Azerbaijan.

³The number of subscribers of "Azerishiq" OJSC consuming electricity by population group was obtained from the database on consumption power. www.azerishiq.az

⁴Information on households for year 2018 was collected as a result of a request sent to the executive authorities of 77 districts by the management of the Social Research Center.

⁵Office for Notional Statistics file:///C:/Users/ASUS/Downloads/inter-nalmigrationmethodology2016.pdf

⁶Note: Database is a collection of information collected in the form of file, video, photo, etc. It is also called a database.

⁷Note: The formula $M=p-(a*h)$ was defined by the research group to calculate the alternative migration balance.

Ministry of Internal Affairs on the place of residence of the population.

○ Internal Affairs of the Social Research Center on 09.08.2019 for the provision of statistical data on the population living in the cities and regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan, statistical information on administrative territorial units about citizens of the country registered by residence in 86 districts and cities was sent by the Ministry.

○ The information about the students was obtained from www.mekteb.edu.az portal and from the compilations of secondary schools of the SSC, from the enrollment ratio of 1st-4th grade students by regions, as well as from 2006-2018 publications on scientific-statistical analysis of the entrance and graduation exams of the SEC.

○ Official statistical data on the population number of the economic and administrative regions of the country, as well as urban settlements for the years 2000-2018, were obtained from the statistical collection of the SSC called "Demographic indicators of Azerbaijan".

Hence, each region's migration reasons have been made clear. For example, if a sharp difference was observed between the number of households and the number of subscribers consuming electricity in a certain village or settlement, then the dynamics of the number of 9th grade students in the general education institutions of that area for the years 2006-2018 was looked at and the percentage of annual increase and decrease was calculated. In addition to the difference between households and electricity subscribers, interview, observation and survey methods were used in determining the temporary migration.

Survey and observation method

A qualitative survey was conducted in the second phase in order to carry out an in-depth analysis of the indicators obtained from the database in the first phase of the research. In the questionnaire used in the qualitative survey, 9 demographic and 25 main questions were used both in a closed and open format. (The questionnaire form is given in Appendix 1). Within the framework of the study, the method of data collection was used through in-depth interviews with open questions from citizens. This data collection method allowed the respondents to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas freely. Each interview lasted about 20 min-

utes and the conversation was recorded using a dictaphone (each respondent was informed about this in advance and their consent was obtained). Anonymity of the respondents was expected and only some demographic indicators such as place of birth, gender, marital status, age and education were mentioned in the quotes given on their behalf (See Diagram 8 on demographics).

When selecting the areas where surveys will be conducted, their level of economic development was considered as the main criterion. Each selected city/district was a densely populated area of the economic region to which it belonged. A non-random "snowball sampling" method was used to select the respondents. Internal migrants living in Baku, Absheron, Gabala, Ganja, Guba, Mingachevir and Lankaran were contacted. People from other regions who migrated to the mentioned areas through those migrants participated in the survey. Finally, 66 respondents took part in the survey. Please note that the participation of at least 30 people in the survey is considered normal in qualitative studies^a. Gender, education and occupation balance was maintained among the respondents.

The transcripts of the voice recordings recorded with a dictaphone were analyzed after the interviews. The most common ideas and responses were coded and grouped for each question.

The observation method was used in qualitative interviews and individual observations for the selected region. Reports were made in Zagatala, Jalilabad, Ganja, and Goygol. Information was collected about families who moved from those regions and cities or the head of the family who went to another city or country to work, and conversations were held with them.

Interviews with experts were organized. An in-depth analysis of the public opinion survey was conducted at this stage with a focus group consisting of sociologists, economists, psychologists, demographers, and architects, as well as 11 specialists-experts from state institutions and the Institute of Geography of ANAS in the mentioned field, and their evaluation methods were used. At the same time, the opinion of the experts of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AR MoE) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding the causes of internal migration, the social, political, public, transport and ecological problems caused by it was received. Based on the opinions of

experts, the effects of migration were analyzed and suggestions made in this direction were recorded.

The main difficulties encountered during the research were related to the collection of the statistical database. As there was little information about Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, especially households and subscribers it was not included in the research. Moreover, analyses of population migration were conducted because two of the 10 economic regions are under occupation and surveys were organized for a total of 7 economic regions. Belonging to the "Azerishiq" OJSC's database on consumption power to the year 2017 and absence of its update, lack of any database that conducts operative registration on the territory where the population moves (this can include public and passenger transport tickets) and settles created difficulties in determining the level of migration. At the same time, the territorial boundaries of a number of rural settlements and settlements indicated by the executive authorities and electricity consumers do not match one another. Such inconsistencies are more evident in Absheron economic region and residential areas of Baku city.

PART I

INTERNAL MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION

I.1. INTERNAL MIGRATION PROCESSES: NATURE AND MOTIVES.

Internal migration, the movement of people within the confines of a single nation, encompasses various directional flows such as rural-urban, urban-rural, urban-urban, and rural-rural migrations. These movements serve as reflections of key socio-economic trends within societies. The evolution of scientific and technological advancements globally, alongside economic development, influences the dynamics of migration processes, altering their nature over time. The concept of "migration and mobility" among populations stands as a pivotal factor shaping socio-economic dynamics in today's globalized world.

Scholars like K. Marx have identified the mobility of workers and population displacement as integral components of population mobility. This broad concept encompasses

diverse phenomena such as population mobility, relocation, and settlement, reflecting the multifaceted nature of human movement within and across geographical boundaries. Thus, understanding internal migration patterns and their implications is essential for grasping the intricate dynamics of contemporary socio-economic processes.

In the 70s of the last century, the term "population mobility" was considered synonymous with the word "displacement". Population migration is an objective process of personnel displacement. It is inextricably linked with the development of production forces and relations. Migration of the population leads to the optimal placement of labor resources in the territory of the country, the equalization of the economic development levels of the regions, the elimination of socio-economic and cultural-household differences between cities and villages, etc. It should also be noted that migrants who want to build a highly qualified, successful career go to the proximity of cultural centers, and those who want to increase their financial well-being go to regions that value labor force more and have the opportunity to earn money.

When classified according to periodicity parameters, internal migration can be grouped as follows:

- Permanent migration (not intended to return);
- Temporary migration (intended to return, seasonal, nomadic and for visiting purpose);
- Long-term migration (lasting more than 6 months);
- A constant (round-trip) migration. This is also called "dancer-like" migration.

Internal migration is also different in terms of reasons of its occurrence. The causes of migration are grouped as socio-economic, political and military in the international trend. Socio-economic reasons are based on work, education, health and household issues. The process of migration for political reasons includes escaping and distancing from the ideological regime, racial, religious, etc. Military migration processes include evacuation, deportation, etc. In addition, another reason that manifests itself in internal migration is the factor of natural conditions, geography and natural landscape. That is, accessibility to communication in the lowlands is more flexible and convenient rather than in the mountainous areas. Therefore, people living in a harsh climate and difficult

⁹UN, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

¹⁰UN, *New Urban Agenda 2017* <http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

geographical terrain migrate to areas with accessible infrastructure.

I.2. MIGRATION-BASED URBANIZATION AND AGGLOMERATION

The concept of "urbanization" is also involved in the typological classification of migration flows. Urbanization comes from the French word "urbanisation" and the Latin word "urbs" (city). It is a process that indicates the increase of the role of cities in the life of the society, having a great influence on the people's lifestyle, culture and demographic composition of the population. In other words, urbanization is the process of increasing the role of cities in the development of society, the complexity of functions in the settlement network, the integration of activity types, the concentration of the population in cities and the concentration of productive forces on the basis of industry.

The process of urbanization should not mean the erasure of rural areas. On the contrary, if it is implemented in a programmatic manner, the modernization of the agricultural sector and the increase in productivity can be accelerated and lead to an increase in competitiveness. Labor resources saved in agriculture are transferred to the city as part of the urbanization process. Today, the rapidly expanding "digital generation" in the world is forming in Azerbaijan and a new trend is emerging in the labor market in terms of quality and quantity. The urbanized region is an important residential area, creating a social spatial integrity and satisfying the majority of the need for social and cultural services of the agglomeration population as a nuclear city. Cities represent a world of new opportunities for many people, jobs, technologies are concentrated in cities and active economic development is observed there. Therefore, the level of urbanization is increasing rapidly.

The urban population was 5% of the world's population in 1900, but this number reached 55% in 2018 according to the World Bank data. Today, half of humanity - 4.2 billion people - live in cities. According to the forecast of the UN Population Fund, the number of the world's population living in cities will reach about 60% by 2030 ⁹. In the coming decades, 95% of global urbanization will fall on developing countries. New opportunities arise, especially in the field of industrialization, due to the rapid increase

in the number of urban residents, but urban overcrowding, increasing inequality and environmental degradation are inevitable at the same time.

Although the total area of cities is only 3% of the Earth's land area, they account for 60-80% of energy consumption and 75% of carbon emissions. Rapid urbanization puts pressure on freshwater resources, sanitation, sewage system, transportation infrastructure, habitat, social life, housing affordability, criminogenic conditions and public health. In other words, the rapid flow of migration from villages and small settlements to large cities turns cities into centers of crisis. That is why the Chairman of the UN General Assembly Maria Fernanda Espinosa addressed the mayors of a number of cities located on different continents at a meeting held at the headquarters of this organization in New York in 2019, saying that rapid urbanization requires a new approach to city management.

The "Urban Development Program"¹⁰ adopted by the UN General Assembly in Quito in October 2016 is a document designed to eliminate the emerging crisis. The strategy of ecological balance and development of cities is reflected in the document.

I.3. MIGRATION OF THE POPULATION OF AZERBAIJAN AND ITS DEMOGRAPHIC PICTURE

According to the information of the SSC, the population of the Republic of Azerbaijan increased 5.2 times in the last 100 years (1919-2019) from 1 million 952 thousand people to 10 million 67 thousand people in 2019. The growth rate of the country's population has decreased compared to the Soviet era. If the average annual growth rate of the population was 1.5 per cent in the first period of the years of independence, this figure dropped to 0.8 per cent in 2018. The rate of population growth in rural areas is higher than in urban areas. The process of globalization is going on in the demographic behavior of the population at present as in all fields. This continues in almost all regions of the world.

Despite this fact, it should be noted that Azerbaijan is still one of the countries in the world that is moving forward due to the rate of population growth. In particular, it should be highlighted that despite the significant population losses brought on by the catastrophes that struck Azerbaijan at various

times over the past 120 years, the population has grown at a reasonably rapid rate, from 1 million 807 thousand in 1897 to 10 million in 2019.. In other words, the population of Azerbaijan increased 5.5 times during this period. For comparison, it should be noted that the population of Russia increased by 2.1 times during the same period, the population of Ukraine by 1.6 times, the population of Georgia by 2.6 times, the population of Armenia by 3.8 times and as a whole the population living in the territory of the former USSR increased 2.3 times and the world population increased 4 times¹¹. However, one of the main factors driving demographic growth in Azerbaijan was migrants from other countries. Only since the 60s of the 20th century, population growth has occurred due to natural growth.

In the period covering 120 years after 1897, the population of the Republic of Azerbaijan decreased sharply in some cases, depending on the course and nature of the historical, socio-economic and political processes taking place during this period, it increased rapidly in some periods and had stable growth dynamics for some time. Azerbaijan faced severe demographic difficulties five times mainly in the 20th century:

1) *The Armenian gangs, which received comprehensive support from the ruling circles of Tsarist Russia, mercilessly attacked civilians in Iravan, Zangazur, Goycha, Nakhchivan, Karabakh, Ganja, Baku, and other areas, towns and villages were burned and people were brutally killed in 1905-1907.*

2) *World War I, foreign intervention, civil war, genocide of Azerbaijanis by Armenians, etc. as a result of the events in 1914-1920, the population of Azerbaijan decreased by 387 thousand people or 16.6% from 2 million 339 thousand people to 1 million 952 thousand people.*

3) *The population of Azerbaijan decreased by 597.3 thousand people or 17.9% during the Great Patriotic War in 1941-1945. In this regard, the population of Azerbaijan reached its pre-war level only 10 years later, i.e. in 1955.*

4) *In 1948-1953, more than 150,000 Azerbaijanis were deported from their ancestral lands in the territory of Armenia.*

5) *Since 1988, 20% of our land has been occupied as a result of Armenian aggression, up to one million of our compatriots have become refugees and internally displaced persons, including more than 250,000 Azerbaijanis have been expelled*

from Armenia.

Thus, more than 1.5 million Azerbaijanis were forcibly deported from their historical lands during the last two centuries. Violent deportations and displacements caused by wars have had a serious impact on the immigration, emigration and internal migration processes, along with the country's demographic situation.

Starting from the beginning of the 90s of the last century, different directions of the migration process of the population began to be noticed in our Republic from the socio-economic and demographic points of view. Two cases were more typical among these directions:

- Placement of the local population in the central and regional cities as a result of the war that occurred in the first years of our independence;

- Citizens moving from rural areas to central cities, including neighboring countries, due to the severe socio-economic situation in the regions and the deterioration of infrastructure; the formation of new settlements as a result of the increase in the urban population, etc.

According to the above-mentioned chronological division, the migration process in Azerbaijan was studied in two stages - 1991-1994 and 1995-2018. Since the first period is obligatory/forced migration, the qualitative survey covers the second period (1995-2018). IDPs and refugees did not participate in our survey, as the resources/sources for clarifying the social, political and public causes of migration for the first period were limited.

I.4. INTERSECTION OF FORCED EXTERNAL MIGRATION WITH INTERNAL MIGRATION

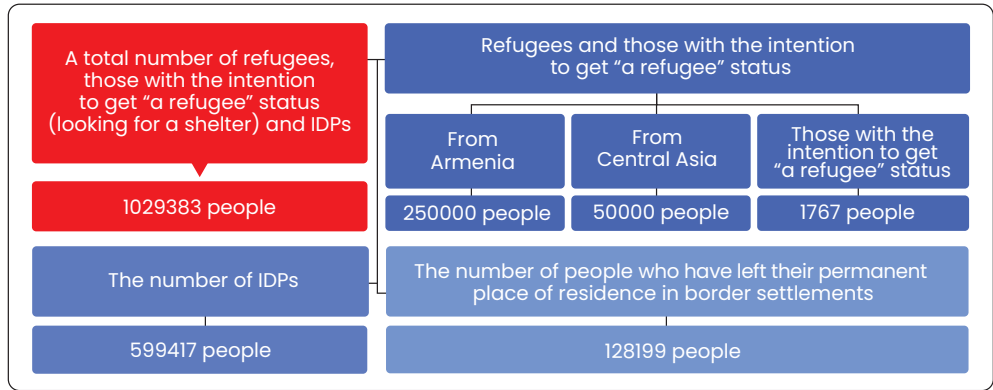
There are many reasons for regional foreign migration in Azerbaijan. 350,000 Azerbaijanis, the next and last victims of Armenia's ethnic cleansing policy, were expelled from our historical lands in 1988. Most of the people who were displaced from their native homes as a result of the occupation of our territory turned to the Absheron peninsula, Baku, Sumgait and other big cities as a temporary place of residence. About 92 thousand of these people settled in Baku, 18 thousand in Sumgait and 4 thousand in Absheron, totaling 115 thousand in this region.

Thus, together with the IDPs formed as a result of the occupation of Nagorno-Kara-

¹¹Muradov Sh., Bakhish Ch. *Ethno-demographic processes in the Republic of Azerbaijan: historical changes and realities.* Baku, 2013

Chart 1.

Source:
State Committee for
Refugees and IDPs
(January 2012)



bakh and 7 regions around it (Lachin, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli, and Zangilan), approximately one million people became displaced in their homeland.

Currently, Azerbaijan hosts approximately 1,200,000 refugees and internally displaced persons, constituting a significant portion of the population affected by both internal and external migration.

Furthermore, during the early 1990s, a substantial number of Azerbaijanis faced ethnic conflict in Georgia, leading to their displacement. Around 70,000 Georgians sought refuge in Azerbaijan during this period. While some of them obtained Azerbaijani citizenship, others remain citizens of Georgia, with many having integrated into Azerbaijani society through marriage to Azerbaijani citizens. A notable migration trend involves the settlement of migrants, primarily of Armenian origin from conflict zones such as Syria, in the occupied territories of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent regions by Armenia. This practice violates international law and constitutes an artificial intervention in Azerbaijan's demographic composition, aiming to alter the ethnic makeup of the region.

These migration dynamics underscore the complex socio-political challenges and human rights issues arising from displacement and demographic manipulation, warranting attention and resolution at both national and international levels.

It should be noted that the social, economic and political problems caused by the conflicts in the region have affected all citizens of the country. The mass manifestation of these problems showed itself in the flow of the population from the regions to Baku and surrounding regions. The government implemented a number of stimulating measures and national programs related to the development of regions in order to regulate the socio-economic development balance

between the regions and the capital, to prevent the urbanization process from going in one direction.

The "Regional Socio-Economic Development Program" implemented since 2004, as well as provision of real estate, high salary and other social security to employees working in educational institutions (mainly schools) for their work in the regions, protection of human resources and management can be mentioned here among those stimulating measures.

1.5. URBANIZATION IN AZERBAIJAN.

The process of urbanization in Azerbaijan coincides with the "oil boom" period in the 1860s. It was from that period that the process of "urbanization" gained momentum, and the number and population of cities increased. As a result of this process, a new type of urban settlements - settlements began to form in Azerbaijan. Settlements of this type were created in their historical stages of development near various industrial enterprises, resorts and tourist centers, and around railway stations. Finally, these settlements, which have passed the development period, have entered the next stage. Thus, settlements with a rapidly growing population and great potential for agricultural areas receive the status of cities, settlements that expand their functions become settlements, and settlements with no prospects are subject to decline and liquidated.

The territorial structure of the country is divided into districts and cities according to the administrative territorial circle, and into villages, towns and settlements according to the administrative territorial unit. According to the law, a territory is considered a city if its population ex-

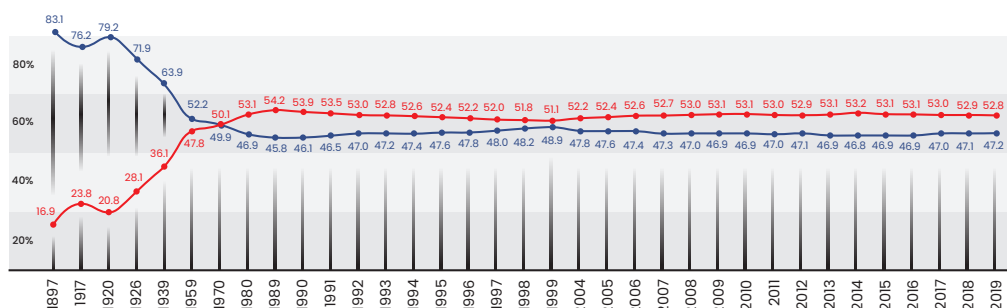


Chart 2.
Dynamics of the population living in rural and urban areas for the years 1897-2019

Source:
The State Statistics Committee

ceeds 15 thousand people¹². Moreover, large administrative, economic and cultural centers having the population of less than 15 thousand people, but more than 12 thousand people, developed industrial and social infrastructure, having enterprises of national importance or special historical and cultural monuments on its territory, as well as possessing the prospect of future development and population growth can be classified in the category of cities. The administrative territorial structures currently existing in Azerbaijan were created on the basis of the decision of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan and the Council of People's Commissars dated August 30, 1930. Certain changes were made in its territory after the first division and large industrial cities such as Mingachevir and Sumgait were built. So, the number of the urban population started to change compared to the rural population. The majority of the population of Azerbaijan lived in rural areas during the time of Tsarist Russia and in the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR), which existed in 1918-1920. At that time, there were Baku, Shamakhi and Yelizavetpol (Ganja) governorates with city status. The urban population was between 16-20% respectively.

Baku, Ganja and Sumgait are leading in terms of the number of urban population. It should be noted that until the 50s of the 19th century, Baku was in 5th place after Shamakhi, Shaki, Ganja and Shusha in terms of population. Baku already gained the second place in terms of population shortly after the beginning of the "oil boom" in the 50s - in 1859. The main core of this growth was migration. Thus, the mass migration to Baku was caused by the earthquake in Shamakhi, on the one hand, and the arrival of Azerbaijanis from Iran (called "hamshari" in those years) and non-Muslim peoples coming from Tsarist Russia to work in oil wells. At that time, the ethnic composition of Baku changed rapidly due to migrants.

The so-called confessional groups of Russians such as "Dukhobor", "Molokan", etc were intensively moved to Azerbaijan from the central provinces of Russia and Ukraine during the years 1833-1843.¹³ About 20 Russian villages were established in Azerbaijan during this period. The migration process of non-Muslim people accelerated a little bit after the "oil boom". 3 thousand peasant families were transferred from Russia to Azerbaijan during the years 1908-1910. As a result, the migration balance of Azerbaijan increased more than 1.6 times from 133.4 thousand people in 1886-1897 to 219.8 thousand people in 1897-1913. Most of the emigrants came to Baku.

It should be noted that the vast majority of those who migrated to Baku were men. So, since it was difficult to find a job together with the family, most of the migrants left their families at home. According to historical sources, Russian specialists, workers and servants working in the oil industry enterprises of Baku city were mostly together with their families, most of the Armenians were single and alone, and all of the Muslims left their families at home and lived alone. According to the population census of 1897, 82.5% of workers working in Baku oil extraction enterprises were unmarried or living far from their families. The fact that 75% of migrants were men had resulted in a decrease in the birth rate of the population as a whole, an increase in the death rate and accordingly a significant decrease in the natural growth rate. Average annual growth was 1.53%, which was slightly lower than the similar indicator for the Russian Empire at the same time. However, if this growth in Russia was almost exclusively due to natural growth, about 45% of the population growth in Azerbaijan is due to migration¹⁴. Such a high rate of population growth due to migration was related to the resettlement policy implemented by Tsarist Russia at that time and the intensive exploitation of Azerbaijan's oil fields.

The fact that Baku grew rapidly in Tsar-

¹²Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Territorial Structure and Administrative Territorial Division".

¹³Muradov Sh., Baxish Ch. *Ethno-demographic processes in the Republic of Azerbaijan: historical changes and realities*. Baku, 2013

¹⁴There again

rist Russia and became one of the 5 largest cities in the first years of the Soviet era brought social problems along with the development of the city. Problems arose in the city's drinking water supply, sewage supply, health system, and epidemics often spread. Building a new social infrastructure required huge investments.

The conflicts and massacres that took place on the territory of Azerbaijan reduced the population of Shamakhi and Shusha to a minimum in 1918-1922. The population of Azerbaijan decreased by more than 20.8% during this period. In other words, Azerbaijan suffered a loss of one fifth of its population during

this short 4-years' period. The fact that the main losses occurred in the administrative areas with urban status affected the dynamics of the urban population. Instead, the city's dwindling local population was replaced by Jewish, Armenian and Slavic origin nations in the later years of the Soviet era.

The increase in the number of urban population in Azerbaijan due to natural growth, not migrants, began only in the 1950s. Fundamental socio-economic changes took place in Azerbaijan during this period, the

population was massively involved in education and the health system, the oil industry and related fields were developing by leaps and bounds. The creation of new industrial cities such as Sumgait and Mingachevir, and the opening of higher and secondary schools encouraged the flow of the young generation living in the villages to the cities.

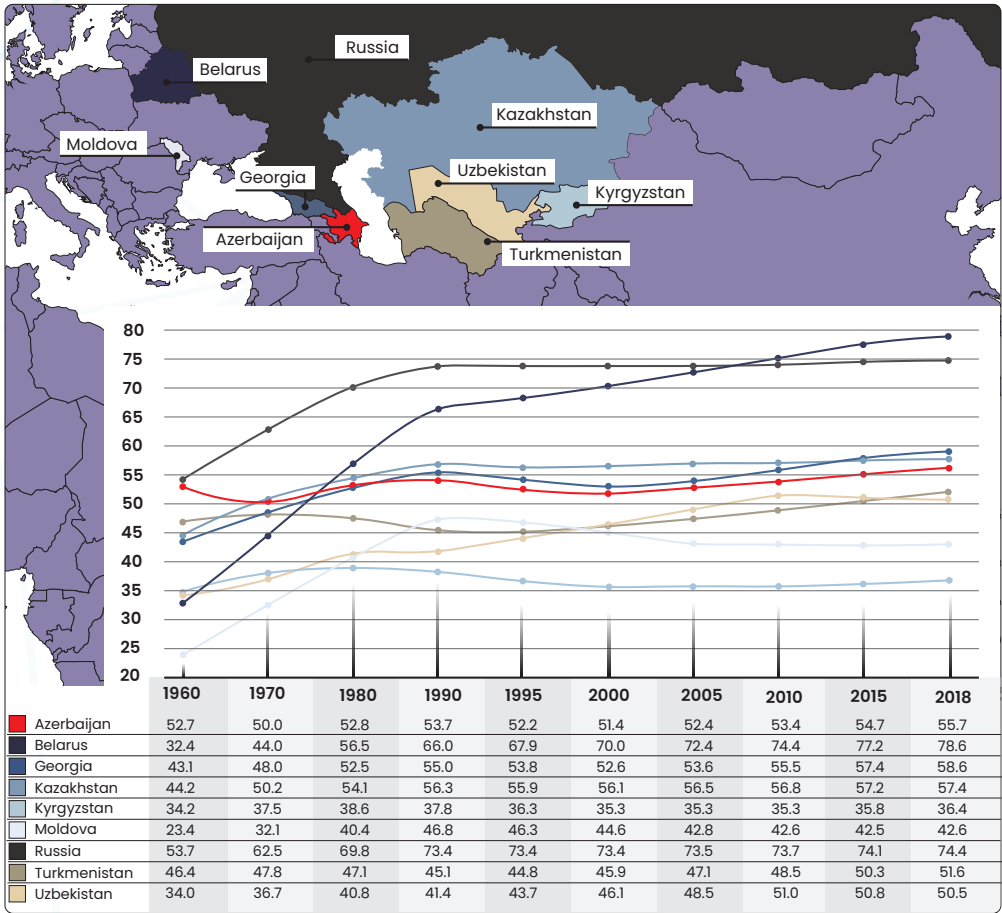
Since gaining independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has experienced a notable influx of migrants from post-Soviet nations like Armenia, Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine, reshaping the country's demographic landscape. This era ushered in a fresh phase of migration for Azerbaijan, marked by a significant trend of population movement toward urban centers and their outskirts.

In response, the Azerbaijani government initiated efforts to enact draft laws aimed at fostering geographical expansion and development, particularly in small and medium-sized cities situated in remote areas. These legislative initiatives involved partially expanding the borders of cities and regions such as Gabala, Ganja, Dashkasan, Goranboy, Goygol, Samukh, Masalli, Absheron, among others, and granting settlement status to specific villages.

