

УДК 911.37

ОЦЕНКА ВЛИЯНИЯ МИГРАЦИИ НА СОЦИАЛЬНО-ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЕ ПОЛОЖЕНИЕ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ В АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКЕ НА ПРИМЕРЕ ГУБА-ХАЧМАЗСКОГО ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО РАЙОНА

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Аннотация. Рассчитаны показатели миграции в Губа-Хачмазском экономическом районе за 2000–2022 гг., а также проведена оценка влияния миграции на социально-экономическое положение населения. На основе индекса экономического развития хозяйства сравниваются показатели миграции в Гусарском, Хачмазском, Губинском, Шабранском и Сиязанском административных районах. Проанализированы литературные материалы. Установлено, что Губа-Хачмазский экономический район занимает выгодное географическое положение, обладает хорошими запасами нефти и природного газа, имеет условия для развития садоводства, овощеводства, зерноводства, животноводства и функционирования предприятий по переработке пищевых продуктов. Однако сложности переходного периода и проблемы с производством сельскохозяйственной продукции, работой перерабатывающих предприятий, оказанием услуг населению негативно отразились на переселении населения и усилили интенсивность внутренней миграции. Определено, что административный район с наибольшим количеством мигрантов считается привлекательным для трудоспособных мигрантов. Однако усиленная комплексная поддержка экономики изучаемого региона окажет положительное влияние на социально-экономическое положение и уровень жизни населения и, следовательно, позволит предотвратить миграцию трудовых ресурсов.

Ключевые слова: уровень миграции; экономический район; населенные пункты; население.

Благодарность. Автор выражает благодарность анонимным рецензентам журнала за ценные предложения, которые помогли улучшить теоретическую часть статьи.

ASSESSMENT OF THE MIGRATION IMPACT ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN USING THE EXAMPLE OF THE GUBA-KHACHMAZ ECONOMIC REGION

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Abstract. In the article, the migration rate of the territory was calculated in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region during the years 2000–2022 as well as the impact on the socio-economic conditions of the population was evaluated. The migration rate of Gusar, Khachmaz, Guba, Shabran and Siyazan administrative districts, which are included in the economic region, is

Образец цитирования:

Байрамов ТШ. Оценка влияния миграции на социально-экономическое положение населения в Азербайджанской Республике на примере Губа-Хачмазского экономического района. Журнал Белорусского государственного университета. География. Геология. 2024;2:62–71 (на англ.). EDN: RJPUC

For citation:

Bayramov TSh. Assessment of the migration impact on the socio-economic conditions of the population in the Republic of Azerbaijan using the example of the Guba-Khachmaz economic region. Journal of the Belarusian State University. Geography and Geology. 2024;2:62–71. EDN: RJPUC

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compared based on the economic development index of the farm. In addition, literature materials were analysed. As a result of the study, it turned out that occupying a favourable geographical position, the economic region has good reserves of oil and natural gas, has conditions for the development of fruit growing, vegetable growing, grain growing, animal husbandry and food processing enterprises. However, due to the difficulties of the transition period, problems with the production of agricultural products, the work of processing enterprises, the provision of services to the population negatively affected the resettlement of the population and increased the intensity of internal migration. Calculations were made and it was determined that the administrative district with the highest number of migrants is considered attractive for working-age migrants. Also, if comprehensive support for the development of the economy in the economic region is increased, it will prevent the migration of labour resources by having a positive effect on the socio-economic conditions and living standards of the population.

Keywords: migration rate; economic district; settlements.

Acknowledgements. The author is grateful to the anonymous reviewers of the journal for their valuable suggestions that helped to improve the theoretical part of the paper.

Introduction

As in other regions of our republic, in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region in the early 1990s, due to the difficulties of the transition period, the able-bodied population had to leave rural and urban areas. Thus, the active participation of labour resources in the migration processes in the economic region had a negative impact on the demographic indicators of the population and the level of natural growth.

In the Guba-Khachmaz economic region, the working population living in urban and rural areas face difficulties in finding permanent jobs according to their qualifications, the lack of labour-intensive areas, and the low level of areas serving the population have led to the intensity of migration. Also, it is very difficult to communicate with the villages located in the remote mountainous areas of the economic region, in an unfavourable transport-geographic position, especially in the autumn and winter months. This had a negative impact on the social conditions of the population living in those areas and created difficulties in providing employment for the labour-intensive population, causing them to leave their settlements.

