

## Changes in the Urban Population in the Republic of the Volga Federal District of Russia

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**Abstract:** The study considers the the dynamics of the urban population in the republics of the Volga Federal District (VFD) Russia: Bashkortostan, Mari El, Mordovia, Tatarstan, Udmurtia, Chuvashia from 1990-2013. The main factors affecting to the changing in the urban population in these republics: decline in industrial production; internal and external migration; deterioration of the socio-economic conditions of the population, especially in small cities and towns associated with unemployment; aggravation of environmental problems in large cities and others. Of the 6 republics of the VFD the positive dynamics of the urban population is observed only in the Republic of Tatarstan to 197 thous. people from 1990-2012. And in the other republics of VFD there are negative indicators of the dynamics of the urban population.

**Key words:** Population, the city, the dynamics, the country, urbanization, urban settlement, Federal District

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### INTRODUCTION

The study examines the conditions and factors affecting to the changing in the urban population in the republics of the Volga Federal District: Bashkortostan, Mari-El, Mordovia, Tatarstan, Udmurtia, Chuvashia. The purpose of this research is to study the dynamics of the urban population in the republics located in the Volga Federal District and the identification of the conditions and factors that affect them. To achieve the objectives we used the following research methods: theoretical, empirical, predictive and others.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Urban settlements are considered settlements, classified in accordance with legislation in the category of cities. In Russia, the minimum population required for classification of settlements into the category of urban settlements include: for the cities 12 thous. people; to urban villages (working settlements) 3 thous. pers.; to settlements in places that have medicinal value 2 thous. people. Besides, the city should have had industrial enterprises and organizations or to be an important transport hub or have a significant number of the resident population. Also, every urban settlement has its own history, stages of development, lifestyle, culture, contributes to the gross regional product is created, the formation of labor and intellectual potential of the country, area, region and country. It is known that urban settlements perform specific functions: administrative,

political, industrial, transportation, trade, cultural, services and others. Therefore, larger urban settlements mostly are multifunctional. Urban settlements (cities) have a defined territory, the so-called city limits and the population within them is called the urban population. The ratio of urban and rural population characterizes the degree of urbanization territory a certain area, region, county, country.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An analysis of the literature shows that, historically, the initial premise and basis of formation of urban settlements in the territory of the republic, members of the Volga Federal District were the following conditions: trade and administrative centers, centers of mining and manufacturing industry, especially, the machine-building, chemical and forestry, fuel and energy, agriculture, etc. (Denmukhametov *et al.*, 2014; Biktimirov *et al.*, 2014; Gaisin, 2015, 2008). Many urban populations of these republics are the hubs because by the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan, Chuvashia, Mari El flows the river Volga and its major tributaries the Kama River and White on the territory of Tatarstan, Udmurtia, Bashkortostan. On the territory of the republics of the Volga Federal District also hosts various railways: Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Canas, Moscow; Perm-Izhevsk-Kazan-Agryz; Chelyabinsk-Ufa-Ulyanovsk-Bugulma; Perm-Bugulma Naberezhnye Chelny Ulyanovsk and others. Also road and pipeline routes connecting the East to the West to the central areas of the country with the Urals and Siberia and from North to

Table 1: The urban population in the republics of the Volga Federal District (Anonymous, 2004)

Republic	Urban population (thous. people)					Quantity		The difference between 1990 and 2012 (thous.people)
	1990	2001	2006	2010	2012	Cities	Settlements of city type	
Bashkortostan	2531	2636	2431	2452	2472	21	40	-59
Tatarstan	2681	2788	2804	2845	2878	22	18	+197
Udmurtia	1131	1105	1082	1056	1046	6	10	-85
Mordovia	547	541	508	504	503	7	13	-44
Mari El	464	465	447	440	442	6	11	-22
Chuvashia	780	801	780	732	741	9	8	-39
Total	8134	8336	8052	8029	8382	96	147	-249

Table 2: The classification of cities across the republic of the volga federal district of Russia

Number of residents	Bashkortostan	Mari El	Mordovia	Tatarstan	Udmurtia	Chuvashia
Millionaire city	Ufa			Kazan		
From 100.0-499.9 (thous. pers.)	Sterlitamak, Salavat Neftekamsk, October	Yoshkar-Ola	Saransk	Naberezhnye Chelny, Nizhnekamsk, Almetyevsk	Izhevsk, Sarapul	Cheboksary, Novocheboksarsk
From 50.0-99.9 (thous. pers.)	Beloretsk, Ishimbai, Tuimazy, Kumertau, Meleuz, Sibai, Belebei	Volzhsk		Zelenodolsk Bugulma, Yelabuga Leninogorsk Chistopol	Votkinsk, Glazov	
From 20.0-49.9 (thous. pers.)	Birsk Uchaly, Davlekanovo, Blagoveshchensk, Yanaul Dyurtyuli	Kozmodemyansk	Ruzaevka	Aznakaev Zainsk Nat Bavlly Buinsk Mendeleevsk	Mozhga	Canas, Alaty Shumerlya Tsivilsk, Kozlovka, Mariinsky Posad
From 10.0-19.9 (thous. pers.)	Agidel Baymak, Mezhgore	Zvenigovo		Agryz, Arsk, Marnadysh, Menzelinsk Tetyushi, Laishevo, Bulgar		

South, connecting the Middle Volga and the Urals to the Southern regions of the Volga Region, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

In the Volga Federal District, the urban population at January 1, 2012 is 21.187 thous. people (71.07%). Therefore, PPO refers to the urban areas of the Russian Federation and the republics of the urban population can be clearly traced in Table 1.