Urbanization plays a pivotal role in driv-

Chart 3.
Urbanization in CIS countries (%)

Source:
World Bank

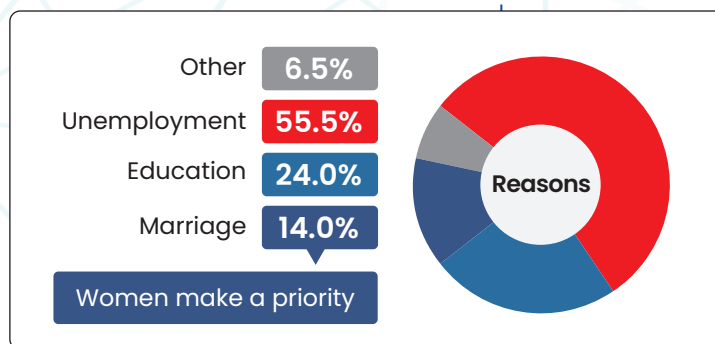


ing economic growth, both globally and within Azerbaijan. Cities and towns contribute to over 80% of the gross domestic product (GDP) worldwide, underscoring their significance in economic development. While urban poverty rates may rise, this trend often correlates with increased migration from rural to urban areas, including individuals from lower-income backgrounds. Cities also play a crucial role in nurturing the middle class, which is vital for societal stability. In Azerbaijan, a significant portion of the middle class resides in urban areas, with cities serving as key hubs for elevating education levels across the population.

However, urbanization efforts should align with broader national goals, including enhancing economic competitiveness, improving social welfare, and addressing global challenges. Despite the benefits of urbanization, Baku, the capital city, disproportionately shoulders the burden of economic development in Azerbaijan, emphasizing the need for more balanced regional development policies.

It is known from the World Bank's report on the urbanization of countries that the urbanization in Azerbaijan did not develop very quickly after the period covering the policy of the USSR in the 40s and 50s. Its main reason was the weak economic growth in other cities except Baku during the period of independence.

As can be seen in Chart 3, the number of urban population in Azerbaijan was 52.7% in the 1960s, which was at the same level as in Russia. This indicator was 55.7% in 2018 and had the lowest growth rate among post-Soviet countries. One of the main reasons for the slow pace of urbanization in Azerbaijan was the introduction of administrative regulations to prevent a strong influx to Baku during the Soviet era. "The artificial restriction of the flow to Baku somewhat slowed down the urbanization during the Soviet period. In addition, one of the main goals was to eliminate the differences between the village and the city at that time. The work was going on in that direction at that time and jobs were created in the regions due to grants. A large number of industrial enterprises were opened in Mingachevir, Ganja. Resources were shared in those regions compared to Baku. Industrial enterprises in these cities decreased after regaining independence and opportunities were limited; however, Baku began to grow at the expense of the oil sector. Even light



industrial enterprises began to concentrate in the capital and Absheron. The ratio between the cities has changed, urbanization has started to move more over Baku.

The sphere of the non-agricultural sector in the regions is very limited. Employment opportunities related to service, industry, social sphere are weak. Despite the fact that we are an agrarian country, a number of people who specialize in this sector is small compared to other specializations. That is, people studying in the non-agrarian sector in the regions cannot find a job. People who have acquired knowledge and skills in this field began to go to Baku." (Rovshan Aghayev, economist)

I.6. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF QUALITATIVE SURVEY INTERVIEWS

66 respondents participated in the in-depth interviews conducted by SRC to analyze the social aspects of internal migration. The average age of people among the participants of the qualitative survey, who left their place of birth after 1995 in the Republic, was 23: it was 26 in the capital city Baku, 22.5 in the Lankaran economic region, 26 in the Aran economic region, 23 in the Ganja-Gazakh economic region, 22 in Guba-Khachmaz economic region and 23 in Shaki-Zagatala economic region. The average age of permanent migrants due to family, marriage, education, etc. or such other social grounds was 22 and the average age of those who came for work was 26.

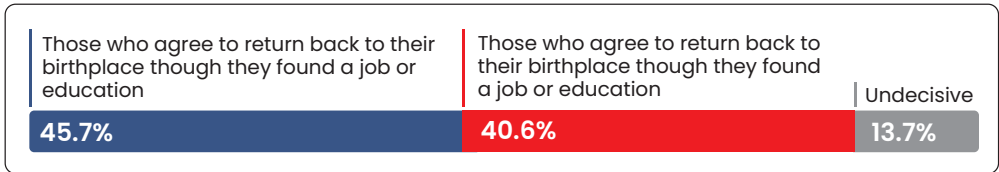
55.5% of the respondents indicated unemployment as the main reason for leaving their place of birth, however 24% indicated education and 14% indicated marriage as main reasons for their leaving of birth place.

While unemployment and education were the main factors for members of both genders in all geographic areas covered, marriage was one of the factors that led to female migration most often. In general, it

Diagram 1.
The reasons for migration of respondents

Note:
Some respondents gave more than one reason.

Diagram 2.
Would you like to return to your region (village/city/town where you were born and grew up) in the future?



was found during the survey that direct migration of women was observed less than that of men. Women either leave the place of their birth after starting a family, or move to another place due to the work of the head of the family. Sociologists and psychologists also note in their research that gender and age factors have a different effect on the migration process.

Age - Young people adapt better to a new environment than the elderly and children. They are more likely to seek new jobs and economic opportunities than other age groups. They are able to evaluate these opportunities more flexibly.

Gender - Since men move often, there are many women who move to the places where their spouses go after marriage. This is called social mobility. Some women are forced to move to other places.

Marriage – While married women migrate with their spouses, single women migrate to seek new jobs and economic opportunities like single men.

According to psychologist Gunel Aslanova, "unmarried young men are more inclined to migrate. That is, celibacy, youth, as well as belonging to the male gender are the main dominant socio-demographic indicators among people who migrate. The main socio-psychological factor that causes them to move compared to other socio-demographic indicators is to realize their desire to live better."

Issues belonging to the "other" category of migration of the sampled respondents are: household problems, pressures, political factors, etc.

Quote: "My husband lived in prison because he was a drug addict. We could not live in the region after his being released from prison, as it was difficult for us. I took the children and came to Baku by following him" (Jalilabad, woman, 44 years old, married).

A significant number of respondents in almost all geographical areas covered indicate that they and many of their acquaintances left their birthplaces because of unemployment in those places.

It was determined as a result of the interviews that the respondents indicate the lack of opportunities for work, education and services in the area they moved to as the main reason for not returning.

"Would you like to return to your region (village/city/town where you were born and grew up) in the future?" 45.7% of the respondents gave a positive answer to this question.

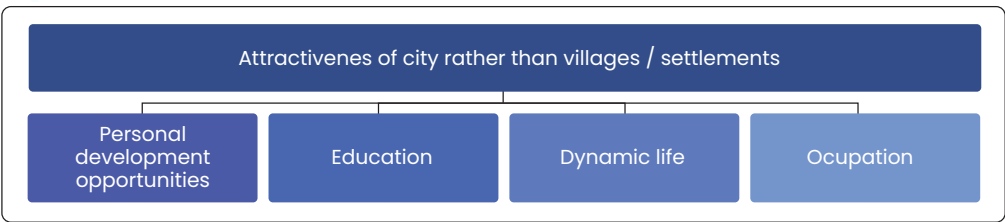
However, the respondents who wanted to return said that it would be possible if work and living opportunities would be expanded. In other words, there is almost no motivation to return in the current situation.

The respondents said that they feel comfortable and safe in the places where they were born or where they currently live.

In general, a significant number of respondents, both employed and unemployed, noted that they moved to more developed regions due to limited work and educational opportunities in their place of arrival (in regional districts and cities); lack of conditions necessary for them to engage in livelihood and economy; poor organization of road and infrastructure, utility services; poor access to healthcare facilities and limited social environment. According to the respondents, job opportunities are wider in big cities than in rural areas. According to the survey, people find the availability of information and internet access to be a desirable aspect of living in cities. Additionally, many respondents believe that the job market in Baku offers the best opportunities for career advancement compared to other cities.

The problem highlighted in the interviews was that the services necessary for the efficient use of leisure time were either few or

Diagram 3.
Factors making urban areas more attractive compared to rural areas / regions



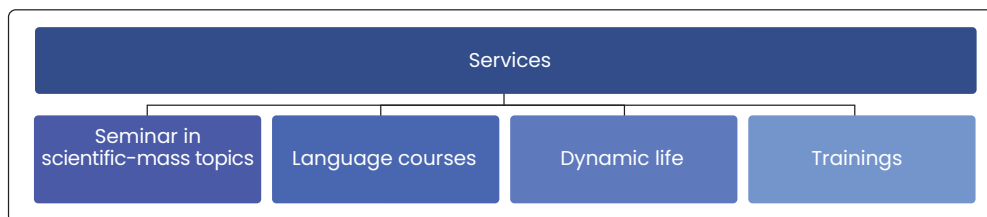


Diagram 4.
In addition to employment opportunities in non-urban settlements, services and features necessary for effective leisure time

non-existent in non-urban settlements in addition to employment opportunities. Let's look at this problem from the respondents' side:

Quote: "I would like to increase my job opportunities. For example, I want to participate in courses and seminars to increase or improve my qualifications. Unfortunately, there are no additional training courses or no seminars are held to improve my profession in Mingachevir" (Aghdash, lawyer, female, 38 years old, married).

"Lankaran is better than any other place for me, I am very comfortable here. I like the living conditions, nature, people - everything here. But it was not like that in Jalilabad. I was not satisfied with many things there. Their people were very old-fashioned. Living conditions are very poor. There are few job opportunities and there are no entertainment places for children. However, there are many courses in Lankaran. There are plenty of opportunities for my children to develop themselves as I want, as well as there are a lot of activity courses. The kindergartens are very nice. However, Jalilabad does not have these opportunities. " (Jalilabad, 30 years old, housewife)

"Lankaran is much better than Lerik in terms of transport. Since Lerik is a mountainous area, larger cars are preferred there, but passenger cars can also be used comfortably in the Lankaran area. In addition, Lerik is a backward region in terms of food supply - when we want to find something, we are obliged to go to Lankaran. In addition, Lankaran is better in terms of Internet. In general, Lankaran is more accessible than Lerik in terms of the development of all spheres of life." (Lerik, teacher, 38 years old, male, married).

Although some respondents voluntarily moved from one place to another, their expectations did not come true (24.4%) and living conditions worsened for some other. The main reasons for the decline in living

conditions are the inability of the respondent to find the job he is looking for, or working in a low-paid/unsuitable job, as well as the pressure and stress factors of the urban environment. The expectations of 38.7% and 36.9% of respondents were fully and partially justified themselves, respectively.

In general, the biggest problem that some migrants have in their place of residence is related to socialization, which stems from the fact that they do not know to what extent the place they have moved to will meet their wishes.

"Before moving, not properly assessing both one's personal potential and capabilities, as well as the place one moves to, hinders socialization. Factors that push people away from the living space (war, poverty, unemployment, political inflation) and factors that attract them to the living space (good job, good salary, good education, religious freedom, being close to the family) and feeling-emotional values hinder socialization. The fact that the desire for a better life is not real leads to situations such as hopelessness and helplessness in the psyche. This is among the factors that prevent socialization" (Günel Aslanova, psychologist).

It was detected during the survey that one of the reasons for both unemployed and employed women, as well as young people to stay in the area they migrated to was lack of factors (such as dynamic life, language and labor skills training, seminars on scientific and popular topics, etc.) that they could not find in the rural environment they came from and that they found in the cities. As per the opinions of 14.2% of female respondents who migrated to cities, one of the main factors preventing them from returning to the region/rural environment where they were born is the social and moral pressure they would face in the place they will return to - the pressure that hinders women's independent and free activities. It is interesting that even among married women, there

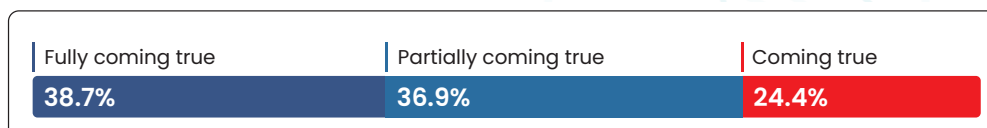


Diagram 5.
Did your expectations come true where you went?

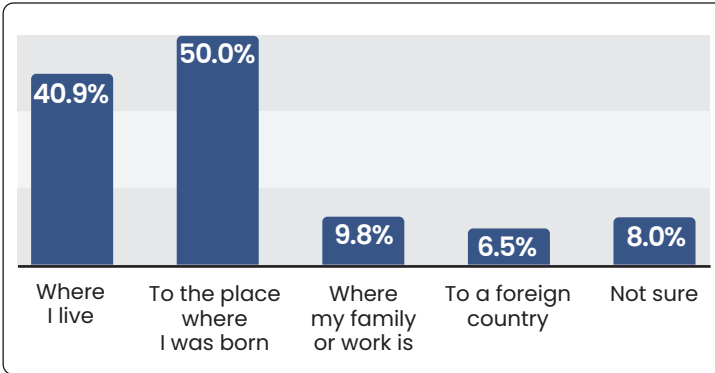


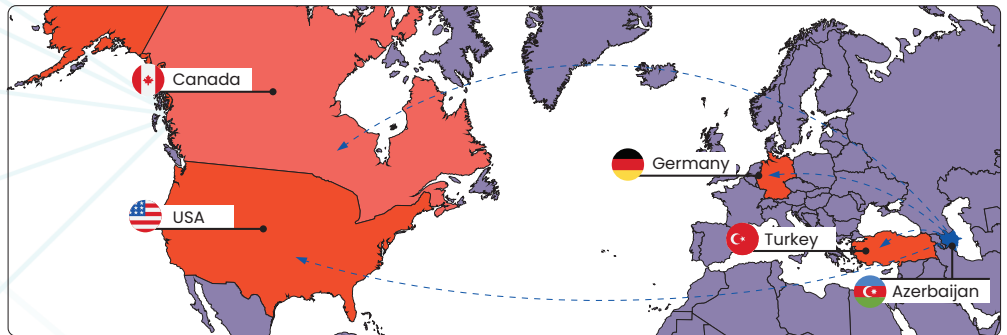
Diagram 6.
Where do you feel you belong to?

Note:
Indicators exceed 100% because respondents were given the opportunity to choose several answer options.

Diagram 7.
The countries to which the respondents wanted to emigrate most

Diagram 8.
Qualitative survey demographics

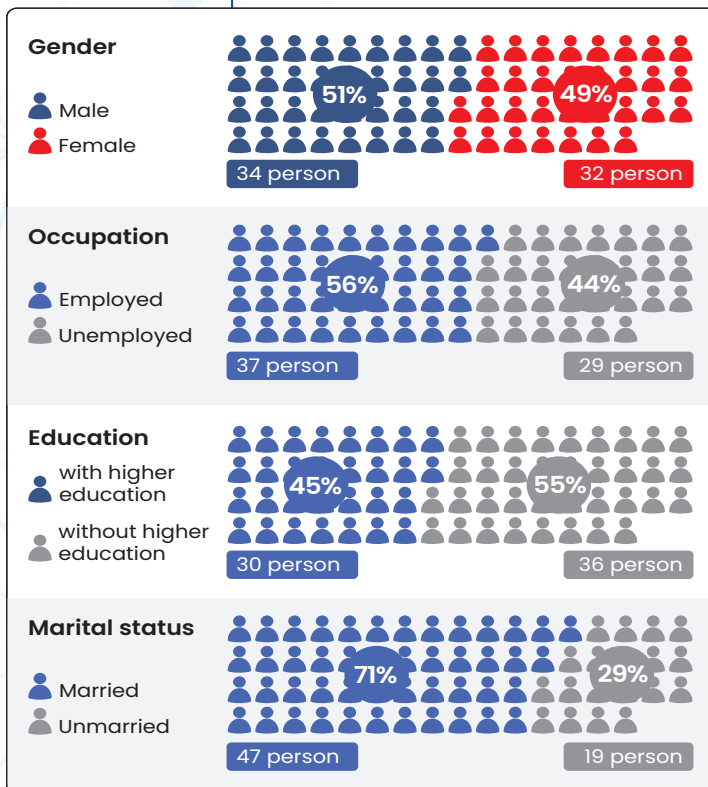
were those who said the opinion that "we can walk freely and easily in the city with our family, but this is not possible in the region/village". It is clear from the interviews that cities provide more opportunities for women's equal empowerment. Female respondents see moving to cities as an opportunity to escape traditional patriarchy and gain new freedom. Urban areas also provide greater



access to relatively high-quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health, while contributing to the realization of women's reproductive rights. This indicates a significant decline in the birth rate in urban areas, changing the trajectory of overall population growth.

The answers to the question "Where do you feel you belong to?" vary depending on the occupation and financial status of the respondents.

40.9% of respondents feel that they belong to the place where they live and 50% said that the place where they were born was native to them. However, 9.8% of the respondents said that the native place for them was the place where their family or work was located. In other words, the concept of nativeness for them changes from place to place depending on the situation. 8% of respondents had difficulty to answer this question. It should be noted that some



respondents gave more than one answer to this question.

A small number of respondents (6.5%) expressed that they belong not to Azerbaijan in general, but to any other developed society.

It is interesting that the vast majority of respondents who moved to a city other than their place of birth for certain reasons are thinking of emigrating to foreign countries next time. It was determined that 70% of the 66 respondents (44 people) wanted to move to the USA, Canada, Turkey and Germany on a permanent (for work) or temporary basis (for education). It is interesting that not all of the respondents who want to move have no complete information about the country they want to move to. They see the way out of the current situation simply to leave the country on a permanent or temporary basis. 11% of respondents are undecided about moving abroad and 19% said they did not want to go anywhere.

PART II

SITUATION OF MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION IN THE ECONOMIC REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan is currently divided into 10 economic regions and the capital city Baku as an administrative territorial unit. The number of administrative territorial units included in 10 economic regions is as follows:

Autonomous Republic - 1

City districts - 14

Regions -63

Settlements - 261

Cities - 78

Rural settlements - 4248.

Taking a brief look at history, we see that in the last 120 years in Azerbaijan, administrative territorial structures have undergone frequent changes due to the demands of time and the socio-economic situation. Thus, there were 3 governorates - Baku, Ganja and Zagatala - as administrative territorial units when the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was established in 1918. Each governorate included about 10 uyezds and 6 areas.

When Soviet government was established in Azerbaijan in April 1920, Baku and Ganja governorates were abolished and 17 uyezds were created instead, Zagatala governorate became an uezd.

The main borders of the current administrative territorial units were established by the decision of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan and the Council of People's Commissars dated August 30, 1930. At that time, the territory of the Republic was divided into 63 districts. Some districts were abolished in February 1931 and new ones were created. Thus, their number decreased to 47. Sumgait settlements were created and the number of cities was established on November 22, 1949 and Mingachevir city was established on February 4, 1954.

New types increased in 1956 due to the rapid growth of the population, especially the urban population. The Republic was divided into 10 economic regions already at that time. The number of cities reached 40 and the number of settlements reached 91, the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and the Nagorno-Karabakh Province were

established at the same time ¹⁵. Baku was part of the Absheron economic region as the capital. Although the division of the administrative territorial units of Azerbaijan has changed slightly during the past half-century, its borders have expanded. The balance of alternative migration for the 7 economic regions of Azerbaijan and the capital city of Baku, the indicator of the city population obtained by the research group and its place in the economy and employment are presented in the 2nd part of the study. Migration motives of each economic region were classified and the migration direction of the population was determined.

II.1. ABSHERON ECONOMIC REGION

The Absheron economic region has a rich history. It served as a vital route for caravans traveling in the northern-southern direction and as a resting spot. The region began to develop significantly during the 19th century's "oil boom" and with the construction of industrial cities like Sumgait during the Soviet era.. Absheron began to receive a certain part of the flow to Baku after regaining independence. People were forced to settle in the suburbs of Baku as real estate in Baku was expensive and the city was overcrowded. Khirdalan, which was a small settlement, grew to the status of a city after regaining independence in this regard. The total area of the economic region is 3.73 thousand km², covering 4.3% of the country's territory. Although Absheron is the smallest among the 10 economic regions, it is only behind Baku in terms of population density. Absheron economic region has a population of 154 people per sq/km.

Absheron economic region includes Absheron, Khizi administrative regions and Sumgait city. These, in turn, are divided into administrative-territorial units - cities, towns and rural settlements. There are 3 cities, 2 districts, 13 settlements, 14 rural administrative-territorial circles and 32 rural settlements in the economic region.

The terrain of the region consists of hilly, foothill plains and low mountains. The region is characterized by a dry subtropical climate. The territory of Khizi district, which is included in the economic region, is completely mountainous.

The Sumgait river passing through the region was historically located on the cara-

¹⁵«Азербайджанская ССР», Институт Географии Академии Наук Азербайджанской ССР, Москва, 1957
(¹⁵"Azerbaijan SSR", Institute of Geography of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR, Moscow, 1957)

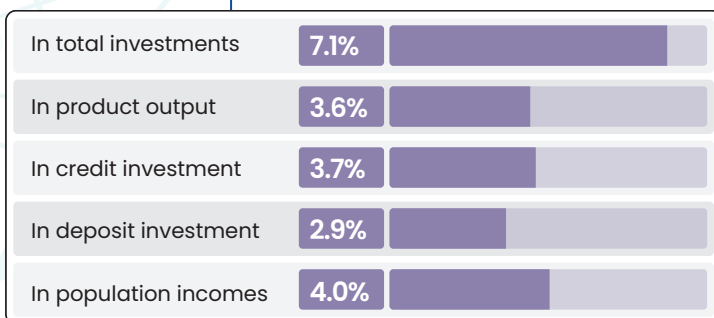


Diagram 9.
The share of Absheron economic region in the macroeconomic indicators of the country (%)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee and the AR Central Bank

van route and was one of the main places where people stopped and rested. In addition, there were also small settlements there. As a result of the wars that took place in the region in the 18th and 19th centuries, the caravanserai began to collapse due to neglect, and the settlements began to empty. The process of urbanization has gone on in the peninsula due to implementation of reconstruction works and the construction of large industrial enterprises in the Sumgait territory in the 50s of the last century during the Soviet era.

Nowadays, the population of Sumgait city is growing rapidly as a result of large-scale industrialization. Sumgait ranked third in the Republic after Baku and Ganja in terms of population until 2013, but it has been ranked second after 2013.

Absheron economic region is more diversified than other economic regions (except Baku). The relief of Absheron and Khizi regions under the economic district is mainly suitable for agriculture. Dairy, meat, livestock, poultry, sheep farming, vegetable growing, horticulture, viticulture, flower growing and dry subtropical fruit growing included in the suburban farm complex are the basis of agriculture. Favorable climatic conditions allow the cultivation of olives, saffron, pistachios, almonds and other crops.

The most developed city of the economic region is Sumgait. The share of Sumgait in the total output is 2.4% and it ranks second after Baku. Industry accounts for 61.4% of Sumgait's product output. It is true that some of the industrial enterprises in Sumgait stopped their activities after the collapse of the USSR and some limited their activities.

Despite all of the above-mentioned, Sumgait leads the way in terms of its share in the production of industrial products of the country. Of course, one of the main reasons for the emergence of positive dynamics in the socio-economic development of the city is the creation of industrial parks and the attraction of large investments from the private and public sector.

The share of Absheron economic region in the country's total output is 3.6%. All three regions and cities of the Absheron economic region were ranked in the top 20 in the "Investment rating of regions" prepared by the Center for Analysis and Communication of Economic Reforms (2017). Sumgait ranked 4th, Absheron district - 7th and Khizi - 20th in terms of investment conditions. It can be said that the main factor affecting the growth of the Absheron economic region is its proximity to the capital city Baku.

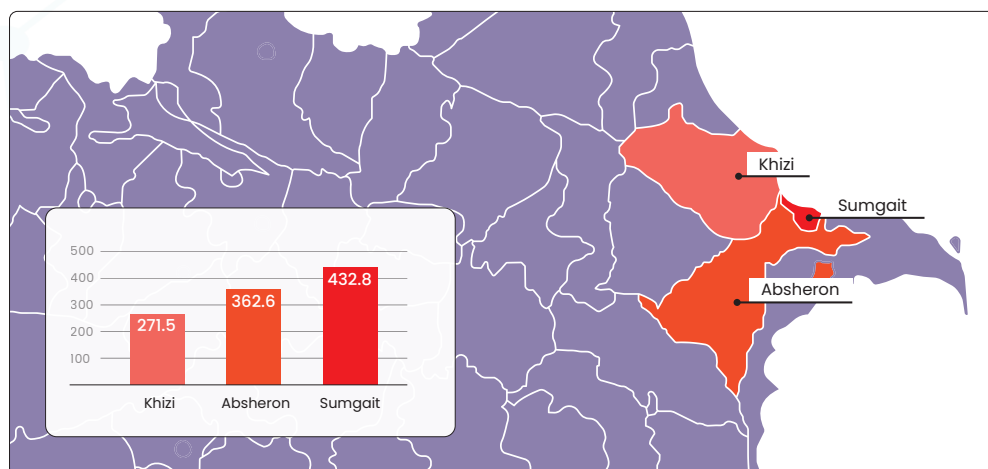
Average monthly salary for the Absheron economic region is 405 manats.

Information on the average monthly salary for the Absheron economic region is presented in diagram 10.

The expansion of the economic region, the increase of the industrial potential and the population also affect the climate and ecology of the region. The shortage of fresh water basins in the area and the predominance of saline waters create difficulties in reclamation supply and the dis-

Diagram 10.
Average monthly salary for the Absheron economic region (in manats)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee



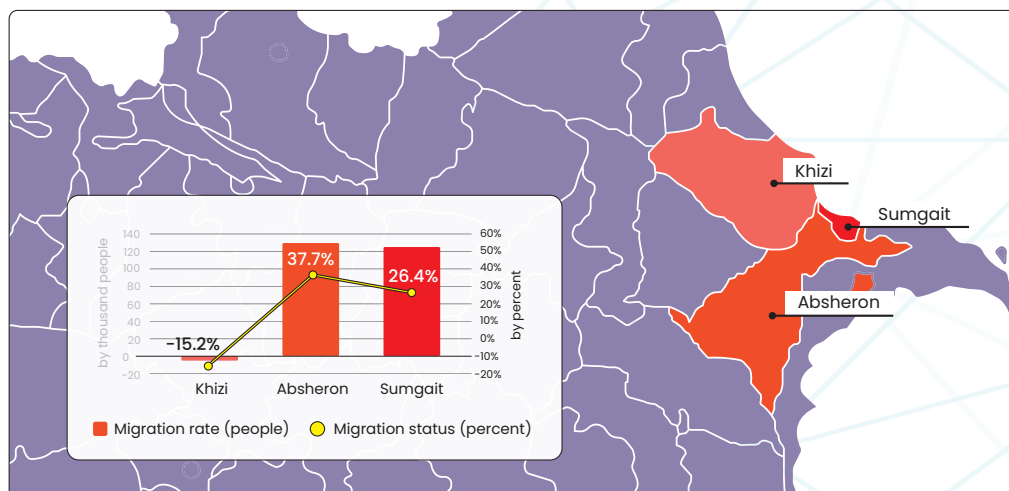


Diagram 11.
The level of migration in the Absheron economic region

Source:
Research group of the Social Research Center

charge of industrial and household waste into these lakes is also another additional problem. Thus, the lakes located in the Absheron territory were historically fed and formed by the waters flowing over the surface of the ground. However, the water balance began to change under the influence of people's economic activities as the amount of household and domestic water discharged into the lakes increased, and the soil erosion also increased.

