# ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHIC SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Dolgova Irina Evdokimovna
Candidate of Economic Sciences, Associate Professor of the
Tashkent State University of Economics

## ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the study of the demographic security of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan as a key component of its public security. The article examines the theoretical foundations for the formation of a state's demographic security. In addition, it calculates and analyzes the dynamics of changes in the main indicators of demographic security of the Republic of Uzbekistan over the period from 2015 to 2024, determines the current state of the country's demographic security, and identifies potential threats.

**Keywords:** Public security, demographic security, demography, population, demographic security indicators, internal and external security threats.

## INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, the role of the demographic component has increased, and its influence on the socio-economic development of society has intensified. As a result, governments of various countries are compelled to address a wide range of demographic challenges, which in some cases acquire the status of national threats. In the context of implementing Uzbekistan's new development strategy and transitioning to an innovative economy, there is a growing need for research aimed at improving indicators for assessing demographic security as an important component of economic security.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, large-scale reforms are being implemented to ensure a safe and peaceful life for the population, to foster law-abiding behavior among citizens, and to develop a culture of public interaction. It is evident that ensuring demographic security and, in a broader sense, economic security is possible only on the basis of an adequate assessment of the current situation. In addressing this task, statistics play a key role, as through special methods of data collection, processing, and analysis they make it possible to quantitatively and qualitatively characterize various aspects of demographic security.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to further develop the system of ensuring public security in the country and to identify promising directions of state policy in this area, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 29, 2021, "On Approval of the Concept of Public Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Measures for Its Implementation, "was adopted, according to which: "Public security is a state of protection of society from unlawful encroachments, social and interethnic conflicts, emergency situations, and other threats, contributing to its sustainable development and ensuring the realization of human rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests" [1].

In contemporary academic literature, there are numerous interpretations of the concept of "demographic security." In particular, demographic security is understood as "the protection of the process of life and the continuous natural reproduction of human generations" [5].

According to L. L. Rybakovsky, demographic security is "the functioning and development of a population as such in its age–sex and ethnic parameters, correlated with the national interests of the state, which consist in ensuring its integrity, independence, sovereignty, and the preservation of its existing geopolitical status" [8].  M. V. Karmanov believes that "demographic security is the protection of the socio-economic development of society from internal and external demographic threats, ensuring at a minimum the preservation of the geopolitical, economic, and ethnic status of the state" [7].

We agree with the view of S. V. Soboleva, who understands demographic security as "a state of protection of life, the continuous natural reproduction of the population, and the formation of demographic structures (sex-age, family, ethnic) from demographic threats, maintained through the institutional environment" [9].

From our point of view, demographic security is a category that permeates all spheres, segments, and sectors of the life activities of the human population. The logic of this interrelationship lies in the fact that the population acts as the fundamental object without which political, military, economic, social, cultural, and other types of public security lose their practical meaning. Only in relation to people does a threat acquire real contours, since it is capable of exerting a negative impact on the life of an individual and society as a whole (Fig. 1).
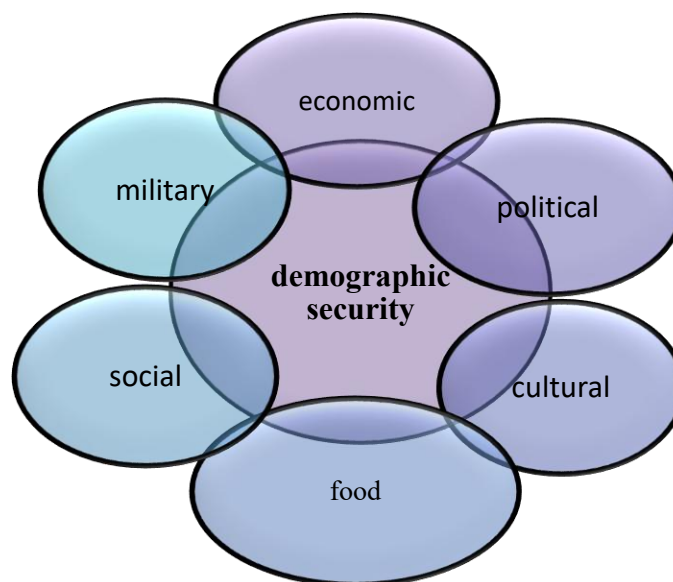


**Figure 1. The relationship between demographic security and other types of social security.**

A distinctive feature of the major demographic threats is their intercontinental, interstate, and interregional nature. The demographic security of any country is determined not only by the processes taking place within its borders, but also by demographic processes occurring in neighboring states and regions.