As can be seen from Table 1, for 12 years (from 1990-2012). There is a gradual decrease in the number of urban population in almost all the republics, except for the Republic of Tatarstan where the growth of the urban population is 197 thous. people and as of January 1, 2013, this figure is 219 thous. people (over-year growth of 22 thous. pers.). In general, the rest of the republics of the Volga Federal District decrease the proportion of the urban population in this period and the figure is 249 thous. people. In the republics of the Volga Federal District in 2012 lived 8382 thous. people, accounting for 39.56% of the urban population in the district.

Among the key factors influencing the reduction of the urban population from 1990 to the Volga Federal District can distinguish decline in industrial production due to the closure of some industrial enterprises and as a result of the deterioration of the socio-economic and environmental situation in many cities. And the intensity of the internal and external migration of the population originating from the early 90's of 20th century in these republics and the country as a whole including especially its ethnic aspects and rising unemployment and others (Gaisin and Biktimirov, 2014). As the analysis of the

literature, after the collapse of the former Soviet Union since 1991, many people living in the Republic of VFD: Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Georgians, Jews, Kazakhs, Germans, Ukrainians, Uzbeks and others left for permanent residence in their historic homeland and in other regions Russian Federation (Denmukhametov *et al.*, 2014; Biktimirov *et al.*, 2014; Gaisin, 2015, 2008).

In terms of total population of PFD the number of of urban population in the republics is different from each other. For example, the proportion of urban population is: in the Republic of Tatarstan (75.9%), in the Udmurt Republic (65.54%), in Mari El Recpublike (63.87%), in the Republic of Mordovia (61.22%), the Republic of Bashkortstan (61.69%), in the Chuvash Republic (60.70%) (Denmukhametov *et al.*, 2014). In the development of the economy of the VFD multifunctional role do the capital republics as Kazan, Ufa, Izhevsk, Yoshkar-Ola, Cheboksary, Saransk. These cities are located in the main: political administrative organizational-economic, cultural-educational activities republics. In addition, they are major industrial centers and important transport hubs of the country. Especially, great role of cities, millionaires: Kazan (1176 thous.), Ufa (1072 thous.). Depending on the number of urban population we highlight the following classification of the cities on the territory of the Volga Federal District.

As seen in Table 2, among cities with a population of 100-499.9 thous. people observed the largest number of citizens of the republics of the capital: Izhevsk (630 thous. people), Salavat (156), Yoshkar-Ola (253 thous.) followed

by the industrial city: Naberezhnye Chelny (519 thous.), Cheboksary (460 thous.), Sterlitamak (274 thous.), Nizhnekamsk (235 thous.), Salavat (156 thous.), Almet'yevsk (149 thous.), Novocheboksarsk (124 thous. people), Neftekamsk (123 thous. people), October (111 thous. people), Sarapul (101 thous. people) (Denmukhametov *et al.*, 2014; Khusnutdinova *et al.*, 2015). In the second half of the 20th century on the territory of Bashkortostan, Tatarstan and Chuvashia new cities as industrial centers Naberezhnye Chelny, Nizhnekamsk, Almet'yevsk, Zelenodolsk, Novocheboksarsk, October and others. During this period, these cities were built large industrial machinery, petroleum, chemical and petrochemical, power and other industries.

An analysis of populous Republic of VFD shows that since 1979, there is a continuous increase in the urban population, especially in Almet'yevsk, Kazan, Yoshkar-Ola, Naberezhnye Chelny, Sterlitamak, Ufa, Cheboksary. This is mainly due to the positive dynamics of development of socio-economic indicators in these cities. And in the Izhevsk, Nizhnekamsk, Novocheboksarsk, Salavat, Sarapul, since the beginning of the 2000's, there was a slight decline in the population connected by reducing fertility and increasing mortality, migration and the deterioration in the ecological status of these cities.

For example, the republics of Chuvashia and Mordovia regions retirement population (migration) are: the city of Moscow and the Moscow Region, Republic of Tatarstan, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara, Ulyanovsk region (Gaisin, 2015, 2008).

On the territory of the Volga Federal District there are many townships (Table 1). A large number of urban settlements in the territory of the Republics of Bashkortostan and Tatarstan. All these urban settlements mainly provided manpower, transport, located close to each other which contributes to a cost-efficient allocation of small industrial enterprises and organizations, particularly wood, oil, food and light industry, etc.

It is known that many small towns, worker's settlements on the territory of these republics PFD mainly occurred in 30-40 years of the 20th century on the site of some of the villages, mostly in connection with the development of the timber and woodworking industry and to the development of deposits of various minerals especially of oil and the construction of roads and railways. Therefore, among the urban villages (working settlements) is dominated by highly specialized "resource" settlements are small centers of mining and manufacturing industries it is mostly typical for areas where producing oil and natural gas, timber, placed the food industry and others (Denmukhametov *et al.*, 2014; Biktimirov *et al.*, 2014; Gaisin, 2015, 2008).

## CONCLUSION

The analysis shows the changes of the urban population PFD since the beginning of the 90's of the 20th century, almost all the republics, except for the Republic of Tatarstan, a decrease in the proportion of citizens. This is mainly due to the transition of the country's economy from a planned economy to a market economy. As a result, many industrial enterprises of different economic sectors located in these republics, changed their status and became known as joint-stock companies of open and closed types, private organizations and businesses, etc. As a result, these processes have led to the closure of many inefficient industries especially, mechanical engineering and construction industries and light industry and other industries in some cities and towns. The result was a reduction of a large number of engineering and technical personnel and highly skilled workers, a rise in unemployment and, consequently, a drop in living standards. Since 2007, in all regions of the Volga Federal District of Russia including in the republics, many townships were transferred to the status of rural settlements. All this is reflected in the change of the urban population of the republics and the whole of the Volga Federal District of the country.

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