Demography and migration

The population of Absheron economic region was 572.6 thousand people as of January 1, 2019 and made up 5.7% of the country's population according to the information of SSC. If Absheron attracted people with its gardens during the Soviet period, the economic region expanded as a result of suburbanization after regaining independence. The price of real estate in Absheron is cheaper than in Baku. People who come to Baku for work from the regions buy property in areas close to the capital city. The number of households in the lands from Baku to Sumgait increased rapidly in this regard after regaining independence and Khirdalan, which was a small settlement, turned into a city. Saray and Jorat also began to expand at the same time. The population density per sq/km was 154 people for 2018. The mentioned economic region leaves the capital Baku behind in terms of population density.

Absheron's alternative migration balance, calculated by the research group, is currently 30.4% and the urban population is 93.6% (See: Diagram 11).

The negative balance of migration in the Absheron economic region is naturally

observed in Khizi. It is because the population is mainly moving from the mountainous areas to the lowlands. The lack of job opportunities in the mountainous region of Khizi makes the population of the region to migrate to the neighboring industrial cities. The Migration balance in the Absheron region is +37.7% and it is +26.4% in Sumgait. "The plain regions in Azerbaijan are growing faster than the mountainous regions. It is because people go down from the mountain to the valley. This process was observed in different regions of Azerbaijan throughout the 20th century and this trend continues up to now. It is because infrastructural areas are better developed in plains and lowlands. There are more difficulties related to health, education, transport, communication and other social infrastructure areas (gas, light demand and supply, etc.) in the mountains and this is largely caused by natural conditions. Migration is directed from the mountains to the plains in this regard, as the situation in our plain regions is more satisfactory.

Unfortunately, such migrations gradually lead to a decrease in the population of mountain villages and some of them face the threat of extinction" (Rovshan Karimov, doctor of philosophy in geography, ANAS).

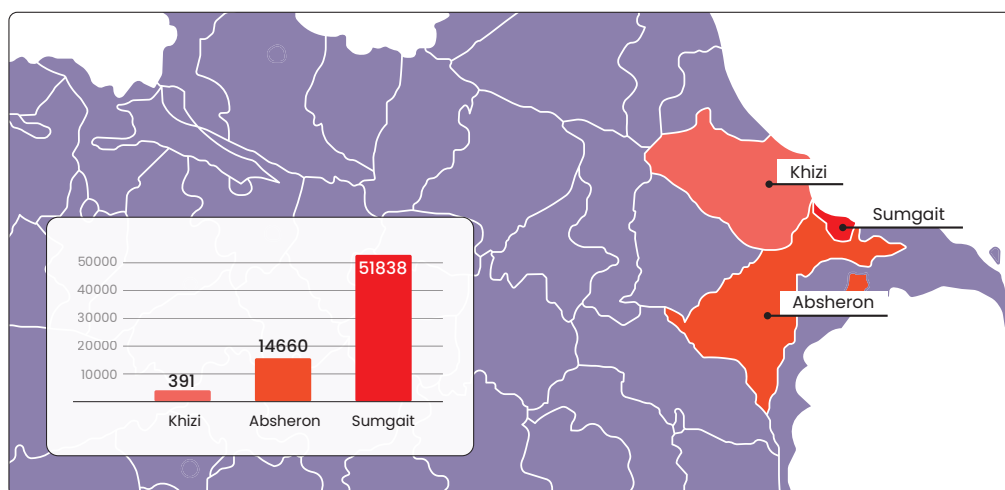
It can be said based on the analysis that Absheron region itself has a large flow from the village to the city. The flow is observed from the settlements and villages of Hokmeli, Gobu, Guzdak, Mahammadli to Khirdalan, Mehdiabad, Jeyranbatan, Novkhani, Saray and relatively large settlements of the Absheron economic region.

Thus, the migration motives of the Absheron economic region can be classified as follows on the basis of all the above-mentioned:

¹⁶Note:
The level of urban population was determined based on the number of subscribers and real households consuming electricity in cities, villages and settlements in the study

Diagram 12.
Refugees and IDPs
settled in the Ab-
sheron economic
region (person)

Source:
State Committee
for Affairs of Refu-
gees and IDPs



❖ Placement of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Absheron economic region

67 000 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from both Armenia and our occupied lands were settled in the Absheron economic region as a result of the war started by Armenia against Azerbaijan according to the information of the State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Refugee and IDP Affairs (AR SCRIA) dated January 1, 2012. The settlement of the most refugees and internally displaced persons in Sumgait city has directly and indirectly affected the city's migration process and socio-economic situation according to Diagram 12. The direct effect is that the city has faced the first mass migration after regaining independence. As a result of the indirect effect, the problems arising in the city's social infrastructure can be indicated due to the placement of the majority of internally displaced persons in public institutions.

For instance, the placement of IDPs in kindergartens has negatively impacted the nation's preschool program. On the one hand, the decrease in the number of educational centers as a result of the occupation of regions, on the other hand, the placement of people who were displaced from their homes in educational institutions in other cities created additional social tension and bitter consequences for the country, and a large number of children were left out of preschool education. In addition, the placement of some refugees and internally displaced persons in industrial enterprises limited their activities. It should be taken into account that

the main occupation of the vast majority of IDPs who came to the city was farming. They were left out of participation in the industrialization of the city. Therefore, forced migration, which occurred without measuring the work and socio-cultural opportunities of the cities in the first period of the years of independence, created a certain crisis. Differences in life, thinking and customs have created psychological discomfort between the local population and the internally displaced persons.

❖ Permanent and temporary migrants coming to Absheron economic region from other regions of the Republic

The migration, which can be called natural migration, took place in the second stage (1995-2018) and included people who came to Absheron from other regions of the Republic. It is possible to determine as a result of the conducted survey that there are various reasons why people moved to the mentioned economic region. We can mention here those people who came for work, education, marriage and career.

Urbanization

93.6% of the population of the economic region was urban population according to the calculations of the research group in 2018. This indicator is 91.9% according to SSC statistics. Absheron economic region has a key role in the urbanization process of the country by receiving part of the migrants coming from the regions. The fact that the capital city Baku borders the Absheron economic re-

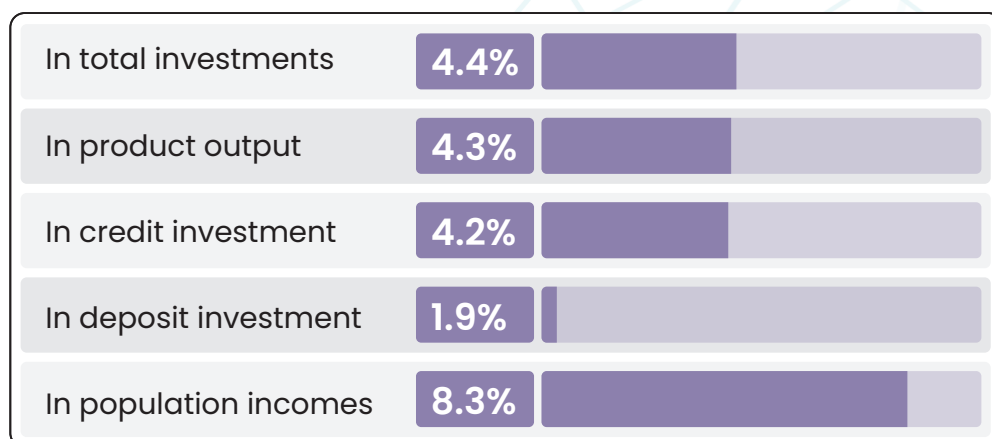


Diagram 13.
The share of the Ganja-Gazakh economic region in the macroeconomic indicators of the country (%)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee and the AR Central Bank

gion, the accessibility of the infrastructure is the main factor influencing the urbanization of the economic region. Nowadays, a large number of Khirdalan and Sumgait residents come to work in Baku every day. Therefore, the flow from other regions to the Absheron peninsula affects the urbanization in the Republic going in one direction. As a result, as we have listed above, environmental problems are increasing, problems related to congestion and traffic jam in the city are increasing day by day. Unfortunately, transportation from the Absheron economic region to Baku is mainly carried out by passenger cars and buses. In recent years, the introduction of high-speed trains on the Baku-Sumgait railway has played an important role in sharing the load in passenger transport. There was a need to build the railway to other settlements of Absheron in order to eliminate the traffic jams on the Baku-Sumgait road.

II.2. GANJA-GAZAKH ECONOMIC REGION

Ganja-Gazakh economic region is located in the west of our Republic and has a strategic economic and geographical position. The passage of the road connecting Azerbaijan with Georgia and Turkey, which is considered an important factor in the formation of economic relations, facilitates the country's access to international transit. Additionally, the presence of oil and gas transit increases the economic and political importance of the region.

The total area of the economic region is 12.30 thousand km², covering 14.2% of the country's territory.

Ganja-Gazakh economic region includes Agstafa, Dashkasan, Gadabay, Goranboy, Goygol, Gazakh, Samukh, Shamkir, and

Tovuz regions, as well as the cities of Ganja and Naftalan. Those districts and cities are divided into administrative-territorial units, towns, settlements and rural settlements. There are 13 cities, 9 districts, 2 inner-city districts, 46 settlements, 283 rural administrative-territorial circles and 521 rural settlements in the economic region.

Ganja-Gazakh economic region is one of the regions rich in mineral resources of Azerbaijan. The country's gold deposits are located in this region (except for Kalbajar). In addition, iron ore, alunite, limestone, marble, gypsum, zeolite, cement raw materials, gold, silver, and copper are the main underground resources of the economic region.

The flow of the Kura River through the territory of the economic region enriches the hydropower resources. The abundance of freshwater resources is important in the development of the agricultural sector. It ranks first in the release of agricultural products throughout the Republic, and Baku and Aran economic regions are ahead of it in terms of the release of industrial products.

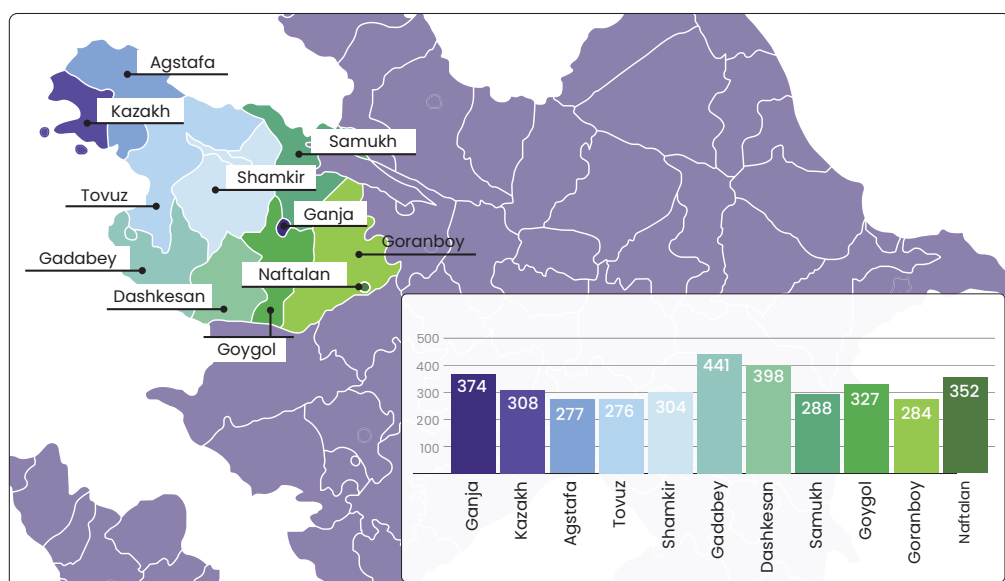
Therefore, the economic region has an important economic and social potential after Baku in the production and export of products in the non-oil sector. The share of the Ganja-Gazakh economic region in the volume of total output is 4.3% and it ranks third after the Baku and Aran economic regions.

The names of 3 districts of this economic region, i.e. Ganja (6th), Naftalan (8th) and Gazakh (18th) are in the top twenty of the "Investment Rating of Regions". The share of the Ganja-Kazakh zone in the total investments in the country varies from 4 to 6 percent in different years.

The average monthly salary for the Ganja-Gazakh economic region was 331 manats in 2018.

Diagram 14.
Monthly salary for
the Ganja-Kazakh
economic region
(manats)

Source:
The State Statistics
Committee



Demography and migration

The location of the Ganja-Kazakh economic region on the international transit route as well as its relief is favorable in terms of settlement. The population of the economic region was 1.28 million people on 01.01.2019 and made up 12.8% of the country's population according to the SSC. There are 104 people per sq/km, which is lower than the country's national average indicator (115 people per sq/km). Ganja is considered the most developed and important city in Ganja-Gazakh economic region. It is the third largest city in the Republic in terms of the number of population. However, Ganja ranked second among big cities during the period of independence until 2013.

The uneven distribution of the urbanization process throughout the Republic and the concentration of the population around Baku and Absheron region have led to the falling of Ganja city one step behind Sumgait in terms of demographic indicators. The population of Sumgait increased by 11.2% from 2008-2018 and the population of Ganja by 6.7%, placing it from second to third place.

One of the main reasons for the rate of decrease is the fact that a very small part of the migration in the economic region falls on the share of Ganja, its relatively weak status as a historically industrialized urban center, and the limited possibilities of meeting the flow from the village to the city as an urban area during the migration process. It is interesting and appears du-

ring the conducted analysis that Shamkir region's capacity to accept migrants has increased. Its main reason is that a large amount of foreign currency entered from Russia to Shamkir, it became one of the main central regions of the Republic for the production of agricultural products, as well as it had an important position in the export of non-oil products, especially agricultural products. The wide export potential of the region and the considerable development of the agricultural sector expand business opportunities and regulate the flow of people from surrounding villages and regions to Shamkir.

It seems during the conducted analysis that the level of migration in the economic region is in a positive trend. Thus, it was determined by the research group that the balance of alternative migration for the Ganja-Gazakh economic region was positive (+)7% and the number of people living in urban areas was 46%. The level of migration by regions and cities is given in diagram 15.

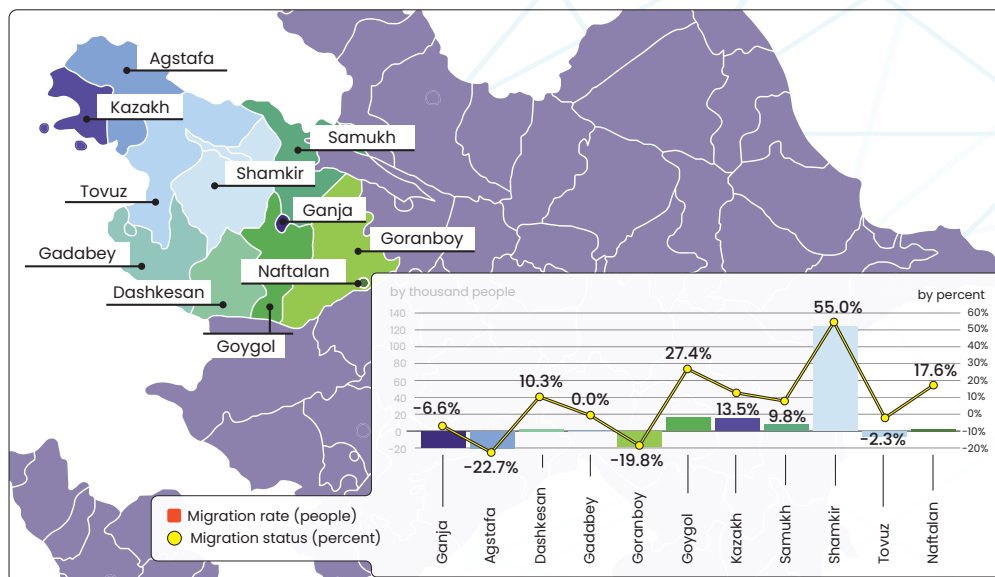


Diagram 15.
The level of migration in Ganja-Gazakh economic region

Source:
Research group of the Social Research Center

By the meantime, the economic zone itself has a high rate of internal mobility. This indicator of a favorable migration balance. In terms of the aforementioned economic zone, Ganja is the third-largest city in the nation, and there are more exits from Ganja than arrivals. Therefore, the migration balance in the above-stated city is -6.6%. **The level of migration was determined -22,7% in Aghstafa, +10,3% in Dashkesan, -19,8% in Goranboy, +27,4% in Goygol, +13,5% in Gazakh, +9,8% in Samukh, +55,0% in Shamkir, -2,3% in Tovuz and +17,6% in Naftalan.**

The characteristics of migration in the Ganja-Gazakh economic region can be classified as follows based on the conducted analyses:

❖ Placement of an important part of refugees and internally displaced persons in Ganja-Gazakh economic region

Ganja-Gazakh economic region is the region most affected by the war of aggression started by Armenia and the ongoing military tension along the front line. Thus, the military tension keeps the region under constant threat against the flow of internally displaced persons. 131.7 thousand refugees and IDPs were placed in this region according to the information of the State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Refugee and IDP Affairs (AR SCRIA) for 2012.

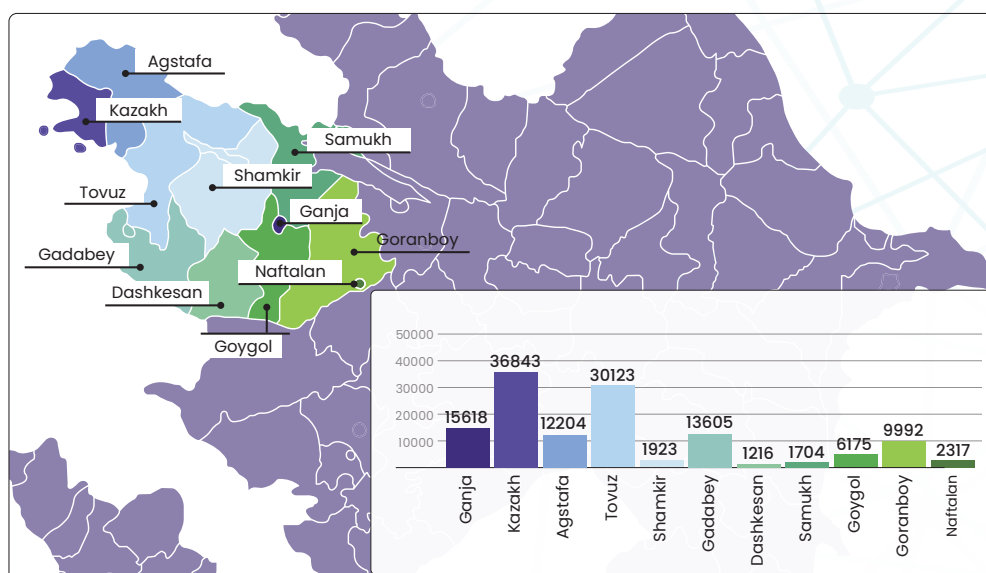


Diagram 16.
Refugees and internally displaced persons settled in Ganja-Gazakh economic region (people)

Source:
State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and IDPs (January, 2012)

Ganja-Gazakh economic region is the region that received the most refugees and displaced persons after Baku and Aran. Naturally, such a situation has a socio-psychological impact on the demographic situation and social environment of the economic region.

❖ Internal migration caused by the villages located on the front line with Armenia in the Ganja-Kazakh economic region

The location of the Ganja-Gazakh zone on the front line with Armenia has also made internal migration more mobile in the economic region itself. The population of the occupied 7 villages of Gazakh, as well as the villages of Goranboy, Tovuz, Gadabay and Aghstafa located close to the front line were constantly under fire, which forced the population living here to migrate to other residential areas of the economic region.

❖ Temporary migration by economic region

Temporary migration is more typical for Ganja, Dashkasan, Gadabay, Goygol, Naftalan and Shamkir.

The fact that there is a high increase in the Shamkir region would be a hasty conclusion to say that the population in this region is constantly migrating. It was found during the analysis that 63% of the population live permanently in Shamkir together with migrants and local residents. The other part of the population comes here only in seasonal periods either to work or to relax. The natural growth rate per 1,000 people in 2010 decreased from 15 to 8.9 in 2018 in the Shamkir region. One of the reasons is that the Ganja-Gazakh economic region, including Shamkir, has a high rate of population mortality in the country. Another reason is that young people in the region leave the area of their birth for education, work and other reasons after reaching working capacity. A certain part of the family farm heads is in Russia. The funds sent from this country are invested in the real estate market and this investment increases the indicator of temporary migration. Moreover, as we mentioned here above, the transformation of the region into one of the big agrarian centers increases the number of temporary visitors here in seasonal times. Living conditions have fall-

en to the minimum level in approximately 9 villages of Shamkir. An increase is observed in settlements although the population in villages is decreasing. In any case, Shamkir's positive balance in internal migration suggests that the region is attractive and will become an urban area in the future.

The geographic relief, favorable nature, attractiveness of Naftalan, Goygol and Dashkasan for tourists increase the number of seasonal migrants in these regions. Additionally, the abundance of non-ferrous metals in Dashkasan and Gadabay and the location of gold deposits here stimulate the industrialization of both regions and the development of the non-agricultural sector. The fact that the highest level of the average monthly salary in the economic region is in Gadabay and Dashkasan is also related to the development of the mining industry in the region. Since Naftalan is also a resort area, this factor increases interest in the region and stimulates the development of temporary migration there.

The number of households in Gadabay decreased by 9.3% in 2018 compared to 2009. Movement from here to other cities was constant. However, the beautiful natural landscape and nature of the region has created additional opportunities for the development of rural tourism. The good infrastructure created in Ivanovka and Slavyanka attracts the interest of local and Russian citizens. The active trips of temporary migrants to Gadabay cover the deficit in migration in this regard.

❖ Migration from the economic region to the Absheron peninsula and emigration to Russia

The main migration outside the region is observed towards Russia and the Absheron Peninsula. If the population of Ganja, especially young people go to Baku nowadays to realize their higher political, socio-economic and cultural ambitions, there is a certain flow to this city from the surrounding regions. The historical city status of Ganja as well as the location of 3 higher schools in the city are the main factors driving this flow. According to the SEC information, it can be said that young people come to study here from the cities/regions included in the Aran, Upper Karabakh and Ganja-Gazakh economic regions and settle temporarily. Later, those who want to

pursue a high career move to Baku and other countries. One of the main reasons for the decrease in the population growth rate in a large city like Ganja nowadays is that the middle and young generation of the city go to the capital to get new job opportunities and have a more dynamic life.

Urbanization

45% of the population of the Ganja-Gazakh economic region lived in urban areas in 2018 according to the conclusion of the research group. This indicator for that period was 45.8% in official statistics. It is interesting that this indicator was 46.4% in 2008. As it can be seen, the number of urban population of the region is decreasing in the official statistics. Wide development of rural tourism in the region and investment by the citizens who wanted to acquire property in rural lands with excellent infrastructure increased the number of rural population. The increase in interest in the resorts of Gadabay, Goygol and Dashkasan has stimulated the process of temporary and permanent migration in a number of villages in exchange for the increase in the urban population of Ganja, Naftalan, Samukh and Gazakh. Gadabay is one of the largest regions of the country in terms of the number of villages. Although the population of small villages is decreasing, other villages, on the contrary, are growing. The continuity of population growth in the coming years raises the possibility of those villages getting settlement status in the future. The same possibility can be put forward for Goygol and Dashkasan. The indicator of the urban population in a number of districts of the region may increase in such a case.

The number of population of 5 villages in Dashkasan, 7 in Goygol, 7 in Gazakh (under occupation), 2 in Samukh, 19 in Tovuz, 8 in Gadabay, 2 in Agstafa and 6 in Goranboy have decreased sharply according to 2018 data. The number of households living in these villages is below 10.

II.3. SHAKI-ZAGATALA ECONOMIC REGION

Shaki-Zagatala economic region is a region bordering Russia. The total area of its territory is 8.84 thousand km², which is 10.3% of the country's territory. Shaki-Zagatala economic region is one of the centers of ancient historical settlements,

located in the north-west of Azerbaijan - on the southern slope of the Great Caucasus

Mountains, covering the administrative regions of Balakan, Gakh, Gabala, Oguz, Zagatala and the city of Shaki. Favorable natural-geographical conditions, climate and fertile lands of the economic region have an important impact on the development of the agricultural sector, especially animal husbandry. Moreover, the area's rich natural landscape and ancient historical monuments can open favorable prospects for the development of tourism. Large investments are made for the development of tourism in Gabala, Shaki and Zagatala in this regard. There are 5 districts, 6 cities, 7 settlements and 336 rural settlements in this economic zone.

The territory of this economic region is rich in minerals. More than 90% of copper, sulfur, lead and zinc in the country particularly belongs to this region. The economic region is represented by tobacco farming, cocoon growing, tea growing, flower growing, rice growing, fruit growing, grain growing, viticulture and sheep farming in the distribution of agricultural products across the country. Moreover, 10% of the supply of livestock products of the Republic belongs to the share of Shaki-Zagatala.

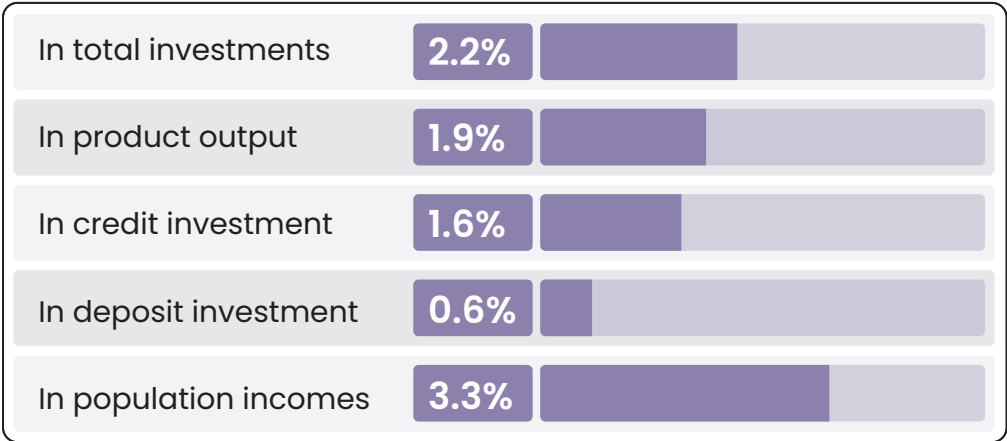
The industry of the Shaki-Zagatala economic region is relatively weak and unilaterally developed. This region accounts for a little more than 3% of the country's industrial output. The industry of the economic region is mainly specialized in light and food industries processing agricultural products. The food industry is based on the processing of horticulture, tobacco and livestock products.

Shaki is considered the most developed and culturally important city of Shaki-Zagatala economic region. The investments made for the development of tourism in Gabala have increased the economic and socio-cultural potential of the region in recent years.

The share of this economic region in the country's output has a low indicator, being 1.9%. The names of 2 regions of the above-mentioned economic region, i.e. Gabala (12th) and Gakh (16th), were included in the top twenty of the "Investment rating of regions". The share of the above-mentioned economic region in capital investment across the country varied from 4 to 2 percent in different years.

Diagram 17.
The share of Shaki-Zagatala economic region in the macroeconomic indicators of the country (%)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee and the AR Central Bank



The development of the non-agrarian sector of the economic zone mainly in Gabala makes people to feel the difference in the average monthly salary between other cities and regions.