In the territory of the former Soviet Union, a detailed examination of this issue was first undertaken by Belarusian demographers and sociologists. Based on their research, the first law in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), "On the Demographic Security of the

Republic of Belarus" was adopted. In this law, the concept of demographic security is defined as "a state of protection of vital demographic reproduction processes from real and potential threats" [2].


## RESULTS

To characterize the level of demographic security of the Republic of Uzbekistan, we conducted an analysis of the dynamics of the main demographic indicators, in our view (table 1).

Table 1 Dynamics of Demographic Security Indicators of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2015–2024 (end of year)

| Indicators | 2015 | 2020 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population size, thousand persons | 31,0225 | 34,5589 | 36,0249 | 36,7998 | 37,5432 |
| Including: women, thousand persons | 15,7366 | 17,1805 | 17,8900 | 18,2748 | 18,6387 |
| Men, thousand persons | 15,8389 | 17,3784 | 18,1300 | 18,5250 | 18,9045 |
| Population density, persons/km² | 69.1 | 77.0 | 80.2 | 82.0 | 83.6 |
| Share of working-age population, % | 61.0 | 58.3 | 56.8 | 56.4 | 56.1 |
| Share of population above working age, % | 9.0 | 10.8 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 12.4 |
| Share of population below working age,% | 30.0 | 30.9 | 31.7 | 32.0 | 31.5 |
| Average age of the population, years | 28.1 | 29.0 | 28.6 | 29.0 | 29.3 |
| Number of births, total, persons | 734,141 | 841,817 | 932,200 | 961,962 | 926,422 |
| Number of deaths, total, persons | 152,035 | 175,625 | 172,100 | 172,757 | 174,413 |
| Natural population increase, persons | 582,106 | 666,192 | 760,100 | 789,205 | 752,009 |
| Total fertility rate (births per 1,000 women of reproductive age) | 2.5 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| Crude birth rate | 23.5 | 24.6 | 26.2 | 26.4 | 24.9 |
| Crude death rate | 4.9 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 |
| Life expectancy at birth, years | 73.6 | 73.4 | 74.3 | 74.7 | 75.1 |
| Maternal deaths, persons | 139 | 156 | 130 | 153 | 137 |
| Maternal mortality ratio | 18.9 | 18.5 | 13.9 | 15.9 | 15.4 |
| Infant mortality rate | 11.4 | 9.4 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 9.0 |
| Number of arrivals, persons | 139,280 | 191,086 | 214,800 | 218,794 | 241,800 |
| Number of departures, persons | 168,579 | 203,629 | 221,319 | 233,175 | 250,400 |
| Net migration, persons | −29,299 | −12,543 | −6,500 | −14,381 | −8,600 |
| Demographic dependency ratio | 0.64 | 0.71 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.77 |
| Replacement ratio | 4.06 | 3.89 | 3.68 | 3.48 | 3.39 |

Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia and ranks third among the CIS countries in terms of population size, after Russia and Ukraine.

