

## ECONOMIC- GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RURAL POPULATION OF KASHKADARYA REGION

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***Abstract:** The article analyzes the location of settlements of rural residents of Kashkadarya region, the number, composition, and density of the population of rural settlements. The classification of rural settlements is studied.*

***Key words:** population settlement, population settlements, selected area, city, village, town, population, population density.*

## ЭКОНОМИКО- ГЕОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКА СЕЛЬСКОГО НАСЕЛЕНИЯ КАШКАДАРЬИНСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ

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***Аннотация :** В статье анализируется расположение сельских поселений Кашкардарьинской области, численность, состав и плотность населения сельских поселений. Изучается классификация сельских поселений.*

***Ключевые слова:** расселение, населения, населенные пункты, выделенная территория, город, село, поселок, численность населения, плотность населения.*

## QASHQADARYO VILOYATI QISHLOQ AHOLISINING IQTISODIY GEOGRAFIK XUSUSIYATLARI

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***Annotatsiya:** Maqolada Qashqadaryo viloyati qishloq aholisi manzilgohlarining joylanishi, qishloq manzilgohlari aholi soni, tarkibi, zichligi tahlil qilingan. Qishloq aholi manzilgohlarining tasnifi o'rganilgan.*

***Kalit so'zlar:** aholi joylanishi, aholi manzilgohlari, seliteb hudud, shahar, qishloq, shaharcha, aholi soni, aholi zichligi*

Studying the location of the population is one of the important geographical and demographic tasks. Population settlement creates a system and type of population settlements with various forms of a certain size and type. Settlements are places where people live, centers of production and consumption of material and spiritual wealth, centers of social life where generations are repeated. Population settlements are areas where a certain number of people live, with mutual differences according to the level of social and economic development. Population settlements are also called populated areas or selected areas and are one of the main scientific concepts of population geography.

The form of territorial organization of the population is population settlements. S.A. Kovalyov (1963) defines the location of the population and population settlements as the location of the population living in a certain area with material conditions necessary for the life of people created by human.

The basis of society's life is the production of material wealth by man. Any production activity serves as a basis for the creation and development of a certain population settlement. Population settlements of different sizes, their complex systems are forms of territorial organization of the population. Its forms of social organization include associations of people of different ages and genders, nationalities, ethnicities, and professions. Settlements play an important role in the socio-economic development of the country. It performs the task of connecting natural resources, social production and infrastructure in the national economic regional system.

Population settlements located in groups are in the form of urban and rural settlements of different sizes. Therefore, the settlements of such a group of residents are divided into two - urban and rural settlements.

Urban and rural settlements are closely related to each other, and a clear border cannot be drawn between them. However, despite this, there are also separate criteria that separate the city and the village from each other. These criteria have their own characteristics in different countries.

Villages are a more ancient form of inhabited places than cities. Villages are mainly agriculturally developed areas, where seasonal unemployment related to agriculture is characteristic. Rural settlements differ from urban settlements in terms of the number of employees, their geographical location, and the function they perform.

The development of rural settlements is closely related to the agricultural sector. However, there are also mixed-function rural settlements, whose inhabitants are not engaged in agriculture, but work in industry, transport and other sectors. For this reason, rural settlements are divided into 3 main groups depending on the function they perform:

- 1) settlements related to agriculture;
- 2) settlements not related to agriculture;
- 3) mixed rural settlements;

In this regard, the population is divided into "agricultural population" and "rural population not employed in agriculture" groups.

When classifying rural settlements, they are divided into three main classes (small, medium and large villages), in special studies, it is appropriate to group villages according to the population as follows (Soliyev, Nazarov, 2009):

- Tiny villages - population up to 500 people;
- Small villages - 500-1000 people;
- Medium villages - 1000-3000 people;
- Large villages - 3000-5000 people;
- Massive villages - more than 5000 people.

However, based on the requirements of the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-120 dated July 14, 2005, in 2009, villages with a population of at least 2,000 people and more were transferred to the group of towns.

There were 1064 villages, 12 cities and 4 towns in Kashkadarya region until 2009; In 2009, 945 villages, 12 cities and 123 townships (city-type settlements) were created due to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers to grant the status of

towns to large villages. At the beginning of 2010, there are 945 villages, 12 cities and 123 towns (town-type settlements) in Kashkadarya region. The total population of the village at the beginning of 2009 is 1892.4 thousand people.

It is known that settlements are the main training ground for population activities. Industrial development in the country and its regions is determined by the composition and size of the population living in it. For example, in countries where the industrial industry is poorly developed, the rural population is the main one, on the contrary, the number of urban residents is large in industrially developed countries.

Due to the low level of industrial development in Kashkadarya region until the 70s of the last century, most of its population consisted of villagers. After the 1970s, due to the exploitation of the Karshi desert and the use of underground resources, some industrial development was revived. This affected the living conditions and composition of the population. As a result, 86.7% of the population of the region in 1959, 75.4% in 2006, 43.4% in 2010, and 57.0% in 2023 were rural residents.

