UDC 314.15(477.74)(045)
# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF ODESA REGION

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***Abstract.*** *Geodemographic processes are important indicators of the region's development. Analysis of indicators of population movement - natural and mechanical, sex-age structure, load on the able-bodied population by children, pensioners, determine the main indicators of demographic processes of the studied territory. The article analyzes the demographic indicators of the population of the Odesa region during 1990–2022 and makes an attempt to simulate population losses as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war. The analysis of the scientific and methodological literature, which proved the problematic of the study from the point of view of the regional characteristics of the geodemographic indicators of the Odesa region, is highlighted.*
***Key words****: geodemographic processes, birth rate, mortality, migration processes, Odesa region, population, age structure, demographic load.*

**Introduction**

Demographic indicators are one of the determining factors for ensuring the sustainable development of the region, and the problems of optimal demographic development are important for determining the primary interests of the state, as an indicator and factor of economic functioning. The development of labor potential and, as a result, the size of the aggregate national income of the state depends on the characteristics of the working-age population, indicators of natural and mechanical movements of the population, sex-age structure. We chose Odesa region for the study.

Demographic characteristics of the population are relevant in a practical and theoretical sense and have become the subject of research by many scientists. Monographs have become useful for our research L. M. Cherenko, S. V. Polyakova, V. S. Shishkin, A. G. Reut, O. I. Krikun, Yu. L. Kogatko, V. S. Zayats, Yu. A. Klymenko. «The quality of life of the population of Ukraine and the first consequences of the war» (2023) [14], L. B. Martynova «Assessment of human potential: regional analysis and forecast» (2015) [10], A. Kolot's monograph «Social-labor relations: theory and practice» (2003) [8], Institute of Demography and Social Research named after M. V. Ptukh of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine»Human development in Ukraine: minimization of social risks» (2010) [9] etc.

Scientific articles in specialized publications on economics and socio-economic geography by G. Volynskyi «On the social differentiation of the population» (2008) [2], I. Gukalova «The status of the category «quality of life of the population» in geography and its modern dynamics have become useful for our research in the regions of Ukraine» (2013) [5], B. Danylyshina, O. Veklych «Ukraine in international rankings of sustainable development» (2008) [6], T. Panasenko «Aspects of sociogeographic research in the context of the humanization of geography» (2008) [11 ], O. Petrovska «Assessment of the human potential of the

Odesa region» (2019) [12], U. Sadova «Human development in the light of new approaches to measuring the quality of working life» (2013) [13], V. Smachilo «Theoretical and methodological aspects of the assessment of the labor potential of the region» (2010) [15] and others.

For research, we used the websites of the State Statistics Service [7], the Main Department of Statistics in the Odesa Region [4], and others.

The analysis of the scientific and methodological literature proved that little attention was paid to the problems of the study from the point of view of the regional characteristics of the geodemographic indicators of the Odesa region. The works are mostly studies in the field of economics. All of the above determined the choice of the topic of the article, its purpose and content.

**The main text**

The purpose of the article is to analyze the natural and mechanical movements of the population of the Odesa region (1990-2022), to determine the demographic burden of children and pensioners.

Descriptive, literary, statistical, economic-mathematical, historical, comparative, cartographic research methods were used in the performance of the work.

The demographic situation in the Odesa region for 1990-2022 indicates a decrease in the number of the existing population. From 2,619,469 people in 1990 to 2,340,332 people in 2022. This indicator was influenced by an increase in the volume of natural decline, a decrease in the birth rate of the population, an increase in mortality, and the presence of an increase in migration [4].

Forced migration is the main but not the only source of population decline. In migration, the geographical factor is very influential, namely the distance of the current place of residence from the place of previous residence. With the beginning of a full-scale war, the situation with the factors affecting the demographic state changed fundamentally: the mechanical movement of the population came to the fore.
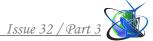
During 1990-2022, the population decreased by 279,137 people. The gender structure of the population is dominated by women throughout the studied period: 1,146 in 1990 and 1,122 in 2022.

Indicators of migration processes differed. The largest number of arrivals to Odesa region was in 2019. – 38,529 people[7]

The reduction of the population had a negative impact on its distribution by territorial affiliation. During the studied period, there was a decrease in the number of rural residents (788,200 people in 2018, to 769,900 people in 2022) and an increase in urban residents (from 1,594,900 people in 2018 to 1,597,000 people in 2020). At the same time, from 2021 the number of city residents began to decrease - 1,581,500 people in 2022.

Analyzing the data of demographic categories, 1,745,894 people belong to the working population, 418,889 people are children under the age of 15, and 491,721 people are pensioners over the age of 60.

The indicator of the demographic burden of children is 240 persons per 1,000 inhabitants. The indicator of the demographic burden of pensioners is 282 persons per 1,000 inhabitants, the total is 522 persons per 1,000 inhabitants.

With the beginning of a full-scale war, the situation with the factors affecting the demographic state changed fundamentally: the mechanical movement of the population came to the fore. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 6.9 million Ukrainians have left for other countries since the beginning of the Russian invasion. Later, according to forecasts, their number may reach 8.3 million people. It should be noted that the structure of forced migration is significantly different from normal migration processes. First, the lion's share here is occupied by women.

Regarding the age structure, the largest share of refugees among persons aged 18 and older is persons aged 35-59 - 55%. The share of persons of retirement age in this contingent is 16%, and in the entire contingent of refugees (including persons under the age of 18) only 12%.

**Conclusions**

Geodemographic processes are important indicators of the region's development. Analysis of indicators of population movement – natural and mechanical, sex-age structure determine the main indicators of demographic processes of the studied territory. The article analyzes the demographic indicators of the Odesa region. During 1990-2022, the population of Odesa region decreased by 279,137 people. The gender structure of the population is dominated by women: 1,146 in 1990 and 1,122 in 2022. The indicator of the demographic load of pensioners is 282 persons per 1,000 inhabitants, the total is 522 persons per 1,000 inhabitants. With the beginning of a full-scale war, the situation with the factors affecting the demographic state changed fundamentally: the mechanical movement of the population came to the fore. The article does not cover all aspects of the raised problem. Migration processes in the Odesa region and the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on them will be considered in further research.

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*Анотація. Геодемографічні процеси є важливими показниками розвитку регіону. Аналіз показників руху населення – природного та механічного, статево-вікової структури, навантаження на працездатне населення дітьми, пенсіонерами, визначають основні показники демографічних процесів досліджуваної території. У статті проаналізовано демографічні показники населення Одеської області упродовж 1990–2022 р. та зроблено спробу змоделювати втрати чисельності населення у результаті російсько-української війни. Висвітлений аналіз науково-методичної літератури, який засвідчив проблематику дослідження з точки зору регіональних характеристик геодемографічних показників Одеської області.*

*Ключові слова: геодемографічні процеси, народжуваність, смертність, міграційні процеси, Одеська область, населення, віковий склад, демографічне навантаження.*