With the aim of increasing the socio-economic development of the population within the framework of the regional socio-economic development state programmes (2004–2008, 2009–2013 and 2014–2018) in the economic region, new jobs and permanent jobs are created in city and district centres. As a result, since the main industrial areas and agricultural processing enterprises are located in the urban centres, the labour-saving population is more concentrated there, and this has led to the migration of the population living in the villages to the regional centres, neighbouring regions or other cities.

The socio-economic relations between the city and the village in the economic region and the active mechanical movement of the population living here had a positive effect on the development of rural-urban settlements. The growing demand for agricultural products in urban areas has led to further expansion of these relations. In addition, the supply of agricultural products in urban areas, and the increase of infrastructure and employment in rural areas will have a positive effect on the settlement of the population, its demographic development, and will also regulate the migration of the able-bodied population.

The diversity of the relief of the Guba-Khachmaz economic region has had a different effect on the appropriation and settlement of the area. The specialisation of the economic region with agricultural fields and the proximity of industrially important processing enterprises to the sources of raw materials had a positive effect on the demographic development of the population.

Also, the fact that the economic region is a tourism and recreation zone, the creation of tourist routes and places of rest, the flow of local and foreign tourists to the region have led to an increase in the area's attractiveness. The development of tourism in the region will have a positive effect on the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the population and the prevention of the migration of the able-bodied population to the outskirts.

For the future socio-economic and demographic development of the region, it is important to create a network of new facilities for the development of agricultural products, including light industry and social services.

Thus, in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region, the impact of the migration rate on the socio-economic conditions of the population was evaluated, the migration processes were analysed, and proposals and recommendations were made for their regulation.

Literature review

In order to achieve the dynamic growth of the economy in the region, special attention is paid to the development of non-material areas as well as material production areas. Proper placement of social infrastructure areas in individual regions of Guba-Khachmaz economic region is one of the most important issues. For many years, since the territorial organisation of social infrastructure in the regions was not carried out properly, the

settlement of the population in rural areas decreased and their migration to neighbouring cities and foreign countries intensified [1].

As in the whole world, there is a migration problem in Azerbaijan. Despite the fact that the migration process is familiar to everyone, it is observed that there are still no unified approaches in the direction of its prevention, understanding the complexity of managing this process. In addition, the poor connection of the rural population living in the mountainous regions of Azerbaijan with the district centres, the lack of timely delivery of services to the population, the sparseness of houses in remote mountain villages, their unplanned construction and sometimes their small size have led to the migration of the rural population [2].

The course of migration in individual regions of Azerbaijan is primarily determined by the natural growth of the population, the natural and geographical conditions of the area, the level of socio-economic development, the structure of the economy, development prospects, the level of employment of labour resources and other related factors. Population migration is weak in the regions where the mentioned factors are favourable for population living [3].

The low level of economic and socio-cultural base in the regions of our republic is the main factor determining the direction of migration flows. The low level of job security, housing conditions and socio-cultural services of the working-age population has a serious impact on migration processes. In addition, the weak socio-economic base of the population living in mountainous regions has had a negative impact on its demographic development. Due to the intensive flow of migration in rural areas, the demographic potential here has weakened [4].

It is important to regulate migration in different regions of Azerbaijan, to prevent the flow of the working population and qualified personnel abroad, and to regulate these processes, to create new jobs, and to improve housing conditions. At the same time, it is required to implement these measures on a larger scale in mountainous regions. Thus, it is necessary to constantly keep in mind the socio-economic conditions of the population living in mountainous regions [5].

Migration is one of the processes that determine the demographic development characteristics of the country and its regions with different levels of development, and the standard of the population living. The formation of the migration intensity of the population living in other regions of the republic is an integral part of the processes in the country. Thus, the economic and political crisis that occurred in the first years of independence had a negative effect on the demographic indicators of the population in the regions of the republic and accelerated its migration [6].

Although migration has had a weak impact on densely populated urban lifestyles, it has had a significant negative impact on the social conditions of sparsely populated rural areas. Nevertheless, migration movements between large cities or between regions continued to occur frequently [7].

