

DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS RESPUBLIC

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Abstract: Sustainable development is a process that encompasses improving people's quality of life, developing intellectual human potential, comprehensively modernizing the production and service sectors, ensuring food security through these transformations, enhancing the quality of public services, conserving oil, natural gas, and other natural resources through the use of environmentally efficient alternative energy sources, protecting the environment from pollution, and ensuring the continuous and balanced development of ecological, economic, and social systems.

At the present stage, the measures implemented to ensure sustainable development in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic have created positive trends in population dynamics. This article examines changes in the population of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and analyzes statistical data on the urban and rural population as well as the population by sex. The findings indicate that, under the influence of demographic, socio-economic, national-cultural, and other factors, positive changes have occurred in the population size of the Autonomous Republic.

Keywords: industry, agriculture, transport, population, men, women.

ДЕМОГРАФИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ УСТОЙЧИВОГО РАЗВИТИЯ НАХЧЫВАНСКОЙ АВТОНОМНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

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Аннотация: устойчивое развитие представляет собой процесс, включающий повышение качества жизни населения, формирование интеллектуального человеческого потенциала, комплексную модернизацию сфер производства и услуг, обеспечение продовольственной безопасности, повышение качества предоставляемых населению услуг, экономию нефти, природного газа и других природных ресурсов за счёт использования экологически эффективных альтернативных источников энергии, защиту окружающей среды от загрязнения, а также обеспечение непрерывного и сбалансированного экологического, экономического и социального развития. На современном этапе реализуемые в Нахчыванской Автономной Республике меры по обеспечению устойчивого развития способствовали формированию положительных тенденций в динамике численности населения. В статье исследуются изменения численности населения Нахчыванской Автономной Республики, а также анализируются статистические данные о городском и сельском населении и его распределении по полу. Результаты исследования показывают, что под влиянием демографических, социально-экономических, национально-культурных и других факторов в автономной республике произошли положительные изменения в численности населения.

Ключевые слова: промышленность, сельское хозяйство, транспорт, население, мужчины, женщины.

Introduction

The Nakhchivan region, an ancient and eternal land of Azerbaijan with a rich history, culture, and centuries-old traditions of statehood, is regarded as one of the cradles of human civilization and has historically been one of the major centers of trade, craftsmanship, science, and culture in the East.

The Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, an integral part of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is situated in the southwestern part of the Lesser Caucasus and in the southeastern part of the Transcaucasian Plateau. Its territory extends 158 km from northwest to southeast and 75 km from north to south. It borders the Republic of Armenia to the north and northeast (246 km), the Islamic Republic of Iran to the south and southwest (204 km), and the Republic of Türkiye to the southwest (15 km), with a total border length of 465 km. The territory of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic covers 5.5 thousand square kilometres, with a population of 472.4 thousand

people as of 1 January 2026. Of the total population, 167.5 thousand people (35.5%) reside in urban areas, while 304.9 thousand people (64.5%) live in rural areas. Men account for 235.8 thousand people (49.9%) and women for 236.6 thousand people (50.1%). The population density is 85.9 persons per square kilometre. According to the 2019 Population Census, Azerbaijanis constitute 99.7% of the population of the Autonomous Republic, while the remaining population consists of Russians, Kurds, and representatives of other ethnic groups. In 2019, life expectancy was 76.6 years for men and 80.7 years for women. The Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic comprises its capital city, Nakhchivan, which is a major industrial, scientific, and cultural center, together with seven administrative districts: Sharur, Babek, Ordubad, Julfa, Kangarli, Shahbuz, and Sadarak. These administrative units include six cities (Nakhchivan, Ordubad, Julfa, Sharur, Shahbuz, and Babek), nine settlements, and 203 rural residential localities [2 p. 14].

Main Part

Following the restoration of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, significant changes occurred in the socio-economic life of both the country and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which is an integral part of Azerbaijan. As in the rest of the country, economic achievements in the Autonomous Republic have created new opportunities for social development. Compared with the corresponding period of 2023, the gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 3.1% to reach 1,539,514.5 thousand manats. GDP per capita also increased by 2.5% compared with the corresponding period of 2023, reaching 3,277.0 manats [4].

Despite having remained under blockade for more than 30 years, the sustainable development of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic has been evident not only in the economic sphere but also in other sectors. At the present stage, the measures undertaken to ensure sustainable economic development have also generated positive trends in population growth.

According to the results of the first national population census conducted in independent Azerbaijan on 27 January 1999, the population of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic amounted to 354.1 thousand people. Of these, 95.1 thousand people (26.9%) lived in urban areas, while 259.0 thousand people (73.1%) resided in rural areas. At that time, men accounted for 174.5 thousand people (49.3%) and women for 179.6 thousand people (50.7%) of the total population.

According to official statistical data as of 1 January 2026, the population of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic reached 472.4 thousand people. Of these, 167.5 thousand people (35.5%) live in urban areas, whereas 304.9 thousand people (64.5%) reside in rural areas. Men constitute 235.8 thousand people (49.9%) of the population, while women account for 236.6 thousand people (50.1%).