In 2018, the average monthly salary in the Shaki-Zagatala economic region was 288 manats and it is lower than the national average (See: Diagram 18). This is due to the low inclusion of other sectors of the economy. It is known that the lowest average monthly salary in Azerbaijan by economic activities is in the agricultural sector.

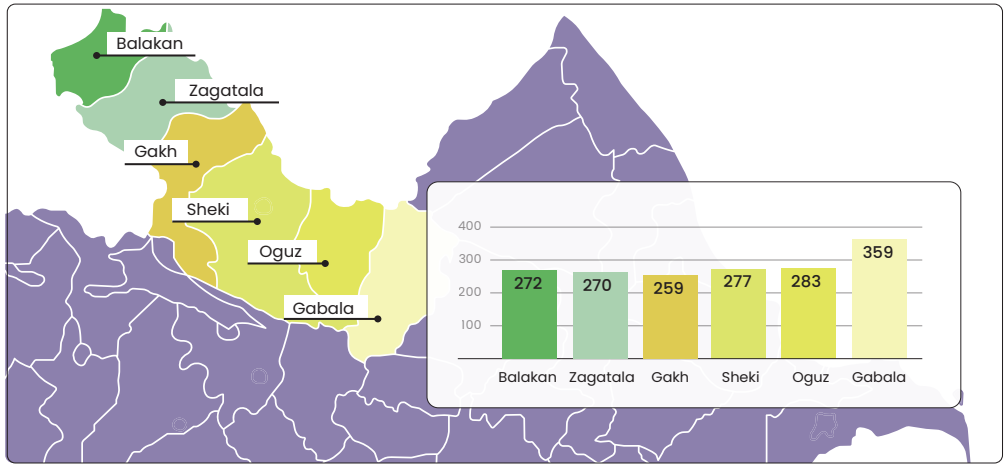
Demography and migration

According to information as of January 1, 2019, the population of the Shaki-Zagatala economic district was 621 thousand people. The economic region, which is 10.2% of the country's territory, includes 6.2% of the Republic's population. It has a low-density indicator with a population of 70 people per sq/m. Shaki-Zagatala economic region is one of the richest regions of the Republic due to the

national and ethnic composition of the population. Thus, Avars, Sakhurs, Ingiloi, Udins, Russians, Ukrainians, Georgians, etc. ethnic groups live in Shaki-Zagatala. Shaki, the most important city of the economic region from a historical point of view, was considered the most attractive city after Baku for merchants migrating from Iran (South Azerbaijan). Many of the merchants would move and live here with their families. In the period of Tsarist Russia and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Shaki's political, social and cultural importance along with its economic importance was also high. Shaki was considered one of the regions where Azerbaijani intellectuals were most active. Shaki became an economically important center rather than a politically important one and was known as an industrial city during the Soviet period. Shaki had a special reputation throughout the USSR with its produced silk. Gabala began to attract the attention of local and foreign tourists and migrants after regaining independence. Gabala has started to attract attention in recent years even in the internal migration

Diagram 18.
Monthly salary for the Shaki-Zagatala economic region (manats)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee



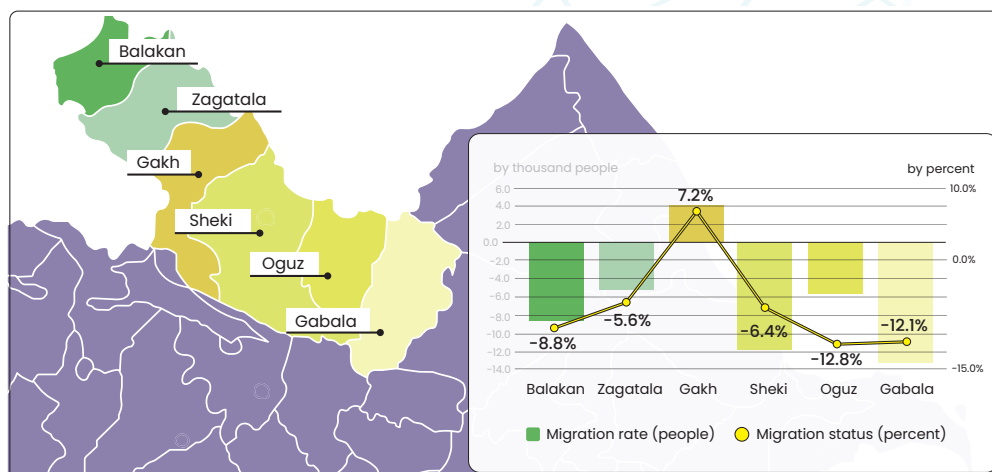


Diagram 19.
The level of migration in Shaki-Zagatala economic region

Source:
Research group of
the Social Research
Center

of the above-mentioned economic region. The development of tourism has stimulated the opening of new jobs in the service sector and the number of people coming to Gabala from Oguz region to work temporarily have increased. However, the educational opportunities of the economic region are limited on the other hand. However, the region is in a high position according to the indicators of the graduation and university entrance exams. Young people who want to continue their education go to Baku or other countries. There is only a branch of Azerbaijan Pedagogical University in the region. Young people need universities with more specialization options, not only pedagogical qualifications in order to get higher education. Therefore, there is a mass migration of the young generation from the region in order to meet the demand for education. Another problem is the lack of jobs, due to specialties and professions they have acquired, in the places where they were born as well as limited opportunities for developing their knowledge and skills, all these factors force them to live in large industrial cities. Briefly, it can be said that the flow of brains from Shaki-Zagatala economic region is high.

The alternative migration balance for Shaki-Zagatala economic region for 2018 was minus (-)6.8 and the urban population was 35% in the background of the above-mentioned.

It is clear from Diagram 19 that a certain part of the people registered in other districts and cities, except Gakh, have migrated from their place of birth. The migration balance for this economic region was -8.8% in Balakan, -5.6% in Zagatala, +7.2% in Gakh, -6.4% in Shaki, -12.8% in

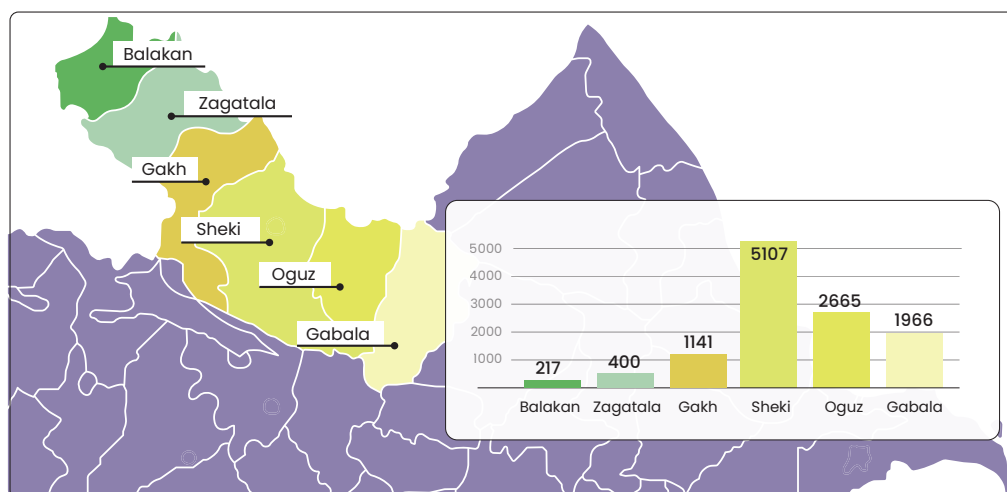
Oguz and -12.2% in Gabala.

It is interesting that when comparing the households of 2009 and 2018, there is no significant growth dynamics in Gakh region. The conducted analyses show that loyalty to the land is strong in the regions of the territory where ethnic groups and national minorities live, population decline and migration occur in the residential areas where mostly Azerbaijanis live.

The characteristics of migration in Shaki-Zagatala economic region can be classified as follows:

Diagram 20.
Refugees and
IDPs located in the
Shaki-Zagatala
economic region
(person)

Source:
State Committee
for Affairs of Refu-
gees and IDPs
(January, 2012)



❖ Placement of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Shaki-Zagatala economic region

11.5 thousand IDPs were placed in the territory of the economic region according to the information of AR SCRIA for 2012. Information on refugees and internally displaced persons located in the Shaki-Zagatala economic region is presented in Diagram 20.

The flow of IDPs to Shaki-Zagatala was relatively low compared to Ganja-Gazakh, Aran, Mountainous Shirvan economic regions. Nevertheless, internally displaced families as a small region have created mobility in the demographic and migration processes of the region.

❖ Temporary internal migration by economic region

This classification is specific to the above-mentioned economic region. This is because it is a touristic region and the number of sanatorium centers make this place attractive. Those who come for work mostly go to Gabala from Oguz. However, those who build houses in those areas and come to live only in a certain season are observed more often in Gakh district of the region. Therefore, an increase in the level of migration is observed.

The population growth per 1000 people is 7.7 in the Shaki-Zagatala economic region. The growth rate shows a decrease compared to previous years. In general, Shaki-Zagatala is one of the regions with a low rate of natural population growth. Gakh has the lowest natural growth (5.7

per 1000 people) in the economic region. Its main reason is the low birth rate and high death rate in the region; on the other hand, it is the migration of the young generation to other places.

❖ Migration from the economic region to the Absheron peninsula and emigration to Russia

Emigration from the country is evident in the Balakan, Gakh and Zagatala districts of the economic region. We can say based on our survey and observations among the population in those areas that heads of families in households mostly go to work in Russia.

The development of only the agricultural sector in the region, the seasonal feature of tourism and the poor inclusion of the economy reduce career opportunities. Young people looking for a dynamic and innovative life, who want to continue their education go to the capital. The capital Baku seems more attractive for them to continue their education, build a business and political career and find the freedom they are looking for.

Urbanization

Limited job opportunities in rural areas often prompt the rural population to migrate to regional centers and settlements. This trend is exacerbated by various factors, including poor road and communication infrastructure in mountainous villages, inadequate access to schools and healthcare facilities, and harsh geographical conditions that impede communication, especially during the winter months

when village roads become impassable.

As a result, many villagers opt to migrate to settlements and urban centers where social services and information-communication networks are more readily available. In the Shaki-Zagatala economic region, for example, research indicates that 35% of the total population resided in towns and settlements in 2018, which is 7% higher than the official statistics reported by the State Statistical Committee (SSC). This discrepancy underscores the significant migration flow from rural to urban areas within the economic region.

Furthermore, the presence of higher education institutions in Shaki-Zagatala also influences urbanization patterns. However, it's worth noting that these educational institutions are predominantly branches of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, focusing on pedagogical studies. Consequently, young people seeking non-pedagogical education often relocate to larger cities such as Baku, Sumgait, Mingachevir, and Ganja.

The number of people living in 5 villages of Zagatala, 5 villages of Shaki, 5 villages of Oguz, 13 villages of Gakh and 7 villages of Gabala have decreased to the minimum level.

II.4. LANKARAN ECONOMIC REGION

Lankaran economic region borders with Iran in the south and west and with the Caspian Sea in the east. This has historically increased the importance of the region. The passage of highways and railways connecting Azerbaijan with Iran, as well as access to the sea from the east, generally favorable geographical posi-

tion increase the strategic importance of Lankaran economic region. Its area is 6.07 thousand km² and it has 7% of the country's territory. 26% of the territory of the economic region is covered with forests. The region has a humid subtropical climate and differs from other economic regions of the country due to its natural conditions. Lankaran economic region consists of 5 administrative districts such as Astara, Jalilabad, Lerik, Masalli, Yardimli and the city of Lankaran. There are 8 cities, 5 regions, 13 settlements, 169 rural administrative territorial units and 638 rural settlements in the economic region.

The densest forests are in Astara (25.3%) and Lerik (24.4%). The most developed and important city of the region is Lankaran. The location of the sea and airports in the city of Lankaran played a major role in being recognized as the main cultural, social and economic center of the southern region.

The region has rich mineral waters. The humid subtropical climate, fertile lands, water and labor resources create great opportunities for the development of agriculture in the economic region. Therefore, the basis of the region's economy is agriculture, fishing and forestry. Farash vegetable growing, potato growing, viticulture and grain growing are predominant in agriculture. The economic region is an important citrus fruit growing region. About 99% of the tea produced in Azerbaijan and more than half of the vegetable and garden products fall on the share of this economic region. Industrial areas develop based on the processing of agricultural raw materials and are based on the processing of plant and fishery products. Fish processing, tea, fruit and vegetable canning as

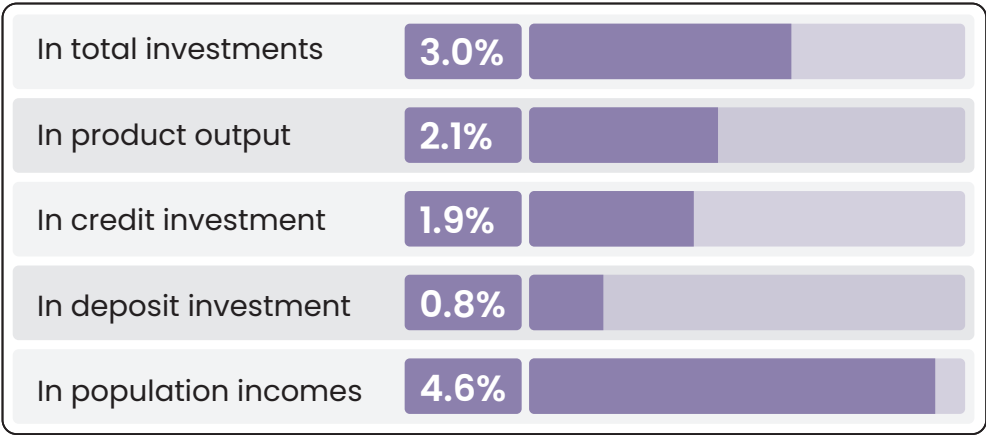
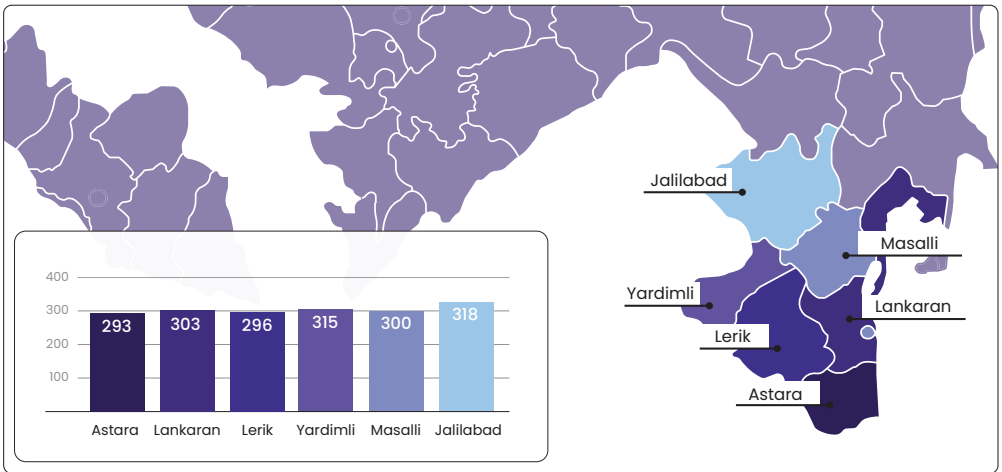


Diagram 21.
The share of Lankaran economic region in the macroeconomic indicators of the country (%)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee and the AR Central Bank

Diagram 22.
Average monthly salary for the Lankaran economic region (in manats)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee



well as wine production occupy an important place in the food industry. The share of the economic district in the total output is 2.1%. Lankaran city, Masalli and Jalilabad districts have the main share in the product manufacturing of the region. However, none of the districts and cities of the economic region were in the top twenty in the "Investment Rating of Regions" in spite of all of the above-mentioned factors. On the contrary, the lowest indicators belong to Astara, Lerik and Yardimli according to the investment rating.

The average monthly salary in the Lankaran economic region is 304 manats and it is lower than the country's general indicator. The highest average monthly salary is in Jalilabad district, that is 318 manats. Diagram 22 presents the situation regarding the average monthly salary by economic region.

Demography and migration

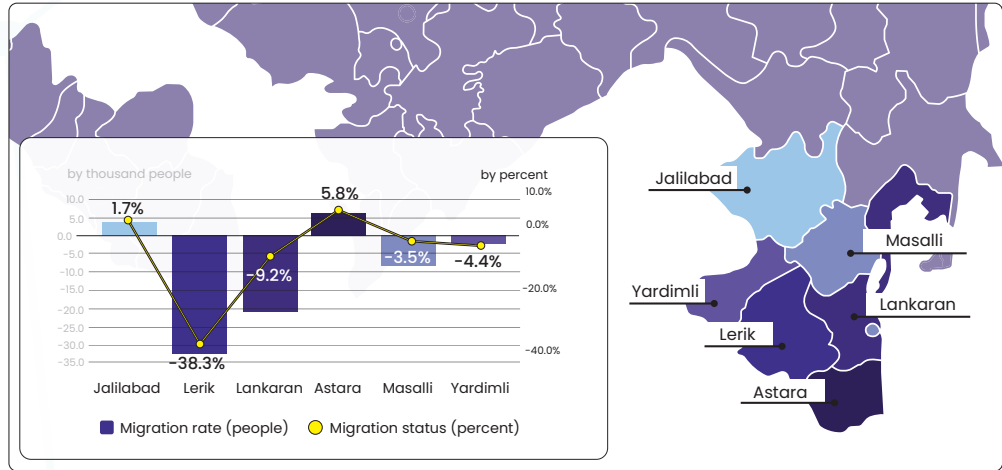
Lankaran economic region is one of the zones of Azerbaijan that differ in ethnic

composition of the population. The Talish live in Lankaran, Astara, Lerik and partly in Masalli. According to the information of the SSC as of 01.01.2019, the number of the population of Lankaran economic region was 937.2 thousand people and that was 9.4% of the country's population. There are 154 people per square kilometer of the territory. It is considered the densest economic region after Baku by Being at the same level as Absheron in terms of population density. The rate of natural population growth decreased by 4% compared to 2010, that is from 14.2 to 10.3 per 1000 people. However, it is still the highest region in terms of population growth rate. Because the birth rate is high and the death rate is low in the economic region. One of the main reasons for the decrease in the growth rate is the high level of migration across the region.

Alternative migration balance for Lankaran economic region was negative (-)5.8%, the share of urban population in total population was 29.7%.

Diagram 23.
The level of migration in the Lankaran economic region

Source:
Research group of the Social Research Center



The highest population migration from the economic region is observed in Lerik district: -38.3%. One of its main reasons is the majority of villages located in mountainous areas in this region. It is because there are difficulties in establishing communication links between these villages and the district center. However, the infrastructure of the villages has been built to a certain extent at the expense of investments allocated from the state budget in recent years, as well as roads, gas and communication lines have been built. As a result, the construction of the road and electricity infrastructure of the region within the framework of the socio-economic development program of the region has slowed down the migration a little bit in the last few years. Nevertheless, the lack of return of people leaving Lerik keeps the migration balance in this region negative. The migration balance determined by the research group is +1.7% in Jalilabad, -38.3% in Lerik, -9.2% in Lankaran, +5.8% in Astara and -3.5% in Masalli.

The number of households in 2009 decreased in some cases compared to year 2018, while it increased very slightly in other cases. For example, it decreased by 19% in Lerik, 13.4% in Lankaran, 0.8% in Jalilabad and it increased by 1.9% in Astara, 2.4% in Masalli and 4.8% in Yardimli.

The following points should be taken into account while classifying the motives of migration in the Lankaran region against the background of the statistical indicators listed above:

❖ Migration created in Lankaran economic region by refugees and internally displaced persons

About 2,000 refugees and internally displaced persons were accommodated

in the Lankaran economic region according to the 2012 statistics of AR SCRIA (See: Diagram 24). Its location at a distance from the frontline region was able to "insure" the region from the factor of internal migration caused by internally displaced persons. Even Lerik and Yardimli regions were excluded from the flow of internally displaced persons.

❖ Internal migration of the population in the economic region

The internal migration that exists in the economic region itself is observed in the migration of residents of remote mountain villages to surrounding settlements and regional centers. Lankaran city and Jalilabad region are the centers that receive the most internal migrants in the economic region. The existence of 1 higher education institution, as well as regional media institutions, sea ports and airports in Lankaran attracts people even from the Aran economic region. On the one hand, the population of Lankaran city moves to other cities and countries, on the other hand, this city receives a certain number of migrants every year.

Jalilabad district is one of the most developed agricultural districts of the country, where large farms are located. The fact that the land is flat and fertile also increases the possibilities of migration from the mountain villages of Lerik and Yardimli here.

❖ Temporary migration by economic region

Temporary migration is one of the reasons for increasing the migration balance in Jalilabad and Astara regions. A return is

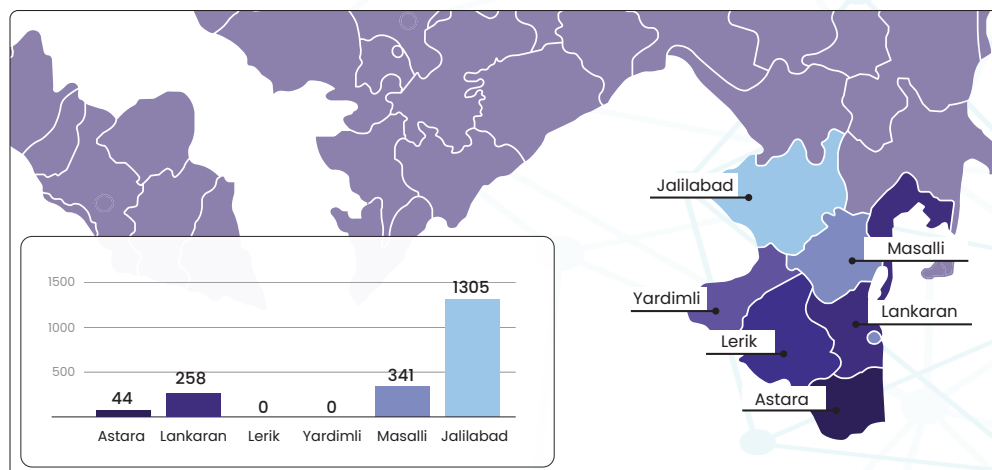


Diagram 24.
The number of refugees and internally displaced persons settled in the Lankaran economic region (person)

Source:
State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and IDPs (January, 2012)

felt in the villages of Jalilabad nowadays. Thus, a large number of families who moved to Baku and Russia build houses in their ancestral lands and come to rest in certain seasons of the year. It was determined during the observations that the people who moved from the villages and towns of Jalilabad region returned to their lands. However, those people built houses here for temporary living, not for permanent settlement.

The number of residential areas around the famous mineral springs such as Hirkan National Park and Istisu has increased in Astara. Those who come to rest in those residential areas in certain seasons of the year create a mobility in the migration of the region. In addition, the presence of the main ethnic groups in Astara, as well as its border with the Astara region of the Iran side strengthens the factor of loyalty to the region.

❖ **Emigration from the economic region to foreign countries and migration to the Absheron peninsula**

The population of Lankaran economic region is the majority among the Azerbaijanis who moved to Russia. Only male heads of the family moved to work in a number of families and all members completely moved to live there in some families. There are many who come for career, education and marriage reasons in addition to work among those who moved to Absheron. The city of Lankaran cannot fully satisfy the career aspirations of young people related to education and work nowadays. Although Yardimli is a favorable region for the development of tourism, it cannot become a touristic region due to poor communication and road infrastructure. The population go to Baku and Absheron due to the low level of existing infrastructure, political and socio-economic opportunities.

Urbanization

As we listed above in the "Migration" section, the low level of infrastructure in the villages at the foot of the mountains makes it easier for people to move to the lowlands, settlements and the regional center. The number of people living in cities and settlements were 29.7% in 2018.

If we consider the SSC information that the share of the urban population in this region is 26.8%, we can say that about 3% of the rural population has moved to the regional centers and settlements. Urbanization in the region mainly appears in Lankaran, Jalilabad and Astara. The location of the only higher education institution in the economic region, as well as special-type schools, specialized personnel in health and education, and regional media organizations in Lankaran has increased the possibility of migration from surrounding villages, settlements and regions. It is known that the reasons that trigger migration are education, work and technological trends of the modern era.

The number of households living in approximately 23 villages of Jalilabad, 20 villages of Astara, 14 villages of Masalli, 23 villages of Lerik and 8 villages of Lankaran has decreased sharply. The population has decreased several times even in other villages.

II.5. GUBA-KHACHMAZ ECONOMIC REGION

The total area of Guba-Khachmaz economic region is 6.96 thousand sq/km which is 8.0% of the country's territory. Guba-Khachmaz economic region includes Shabran, Khachmaz, Guba, Gusar and Siyazan regions. These regions are considered the main tourism region of the country. The economic region has its own relief features. The territory of the region differs sharply from each other. The location of the highest mountain peaks in Gusar is favourable for winter tourism, the mild nature of Guba, recreation centers and beautiful nature, hot mineral springs, the Nabran-Yalama resort zone of Khachmaz, which stretches 35-40 km along the coast of the Caspian Sea and the Galaalti sanatorium center of Shabran are very suitable for summer tourism. Russian citizens along with the residents of Baku and Absheron also come to these recreation centers.

This economic region includes 5 districts, 6 cities, 21 settlements, 103 rural administrative territorial circles and 474 rural settlements.

It should be noted that the passage of communication lines connecting Azerbaijan with the Russian Federation through this region creates favorable socio-economic

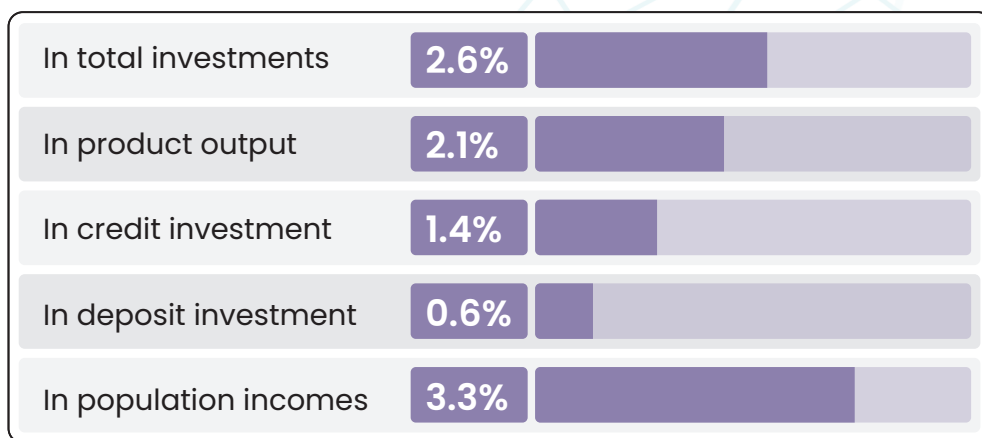


Diagram 25.
The share of Guba-Khachmaz economic region in the macroeconomic indicators of the country (%)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee and the AR Central Bank

opportunities. That is why one of the main sources of income for the population of the region is Russia. In addition, there are not so many difficulties in finding a market for agricultural and fish products, which form the basis of the economy. The fact that the economic region is close to the capital Baku opens up this opportunity for them.