Historically, it has been observed that migration processes act as the cause of economic crises, ethnic conflicts, social tensions and explosions. The frequent occurrence of wars and ethnic conflicts has led to an increase in the number of migrations [8].

One of the main demographic consequences of population migration is the disruption of its gender and age composition. Since most of the migrants are men, their number increases among the population, and great difficulties arise in the conditions of starting a family. This has had a negative impact on the demographic indicators of the rural population living in the mountainous regions of our republic [9].

The study of migration processes and the investigation of the reasons influencing the active participation of the population in migration is one of the main topics discussed in the world. Favourable natural and geographical conditions of the area, safe future, many jobs and increasing demand for labour resources, strong socio-economic base of the country are the reasons that attract migrants. In those regions where the socio-economic conditions of the population and service areas are high, it leads to an increase in the attractiveness of settlements and more population [10].

The growth of the urban population was influenced by the level of natural growth, the flow of migration from village to city and the weak socio-economic conditions in rural areas and the poor infrastructure that serves the population. Three-fifths of the increase in urban urbanisation in the world is due to rural-urban migration. Lack of jobs in rural areas and insufficient socio-economic conditions of the population have led to the expansion of urban urbanisation, increasing the flow of population from village to city. Accordingly, the natural growth level of urban population and the number of able-bodied people have increased sharply. In fact, the natural increase in urban population in developing countries is not much lower than the natural increase in rural population. Also, the increase in rural-urban migration has led to changes in the demographic composition of the population in rural areas [11].

The increase in the population in urban areas and, accordingly, the excessive expansion of their territory are associated with an increase in rural-urban migration. Thus, the systematic construction of infrastructure in urban centres and the large number of jobs have accelerated the migration of the population. Also, such an increase in the urban population is due to mechanical growth, not natural growth [12].

The mechanical movement of the world's population from one place to another has taken place under the influence of natural, political, military and economic factors, and in one way or another has affected the settlement of the population. Thus, slave commerce was encouraged, about 12 mln people being brought from Africa. Later on, the XIX and XX centuries brought along a revival of the migration towards the American continent, this time the immigrants coming mostly from Western Europe. They were representatives of the poor class, travelling to New World in seek of a better life [13].

The return of many migrants is associated with deteriorating economic conditions in their destinations and a desire to return and land. Analysing the social survey of migrant participants, we see that the majority of returnees are from rural areas. In developing countries, rural-to-rural migration is more prevalent than rural-to-urban migration. This trend is often observed in low-income countries. It also depends on the socio-economic conditions of the population living in rural areas [14].

The developed region has a positive impact on other nearby settlements. Also, the administrative district with a strong economic base plays a very important role in the socio-economic conditions of the rural population, the development of different areas of agriculture and the improvement of rural infrastructure. Residents living in villages close to district centres earn higher sales by producing more agricultural products to meet the needs of urban populations. These factors have a positive effect on the social conditions of the population living in rural areas, thus contributing to the survival of the population. If the administrative district, which plays a central role, is poorly developed economically, it will have a negative impact on rural settlement and increase migration [15].

Due to the establishment of industrial enterprises in urban centres, the able-bodied population is concentrated here, which has led to the expansion of the territory of cities in the horizontal and vertical directions. The expansion and transformation of urban areas is a dynamic and complex socio-economic phenomenon due to natural and anthropogenic factors. Accordingly, the increase in population density in urban settlements has led to socio-economic difficulties and demographic problems. Also, the increase in the number of jobs in urban centres and the provision of modern infrastructure are the main factors influencing the expansion of urbanisation [16].

The rapid or slow growth of cities has a direct impact on the socio-economic conditions of the population. In slow-growing cities, housing prices are falling. In fast-growing cities, housing prices are also high and a number of problems in providing housing for low-income families, lead to migration to other cities or regions. Therefore, the sale of apartments at low prices will allow relatively low-income families to make the most of these opportunities. Such slow growth of cities has a positive effect on the growth of its economic power [17].

Materials and methods

Study area. In the presented article, the Guba-Khachmaz economic region and its Gusar, Khachmaz, Guba, Shabran and Siyazan administrative districts were selected as the research object (fig. 1).