Uzbekistan is a country with a growing population. In 1991, at the time of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, just over 20.5 million people lived in Uzbekistan. At present, according to the data of the National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as of January 1, 2025, the population of the republic amounted to 37,543.2 thousand people. Thus, from 1991 to the beginning of 2025, the population of Uzbekistan increased by 17,043.2 thousand people. In terms of regions, the largest populations are observed in Samarkand Region (4,297.5 thousand people), Fergana Region (4,144.7 thousand people), Kashkadarya Region (3,639.3 thousand people), and Andijan Region (3,461.0 thousand people). The smallest population resides in Syrdarya Region (930.8 thousand people).
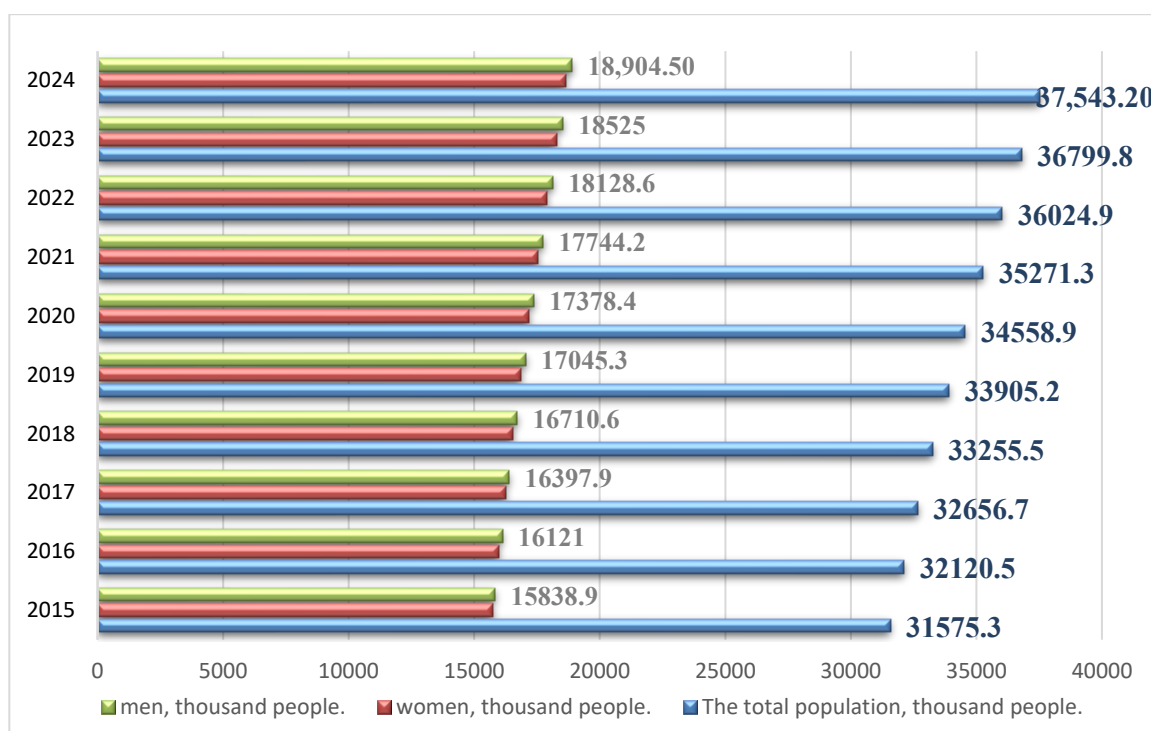
**Figure 2. The dynamics of changes in the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan by sex are as follows**

Speaking about gender demography, it can be noted that as of January 1, 2025, 18,904.5 thousand people, or 50.35% of the total population, were men, while 18,638.7 thousand people, or 49.65%, were women. In 2015, there were 1,006 men per 1,000 women in the country; as of January 1, 2025, this indicator was approximately 1,014 men. Thus, the sex ratio in the republic is practically balanced.

The growth of the republic's population is ensured by an increasing natural population increase and a declining migration balance. The natural increase of the population has been steadily rising. Thus, if in 2015 this indicator amounted to 582,106 people and in 2020 to 666,192 people, then in 2024 it reached 752,009 people. Compared to 2015, the growth amounted to 129.19%, i.e., an increase of 29.19% over this period.

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

Population density as of January 1, 2025, amounted to 83.6 persons per square kilometer, which is 1.6 persons more compared to the same period in 2024 (82.0 persons per sq. km as of January 1, 2024).

Life expectancy in the republic is also increasing. Thus, average life expectancy in 2024 rose to 75.1 years compared to 73.6 years in 2015.

At present, Uzbekistan's population is relatively young by global standards. However, over the period under review, there has been a trend toward an increase in the average age of the population. In 2015, the average age was 28.1 years; in 2022, it was 28.6 years; and by the end of 2024, it reached 29.3 years. Thus, there has been a slight but steady increase in the average age of the republic's population.

An important component in ensuring the demographic security of the state is the size of labor resources. The share of the population of working age declined in 2024 compared to 2015, from 61.0% to 56.1%, i.e., by 4.9 percentage points. At the same time, the share of the population above working age increased from 9.0% in 2015 to 12.4% by the end of 2024, which also indicates population aging processes in the republic.

The demographic dependency ratio is a generalized quantitative characteristic of the age structure of the population, showing the burden on society of the non-working population, i.e., pensioners and children. This indicator in the Republic of Uzbekistan increased from 64% in 2015 to 77% in 2024, indicating an increased burden on the working-age population.

Population reproduction is the process of the renewal of human generations and one of the main processes of social reproduction. The coefficient characterizing the degree of replacement of one generation by another, or the population reproduction coefficient, reflects overall changes in the size of generations under the simultaneous influence of fertility and mortality. The replacement ratio, which shows the number of children per 1,000 persons above working age, has shown a downward trend in the republic, decreasing from 4.06 in 2015 to 3.39 in 2024, indicating a narrowing generation replacement.