The location around the Caspian Sea also promotes the development of beach tourism. The main guests of the Nabran-Yalama resort zone are the population of Baku and Absheron in the summer season.

In addition, there are various underground resources in the territory of Guba-Khachmaz economic region. The most widely used among them are Siyazan oil, gravel and sand. The share of industry in the output of the economic region is low despite the presence of various underground resources, especially oil reserves. This region is mainly known as an agricultural and tourism region as we mentioned here above.

Although Khachmaz is considered an economically developed region of Guba-Khachmaz, Guba had a special impor-

tance in the cultural history of the region. Since Guba is historically considered one of the main centers of the region, it has an important role in the cultural development, enlightenment and statehood traditions of Azerbaijan.

Guba-Khachmaz's share in product output is 2.1%, its share in population income is 3.3% and its share in capital investment is 2.6%. Only Siyazan (17th place) was included in the first twenty economic regions in the "Investment Rating of Regions".

The average monthly salary for the economic region was 331 manats in 2018. Although this figure is lower than the average monthly salary level for the Republic, it is higher compared to other economic regions. The highest indicator of the average monthly salary in the economic region was observed in Siyazan (396.7 manats) and the lowest indicator was observed in Gusar (307.4 manats). The production of oil and gas in Siyazan also affects the salary level of the region.

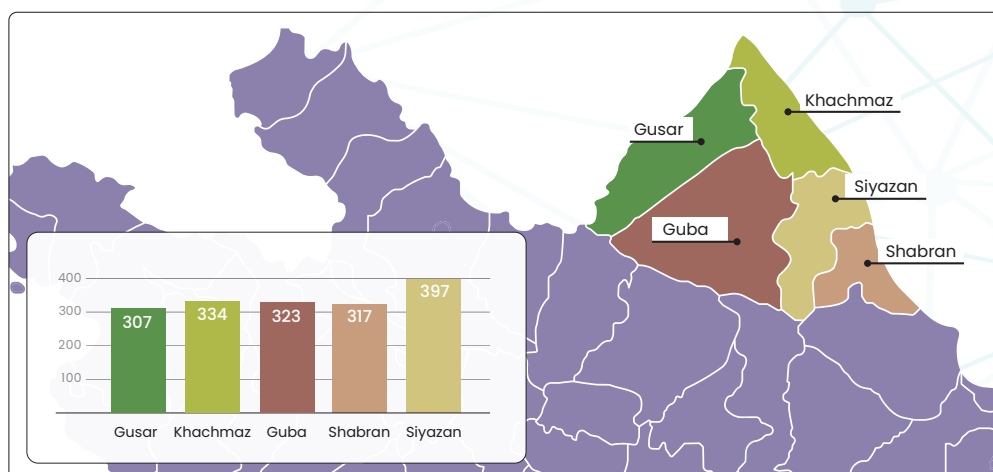
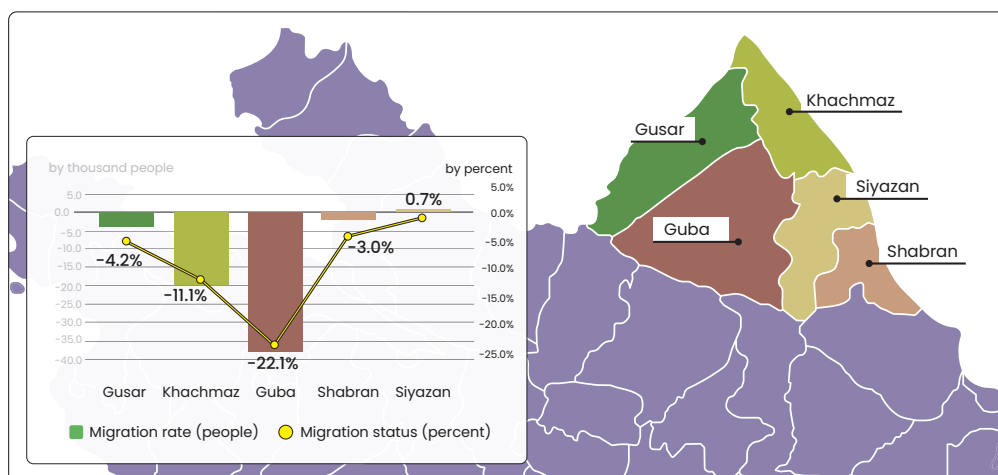


Diagram 26.
Average monthly salary in Guba-Khachmaz economic region (manats)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee

Diagram 27.
The level of migration in Guba-Khachmaz economic region

Source:
Research group
of the Social
Research Center



Demography and migration

The population of Guba-Khachmaz economic region is 549.4 thousand people and that is 5.5% of the country's population. In this regard, the average population density in the region drops to 79 people per sq. km. Depending on the terrain and climatic features of the region, the population settled mainly in the plains located on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Khachmaz is considered the most densely populated district in the above-stated economic region from this point of view. In this regard, the average population density in the region drops to 168 people per sq. km.

Guba-Khachmaz economic region is also distinguished by the ethnic composition of its population. Such ethnic groups as lezgis, tats, khinaligli, budugs, gryz, etc. live here.

The aggravation of the socio-economic situation and the shutdown of a number of industrial enterprises increased the level of unemployment in the region after regaining independence. As a result, the population, especially from the villages where ethnic groups and national minorities live, quickly moved to other cities or countries. Their departure from the region disturbs the rich ethnic balance of the region.

The research group determined the balance of alternative migration in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region for 2018 as negative (-)11.5% and the share of the urban population as 37.5%.

Diagram 27 shows the migration level of Guba-Khachmaz economic region.

The positive balance of migration for the economic region is observed in Si-

yazan, albeit slightly: +0.7%. The proximity of Siyazan to Baku and Absheron and the presence of oil fields here attract internal migrants. The highest migration from the region is observed in Guba with -22.1%. In fact, the gradual weakening of the status of Guba as the historical, cultural and political center has reduced the interest for settlement in the region. Currently, Guba is developing mostly as an agrarian region. Tourism potential is not fully used. As for the migration balance of other regions, it was -4.2% in Gushar, -11.1% in Khachmaz, -3% in Shabran, +0.7% in Siyazan.

The characteristics of migration in Guba-Khachmaz economic region can be classified as follows:

❖ Migration created in Guba-Khachmaz economic region by refugees and internally displaced persons

The region is not exempt from violent migration although the location of the Guba-Khachmaz economic region in the north-east of the country and relatively far from the frontline does not create a large flow of refugees and internally displaced persons. Slightly more than 1250 refugees and IDPs have been placed in the economic region according to the information of AR SCRIA.

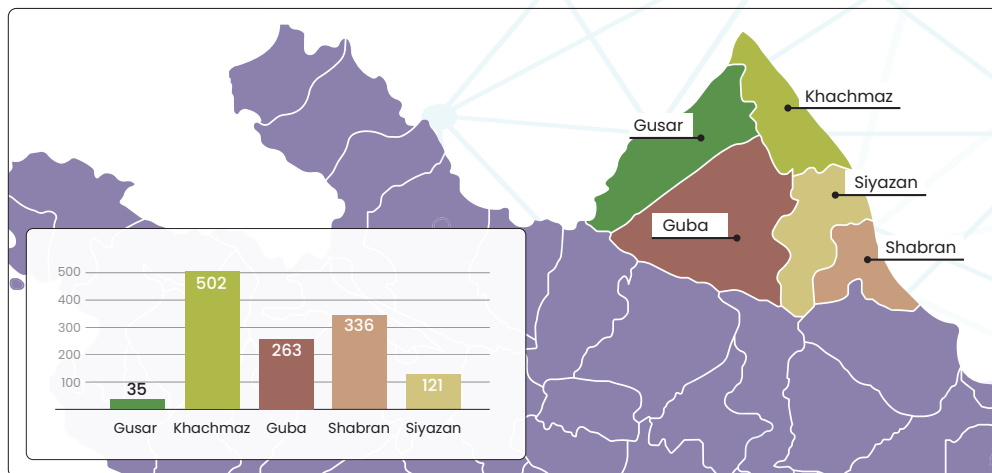


Diagram 28.
The number of refugees and internally displaced persons settled in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region (person)

Source:
State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and IDPs (January, 2012)

❖ Temporary migration by economic region

Temporary migration across the economic region is mostly observed in Gusar, Siyazan, Guba and comparatively in Khachmaz. Many people from Baku, Absheron and even Russia come to the settlements of these regions known as recreation centers. Some people build houses in the mentioned regions and live there during certain period of seasons, especially in the summer months. However, the large number of investments in real estate cannot have a positive effect on the migration balance of the region.

❖ Emigration from the economic region to Russia and permanent migration to Baku

It should be noted that the level of migration in Guba-Khachmaz economic region is quite high. The development of the region only in the agrarian sector, the weakness of the economy's inclusiveness and the low level of socio-cultural development have accelerated the migration of the population from the region. We can say based on our observations that the number of people going to work to Russia from all 5 districts of the region are large. Only the head of the family moved to Russia in some of such households and all family members moved to Russia in others.

By the way, the economic region was ranked at the top of the Republic in terms of educational indicators according to the results of the graduation and entrance exams submitted by the SEC. However,

the young people, who want to continue their education after going to Mingachevir, Ganja and Baku, do not return because they cannot find work and career opportunities in the cities and regions where they were born. The cases of migration to Russia and other regions of Azerbaijan due to marriage are often observed among the regional women.

Urbanization

Urbanization in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region is more evident in Siyazan, Khachmaz and Shabran. Population decrease is also observed in the villages of Guba and Gusar. In particular, people living in villages with poor utility and communication systems move to regions which are supplied with better infrastructure. Migration from the villages of Guba located near Khachmaz to the city of Khudat is taking place, albeit at a slow pace. 37.5% of the population in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region live in cities and settlements for year 2018 according to the calculations of the research group. If we consider that this indicator is 33.1% in official statistics, it is clear that about 4.4% of the rural population has migrated to cities and towns at present.

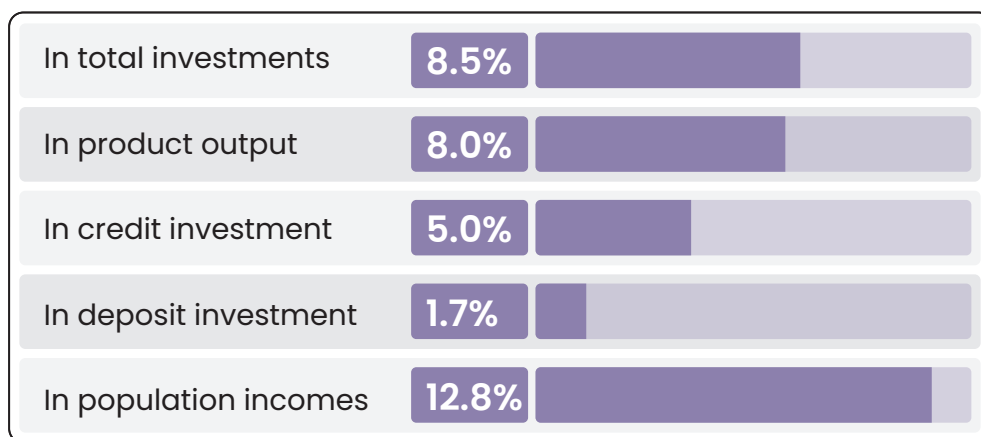
The number of the population of 28 villages of Guba, 14 villages of Gusar, 9 villages of Siyazan and 14 villages of Khachmaz have decreased to the minimum level.

Diagram 29.

The share of the Aran economic region in the macroeconomic indicators of the country (in %)

Source:

State Statistics Committee and Central Bank



II.6. ARAN ECONOMIC REGION

Aran is the largest economic region of Azerbaijan which consist of 18 administrative territorial divisions. Its area is 21.15 thousand km² and covers 24.4% of the country's territory. The main roads from Baku to Georgia, Iran and Turkey pass through the territory of Aran. Yevlakh is the intersection of the main highways of the Republic. Aran economic region includes Agjabedi, Hajigabul, Barda, Kurdamir, Zardab, Beylagan, Neftchala, Salyan, Agdash, Ujar, Imishli, Bilasuvar, Saatli, Goychay and Sabirabad regions, as well as Yevlakh, Shirvan and Mingachevir cities. There are 18 cities, 15 districts, 39 settlements, 392 rural administrative territorial circles and 790 rural settlements in the economic region.

Aran economic region also has a share in the oil and gas sector which is the basis of Azerbaijan's economy. 80% of the oil reserves fall on the Baku and Absheron archipelago and the shelf zone of the Caspian Sea, while 20% fall on the share of the Aran economic region and Siyazan. Aran economic region includes 43 oil, gas and condensate areas, 38 of which are suitable for exploitation. On average, more than 440 thousand tons of oil and more than 50 mln. cubic meters of gas are produced every year in Neftchala, Salyan, Imishli and Shirvan.

The Aran economic region is the leader in cotton production which is considered "white gold". The geographical factors of the Aran economic region create fertile conditions for the development of agriculture as a whole, especially farming. Cotton growing, grain growing, animal husbandry, vegetable growing etc. in the farms occupy an important place.

There are three cities under the Aran

economic region: Mingachevir, Shirvan and Yevlakh. The largest hydroelectric power station of the Republic is located in the city of Mingachevir. This city has an important place in the energy base of the country. This economic region contains 60% of the electricity produced in the country. Additionally, a significant part of the capital's water supply is provided by the Mingachevir water reservoir. Economic growth has been observed in the cities of Shirvan and Yevlakh in recent years.

5 districts and cities of Aran - Mingachevir, Shirvan, Imishli, Beylagan and Barda - were among the top twenty in the "Investment Rating of Regions". Although the economic zone played a key role in light industry during the Soviet era, unfortunately the opportunities have weakened today. The main economic strength of the region is based on energy resources. It ranks second after Baku according to its macroeconomic indicators. 12.8% of the population's income and 8% of the output fell to the share of the Aran economic region in 2018 (See: Diagram 29).

Average monthly salary for the economic region is 304 manats. The highest salary is in the city of Shirvan: 455.2 manats. The location of industrial enterprises in Shirvan, including the largest open-type DRES, as well as the operation of oil, reinforced concrete products, ceramic pipe and artificial leather factories, oil and gas producing enterprises are continuously increasing the economic importance of the city in the region. This factor as well as its being an industrial city also led to higher wages in Shirvan than in other regions.

The presence of oil production in Salyan region has a serious impact on the general income of the population. This is the main reason why the highest salary (364 manats)

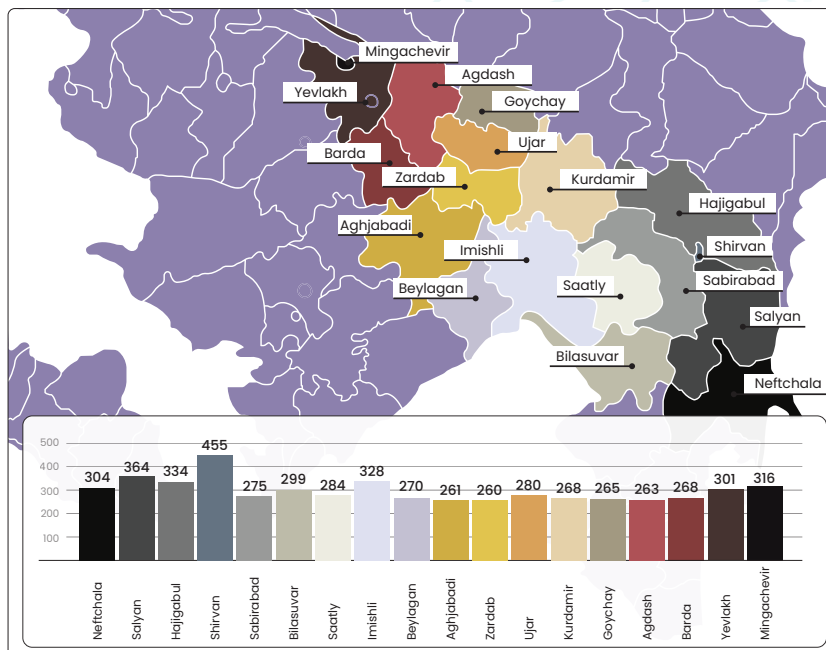


Diagram 30.
Average monthly salary for the Aran economic region (in manats)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee

is in this region after the city of Shirvan.

Demography and migration

The population of the Aran economic region is 2.02 million people and constitutes 20.3% of the country's population according to the SSC. A special city plan was prepared for the Aran economic region during the implementation of the urbanization policy in the Soviet period and several industrial centers were established here. Cities such as Mingachevir, Shirvan (Ali Bayramli in 1938-2008) and Yevlakh were built at that time. The construction of large industrial enterprises and the assignment of workers to these areas, the construction of higher and vocational education institutions played a major role in the demographic expansion of cities during that period. The role of migrants in addition to natural growth was also important in the increase of the population. A large number of Akhiska Turks were relocated to the territory of the Aran region after the years of repression by the Soviet government and the events of Ferghana in 1989 (conflict between Uzbeks and Akhiska Turks). In parallel, thousands of people from different regions of the Republic were involved in the construction of infrastructure in the city of Mingachevir. Most of them became residents of this city later.

However, the process went somewhat in the opposite direction in the first decade of independence. A decrease in the flow of applicants to educational institutions slowed

down the pace of expansion due to stoppage in the activity of a number of enterprises in the Aran economic region and a decrease in demand in the markets for the specialties offered by universities and vocational schools. The balance of migration is negative in most regions although a number of people moving to the cities of Mingachevir, Yevlakh and Shirvan are higher than the number of people leaving the region.

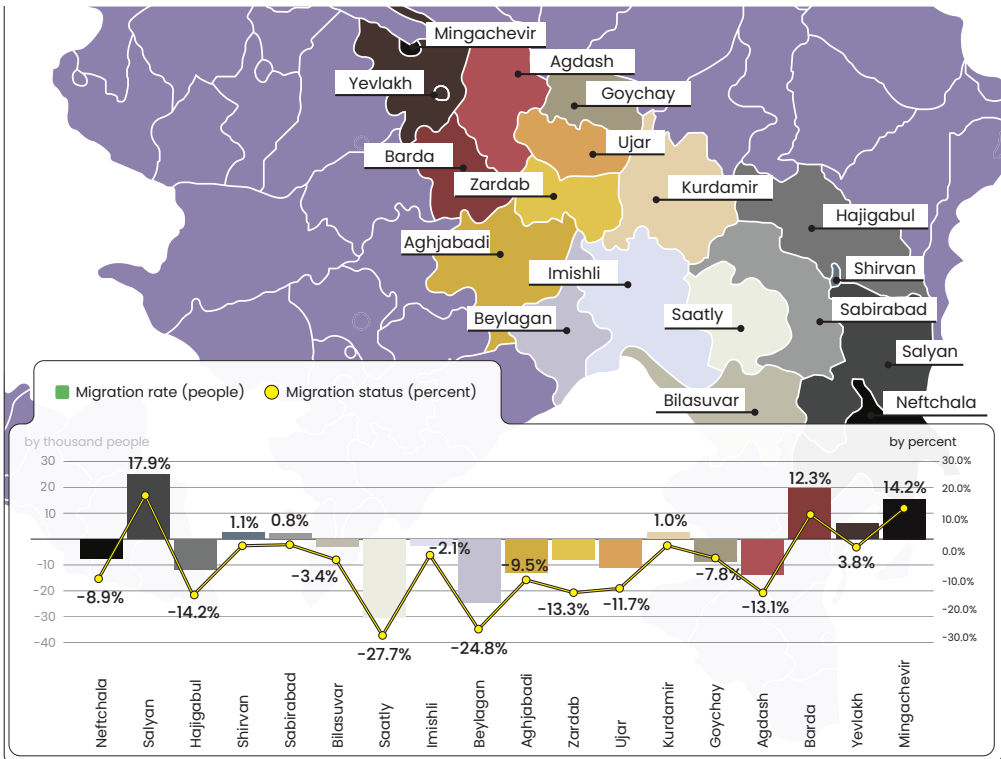
We can say based on the alternative calculations that the migration balance of the Aran economic region is negative (-)3.3% and the share of the urban population is 40.3%. The level of migration in the Aran economic region is presented in Diagram 31.

According to the migration level of the economic region, a positive trend is observed in Mingachevir 14.2%, Barda 12%, Salyan 17.9%, Shirvan 1.1%, Yevlakh 3.8% and Kurdamir 1%. The highest population migration in the economic region was determined in Saatli (-27%), Beylagan (-24.8%) and Hajigabul (-14.2%).

There are various reasons for migration in the Aran economic region. The region is home to and accepted a very large number of refugees and internally displaced persons who were displaced from their homelands during the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1989-1994, including tens of thousands of people who took refuge in our country during the "cleansing" policy against the Akhiska Turks in the Ferghana Valley of Uzbekistan in 1989. In addition, it is con-

Diagram 31.
The level of migration in the Aran economic region

Source:
Research group of the Social Research Center



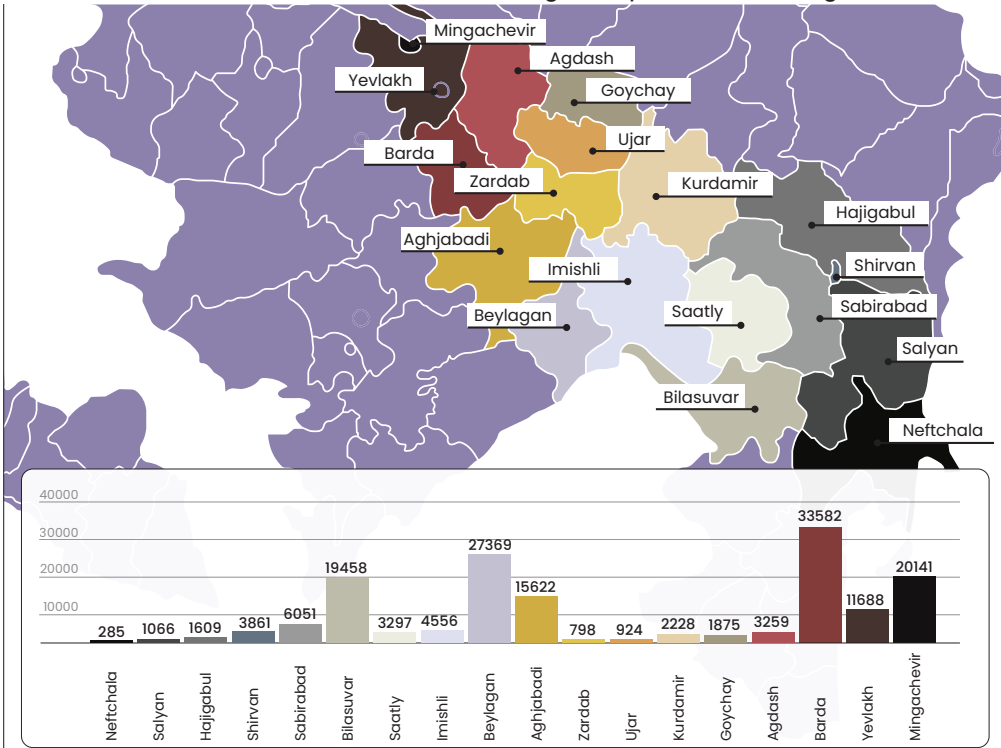
sidered the main intersection of important highways of the Republic due to its geographical relief. It is no coincidence from this point of view that highway junctions passing through Iran, Turkey and Georgia are located here. Proximity to the capital increases the possibilities of finding a job and marketing products. The motives of migration in the Aran economic region can be classified as follows:

❖ Placement of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Aran economic region

About 158 thousand IDPs have been placed in the Aran economic region and it is considered the region that receives the largest forced migrants after Baku. The number of refugees and internally displaced persons placed in the economic region is presented in Diagram 32.

Diagram 32.
The number of refugees and internally displaced persons settled in the Aran economic region (person)

Source:
State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and IDPs (January, 2012)



It is considered the main gateway for the flow of refugees and internally displaced persons due to the fact that Aran borders with the Upper Karabakh economic region, especially Barda, Agjabedi, Yevlakh and Mingachevir. IDPs can be considered one of the most important factors in changing the demographic situation of Barda, Yevlakh and Mingachevir. The tent camps in Barda and Imishli were canceled and people were relocated to their own regions after the construction of refugee camps in Aghdam and Fuzuli. However, the families who have lived in Barda for 20 years and established their farms have not completely lost their connection with this region. The families we interviewed say that they go to Barda during the planting season. Some of the IDPs from Aghdam got plots of land and engaged in farming during their stay in Barda. They still lived on those plots of land although they were moved to newly built settlements in Aghdam. Therefore, they go to live temporarily in Barda during the planting season. In addition, Barda becomes the main settlement for the residents of Aghdam during the harvest to sell the products in the market. So, family heads have to leave Aghdam and live in Barda for a certain period of time.

❖ Internal migration in the economic region

In general, the flatness of the Aran economic region is considered one of the important factors for population settlement. It is because communication and utility supply of plain regions is better compared to mountainous and foothill regions. As a result, people in mountain villages are moving to settlements with better communication and social facilities. The fact that Aran is a flat region makes access to infrastructure easier. Entrepreneurs can establish farms in these areas more easily. Therefore, the presence of large farms in Agjabedi, Barda, Agsu, Imishli, Hajigabul and Sabirabad and oil and gas production in Salyan, Shirvan and Neftchala encourage the population living in the surrounding regions and villages to move here. In fact, a decrease in the number of households is observed in 2018 compared to 2009 although the migration in Salyan region is shown in a positive balance. 27 thousand people left their households during 9 years. However, the fact that the region borders with Baku, its richness in oil and gas fields and its access to the sea additionally increase the number of people

moving here from Hajigabul, Bilasuvar and other regions.

❖ Internal migration in the economic region

It was revealed during the conducted qualitative survey that the electronic recruitment of teachers as well as the introduction of compulsory health insurance as a pilot project in Mingachevir and Yevlakh stimulated the migration process. There are even Baku natives among the migrants. It is because the main experts in the field of compulsory health insurance studied in Baku and gained experience there. Personnel are assigned to the regions by the state due to the lack of specialists in the regions. As it is shown here above, those specialists consider it necessary to conduct trainings in order to constantly improve their knowledge and skills in the place where they are assigned. Otherwise, it is impossible to connect professional personnel to the regions only thanks to financial reasons.

❖ Migration from the economic region to Baku and emigration abroad

Migration from the Aran economic region is in two directions. Firstly, the flow from this economic region to the capital Baku is at a high level. One of its main reasons is that many of the regions are close to the capital. It has only 1 higher education institution despite the presence of 3 republican subordinate cities as the largest economic region in terms of its territory. Students from Aran, Guba-Khachmaz and Ganja-Gazakh economic regions also come to the higher school located in Mingachevir. However, the main dissatisfaction of people with higher education, who participated in the conducted qualitative survey and moved to Mingachevir, is the lack of master's education in specialized studies.