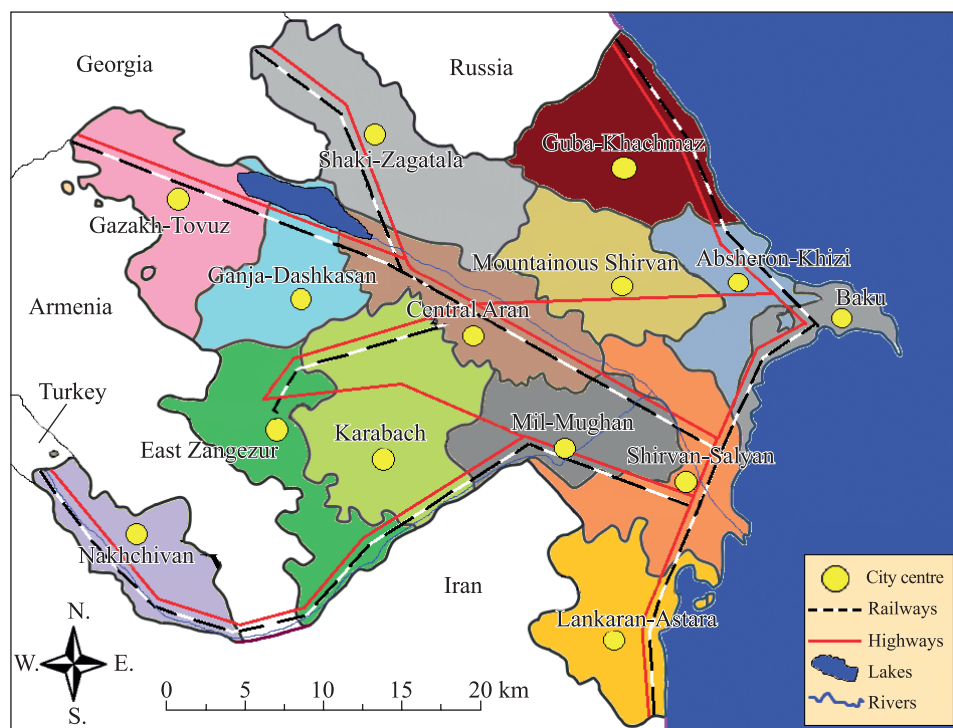


Fig. 1. Economic regions of Azerbaijan (prepared in ArcGIS (version 10.3))

Methods. The works of scientists and researchers of Azerbaijan on the socio-economic and demographic development of the regions as well as the information of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan were statistics used.

Statistical, comparative analysis, cartographic methods were used in the research.

In order to assess the impact of the migration rate on the socio-economic conditions of the population in the economic region, using the area migration rate formula proposed by M. Gonzalez-Leonardo and his colleagues more favourable settlements for population settlement in the economic region were determined [7]:

$$K_n = \frac{N}{P} \cdot 1000.$$

Here, K_n is the netto-migration rate of the area, N is the number of migrants, P is the average population size (in people).

Using the area migration rate formula we tentatively divided the administrative districts into three groups in the economic region:

- due to the low level of migration rate (less 2.0);
- according to the average level of the migration rate (2.0–4.0);
- due to the high level of the migration rate (over 4.0).

In addition, in order to assess the economic situation in the economic region, we conducted the analysis using the formula for evaluating the area according to the economic development index proposed by D. L. Lopatnikov and A. I. Esterov [18]:

$$I = \frac{V}{\sqrt{P \cdot S}}.$$

Here, I is the economic development index of the area (in conventional unit), V is the total product (in terms of price), P is the average population size (in people), S is the area of territory (in km²). If the economic index coefficient of the area is high in any region, the number of people migrating to that area is also high.

As well as, by using D. L. Lopatnikov and A. I. Esterov's economic development index formula, we conditionally divided the administrative districts into the following types according to the economic development dynamics of the area in the economic region:

- due to the very low level of the economic index (less 19.0);
- due to the low level of the economic index (19.0–29.0);
- according to the average level of the economic index (29.1–39.0);
- due to the high level of the economic index (over 39.0).