Despite the rapidly developing urbanization process in the world, including the increasing role of cities in the life of Uzbekistan, 63.9% of the population of the country and 75.4% of the southern regions live in rural areas. depends on economic conditions, location of agriculture, transport and national economic sectors. Therefore, Kashkadarya region has sufficient natural, economic and geographical opportunities for the solution of rural problems. Especially, the climatic conditions are favorable for the development of irrigated and dry farming, vegetable farming in agriculture. This influenced the fact that the majority of the population was engaged in agriculture during the historical period. Consequently, 87.5% of the population settlements in Kashkadarya region are villages, and the remaining 12.5% are urban settlements.

With the development of the Karshi desert, the number of villagers increased rapidly. The average annual growth rate of the rural population of the region was 5.60% in 1959-1996 and 3.52% in 1989-1996. These indicators were equal to

3.26% and 2.98% in our country, 6.08% and 3.52% in Surkhandarya region. In general, the region ranks second in the country after Surkhandarya in terms of the growth rate of the rural population. However, since the 1990s, the growth rate of the rural population has been increasing compared to the urban population in our country and most of its regions. As a result, in 1959, the number of rural residents in the region was 441,000 people, and in 2023, this figure reached 1,990,700 people.

In the future, industrial enterprises in our country will be built mainly in rural areas. This will significantly affect the development of the urbanization process in the villages in the next ten years. The increase in the population of this village will lead to positive changes in the composition of the general population. As a result, villages with a population of more than 3,000 people can turn into towns and cities (Table 1).

**Table 1.**

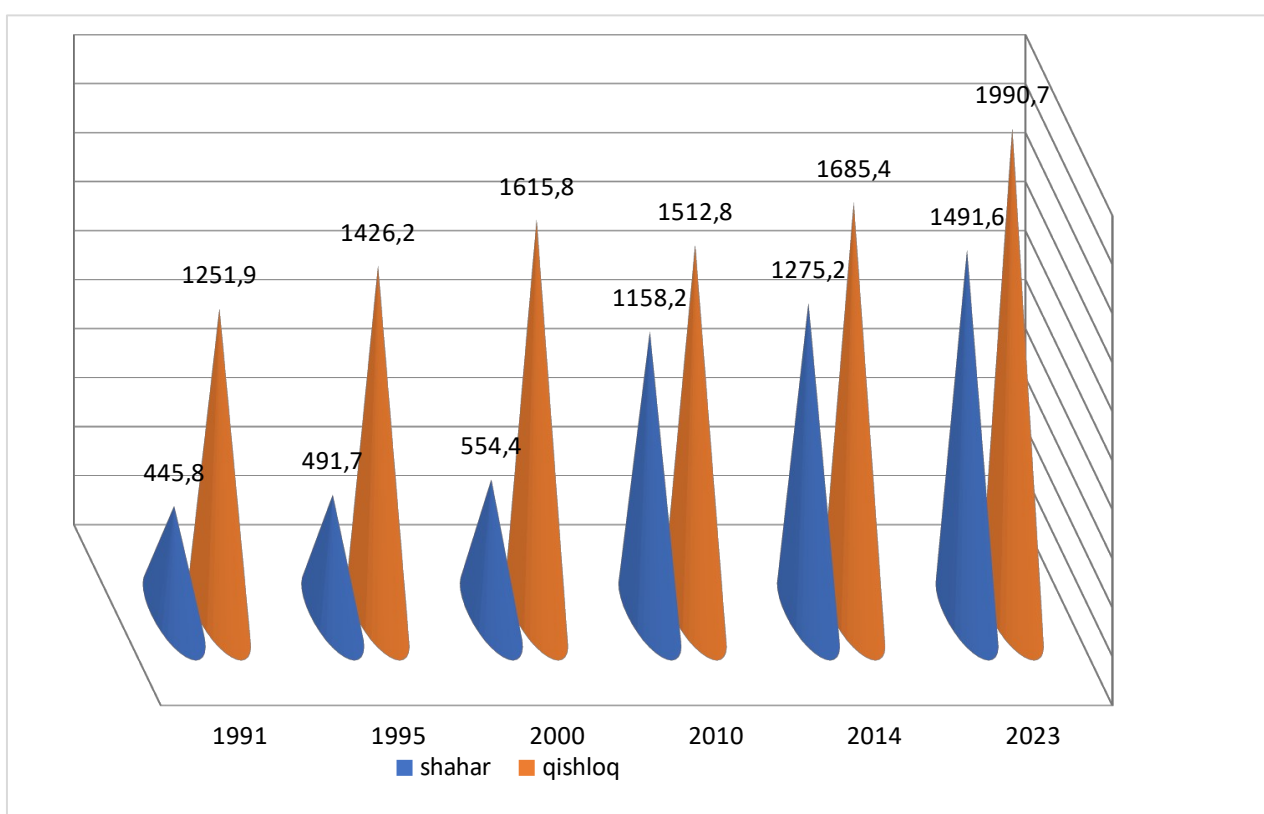
**Grouping of rural settlements of Kashkadarya region by population**