Quote: *"The number of specialties is limited although there is a higher school in Mingachevir. For example, there is no law school. Moreover, the qualifications are at the bachelor's level. I want to get a master's degree. "There is no master's degree in law at Mingachevir's higher school." (Mingachevir, woman, 32 years old, lawyer)*

A number of families and heads of families moving from here to Russia are not small. Most of them moved to Russia from Neftchala, Saatli, Beylagan, Imishli, Barda and Sabirabad regions.

II.7. MOUNTAINOUS SHIRVAN ECONOMIC REGION

Mountainous Shirvan economic region is one of the ancient settlements of Azerbaijan. The economic region includes Agsu, Ismayilli, Gobustan and Shamakhi administrative regions. Shamakhi is the most developed and important city of Mountainous Shirvan economic region. Shamakhi once as the capital city played an important role in the cultural development of the country and it gathered the intellectuals of its time as one of the centers of enlightenment. It was one of the 5 largest cities of Azerbaijan in the 19th century. However, the political and cultural power of the economic region was gradually transferred to an economic zone engaged in agriculture during the Soviet period and the demographic situation changed negatively. The main factors influencing it are the frequent earthquakes in Shamakhi, the genocide of the local population in the massacres of 1917-1920 and the mass migration of the population to Baku.

The basis of the economy of the Mountainous Shirvan economic region is tourism along with the agricultural sector. Ismayilli, Gobustan and Shamakhi which are subordinate to the district are the most famous areas of the country as tourism regions.

The total area of the economic region is 6.13 thousand km², covering 7% of the country's territory. There are 4 cities, 4 regions, 8 settlements, 105 rural administrative territorial circles and 272 rural settlements in the region.

The Mountainous Shirvan economic region is relatively poorly developed from the industrial point of view nowadays. The basis of the region's industry is the food industry which processes local agricultur-

al products.

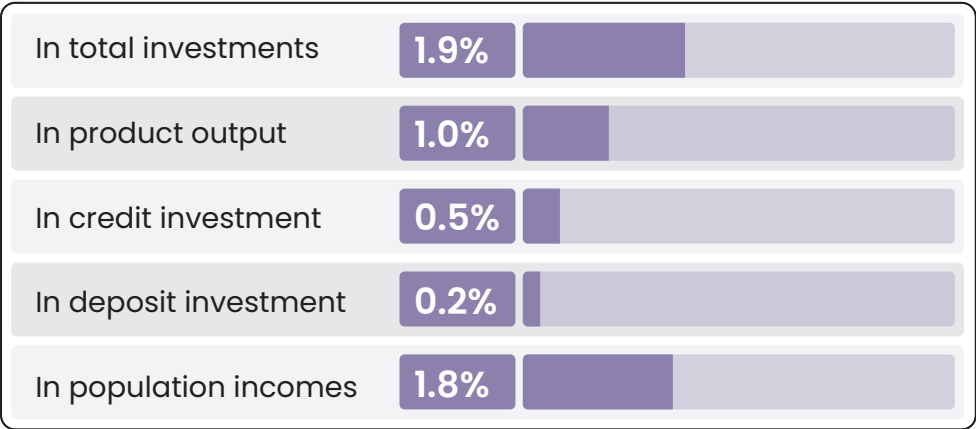
The economic region mainly specializes in agriculture, viticulture, winemaking and animal husbandry. The leading place in agriculture is grain growing. Potatoes are grown in the black soils spread in the mountains and cotton is planted in the plains. In addition, there are forestry and wood processing, building materials production (wood processing enterprise in Ismayilli region, stone quarries and brick factory in Shamakhi and Gobustan regions), agricultural equipment repair enterprises in the region.

The location of the economic region close to large cities such as Baku and Sumgait significantly increases the scope of the use of recreational resources of the region. The fact that the region has a beautiful landscape, cool climate, high-quality fresh and mineral water and historical monuments attracts the population of Baku and other large cities. In the summer season, the flow of people to the region to rest increases and it has a positive effect on the development of the region's tourism sector, including transport and service sectors.

The weak development of the industry in the economic region leads to a small share of the output. The share of Mountainous Shirvan in the country's output is 1%, its share in total investments is 1.9% and its share in the population's income is 1.8%. The name of any region belonging to the mentioned economic region was not included in the top twenty in the "Investment Rating of Regions". Its ranking in the lower ranks does not create an encouraging situation taking into account the need for large investment to organize the development of the area as a tourist zone.

Diagram 33.
The share of the Mountainous Shirvan economic region in the macroeconomic indicators of the country (%)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee and the AR Central Bank



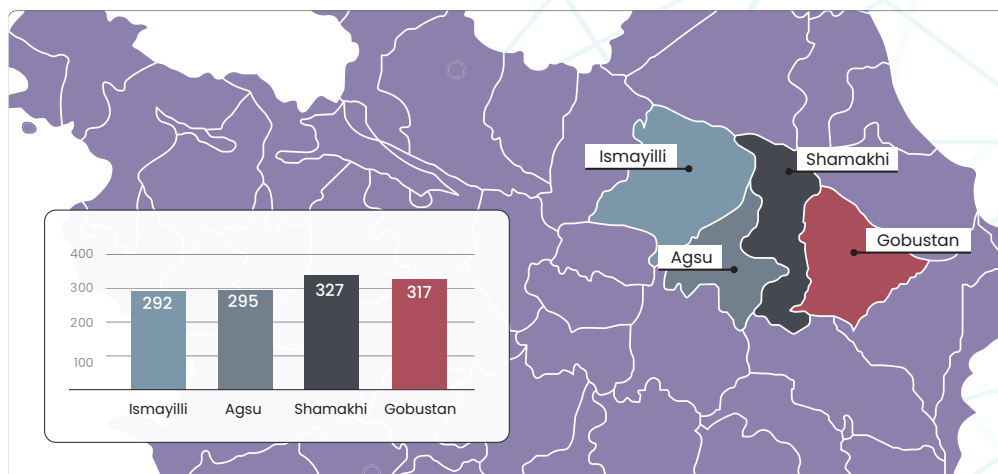


Diagram 34.
Average monthly salary for the Mountainous Shirvan economic region (in manats)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee

Average monthly salary for the economic region is 306,8 manats. The highest salary is in the city of Shamakhi: 327.4 manats.

Demography and migration

The population of the Mountainous Shirvan economic region of Shirvan is relatively sparsely populated compared to other economic regions of the Republic. The total population of the economic region is 318.6 thousand people. The population of the region covering 7% of the Republic is 3.2% of the total population of the country. The average population density is 52 people per sq/km.

The fact that the geographical relief of the region is mountainous and plain and at the same time arid, played an important role in the settlement of the population. The population density is less observed in Ismayilli and Gobustan as Ismayilli is mountainous and Gobustan is arid. The historic status of Shamakhi as a cultural and economic center and the availability of lands suitable for agriculture in Agsu

have encouraged the denser settlement of the population in these areas. It is at the same level as the Lankaran economic region although the population density is low, having the highest rate of natural population growth in the Republic. The growth rate per 1000 people is 10.3 in Mountainous Shirvan. The birth rate is also the highest in the country at 16.3 per 1000 people. The number of deaths per 1000 people is 6 according to the death rate. Migration among the population of Mountainous Shirvan is also high in exchange for high natural growth.

The alternative migration balance of the economic region for year 2018 was minus (-)11% and the share of the urban population was 33%.

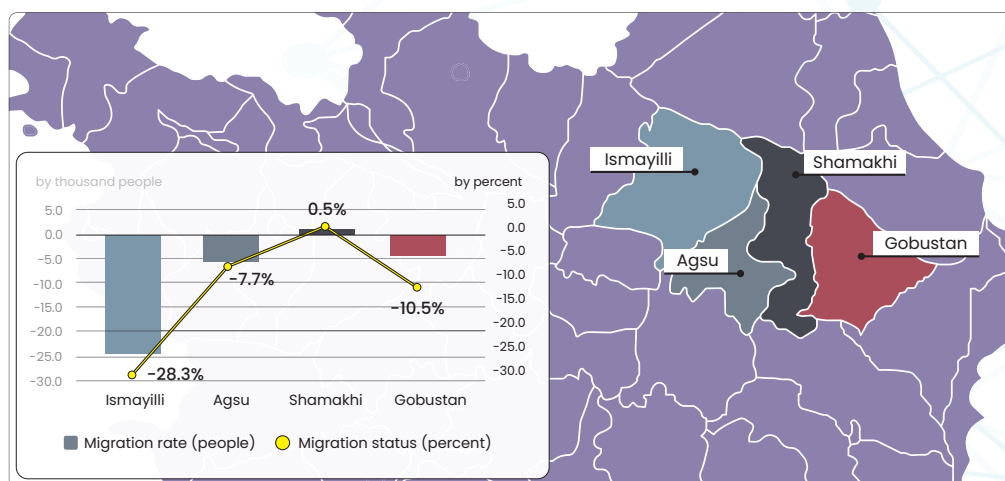


Diagram 35.
The level of migration in Mountainous Shirvan economic region

Source:
Research group of the Social Research Center

The fact that the Mountainous Shirvan economic region borders with Absheron economic region and is located closer to Baku impacts the migration flow. The migration balance in Mountainous Shirvan is positive only in Shamakhi (0.5%). The highest population migration is observed in Ismayilli (-28.3%). One of its main reasons is that a part of Ismayilli is located in a high and medium mountainous belt, there are poor job opportunities and low infrastructure supply. High mountain areas are prone to floods and landslides. This creates some difficulties for the settlement of the population in the high foothills. Thus, the roads to the villages are cut off as a result of landslides, pastures and grazing areas are damaged and there are difficulties in meeting the needs of the population for drinking water and electricity. Flooding is observed in spring months. The population moves to regions with good social conditions and access to road infrastructure especially in the winter months. The migration balance determined by the research group is -10.5% in Gobustan and -7.7% in Agsu.

Gobustan was established as an administrative territorial unit after regaining independence. Other occupations are still poorly organized for the population who are mainly engaged in grain farming and animal husbandry. The arid climate creates reclamation difficulties. That is why migration from Gobustan is also high.

If the factor affecting migration in Ismayilli is the poor accessibility of communication as a mountainous region, then this factor for Gobustan and Agsu is the arid region. Environmental and natural-geographical conditions also play an important role in internal migrations.

"The impact of this factor lasts for decades. People leave areas with poor cultivation and water shortage areas and move to the opposite regions, in most cases to cities. So, a group of people once and for all leaves the village lifestyle and formally becomes a city dweller" (Rovshan Karimov, doctor of philosophy in geography, ANAS).

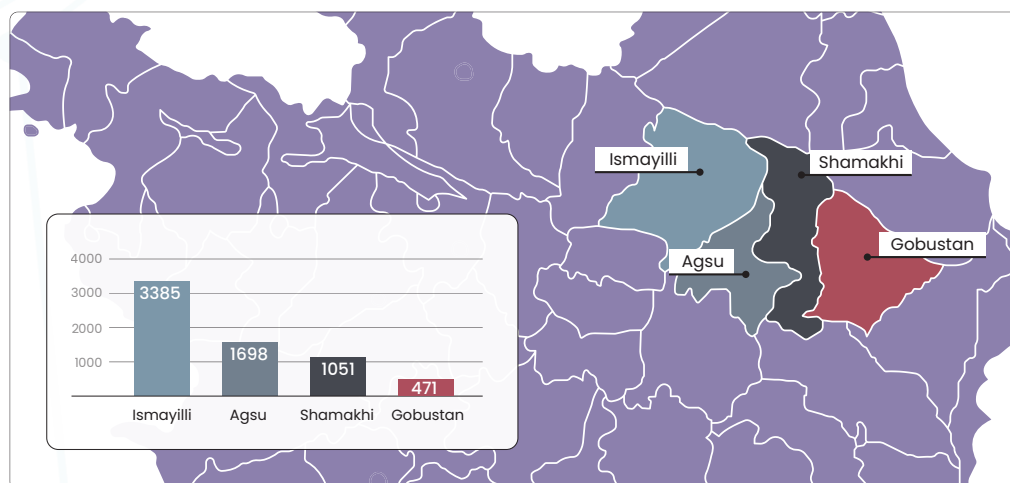
In general, it cannot be said when analyzing the characteristics of migration in the Mountainous Shirvan economic region that it is multifaceted. The motives of migration can be classified into 3 main directions as in other economic regions:

❖ Migration level created in Mountainous Shirvan economic region by refugees and internally displaced persons

The number of IDPs placed in the territory of the economic region was 6.6 thousand people according to the information of AR SCRIA for 2012. In fact, this number did not have a significant impact on the migration level of the region. For example, the number of people who moved from Ismayilli is also high although most refugees and internally displaced persons are placed here.

Diagram 36.
The number of refugees and internally displaced persons settled in the Mountainous Shirvan economic region (person)

Source:
State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and IDPs (January, 2012)



❖ Temporary migration by economic region

Temporary migration is mostly observed in Shamakhi region. The number of visitors in Pirgulu and other recreation areas is high in certain seasons. A certain number of these people who are mainly residents of the capital city Baku have created a household for themselves here and come to rest here during the seasonal months. In addition, short-term workers are attracted from the surrounding regions as catering facilities work actively during the season. These processes have a serious impact on the positive migration balance of Shamakhi.

❖ Migration from the economic region to the Absheron peninsula and emigration to Russia

The flow from Mountainous Shirvan to Baku and Absheron is high. It was determined during the conducted surveys and observations that Mingachevir is a relatively attractive city for residents of Agsu and Ismayilli. However, the appointment of military personnel and educational factors are important among the reasons why people go from Mountainous Shirvan to Mingachevir. In any case, Baku and Absheron are far ahead of Mingachevir in terms of their attractiveness. It is because the number of higher and vocational education institutions in the Mountainous Shirvan economic region is small. Thus, only Shamakhi branch of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University and 1 economic college operate here. In such a case, young people who live in the economic region and want to continue their education go to Baku. Educated professionals have limited opportunities to find work in their regions, so they have few chances to return.

The middle generation is more likely to go to Russia to find work while the education factor prevails as the main reason for young people to migrate to Baku. Residents of Agsu and Ismayilli dominate among those who go to Russia from the region.

Urbanization

33% of the population of the region lived in urban areas in 2018 according to the conclusion of the research group. Unlike other economic regions, Mountainous

Shirvan is showing a decrease in the rate of urban population. According to official statistics, 34.2% of the population of the economic region live in urban areas. The rapid decrease of the urban population is mostly observed in Agsu and Ismayilli. Based on the ancient urban tradition of Shamakhi, the expansion of urbanization was determined here. There is a flow from the surrounding districts and villages to the regional center and settlements of Shamakhi. But on the other hand, local residents have to come to Baku to build their business, social and political careers.

A number of people living in 13 villages of Shamakhi, 4 villages of Gobustan, 29 villages of Ismaili and 12 villages of Agsu have decreased to the minimum level.

II.8. CAPITAL CITY BAKU

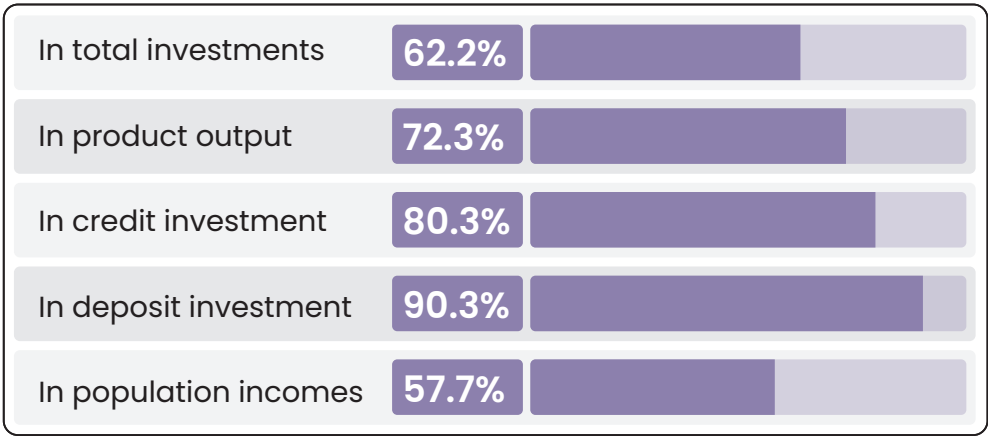
Historically being the capital city, free operation of different religious beliefs (fire worshipers, Christianity and Islam) here, and its location at the crossroads of major trade routes had increased the importance of Baku. Therefore, Baku is usually characterized as a place where Eastern and Western cultures meet.

Starting from the middle of the 19th century, the influx of large investments due to oil revenues created a new era for Baku and gave impetus to the "migration boom". If Baku ranked 5th in North Azerbaijan with 3.8 thousand inhabitants in 1854, it became a governorate with 13.5 thousand inhabitants after the earthquake in Shamakhi in 1859. The technologies discovered in those years related to oil production created a mass flow of labor migrants to the capital. The rise of the oil industry in Baku during the late 19th century marked the onset of capitalist relations in the region. Baku quickly emerged as a leading center of industry and population growth not only within the borders of the Republic but also across the Russian Empire. This period witnessed significant migration influxes, with Armenians, Russians, and other non-Muslim communities settling in Baku.

As the economy of Baku flourished, its population experienced rapid expansion. By 1887, the population of Baku had surged to 112 thousand people. The city underwent extensive transformations in its transport and economic infrastructure, with modern enterprises and buildings constructed using advanced technology.

Diagram 37.
Share of Baku city in the macroeconomic indicators of the country (%)

Source:
The State Statistics Committee and the AR Central Bank



Throughout the 20th century, Baku evolved into the largest city in the Caucasus region. In the 21st century, it gained recognition as one of the ten global cities situated within the Middle East, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe regions. Baku's strategic location as a key junction connecting these regions, along with its historical significance as a center of the Great Silk Road, further solidified its prominence.

Moreover, Baku has become renowned for hosting prestigious events encompassing culture, trade, sports, tourism, and more, further enhancing its global significance and influence.

The new settlement concept was developed according to the regional characteristics taking into account the strategic and geopolitical necessity of managing and improving population settlement by the current geopolitical, socio-economic, and demographic conditions. The oil industry has historically been a cornerstone of Azerbaijan's economy, particularly in the years following independence, with its primary focus around the capital city of Baku. Baku holds the top position in the "Investment Rating of Regions," reflecting its significance in the country's economic landscape. In 2018, Baku accounted for 72.3% of the country's output, 57.7% of the population's income, and 62.2% of total investments, as illustrated in Diagram 37.

The substantial investment flow into Baku is largely attributed to its dominance in the oil and gas sector, which accounted for 86% of direct investments in the country's economy. Furthermore, Baku's share in credit investments by financial institutions was approximately 80.3%, while deposit investments approached 90.3%, underscoring the disparity between the capital and other regions. This concentration of wealth in one area has contributed to demographic,

economic, and social imbalances within the country. Baku also holds prominence as a leading tourist destination in the Caucasus region. Recognized by "Forbes" magazine in 2014 as one of the top ten cities in the former USSR for business establishment by Russians, Baku received further accolades. In 2015, it ranked 7th in "Lonely Planet's" list of the most interesting places to visit and 51st in the "New York Times" ranking of the best places in the world to visit.

Currently, the total area of Baku spans 2,130 square kilometres, representing 2.5% of the country's territory. The city is administratively divided into 12 districts and comprises 59 settlements, reflecting its diverse and expansive urban landscape.

Demography and migration

As of January 1, 2019, the population of Baku stood at 2.3 million people, according to the State Statistical Committee (SSC). With 22.8% of the population residing in just 2.5% of the country's territory, Baku exhibits a notably high population density. Presently, the capital city accommodates approximately 1,064 people per square kilometre. The increasing number of informal residents in Baku suggests a consistent trend of migration towards the city, reflecting the prevailing direction of migration within Azerbaijan. Since the mid-19th century, natural population growth has played a relatively minor role in the demographic expansion of Baku. In 2018, the population growth rate per 1000 people was 7.3, marking the lowest indicator in the Republic. This decline can be attributed to more systematic family planning practices observed in major urban centers like Baku. Consequently, the rapid population growth in Baku primarily stems from migration influxes rather than natural increase.

The historical economic, cultural and

social center of Baku created a flow here from the regions. Naturally, people tend to go to the places where there is development. Administrative roads were used to prevent the flow to Baku during the Soviet period. Thus, registration in Baku was limited according to the Law "On Residence and Location" adopted in the 1970s. If it was possible to register in other cities through marriage, owning an apartment and appointment by the state, these conditions were somewhat stricter for Baku. The population's migration to the capital was prevented by the decision of the Executive Committee of the Baku Council of People's Deputies. This policy carried out during the Soviet era directed migration to other cities. Additionally, this limitation led to a decrease in the rate of urbanization in Azerbaijan compared to other post-Soviet countries (see: Chart 3). However, restrictions on registration of citizens disappeared after regaining independence. As a result, no other city that could compete with Baku in the country's internal migration has emerged in 30 years. The growth of the Absheron economic region is also dependent on Baku. Thus, the workplaces of the majority of the population of Sumgait, Khirdalan and Absheron are located in Baku. Until the 90s of the last century, there were more than 30 villages in the territory of Baku, but the villages received the status of settlements as a result of the rapid growth of the surrounding settlements of the capital. Even the settlements and villages were taken out

of Baku's administrative territory and given to Absheron district. Thus, a monocenter or agglomeration was formed in the region by the combination of settlements and cities around Baku with production, transport and cultural relations.

The alternative migration balance of Baku for 2018 was positive (+)35.7% . 11% of households increased due to migrants in 2018 compared to 2009. The growth of the surrounding towns and settlements under the influence of Baku brought the total migration balance of the Absheron Peninsula to a positive (+) 65%.

Most of the migrants who came to Baku settled in Khazar¹⁷, Sabunchu and Binagadi districts. The migration balance of those districts was +105.8% (2 times more), +85.4% and +52.1% respectively. In addition, the migration balance was +19.2% in Garadagh, +22.2% in Sabail, +36.3% in Surakhani, +32.4% in Narimanov, +13.2% in Nizami, +20.6% in Khatai and +7.9% in Yasamal.

The settlement has decreased relatively due to the reconstruction of urban planning in Nasimi and Yasamal districts. Relocation of people due to the reduction of buildings and demolition works in the territory of Nasimi district has made the migration balance here negative: -4.4%. However, "dancer-like" migration is observed at the highest level although permanent migration is decreasing in Nasimi district. Thus, the fact that the price of real estate in the region is higher compared to other regions reduces the availability of buying houses here.

¹⁷Note:

As the settlements and streets of Pirallahi and Khazar regions were given together for subscribers who consumed electricity, the statistical database for households was also combined for them. Therefore, the migration balance for Khazar and Pirallahi regions was presented together

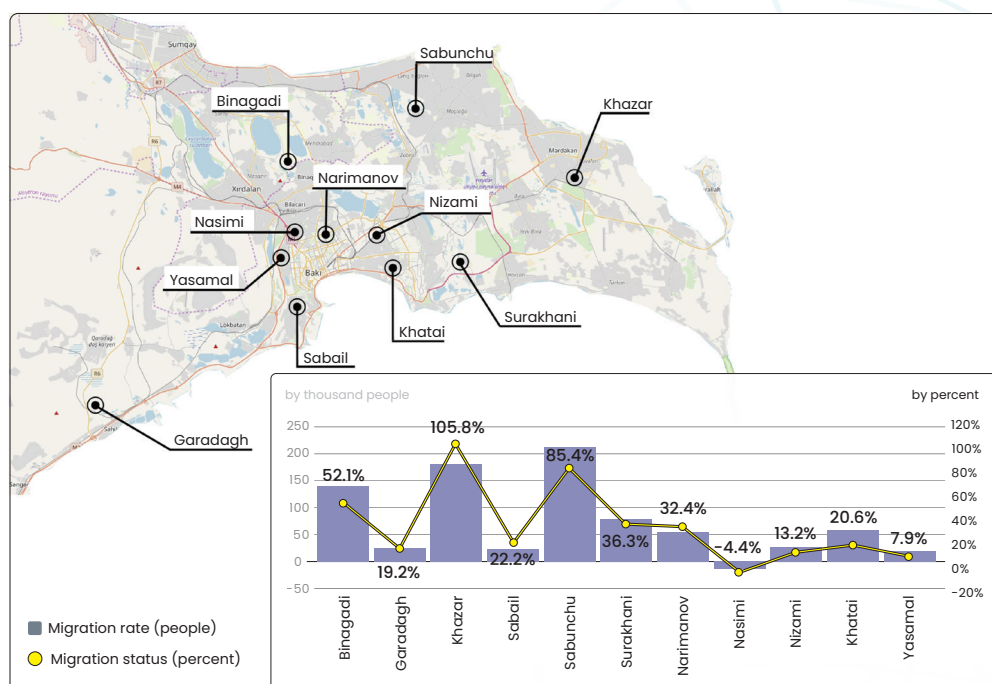
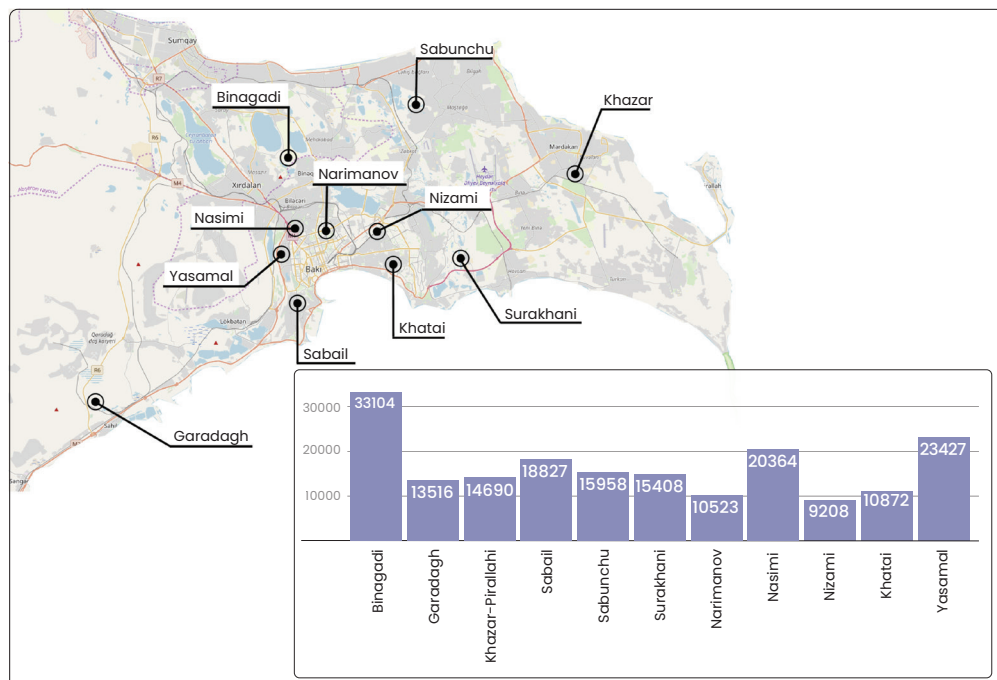


Diagram 38.
Migration level in Baku

Source:
Research group of the Social Research Center

Diagram 39.
The number of
refugees and
internally displaced
persons settled in
Baku (person)

Source:
State Committee
for Affairs of Refu-
gees and IDPs
(January, 2012)



However, it should also be noted that the mentioned district is one of the most active regions in terms of employment opportunities in the capital. Nasimi is one of the main districts where the largest catering facilities, hotels, plazas, offices of international and local organizations, enterprises, embassies are located. Therefore, the Nasimi district receives tens of thousands of people every day and it is the most congested area in the capital although the rate of people living permanently here has decreased.