Results and discussion

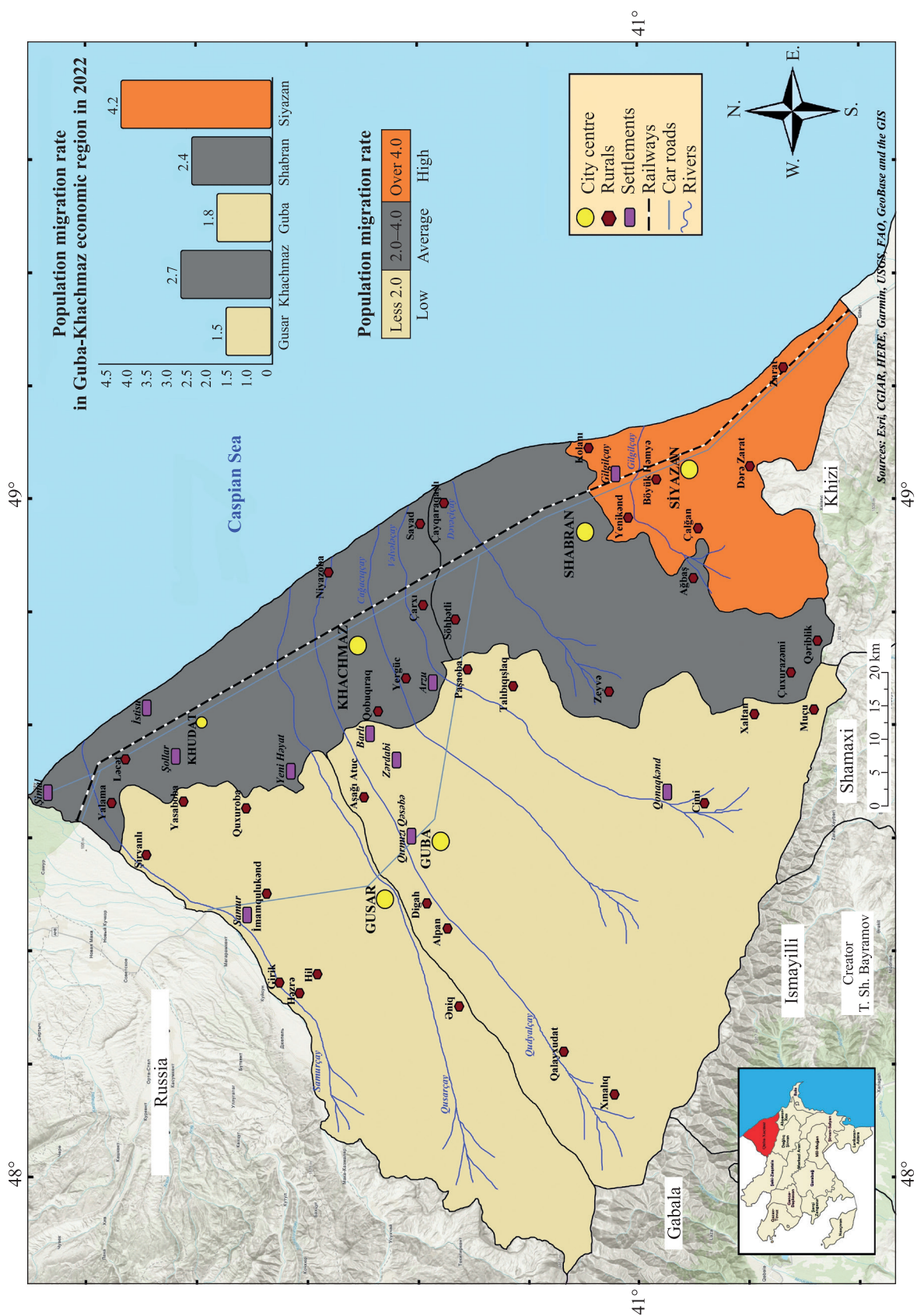
Thus, the presence of labour-intensive areas in the region, the opening of new jobs, the increase in the demand for labour resources and the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the population lead to an increase in the attractiveness of the area for migrants.

The strong socio-economic base of the population in the region and the increase in the number of permanent jobs with high income lead to the migration of the able-bodied population to those areas.