## DISCUSSION

In the republic, processes of demographic population aging are also reflected in a gradual decrease in the share of children and adolescents in the age structure of the population. Population aging represents a potential threat to the country, as over time it will lead to a reduction in the working-age population (fig. 3).
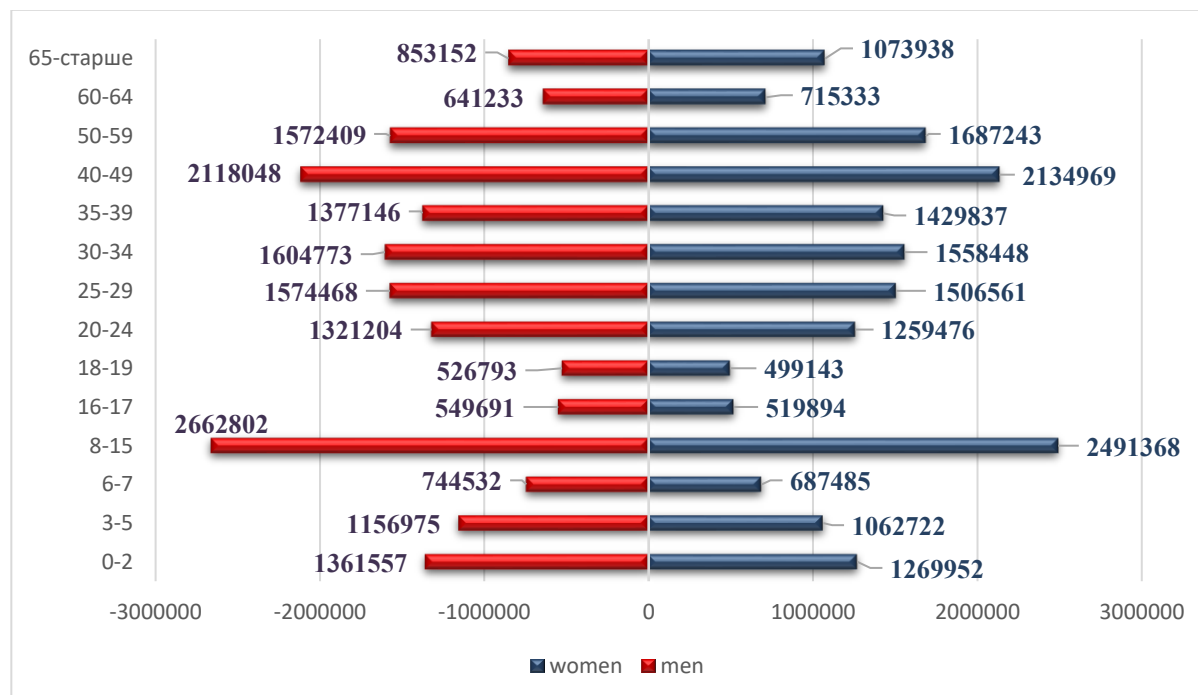


Figure 3. Sex–age pyramid of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the end of 2024

As shown by a comparative analysis, the population of working age in 2015, in particular in the age group 16–17 years, amounted to 573,318 men and 547,149 women; for the 18–19 age group, the figures were 644,294 men and 615,215 women, respectively; for the 20–24 age group, the number of men was 1,647,703 and women 1,589,644.

In the corresponding age groups of the 2024 sex–age pyramid, a decline in the working-age population is observed. In particular, for the 16–17 age group there were 549,691 men and 519,894 women; for the 18–19 age group, 526,793 men and 499,143 women, respectively.

If we consider the age groups 60–64 years and 65 years and older, the opposite trend is observed. In 2024, the population of the republic belonging to this age category increased significantly compared to 2015. In particular, in 2015 the number of men aged 60–64 was 385,322 and women 428,779, whereas in 2024 the number of men aged 60–64 reached 641,233 and women 715,333. Thus, the increase in the number of men in this age group amounted to 255,911 people, and women to 286,554 people. Overall, the population of this age group increased more than 1.6 times over the period from 2015 to 2024, which also indicates population aging in the republic.

## CONCLUSION

Summarizing the above, it can be concluded that the demographic situation in the Republic of Uzbekistan is fairly stable and secure, characterized by a steadily growing natural population increase sufficient for natural reproduction, a nearly balanced sex ratio, and increasing life expectancy.

However, the analysis also showed that over the period under review there has been a tendency toward an increase in the average age of the population, a gradual decrease in the share of children and adolescents in the age structure, an increase in the demographic dependency ratio, and a decline in the population replacement ratio. Taken together, these factors indicate population aging in the republic. Population aging represents a potential demographic threat to the country, as over time it will lead to a reduction in the working-age population.

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