The cheapness of real estate in Binagadi, Sabunchu and Khazar districts compared to other districts of Baku favors the rapid increase in the number of households and the settlement of migrants.

The characteristics of migration in Baku are complex. It is because Baku is strong as a capital due to its business, social and political opportunities and it attracts the population of other regions. As mentioned here above, after the ban on living and working without registration in Baku was cancelled during the Soviet era, the population suffering from unemployment, electricity, gas and water problems in the regions for many years flocked either to neighboring countries or to the capital and this process is still ongoing: most of the young people go to Baku and Sumgait either to get higher education or to work. The vast majority of people living in the regions, especially in the villages, are elderly. In addition, Baku plays the role of a transition for highly experienced specialists to move to other countries. Explaining this

in a simpler language, it can be said that a young man from any region comes to study in Baku. This young man is working and gaining experience here after studying at the university in the capital. He moves to other countries to increase his experience and search for a new life.

Migration processes caused by refugees and internally displaced persons in the capital city Baku

The socio-economic crisis and conflicts that arose in Azerbaijan in the last years of the former USSR (1988-1990) and in the first years of independence, as in all post-Soviet countries, had a serious impact on the migration situation of peoples. A mass migration of Armenian, Russian and Jewish families living in Azerbaijan, especially in Baku, Sumgait and Mingachevir took place and at the same time the process of voluntary and forced migration of Azerbaijanis living in the post-Soviet Republics to Azerbaijan (from Armenia and Georgia) was observed. The occurrence of a state of war with Armenia, the occupation of our lands and the displacement of people from their lands led to a chaotic migration process in the territory of the Republic. Baku had to shoulder the social and economic consequences of forced migration as the capital city. According to 2012 data, 190000 refugees and internally displaced persons were settled in Baku (See: Diagram 39).

Historical and social aspects of agglomeration and suburbanization of Baku

The socio-economic and demographic development of the Baku agglomeration accelerated the process of suburbanization in the territorial organization of settlement in the 1990s. Suburbanization, the migration of populations from large cities to suburbs, led to the formation of a significant urban agglomeration around Baku, marked by the construction of new satellite cities and settlements. This phenomenon traces its roots back to the late 19th century, with the emergence of approximately 10 workers' settlements surrounding Baku due to the burgeoning oil industry. This area eventually gained status as an industrial-mining district, laying the groundwork for suburbanization.

Throughout the Soviet period, the concentration of industry, production, and population in Baku accelerated, further solidifying its status as an urban agglomeration. The history of the Baku agglomeration reveals a dynamic evolution, with the city expanding rapidly by the end of the 19th century, driven by the oil industry. By the early 20th century, Baku had developed into a bustling urban center. In 1903, villages such as Sabunchu, Balakhani, Ramana, Zabrat, Binagadi, Bibiheybat, Surakhani, Amirjan, Bulbula, Zigh, Ahmadli, Keshla, and Kirmaki, situated around the city and serving as oil extraction areas, were incorporated into the newly established mining-factory district. Settlements for workers were formed near them. The population of these villages was 14.8 thousand people and the population of workers' settlements was 36.1 thousand people those years. The population of Baku was 214.7 thousand people in 1913 and was located in 25 administrative units, while the population of the villages included in the mine-factory area reached 51,4 thousand people within 10 years, 67,9 thousand people in the settlements and 119,3 thousand people as a whole.

Baku was planned together with the Absheron area in Azerbaijan during the years of Soviet rule and the construction planning of workers' settlements was given for the first time in urban planning in accordance with this plan. These were Yeni Keshla (Montin), Bakikhanov, Ga-

rachukhur, Binagadi, Mammadyarov (Rasulzadeh), Surakhani and Binagadi. There were 38 settlements around Baku in 1939. In 1939, the number of population of the Baku City Soviet was 809 thousand, i.e. 544000 of which lived in the city, 265000 of which in the suburbs and 21100 of which in the villages. The population of Baku increased from 193600 to 642500 during the years 1921-1959, i.e. 3.3 times, while the population of the mining-factory district located around the city increased from 61900 to 328.6 thousand or had increased 5.3 times.

In the period 1959-1989, the number of population of Baku agglomeration increased more than 2 times, while this increase was 1.8 times higher in Baku territorial area and 4.8 times higher in Sumgait territorial area. The villages of Absheron played a great role in the growth of the urban population and the formation of settlements during the Soviet period. The population of these villages worked in the enterprises of the Baku-Sumgait industrial junction after 1960. Placing a number of industrial and agro-industrial facilities in these villages made it possible for them to become urban settlements. The settlements of the former mine-factory district developed faster and joined the administrative boundaries of the city as a result of this process. The establishment of industrial enterprises in settlements 5-10 km away from the city during this period, as well as agro-industrial ones in settlements 10-20 km away, recreation and health care facilities and tourism centers in settlements 20-30 km away accelerated the development of settlements and caused a 2.1 times increase in the number of population by 30 years (1959-1989).

The process of villages growing and turning into settlements has accelerated as a result of the intensive development of industrialization in Absheron territory. Absheron village district was established in 1963 due to the development of agro-industrial complexes around Greater Baku in the 1960s. Only Khirdalan and Jeyranbatan settlements were part of it when this region was established, but Gobu, Hokmeli, Digah and Guzdek settlements were also included in this region in the mid-1960s.

The number of settlements continued to increase in the 1990s and some settlements even received the status of cities. The Kh-

irdalan settlement, which is the center of the district, was granted a city status in 2006 and Khizi was granted a city status in 2008.

The settlements of Badamdar, Ganligol, Yeni Yasamal, Rasulzade, Bilajari, 8th and 9th microdistricts, which were included in the western residential zone, as well as the settlements close to this area such as Khirdalan, Sahil and Lokbatan, increased rapidly towards the end of the Soviet rule in Azerbaijan according to the plan.

Baku agglomeration currently includes 2 satellite cities, 72 settlements and more than 10 villages. There are 59 settlements in Baku city territorial area, 2 in Sumgait city territorial area, 8 in Absheron area and 3 in Khizi district. The plan to create about 10 satellite cities within 30-50 km of Baku was not resolved during the Soviet era.

Growth of Baku and surrounding settlements and unequal distribution of migration

Experts say that it depends on several factors: economic, socio-cultural, political, etc.

The economic factor is the most important reason here. Naturally, people move to places where earning and job opportunities are abundant. The direction of urbanization will be directed to those cities if infrastructure projects are applied to those cities. The economic potential of all regions of Azerbaijan is weak compared to Baku in this regard. The fact that 80% of the country's loans and 62.2% of the investments fall on the share of Baku shows that the flow of investments across the country is towards the capital. The number, type and qualification requirements of the job places offered are greater in cities where large investments are made.

It is clear from our correlation related to the investments made in the construction and non-construction sectors in 2010-2018 by regions (except Baku) between the population incomes and the output that the curve of the investments in the income and output directed to the construction sector in the regions compared to the non-construction sector is higher. This means that employment in the regions is mainly provided by projects implemented at the expense of state investment funds. Thus, it is necessary to increase financial

accessibility and expand employment opportunities in the private sector in order to create an equal weight of non-construction funds across regions.

"The average hourly earnings of people in Baku and the Absheron peninsula are higher in comparison to the population of villages and regions. In addition, the generation of employment opportunities in the regions lags behind Baku. If we leave aside the development of tourism in one or two regions, we can see that agriculture is typical for all the other remaining regions. There is also no need of many workers for the agriculture. Their number is currently decreasing as technology advances and innovations increase. Thus, the direction is from the village to the city. Many services, such as public services (schools, universities, kindergartens, logistics, cinema, healthcare, etc.) are located in Baku. Many young people come to Baku to study. Later, they settle here" (Anar Valiyev, Dean of the Faculty of Public and International Relations of ADA).

The educational factor can be mentioned among the socio-cultural impacts. As the infrastructure of science, literature and art was mainly concentrated in the city of Baku from the Soviet era until today, people were forced to come to Baku from distant places to study and acquire art. The most prestigious institutions of higher education and the most sophisticated art infrastructure are mainly concentrated in Baku today. This creates a cultural and civilized atmosphere in Baku. Young people mostly prefer to stay in Baku for two reasons, they are cultural and economic reasons. They cannot express themselves in the province after perfecting their cultural thoughts in the capital. Baku becomes a more favorable place for them after the completion of higher education.

"Baku has historically been one step ahead of the regions due to its capital, cultural development, educational and social level. Therefore, people feel more secure in Baku. For example, people in the regions could not get high-quality health care and education in the late 90s when migration was at its peak. Even teachers from the regions came to Baku due to the wide range of tutoring opportunities, especially due to the possibility of providing additional education to the children of more profitable families.

The brain drains from the regions to the capital and teachers, doctors and

cultural workers come to the capital city. Moreover, ordinary people flocked to Baku after these creative people.

In addition, differences arose between the regions and the capital regarding cultural development. People could not find normal sports facilities in the regions and direct their children to sports. Although there were such facilities in the regional center, each time travelling from the villages to the regional center required a lot of money. They could get these opportunities more easily in Baku. Access to socio-cultural infrastructure was very low in the regions which affected the people's migration.

8-9 out of every 100 of 17-year-old young people in the villages have the opportunity to get higher education, while this ratio is 30-35 persons in Baku nowadays. This difference is related to the unequal development of education in the regions". (Rovshan Agayev, economist)

Limitation of opportunities for political participation and political career in the regions is also one of the factors affecting migration. Experts believe that political participation is one of the important factors that bind people to the region, especially to the cities and the capital.

"There are many people who want to participate in local elections and become political leaders of their area. When these people cannot find their political activism in the villages, they go to Baku. Local branches of all parties had offices in the 90s, they spent their days there, political discussions and various chess competitions were held there.

Political reasons will change economic reasons as well. It is necessary to switch to the electoral management system in order to balance the development difference between Baku and the regions. So, local political activity would increase and educated young people would become interested in staying in the regions." (Rovshan Agayev, economist)

Internal migration of the population from the regions to the Baku agglomeration and its impact on election activity

The migration of the population to the Baku agglomeration also affects the election activity in the regions. The issue of

those people's participation in the elections should be brought up considering that the balance of migration in Baku and Absheron is more than 60%. According to Article 47.2 of the AR Election Code, the fact that that citizen lives permanently in the territory of the relevant polling station determined by the body that carries out the registration of the place of residence or registration at the location should be taken as the basis (living in the territory of the polling station for at least 6 months out of the 12 months preceding the official publication of the decision (order) on the appointment of elections) in order to include a citizen in the voter list on a polling station. For example, in order for people who are not registered in Baku to get the right to vote here, they should have a registration document stating that they have lived in that area for at least 6 months, or they should apply to the precinct election commission for their area of residence. This affects voter turnout in the Milli Mejlis and municipal elections in villages where the population has decreased as a result of internal migration, excluding large cities in the regions.

II.8.1. The increase of internal migration in the capital and the megaproblems it causes

Approximately 3 million people live permanently in Baku nowadays according to the conclusion of the research group. More than 500 thousand people enter and leave the capital for a short period of time (this includes those who come to Baku for daily work, to sell their products on the market and to study) and it is called "dancer-like" migration. Overpopulation in the Baku agglomeration leads to a number of environmental problems as in the whole world: air pollution, water shortage, traffic jam, tectonic activity, public safety, etc. Therefore, urban planning should be prepared in advance. It is possible to solve the problems faced by the equal distribution of the population in the city. The city planning was strictly followed during the USSR. However, spontaneity began to appear in urban planning after regaining independence and the architectural image of the city was spoiled. All the settlements of Baku agglomeration were chaotically surrounded

by individual residential houses. Only mining and lake areas and some state-owned lands remained as empty inter-settlement areas in Absheron.

The population growth rate was very high during 1989-2018 in the settlements, villages and the city of Khirdalan located 5-10 km from Baku, which was the nuclear center of the region. The growth in the settlements located in the northern, north-western and eastern parts of the city was distinguished by its rapidity. There are constant traffic jams during peak hours because there is a dense "dancer-like" migration between these geographical settlements and the city. The "dancer-like" migration between Sumgait and Baku stands out for its tension. The growth rate of suburban population and "dancer-like" migration are observed to decrease when moving away from the city

The construction of a new city in Alat and the opening of the largest port on the Caspian Sea here have led to the acceleration of "dancer-like" migration in this direction and the increase of the role of industry in the functions of the settlements. In terms of location of residential areas according to distance from Baku city center, the settlements located within the following radius is distributed like that: the 1st is connected to the city, the 2nd is located within the radius of 10 km, the 3rd is between 10-20 km, the 4th is between 20-30 km, the 5th is between 30-50 km and the 6th is more than 50 km. **The following changes have occurred in the number and share of the population of Baku agglomeration by zones:**

1- 405.1 thousand people located in the 1st zone, i.e. in 7 settlements on the Baku-Sumgait highway and in the city of Khirdalan;

2- 235 thousand people in 9 settlements located in the 2nd zone as well as officially 30 thousand people in 2 villages and unofficially more than 100 thousand people;

3- 188,3 thousand in 15 settlements in the 3rd zone and more than 20 thousand in 2 villages;

4- 254.2 thousand in 17 settlements in the 4th zone and 2 thousand in 1 village;

5- 306.1 thousand people live in Sumgait city in the 5th zone, 67.7 thousand in 6 settlements and 8 thousand people in 4 villages.

There is a migration tension between Sumgait and Baku every day as a result of the growth of residential settlements around the city of **Baku in 1989-2018** and the locomotive center of the region and its transformation into a megalopolis on the Absheron peninsula. More than 300,000 vehicles enter the city during the day in this direction and large traffic jams occur at the **"20 Yanvar" metro station**.

"Currently, more than 660 000 vehicles are permanently registered in Baku. In addition, 250-300 thousand and sometimes more vehicles enter the capital every day from Absheron, Sumgait, as well as other cities and regions of the Republic. Moreover, passenger transportation is carried out with the involvement of more than 2 thousand buses. As a result, about 1 million vehicles are in motion on the highways during the day. The city of Baku is facing traffic congestion, which is characteristic of all megacities and has a negative impact on the harmony of daily life." (Ministry of Internal Affairs)

In recent years, the commissioning of high-speed trains in the direction of Baku-Sumgait, Baku-Ganja helps to distribute the stress in the logistics of transporting the population to a certain extent among the means of transport.

It becomes difficult to fully use the existing economic opportunities of the regions.

"Creative people in the regions are concentrated around Baku and unequal distribution of resources creates differences between the national incomes generated by the regions as a result. The gathering of internal migrants around Baku and Absheron leads to the loss of regions. This means lost resources and lost national income. The gathering of creative people in the fields of education, health, culture and sports in Baku affects the cultural backwardness of our people in the regions and the quality of education and health care services. None of the countries that have been successful in economic development in the last 50 years have been able to achieve overall economic development without achieving balanced regional development. Balanced development of regions is important for sustainable development of the country." (Rovshan Agayev, economist)

Another problem caused by agglom-

eration is the provision of social stability.

The issue of maintaining public order becomes difficult and complicated as the city grows. Crime, drug trafficking and use as well as human trafficking increase as control possibilities become more difficult. It is still difficult to find a complete solution to the problems nowadays, although modern technologies are used by the law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of the capital and even though cameras are installed. The fact that the majority of people who have come to the capital stay in rented accommodation without being registered and often change their addresses creates difficulties in solving the crimes committed by them and arresting those who are wanted. Moreover, the high probability of terrorist acts in megacities is the most important reason for ensuring public stability. So, additional forces are needed to ensure the security of strategically important institutions, state structures, educational and health centers. Law enforcement agencies are forced to attract additional forces and means as a result.

"Half of the illegal acts registered in the Republic nowadays and most of them in some cases take place in the capital. 37% of the 5591 people who committed crimes in the capital in 11 months of 2019 are residents of other cities and regions of the Republic. A number of persons from that category have increased by 22% compared to the same period of 2018." (Ministry of Internal Affairs)

As Baku grows nowadays, its utility supply is overloaded and its expansion requires additional investments.

Since the mid-2000s when the "building boom" was emerged, sewage (fecal) lines have even been connected to storm sewers when new buildings were being built. This is a factor that disturbs the ecological balance of the country. Additionally, Azerbaijan is the country with the least supply of fresh water in the region. In this regard, the Oguz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline was built, the sewage system was rebuilt and this process continued in order to provide high-quality drinking water to Baku. As Baku expanded, the investments made in this direction would continue and require additional funds.

The decrease in the number of rural population may cause problems related to food security in the future.

"The decrease in the number of young people in

the regions, including rural areas and the migration of families to big cities (Baku and its surrounding areas) disrupt the sustainable development of the regions and rural areas. The development potential of these areas remains unrealized in the result and agricultural production decreases." (Naila Verdiyeva, demographer)

The concentration of population and industry in a larger part of the country creates environmental consequences and increases tectonic activity.

"The natural and climatic conditions of the Baku area are not very favorable in terms of the rapid development of the urbanization process. This leads to the fast increase in the additional environmental problems. The problem of air pollution manifests itself especially in the hot summer season. Absheron lags behind other regions of the country in terms of longevity indicator. Territorial organization and placement of industrial enterprises and residential areas, which require a large area and generate large volumes of solid, liquid and gaseous wastes in high density conditions, become a problem. The pollution of the Caspian Sea with household waste and sewage also accelerates as the population increases and chaotic urbanization and land acquisition expands. There may come a time when the capital area will no longer be able to accommodate an excessive number of people in terms of physical and geographical conditions. I believe that the relocation of the capital will be inevitable in this case, the planning of the new capital and the start of that process will be accelerated." (Rovshan Karimov, Doctor of Philosophy in Geography, ANAS)

"Wells are dug instead of sewage system and it creates surface runoff. The increase in the number of passenger cars, especially old cars damages the environment. In addition, settlements have been built on the slopes and it encourages the landslide process. For example, many "slums" have been formed on the Bayil slope. Baku is rich in calcium-carbonate and clay layers due to its geological structure and these are layers that create conditions for landslides. Therefore, the city is burdened in all senses of the word. A number of surface waste, atmospheric waste and liquid waste are increasing every year. All of these have a negative impact on the

environment." (Sahib Mammadov)

The organization of leisure time in the regions is not properly organized.

Our surveys and observations show that unemployment is not the only reason that drives people to move from villages to cities. They are looking for the dynamic and free life available in the city.

"Gas, electricity and water supply to the regions have been established recently, but there is no organization available in terms of leisure time. Everyone can see the luxury of urban environments as their access to the Internet has increased. However, people go to the teahouses in their free time in the village. Not everyone has the opportunity to go to a teahouse every day. The infrastructure for efficient organization of leisure time is weak. There were cultural centers, cinemas, library networks in the regions before. There are very few of them now and they are not used for their purposes in many cases." (Sahib Mammadov, expert)

It should be noted that it is necessary to start organizing the free time from childhood in order for young people to grow up intellectually and educated, to stay away from bad habits. Preschool education should be expanded in villages and regions, creative and sports centers should be opened for schoolchildren. Such centers should not only consist of Olympic complexes located in the city center. Municipalities and local executive authorities can take economic initiatives within their capabilities, as well as the activity of youth homes should be activated a bit.

II.8.2. The work done to regulate internal migration and the positive trend observed

It should also be noted that great work has been done within the framework of the three state programs implemented since 2004 related to the socio-economic development program of the regions, as well as within the program of the measures adopted since 2006 to accelerate the socio-economic development of the settlements of Baku city. The road infrastructure of the regions and surrounding settlements of Baku has been reconstructed and the problems related to gas, electricity, water and sewage supply have been

eliminated to a certain extent.

"The implementation of the state programs on the socio-economic development of the regions approved by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev is of great importance in terms of the development of the regions. 4 state programs covering the following years, such as 2004-2008, 2009-2013, 2014-2018, 2019-2023 were adopted and three of them have already been successfully implemented recently. The implementation of the "State Program for the socio-economic development of the regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2019-2023" is being successfully continued nowadays.

These programs, which have been implemented since 2004, have radically changed the face of cities and regions and have contributed to the development of the non-oil sector, the improvement of the quality of utility services and social infrastructure provision in the regions, the further improvement of the entrepreneurship environment, the increase of investment, the opening of new enterprises, as well as job places. As a result, they have made extensive contributions to increasing the employment of the population and reducing the level of poverty". (AR Ministry of Economy)

During the implementation period of the first 3 State Programs, the gross domestic product increased 3.2 times, including the non-oil sector 2.8 times, industry 2.7 times, agriculture 1.5 times, investments 9.3 times, population incomes 6.5 times and the average monthly salary has increased 7 times. More than 2.2 million new job places, including 1.6 million permanent ones, as well as 55.6 thousand enterprises were created in the country as a result of the targeted measures implemented during this period. Moreover, unemployment decreased to 5% and the poverty level decreased to 5.3%. Large-scale works carried out within the state programs have created a solid foundation for the development of the regions in the coming years.

Therefore, the process of migration from the regions has slowed down in a few years and even a return has begun in some regions. A positive balance of migration is observed in regions that develop social and tourism infrastructure and are able to export their products to the foreign

market. Additionally, electronic recruitment of teachers and the application of distance coefficients for working in mountainous rural schools played an important role in solving the problems arising in the field of secondary education in the regions.

The level of accessibility of social services has increased. New secondary general education and pre-school educational institutions have been built in the regions, and Olympic complexes have been constructed nowadays. There are significant improvements in regions' Internet access.

"State programs had a positive impact on the development of regions and one of the most important points was the formation of infrastructure in the regions. Utility services are continuously provided. In this regard, the regions have developed in terms of infrastructure. We even observed the involvement of foreign investment to some of our regions. The main goal at the next stage should be to achieve the transformation of the infrastructure formed within the framework of state programs into a value in the regions. (Vugar Bayramov, economist)

II.9. INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

It should be noted that the uneven distribution of opportunities between cities and regions and the fact that urbanization takes place over one city are more specific for developing countries. Developed countries have been able to eliminate the social and cultural imbalance between rural and urban areas to a great extent. All the cities of these states have developed, education and economic competitions have arisen. On the other hand, developing countries face certain problems in ensuring equal competitiveness among all cities, and as a result, the population flows towards the most developed city.

States that "suffer" from the unidirectional development of internal migration implement various programs and large-scale measures. For example, Turkey implements various social programs to eliminate the poverty level in the regions and prevent the influx of people to Istanbul. Thus, since the 90s of the last century, Turkey has expanded economic opportunities in the regions for the creation of new job places and for the local population to gain income. Universities were

opened in each region - city, province and each region specialized in a different field.

The neighboring state of Georgia has also started building student campuses with a comprehensive program to increase the socio-economic potential of the regions.

Some states are implementing programs that require large investments, such as relocating the capital to reduce the burden on the capital and ensure its security. The first such experience from the post-Soviet states came from Kazakhstan. The capital was moved from Alma-Ata to Astana.

Egypt has prepared a plan to move its current capital, Cairo, to another city. The new capital will be located 45 km away from Cairo.

Malaysia has created an administrative center 30-40 km away from the capital. All state structures have been moved to that area. That is, the capital will be separate, the administrative center will be separate too.

II.9.1. Can the capital be moved: what alternative ways do experts suggest?

This practice carried out by many countries of the world is the result of the overloading of the capital and the collapse of the infrastructure. The approach to the ideas regarding the relocation of the capital is ambiguous in Azerbaijan.

"The population is overconcentrated in the city of Baku. It may be necessary to choose a new capital city in the future. However, I do not consider the implementation of such an idea to be an easy task at the present time. Azerbaijan faces the issue of solving a big problem like Karabakh. Our lands are under occupation, we have many regions that are located close to the front line. These factors prevent the demographic situation in the country, especially the efficient placement of human resources on the territory and implementation of this process with the scientific basis. However, the purpose of moving the capital is to eliminate the extreme disproportionality of the population in the regions of the country. The creation of a new capital will require huge financial costs related to the organization of the relevant infrastructure. Granting the capital status

to another city, moving administrative and other buildings to that area, settling numerous civil servants with their families in that city, etc. - effective provision of all these factors are not easy and quickly-solved issues. How to solve the issue of water supply of the new capital city? After all, Azerbaijan is one of the countries suffering from water scarcity due to its natural conditions. Relocating the capital means being ready to overcome related issues and difficulties which are important to be solved as well as being an actual issue." (Rovshan Karimov, Doctor of Philosophy in Geography, ANAS)

"This is a long-term process that requires large investments. Ten billions of dollars will be needed as additional funds. Attracting additional loans, new job places and new opportunities will arise. Baku will retain its cultural influence as an industrial city and there will always be development here. However, some of that development will be transferred to the place where the capital will be moved.

But changing the capital is not the only way out. Parallel steps should be taken with it. Azerbaijan has historically traditional cities, such as Shaki, Lankaran, Guba and others. Urbanization can also be transferred to these historical cities. Stimulating steps should be taken to attract people here. Cities with a population of more than 500 thousand people are considered metropolitan cities according to the approach of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It is necessary to achieve the creation of one or two cities with a population exceeding 500 thousand people apart from Baku. Ganja, Shaki can meet this demand. A rural development strategy and an urban (city) development strategy have been adopted as well as the listed targets would be set. Population growth can be stimulated through migration in large and medium-sized cities. The

growth of cities will be a great impetus to the development of the surrounding agrarian regions. For example, the possibilities of the farmers of the agrarian region close to Baku are wider today." (Rovshan Agayev, economist)

Many experts consider the Malaysian experience more appropriate. They suggest that universities and administrative bodies be moved a little outside the center of Baku.

"The city of Baku is very scattered as an administrative area. Urbanization takes place only in its central part. Garadagh region is completely empty. There is the issue of infrastructure removal. That is, there is no need for everything to be centralized in Baku. Educational and management institutions can be partially moved outside the city. It is possible to empty the center without leaving the borders of Baku city." (Sahib Mammadov, expert)

"We have created problems for Baku to an extent we did not want. Baku has earned the status of the capital with its history and activities in the development of our country. We should not forget it. I am against changing the capital city." (Elbay Gasimzadeh, Chairman of the Union of Architects)

"Changing the capital artificially has not led to any success in history. Simply changing Washington for political reasons was successful. It is wrong to move the capital in order to solve a few problems. It is generally impossible to create fertile conditions for the well-being of the population in the regions. Financial resources and available resources do not allow it. The market economy should decide these processes. No matter what we do artificially, it will not get right. For example, Astana, Brazil are artificial capitals that have not justified themselves." (Anar Valiyev, Dean of the Faculty of Public and International Relations of ADA)



CONCLUSION

□ One of the most common conclusions reached as a result of the study "Social aspects of internal migration and urbanization in Azerbaijan" conducted by the Social Research Center is that the rate of internal migration in Azerbaijan has increased during the years of independence. Intensification was observed in all types of internal migration, i.e. in the directions such as: 1. inter-district migration; 2. inter-regional migration; 3. migration between the city and the village; and 4. labor migration.