Figure 2 shows the migration rate of the area in Guba-Khachmaz economic region in 2022. Using the demographic and statistical indicators of Azerbaijan and the migration rate formula, we calculated in our research area and determined that in 2022, the highest indicator of the migration rate of the area was observed in Siyazan administrative district. The location of the administrative district close to the Absheron gorge, on the Azerbaijan – Russia transport corridor and the location of the largest poultry industry enterprise of our country (open joint stock company «Siyazan Broiler») has had a positive effect on the socio-economic conditions of the working population. In addition, the lowest indicator in the economic region was recorded in Guba and Gusar administrative districts. The migration rate was 1.8 and 1.5, respectively.

As can be seen from the map (fig. 3), the economy index of the area continued with an increasing trend in the economic region during 2003–2022. Also, a high indicator of the economic index was observed in Khachmaz administrative district. Thus, in 2003, the economic index in Khachmaz administrative district was 5.2, and in 2009, it increased 4 times and became 23.1. In the Guba-Khachmaz economic region, the economic index for 2022 was 35.8.

In addition, in 2022, the economic index coefficient of the area in the Khachmaz administrative district was 62.8, and it was 1.7 times higher than the indicator of the economic region. Also, the economic index coefficient of the area was 34.6 in Guba administrative district, and 28.8 in Gusar administrative district. The lowest indicator was recorded in Shabran administrative district and was 17.9.



68

Table 1

The number of workplaces in Guba-Khachmaz economic region in 2009–2022

District	2009–2013		2014–2018		2019–2022	
	Quantity	Share, %	Quantity	Share, %	Quantity	Share, %
Gusar	7934	30.6	6523	18.4	1645	17.9
Khachmaz	7616	29.4	10 343	29.2	2615	28.5
Guba	7017	27.1	10 483	29.6	4027	43.9
Shabran	2528	9.8	5366	15.2	478	5.2
Siyazan	813	3.1	2682	7.6	406	4.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>25 908</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>35 397</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>9171</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 1 shows the number and share of permanent jobs opened in the economic region by individual years. In 2009–2013, the largest number of jobs opened in the territory was registered in Gusar and Khachmaz administrative districts. The number of permanent jobs was 7934 and 7616, respectively. During 2014–2018, the largest number of jobs was observed in Guba and Khachmaz administrative districts (10 483 and 10 343, respectively).

The number of permanent jobs opened in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region was 25 908 in 2009–2013, and 35 397 in 2014–2018 (1.4 times more than the previous indicator).

Within the framework of the 2014–2018 state programmes, work was continued with the aim of improving the living conditions of the population in the economic region and preventing migration. Thus, repair works have been completed on the state border highway and 14 km road with the Gendob – Khachmaz – Yalama – Russia. Improvement of water supply of irrigated lands in Shabran and Siyazan administrative districts has been ensured.

During 2019–2022, the largest number of jobs opened in Guba and Khachmaz administrative districts were 43.9 and 28.5 %, respectively. The presence of favourable natural conditions and specialised agricultural fields in the region, and the abundance of raw material reserves lead to the opening of new jobs. At the same time, the provision of jobs to the working-age population will prevent the migration of the population living in the region to the outskirts.

Within the framework of the state programmes, the total number of industrial enterprises operating in Guba-Khachmaz economic region has been increased to 454. In addition, the number of new jobs was 35 397, and the number of permanent jobs was 30 429. In the economic and geographical region, the average monthly nominal salary for 5 years was 1561.3 manats, the number of unemployed people who received the status was 5455.0, and the average monthly salary of employees was 2272.2 manats [19].

As can be seen from table 2, in 2000, the migration rate of the territory was equal to 1 in the economic region. The highest indicator of the migration rate was observed in Guba administrative district (2.4), and the lowest indicator was observed in Gusar administrative district (0.2).

Also, during the following years, different indicators were recorded for administrative district. Thus, in 2020, the high indicators of the migration rate were 4.2 in Siyazan, 2.6 in Shabran and 2.2 in Khachmaz administrative districts. Also, population migration increases were 173, 149 and 371 people, respectively.

As can be seen from the fig. 4, the number of new jobs opened in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region is shown for 2005–2022. The number of new jobs opened in the economic region in 2005 was 9145. The increase in the number of jobs has a positive effect on the socio-economic conditions of the labour-conscious population living in the region. Nevertheless, as can be seen from the fig. 4, the number of jobs decreased gradually in the following years.