Table 1. Population of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic by Sex (at the beginning of the year, thousand persons).

years	Population size (thousand people)	including		For the whole population, in percentage		including		For the whole population, in percentage	
		city	village	city	village	men	wo-men	men	wo-men
1991	307,2	89,9	217,3	29,3	70,7	151,0	156,2	49,2	50,8
1992	315,1	91,5	223,6	29,0	71,0	154,9	160,2	49,2	50,8
1993	320,8	91,8	229,0	28,6	71,4	157,8	163,0	49,2	50,8
1994	326,1	92,5	233,6	28,4	71,6	159,1	167,0	48,8	51,2
1995	331,9	93,3	238,6	28,1	71,9	163,4	168,5	49,2	50,8
1996	337,8	94,2	243,6	27,9	72,1	166,3	171,5	49,2	50,8
1997	343,0	94,5	248,5	27,6	72,4	168,9	174,1	49,2	50,8
1998	348,0	94,3	253,7	27,1	72,9	171,2	176,8	49,2	50,8
1999	354,1	95,1	259,0	26,9	73,1	174,5	179,6	49,3	50,7
2000	358,8	96,2	262,6	26,8	73,2	177,0	181,8	49,3	50,7
2001	363,1	97,1	266,0	26,7	73,3	179,2	183,9	49,4	50,6
2002	366,9	97,8	269,1	26,7	73,3	181,1	185,8	49,4	50,6
2003	370,4	98,9	271,5	26,7	73,3	181,6	188,8	49,0	51,0
2004	373,9	110,1	263,8	29,4	70,6	186,0	187,9	49,7	50,3
2005	377,8	110,9	266,9	29,4	70,6	187,3	190,5	49,6	50,4
2006	382,1	111,6	270,5	29,2	70,8	189,7	192,4	49,6	50,4
2007	386,0	112,3	273,7	29,1	70,9	191,7	194,3	49,7	50,3
2008	391,8	114,2	277,6	29,1	70,9	193,0	198,8	49,3	50,7
2009	397,3	115,4	281,9	29,0	71,0	197,8	199,5	49,8	50,2
2010	402,4	116,7	285,7	29,0	71,0	200,0	202,4	49,7	50,3
2011	410,1	119,5	290,6	29,1	70,9	204,2	205,9	49,8	50,2
2012	418,5	121,7	296,8	29,1	70,9	208,2	210,3	49,7	50,3

2013	427,2	123,9	303,3	29,0	71,0	212,5	214,7	49,7	50,3
2014	435,3	127,2	308,1	29,2	70,8	216,7	218,6	49,8	50,2
2015	439,8	128,2	311,6	29,1	70,9	219,1	220,7	49,8	50,2
2016	444,4	131,0	313,4	29,5	70,5	221,6	222,8	49,9	50,1
2017	449,1	132,4	316,7	29,5	70,5	224,1	225,0	49,9	50,1
2018	452,8	133,6	319,2	29,5	70,5	226,0	226,8	49,9	50,1
2019	456,1	134,5	321,6	29,5	70,5	227,7	228,4	49,9	50,1
2020	459,6	135,6	324,0	29,5	70,5	229,6	230,0	50,0	50,0
2021	461,7	163,4	298,3	35,4	64,6	230,6	231,1	49,9	50,1
2022	463,1	164,0	299,1	35,4	64,6	231,4	231,7	50,0	50,0
2023	465,7	165,0	300,7	35,4	64,6	232,6	233,1	49,9	50,1
2024	468,6	166,2	302,4	35,5	64,5	234,0	234,6	49,9	50,1
2025	470,9	167,1	303,8	35,5	64,5	235,1	235,8	49,9	50,1
2026	472,4	167,5	304,9	35,5	64,5	235,8	236,6	49,9	50,1

Note: The table was compiled by the author based on the statistical data of the State Statistical Committee of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

As can be seen from the above table, during the 27-year period covering 1999–2026, the population of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic increased by 118.3 thousand people, or 33.4%, rising from 354.1 thousand to 472.4 thousand. During the same period, the urban population increased by 72.4 thousand people, or 76.1%, from 95.1 thousand to 167.5 thousand, while the rural population increased by 45.9 thousand people, or 17.7%, from 259.0 thousand to 304.9 thousand. The number of men increased by 61.3 thousand people, or 35.1%, from 174.5 thousand to 235.8 thousand, whereas the number of women increased by 57.0 thousand people, or 31.7%, from 179.6 thousand to 236.6 thousand. The increase in the population of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is associated with changes in demographic development indicators resulting from the existing socio-economic, national-cultural, and other factors prevailing in the Autonomous Republic.

Conclusion

The Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, an integral part of the Republic of Azerbaijan and an ancient homeland of the Azerbaijani people, has been inhabited by Azerbaijani Turks for thousands of years. They laid the foundations of a strong tradition of statehood and, through great sacrifices during different historical periods, preserved the existence of this ancient land. In the modern era, they have continued to demonstrate determination in its development and have achieved significant successes.

The conducted research demonstrates that the economic achievements attained in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic have created new opportunities for social development. Sustainable development covering all sectors of the economy, comprehensive advancement of the social sphere and the healthcare system, improvement in the scope and quality of public utilities, services, and social infrastructure, restoration of industrial enterprises and establishment of new production facilities, implementation of comprehensive measures for the development of the agricultural sector, creation of new jobs, enhancement of employment, reduction of poverty, and the successful implementation of other socio-economic policies have collectively resulted in positive changes in the population dynamics of the Autonomous Republic.

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