□ The average age of the respondents who took part in the survey when they first moved from their place of birth was 23 years old.

□ The focus of 63% of the main capital investment in Azerbaijan to the capital is aimed at the uneven direction of internal migration and it turns Baku to the most vulnerable city.

□ In Azerbaijan, moving of the urbanization process towards large cities, mainly the capital Baku, has caused the emergence of problems in the social, economic, political and environmental spheres. Overloading of the road transport, utilities, educational institutions, etc. infrastructures has led to the emergence of difficulties typical of megacities in the mentioned areas.

□ Internal migration and urbanization are factors that directly affect the provision of social and public stability in capital cities. The fact that a large number of migrating citizens are not registered in the area where they actually live creates problems in solving criminal cases. In particular, the migration to Baku aggravates the criminogenic situation of the capital. For example, 37% of the crimes committed in the capital in 11 months of year 2019 were committed by residents of other cities and regions of the Republic.

□ Excessive population density causes not only social discomfort arising from traditional "city-rural" relations, but also creates favorable conditions for the politicization of objective social problems caused by population density of certain forces.

□ The fact that the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has not been resolved in a fair way for more than thirty years and the settlement of more than one million refugees and internally displaced persons in the capital and regions is one of the biggest obstacles to the regulation of the internal migration process.

□ Although the State Migration Service was established in Azerbaijan, its functions

were mainly related to the regulation of the processes of arrival to and departure from the country. It remains unknown whether there is a specific state body regulating internal migration processes, mechanisms for preparing and evaluating activities in this direction. Systematic activity for tracking and registering the mobility of internal migrants has not been organized, or it is not known whether it exists or not.

□ The weak socio-cultural infrastructures in the regions, especially in the villages, keeps a large part of the children, schoolchildren and young people living there out of good education, which means a loss of professional personnel in the country's labor market.

□ Inflow from villages to cities in Azerbaijan, which is an agrarian country, may create important socio-economic threats in the near future in terms of lack of personnel reserves in the agricultural sector. Subsidies are allocated from the state budget for the production of agricultural products every year and concessions are applied too. According to the results of the survey conducted as a part of the research, people's interests in the agricultural sector are growing weakly despite the regular implementation of the above concessions by the state for the development of the agricultural sector.

□ The influx of people whose work habits have been formed in the field of agriculture for many years, qualified specialists, especially young people, to the city creates the problem of a shortage of qualified personnel in the regions. Thus, there is a shortage of qualified personnel such as veterinarians, zoo-technicians and agronomists in the agricultural sector. It is important that the products not sold in the farms are lost and problems arise in the establishment of recycling.

□ Although higher education schools were built during the Soviet period for the equal distribution of the population across the territories of the Republic, this policy remained somewhat in the background after regaining independence. Most of all public and private higher education institutions opened after regaining independence were located in Baku. The opening of private and state universities in other big cities besides Baku should be encouraged in order to organize the equal distribution of young personnel in the country. However, the development of regional higher education institutions has an impor-

tant role in regulating migration flows.

□ The development and promotion of entrepreneurship in the regions are poorly organized and financial availability is at a low level. Entrepreneurs have limited access to credit and interest rates on agricultural loans are high. Production enterprises cannot work at full capacity due to lack of raw materials and personnel.

□ People living in villages have poor mobile access to services (banks, ATMs, education and health infrastructure, etc.).

□ There are legal and regulatory gaps in the provision of social benefits (mortgage loans) by the state. The low price of real estate in the regions and the weak sales flexibility reduce the interest of financial and credit organizations in directing mortgage loans here. As a result, young people living in the regions have limited opportunities to get housing.

□ The activity of the "Regional Development" Public Union (RDPU) implementing important measures in the socio-economic, social and cultural life of the regions, which was created on the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, should also be emphasized. The RDPU implements useful work in the direction of implementing social business projects in the regions, implementing public control, investigating citizen appeals and proposals and solving the problems of the local population in cooperation with relevant institutions. For example, intensive orchards, vegetable and horticultural farms covering vulnerable groups (families of martyrs, people with disabilities, members of low-income families, etc.) have been created in 41 districts under the "Social Gardens" project of RDPU together with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population. Intensive orchards have been planted for nearly 400 families in recent months within the framework of the "Social Gardens" project.

□ Moreover, there is a need for effective use of existing youth homes, Heydar Aliyev centers and Olympic complexes to regulate flows from the regions to the capital. District and village life is boring for young people with higher education, they cannot find socio-cultural occupation to satisfy their social needs.

□ Many regions and villages of Azerbaijan have wide opportunities for ecotourism and agrotourism. Although the natural landscape of the southern region is especially favorable for the development of many types of tourism, these opportunities are not used. It is necessary to attract small and medium-sized entrepreneurs in order to organize this work, as well as create financial

access to them.

□ The presence of hesitations and gaps in the respondents in terms of the belonging-identity factor, as well as the positions of "I belong to and I am safe in the place where I live and work", linking belonging-identity with well-being, show the manifestation of hybrid identity in Azerbaijan as a multicultural society during the sociological survey and observations conducted in the implementation phase of this research. The difference in terms of the hybrid identity that began to emerge in Azerbaijan as a result of dynamic processes is mostly reflected in the representatives of the population born after 1990 and expressed as the "Z" generation in terms of the influence of migration on identity and the identities it creates. The concept of "hybrid identity" in addition to being a new fact appears as a result of changes in the social structure depending on historical changes. The reflection of the historical migration processes and the emerging multicultural society in Azerbaijan create the basis for the emergence of different concepts of identity in the context of the dynamic processes of the last decades at the social level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

□ Systematic activity aimed at state regulation of monitoring migration mobility within the country and registration of flows from regions to the capital have not been organized in Azerbaijan or it is not known whether it exists or not. It would be appropriate to establish a certain institution in the field of internal migration regulation or entrust this function to any institution within the existing structures.

□ Entrepreneurs should be given favorable tax concessions, financial assistance, as well as moral support in order to develop priority areas here for the rational regulation of population flows from the regions to the capital and bureaucratic obstacles should be removed.

□ Creating opportunities for local and foreign investment promotion in the regions is the need of the day.

□ It should be noted that the state's self-employment policy program is implemented with the aim of improving the social condition of the population in the regions, developing agricultural and the non-oil sector as well as eliminating unemployment. The program covered 7267 people in 2018 and 10000 families in 2019. It was planned to involve up to 15 thousand families in this program in 2020. Moreover, the self-employment policy cannot be considered a way out

in terms of preventing the population from flowing out of the regions. Since the social aspects of internal migration of the region's population are multifaceted, its prevention also requires taking complex measures.

□ Moreover, the labor fairs held several times a year are not a decisive way to solve the big problem of eliminating unemployment and ensuring employment in our regions. These fairs are not able to cover the majority of the population since their promotion and organization are mainly held in regional/district centers. Majority of the population is excluded from these measures. Those, who participate in these fairs, cannot often find a job that matches their experience and education. Therefore, more effective mechanisms for the implementation of the employment strategy in the regions should be developed.

□ The activity of higher schools in the regional centers of Azerbaijan that meet world standards and allow foreign students to study can enable the development of the region, slow down dynamic urbanization and prevent internal migration from being directed to big cities like Baku and Sumgait. Taking into account the world and CIS experiences, the establishment of science-education cities, "university towns", or technopolises, "science cities" in the regions for the development of higher and vocational schools is of strategic importance in terms of preventing the flow of young people from here. Regional technopolises are municipal institutions with the status of urban settlements in the world. Young people who come to study here should be provided not only with dormitories to stay, but also with public libraries, catering facilities, cultural and creative clubs, cinemas, banks and insurance companies according to modern standards. Building such a campus requires a huge investment. Preferential loans in addition to state funds can be allocated by banks to ensure the participation of entrepreneurs in this process. It should also be noted that a place where large funds flow brings with it socio-economic revival and supports the development of the surrounding regions.

□ The number of specializations in universities in the regions should be increased and master's education should be expanded. Educational opportunities, especially in the field of medicine should be created. Later, it becomes difficult for graduates who has gone to Baku and foreign countries to study medicine to return to the regions. Educational and promotional programs should be prepared for this purpose. Medical workers, especially doctors, should have a con-

tactual appointment. The appointment can be changed (conducted) based on electronic rules after a certain period. So, the need for medical personnel in the regions can be gradually met.

□ It is possible to prepare a wide range of social programs for this purpose according to the expert's proposal and to provide a system of appointment. Experts also think that the appointment system can be applied to other regional structures of the state as well as to the health care. So, the state can create the conditions for those who admitted to higher educational institution by concluding a contract with them and thus, creating an opportunity for them to work in the region of their choice for 5 years after they complete the education. Once a person starts working, strategies must be adopted to ensure their access to certain social services. Therefore, they should be given the opportunity to own a house on municipal or state land with interest-free mortgage. Coefficients can be applied for mountainous regions: for safety, for difficulty in living, etc. Appointment system, ratios, interest-free mortgages, etc. measures like these are important. "It is important to develop and implement stimulating mechanisms for attracting highly qualified personnel in order to improve the quality of education and health services in the regions. Work should be continued in the direction of restoring and strengthening the activities of secondary and vocational education institutions in the regions." (AR Ministry of Economy)

□ It is a positive thing that the Ministry of Agriculture has implemented stimulating measures in the last two years for the training of specialists in this direction in order to eliminate the shortage of personnel in the field of agriculture in the regions. However, the production potential of the regions should also be increased in parallel with this so that specialists can find an enterprise to work. Thus, the needs of each region, the type of product that can create value should be determined and vocational education should be developed in this direction.

□ The works should be continued in the following directions: in order for the population living in the villages to ensure their own employment by effectively using the share lands, to improve their income levels, to improve access to business loans from private banks with a minimum interest rate, to establish centers for the transfer of modern agrotechnical knowledge, to continue work in the direction of stimulating cooperatives in the villages and to allocate land plots for young families free of charge and improve-

ment of internal infrastructure (road, drinking water supply) of villages. (AR Ministry of Economy)

□ Improvement of infrastructure and opening of certain workplaces within the framework of state programs related to socio-economic development of regions cannot completely eliminate the employment problem of regions. Its main reason is the specialization of the regions only in the agricultural sector. Experts suggest adopting targeted programs to achieve economic growth and economic diversification of regions in the next state programs. A specific program should be adopted for each economic region and diagnostic analysis should be included in those programs. Then, the initial goal and indicators for solving the problem revealed by diagnostics should be defined. The fact that "Regional Development" Public Union (RDPU), which was created on the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and carried out important measures in the socio-economic, public and cultural life of the regions, covered the entire territory of the Republic with its activities and the existence of regional centers in the regions, focusing RDPU's main attention on the mobilization of important social initiatives in the implementation of important projects in the field of internal migration regulation as an institution, as well as giving it additional opportunities and powers can cause to obtain specific results.

□ "Being surrounded by the details of solving the problems of all regions (economic and infrastructure) creates complexity in physical terms and in terms of resources in the state programs for the development of the regions prepared at the country level. Thus, the approach of developing and implementing development programs by regional/city executive authorities at the local level is proposed in accordance with the problems of regional development policy at the country level. So, it is possible to reflect the general strategic vision, priorities, actions and expected results (target indicators) in the program at the national level; however, it is also possible to envisage and implement specific measures in the development plans at the local level (district and city) in all areas (economic, infrastructure, social, territorial planning)". (AR Ministry of Economy)

□ It is necessary to expand the scope of the measures implemented in the regions related to the creation of modern industrial zones - industrial parks and neighborhoods, to create new enterprises and to continue the work of stimulating entrepreneurial activity. It is necessary to continue measures to attract and stimulate foreign and domestic

investments in the non-oil sector in regions. (AR Ministry of Economy)

□ The lack of any policy or action plan of the local executive bodies in this area created a certain tension in internal migration during the relocation of the population living in the center of the capital city with access to all infrastructure for years as a result of the "construction boom" and the implementation of improvement measures. Attempts are made to keep this issue on the agenda by politicizing it from time to time by certain forces. Therefore, there is a need for local executive bodies to implement planned activities related to improvement works in the center.

□ "It is planned to complete the preparation of the "Baku City Master Plan" by the end of 2020 and submit the final draft of the document to the government of Azerbaijan for approval. As it is known, the preparation of the Master Plan was entrusted to the German "AS+P" urban planning company, winning the relevant tender. It would be useful to keep in mind the participation of local personnel who are familiar with the national traditions and characteristics of urban planning in such matters as strategic and multi-level planning of the urban area, use of land within the urban area for urban development purposes and other important issues.

□ A strategy should be prepared for the settlement and distribution of people across the Republic and for the purpose of sustainable and stable development of the state. Experts consider it important to adopt the Rural National Strategy and the Urban National Strategy separately. There is a need to create a working group that will oversee the development of strategies and its implementation. The group (Council, Supervisory Board) should consist of senior officials who can make decisions and coordinate issues related to population development. The short-term measures should be defined within the framework of the strategies, the specific characteristics of each region should be taken into account, researched and discussed. For example, measures can be taken to solve water and land reclamation, road infrastructure and other problems that slow down the development of any region and affect productivity in agriculture.

□ Opening of various circles and courses, organizing lectures and trainings, activities of public-based libraries should be expanded to organize the free time of young people. The control mechanism of the services provided to the population in the activities of local executive authorities and municipalities should be strengthened

in order to implement these works. It is necessary to lower their price and improve the quality of the services provided in order to ensure the accessibility of Olympic sports complexes to children and young people. Such centers can direct the interests of regional youth to their own regions by attracting them to live in a city like Baku, which includes a large and diverse cultural lifestyle. "The activities of cultural clubs created in every village did not generate income and were managed with grants during the Soviet period. Allocating so much grant for the state budget creates an additional burden nowadays. It is possible to provide a service on a household account with a cheap tariff in order to reduce the burden on the state budget. However, there should be at least theater and cinema buildings in the central cities and towns of the region, mutual tours of theater troupes from different regions, access to sports facilities for healthy lifestyle should be organized. Mobile performances can be organized in remote villages. All regions should be equally covered by social infrastructure. As to experts' opinions, this is not only an issue related to children's development, but also important in terms of increasing the attractiveness of regions for creative people. A creative person wants to spend his leisure time effectively. The limitation of these opportunities slows down the return from the city to the countryside.

□ Creating a locomotive city model is also one of the issues on the agenda. It can be any city - Ganja, Yevlakh, Shirvan, Mingachevir, etc. The city model with a population of one million or more after Baku can balance the density in Baku and Absheron in Azerbaijan in a certain sense. The second millionth city can act as a locomotive for the development of surrounding regions. Therefore, it is necessary to move the universities and part of the central executive authorities from Baku to that city. So, it is possible to slow down the migration in one direction if conditions are created for the normal, planned progress of urbanization. However, the important point to be noted here is that the availability of service infrastructure should be ensured for the flow of people to that region in parallel with the relocation of the administrative structure. Building of education, healthcare, cultural, social, economic, catering, etc. infrastructure is important.

□ the main activity is felt in Baku and big cities during election campaigns. Therefore, young people who want to build a political and business career move from the regions to the capital. The activity of the local

self-government bodies should be ensured and their powers should be increased in order to increase the participation and activity of people in the elections in the regions, to organize their representation in the political processes in the regions.

□ It is proposed to develop and implement a new mechanism for the construction of social houses for young and low-income families living in the regions and for them to obtain housing on more favorable terms in regions rather than in the capital.

□ It is very important to study the socio-economic problems caused by the concentration of productive forces in the Baku agglomeration during the years of independence and to develop the ways in order to eliminate them, as well as to study the current socio-economic and demographic development. A new settlement concept should be developed in accordance with the regional characteristics taking into account the strategic and geopolitical necessity of managing and improving population settlement in accordance with the current geopolitical, socio-economic and demographic conditions. It would be appropriate to create new cities in the areas of Bina-Hovsan, Mashtaga-Zabrat, Mahammadi-Kurdakhani, Mardakan-Shuvelan-Buzovna, as well as to give the status of a city and "Free Economic Zone" to Pirallahi settlement along with Alat settlement and so on in order to form several large cities around Baku.

□ Regulation of internal migration in Azerbaijan is a social issue of strategic importance. Thus, the fact that some social problems existing in the regions are politicized by outside forces and misused for destabilization is known and should be taken into account.

□ There are not only relatively few scientific studies in the direction of researching the various - political, socio-economic, demographic, legal, cultural-spiritual and geopolitical aspects of internal migration in Azerbaijan, but also they are even non-existent. It was revealed in the course of this research that there was no statistical and database related to internal migration and that no analysis was conducted in this direction. The geopolitical aspects of internal migration, which has become a global problem in the 21st century, are already being deeply analyzed. The above-mentioned should be kept in focus by the relevant research institutions of our country and should be included in their scientific activity plans. So, a strong state is primarily formed by strong regions.

ABBREVIATIONS

AR ME - Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

AR MIA - Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

UNO - United Nations Organization

SEC - State Examination Center SSC - State Statistics Committee

SCRIA - State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Refugee and IDP Affairs

SRC - Social Research Center UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1.

Qualitative survey questions of "Migration process in Azerbaijan: sociological aspects of internal migration"

Hello. My name is _____ I represent the Social Research Center A survey is currently being conducted by the Social Research Center on the topic "Migration process in Azerbaijan: sociological aspects of internal migration". Your answers will be kept confidential and anonymous and only your answers will be used in an aggregated form for research purposes without revealing your identity.

1) Information about the respondent
Gender: female or male

Age _____

Education _____

What are you engaged in now?-----

2) Marital status

How many members does your family consist of?

3) Where did you come from?

4) Did all members of the family or some of them come?
What do they do, how old are they, etc.

5) Does your family support you coming and living where you are now?

6) How long have you lived in your current location?

7) What is the reason that has brought you to where you are now?

7.1. What is your reason for staying here?

8) Are you registered in the place of your residence? (Those who do not live together with their family can go to question

8.1. How many members of your family are registered in the place of their residence? (including temporary registration places)

9) It is given to those who are single - Would you change your place of residence due to marriage?

10) Given to those who are married - Has marriage influenced you to change the place you lived?

Unmet demand

11) What that needed didn't you find in the region, village, settlement, etc. where you live?

(Use the options below to guide the respondent)

Education

Independence

Happiness

Freedom

Job opportunity

A different life

Opportunity to go abroad

It's been my dream and desire to move here before when I was a child-adolescent-student and afterwards.

Your own option....

(Don't count these options consecutively, let the person talk, then you will record, if needed)

12) What have you found that you need in your current location? (Use the options below to guide the respondent)

Education

Independence

Happiness

Freedom

Job opportunity

A different life

Opportunity to go abroad

Your own option....

(Don't count these options consecutively, let the person talk, then you will record, if needed)

13) What are your likes and dislikes about the city/region you are in?

14) What were your expectations and dreams? Did your expectations come true when you arrived at that place?

15) You moved here from the region. Do you want to move to another place with

hin the country or abroad? (If the answer is "No", go to question 19)

Note: These questions should be asked if the respondent

first says that he would go somewhere within the country and then abroad.

16) If available, where and why?

16.1. Have you gathered information about the country you are going to?

16.2. Who are you planning to visit?

16.3. Do you know anything about the registration conditions and social conditions in the country you are going to?

16.4. How do you think what challenges would you face? What can happen?

17) Which needs are not met here?

18) What unmet need do you think will be met where you want to relocate/abroad?

19) Where do you feel you belong to?

To my birthplace

To the place where I live now

Appendix 2.

To any foreign country -----

20) Where do you feel safe?

In my birthplace

In the city where I currently live In any foreign country-----

21) Would you like to go back to your region-district-village-town, etc. in the future?

22) How many people close to you have moved away from the area where they live?

Most

Some

Few

22.1. What is the reason for their migration?

23) How many of them live in your area of residence?

Thank you very much for your participation in the research. Would you like to add something at the end?

Consequences of Armenian military aggression (Statistics)



Azərbaycan Respublikasının işğal edilmiş əraziləri və bu ərazilərin azərbaycanlı əhalisi

Keçmiş Dağlıq Qarabağ Muxtar Vilayəti (DQMV) o cümlədən: Xankəndi, Şuşa, Xocalı, Xocavənd, Ağdərə*	Ərazi (km ²): 4,388	Əhali: 80,246*	İşğal tarixi: 1991-1993
	İşğal tarixi	Ərazi (km ²)	Əhali
Laçın	18.05.1992	1,840	77,660
Kəlbəcər	02.04.1993	3,050	93,053
Ağdam	23.07.1993	1,150	202,243
Füzuli	23.08.1993	1,390	132,387
Cəbrayıl	23.08.1993	1,050	80,825
Qubadlı	31.08.1993	800	41,125
Zəngilan	29.10.1993	730	44,853

Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası və Qazax rayonunun işğal edilmiş yaşayış məntəqələri

Azərbaycanın idarəetmə sahəsindəki mərkəzləri			
Naxçıvan MR		Qazax rayonu ¹	
Kərki ²	15.01.1990	Baqanis Ayrım	24.03.1990
		Xeyrimli	08.03.1992
		Aşağı Əskipara	12.03.1992
		Bərxudarlı	27.04.1992
		Sofulu	27.04.1992
		Qızılaçalı	11.05.1992
		Yuxarı Əskipara	08.06.1992

¹ Bu bölmədə əhaliyə dair məlumatlar 01.01.2019-cu il etibarilədir.

² 13 oktyabr 1992-ci ildə tədvi olunan qanunla

*Bu bölmədə əhaliyə dair məlumatlar 01.01.2019-cu il etibarilədir.

*13 oktyabr 1992-ci ildə işğal olunmuş əraziləri Ağdərə, Kəlbəcər və Tərtər rayonlarının inzibati tərkibinə verilməmişdir.

*Karkı kəndi: 826 nəfər məcburi köçkün

*Qazax rayonu: 7803 nəfər məcburi köçkün

Qaçqın və məcburi köçkünlər

Ermenistandan olan qaçqınlar	350,000
İşğal edilmiş ərazilərdən olan məcburi köçkünlər	716,054
Ermenistanla sərhəd və işğal edilmiş ərazilərə bitişik bölgələrdən köçürülmüş şəxslər	110,612
Cəmi:	1,176,666

Təcavüzün qurbanları

Halakət olanlar	20,000
Əlil olanlar	50,000
İkkin dərəcəli	3,888
İkkin dərəcəli, əsir və girov götürülənlərin ümumi sayı	5,364

İşğal edilmiş ərazilərdə olan Ermenistan hərbi qüvvələri

Tank	379
ZİMR	480
Artilleriya	570
Şəxsi heyət	45,409

Ermenistanın işğal etdiyi ərazilərdə qanunsuz yerləşdirilmiş əhali (1993-cü ildən etibarən)

Keçmiş DQMV	8,780
Laçın	13,945
Kəlbəcər	1585
Zəngilan	753
Cəbrayıl	398
Qubadlı	21
Cəmi	25,482*

*Qeyd: Ermenistan hökuməti Ermenistandan və digər ölkələrdən, xüsusilə Suriya, Livan və İranın olan erməniləri Azərbaycanın işğal altında olan ərazilərində məskunlaşdırmağa təşviq edir və onların bu ərazilərdə yerləşdirilməsinə maliyyə, maddi-texniki və s. yardımlar göstərir. Bu hesablamalar işğal olunmuş ərazilərə həyata keçirilmiş faktaraşdırıcı missiyaların hesabatlarına və digər mənbələrə əsaslanır.

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Yaşayış məntəqələri	900	Tarixi abidələr	706	Qaz xətləri/qazpaylayıcı qurğular	2 000 km/34
Yaşayış evləri	150 000	- o cümlədən,		Elektrik xətləri	76 940 km
İctimai binalar	7 093	- Məscidlər	57	Məşəllər	260 311 ha
- o cümlədən,		- Məbəd və kilsələr	125	Kit-ə yaraşır torpaqlar	645 000 ha
- Təhsil müəssisələri	1107	- Arxeoloji yaşayış yerləri	58	Skın yerləri	185 500 ha
- Uşaq bağçaları	855	- Qala və qala divarları	26	Faydalı qazıntı yataqları	163
- Tibb müəssisələri	521	Rəbbitə obyektləri/xətləri	598/3052 km	Təbii abidələri	215
- Sanatoriya-müalicə komp.	4	Kabel-kanalizasiya qurğuları	28980 km	Xüsusi mühafizə olunan təbii abidələri	43 007 ha
- Kitabxanalar	927	Sənaye və kəf obyekti	2 369	Relikt gillər	7
- Muzeylər	22	Avtomobil yolları	5 198 km	Suvarma sistemləri	29
Muzey eksponatları	100 000-dən çox	Dəmir yolları	325, 8 km	Su anbarları	10
Dövlət arxiv	12	Körpülər	348	Su xətləri	7 568 km
Dövlət arxiv fondu sənədləri	401 000 s/v				

Azerbaijan Republic	544,6	Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic	433,0
Baku city	789,1	Aran Economic Region	303,7
Absheron Economic Region	404,2	Goychay	264,5
Khizi	271,5	Beylagan	269,6
Absheron	362,5	Aghjabedi	261,2
Sumgait city	432,5	Barda	268,0
Ganja-Gazakh Economic region	331,5	Neftchala	303,6
Ganja city	373,8	Bilasuvur	298,7
Gazakh	307,9	Salyan	363,9
Aghstafa	276,9	Yevlakh city	300,6
Tovuz	275,8	Mingachevir city	316,3
Shamkir	304,1	Aghdash	263,0
Gadabay	440,7	Ujar	279,7
Dashkasan	398,2	Zardab	260,2
Samukh	287,9	Kurdamir	267,5
Goygol	326,6	Imishli	328,0
Goranboy	283,5	Saatli	284,4
Naftalan	352,1	Sabirabad	275,3
Shaki-Zaqatala Economic Region	288,3	Hajigabul	334,3
Balakan	272,3	Shirvan city	455,2
Zaqatala	269,8	Upper Karabakh Economic Region	294,6
Gakh	259,2	Jabrail	324,7
Shaki city	276,7	Fuzuli	287,2
Oghuz	283,1	Aghdam	278,3
Gabala	358,5	Tartar	269,5
Lankaran Economic Region	303,8	Khojaly	331,8
Astara	292,8	Shusha	486,4
Lankaran city	302,8	Khojavend	290,4
Lerik	295,7	Khankendi city	-
Yardimli	314,7	Kalbajar-Lachin Economic Region	331,4
Masalli	300,1	Kalbajar	325,8
Jalilabad	317,5	Lachin	314,1
Guba-Khachmaz Economic Region	330,9	Gubadli	376,4
Gusar	307,4	Zangilan	347,3
Khachmaz	334,1	Nagorno Shirvan Economic Region	306,8
Guba	322,7	Gobustan	316,5
Shabran	317,0	Ismailli	292,3
Siyazan	396,7	Aghsu	295,2
		Shamakhi	327,4

Note 3.

In 2018, the average monthly salary of salaried employees by country and economic regions

Source:
State Statistics Committee, 2018.

The highest average salary in the country was in Baku

The lowest average monthly salary in the country was in Gakh district

[illegible]



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