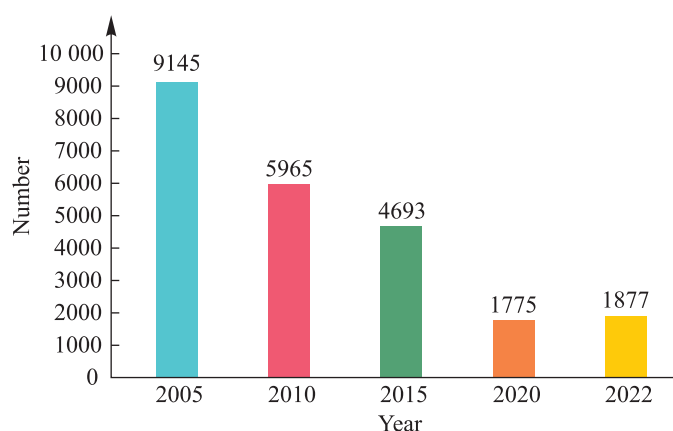


Fig. 4. The number of new opened workplaces in Guba-Khachmaz economic region in 2005–2022 (prepared on the data of statistical reports of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

Table 2

The population migration rate
in Guba-Khachmaz economic region in 2000–2022

District	2000			2005			2010		
	Migration growth, in people	The number of population average, in people	Migration rate, ‰	Migration growth, in people	The number of population average, in people	Migration rate, ‰	Migration growth, in people	The number of population average, in people	Migration rate, ‰
Gusar	–21	82.2	0.2	–546	85.3	6.4	–72	88.8	0.8
Khachmaz	–59	146.3	0.4	–466	153.7	3.0	–244	161.2	1.5
Guba	–332	138.4	2.4	407	144.9	2.8	–110	154.6	0.7
Shabran	–72	46.6	1.5	–307	49	6.3	26	52.6	0.5
Siyazan	42	33.9	1.2	–17	36	0.5	–30	38.1	0.8
Total	–442	447.5	1.0	–929	469	2.0	–430	495.4	0.9

District	2015			2020			2022		
	Migration growth, in people	The number of population average, in people	Migration rate, ‰	Migration growth, in people	The number of population average, in people	Migration rate, ‰	Migration growth, in people	The number of population average, in people	Migration rate, ‰
Gusar	172	94.4	1.8	35	100.1	0.3	150	101.3	1.5
Khachmaz	–315	172.1	1.8	371	170.4	2.2	462	172.8	2.7
Guba	159	165.0	1.0	260	165.8	1.6	301	168.3	1.8
Shabran	160	56.7	2.8	149	57.1	2.6	140	57.8	2.4
Siyazan	–65	40.7	1.6	173	40.8	4.2	175	41.3	4.2
Total	111	529.1	0.2	988	534.3	1.8	1228	541.6	2.3

Note. Prepared on the data of statistical reports, demographic indicators and regions of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan [19–21; 22].

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the socio-economic indicators of our country. Also, it has negatively affected the social life level of the working population in the economic region and has led to the acceleration of migration.

Thus, the number of new jobs opened in Guba-Khachmaz economic region in 2015 was 4693. In 2020, after the pandemic, the number of newly opened jobs decreased by 2.5 times. Also, the number of unemployed people in the economic region was 11 310 in 2015, and in 2022, it increased by 1.6 times to 18 036. As well as, if the unemployment rate of the population was 4.4 % in 2015, this indicator was 6.7 % in 2022 [4].

Conclusions

It is clear from the analysis of statistical indicators that the rate of migration in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region has had a different trend over the past 20 years. Thus, in 2010, the migration rate was 0.9, and in 2020, it doubled to 1.8.

In Guba-Khachmaz economic region, the indicator of the economic index coefficient of the area, which determines migration processes, was 35.8 in 2022, which was 1.2 times more than in the neighbouring Shaki-Zagatala (24.8), and 1.4 times more than in Mountainous Shirvan (21.8). The economic index coefficient for the country was 34.1, which was higher than in the economic region.

Favourable geographical position of the economic region, its location on the north-south transport corridor, neighbouring position with Russia, favourable conditions for the sale of agricultural products have had a positive effect on the socio-economic conditions of the population living in the region and have led to an increase in the area attractiveness.

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Received 31.05.2024 / revised 26.07.2024 / accepted 19.09.2024.