T/r.	Village settlements by population	Village settlements		Population	
		Number	%	Person	%
1	Up to 250 people	46	4,4	7693	0,5
2	251-500 people	129	12,3	51284	3,6
3	501-1000 people	310	29,6	230546	15,9
4	1001-2000 people	369	35,3	515064	35,6
5	2001-3000 people	105	10,1	255893	17,7
6	3001 and more than it	87	8,3	386418	26,7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>1446898</b>	<b>100,0</b>

In the composition of the population of Kashkadarya region, the rural population has always been higher than the urban population in all periods. Also, the natural growth of the rural population was more. In 1991, 1,251,900 people lived in rural areas, in 2000, this figure was 1,615,800, and in 2010, it was

1,512,800. In 2023, this figure was 1,990,700. per person, i.e. 57.0% of the total population lives in villages (Fig. 1).

Also, the natural growth of the population was more in the villages. In 1990, 1,210,700 people lived in villages, while in 2000, this indicator was 1,615,500 people, and in 2006, it was 1,859,000 people. It made up 75.4% of the population of the region. After 119 villages with a large population in the region were granted the status of towns, the number of rural residents of the region reached 1455.7 thousand people or 57.7%.



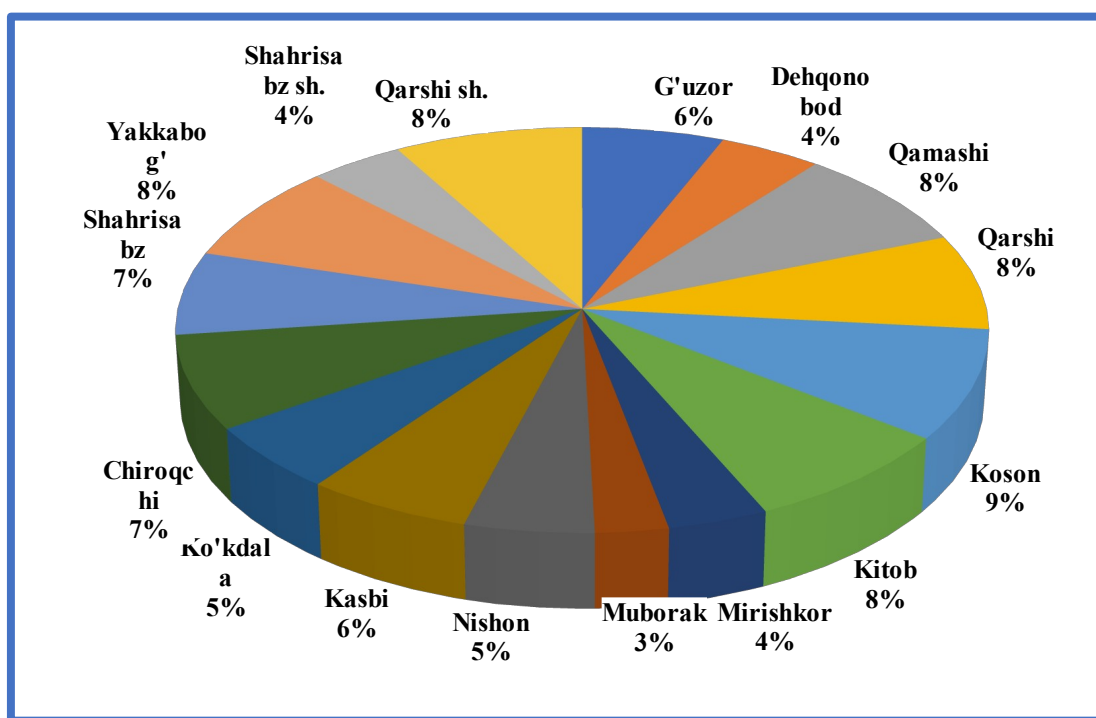
**Figure 1. Dynamics of urban and rural population of Kashkadarya region (thousands of people)**

In terms of population, Koson district is leading in the region (257,000 people in 2001, 304,600 people in 2023). 8.7% of the population of the region live in this district (Fig. 2). The population of Shahrisabz district (including the city of Shahrisabz) will be 376,000 people (10.8%) in 2023. The districts of Qamashi

(286.8 thousand people), Yakkabog (276.7 thousand people), Kitab (276.3 thousand people) are in the next places.

The lowest figure applies to the districts of Mubarak (91.9 thousand people), Mirishkor (126.8 thousand people), Dehkhanaabad (156.3 thousand people).

Analyzing the location of the population by regional regions, 27.0 percent of the total population of the region is concentrated in Upper Kashkadarya (Kitob, Shahrisabz, Yakkabog), and in Middle Kashkadarya (Dehkhanaabad, Guzor, Qamashi, Chiraqi). this indicator is 30.0 percent, and in Lower Kashkadarya (Karshi, Koson, Kasbi, Mirishkor, Mubarak, Nishon) it is 35.0 percent. 8.0% of the total population of the region is concentrated in the city of Karshi, the regional center (Fig. 2)..



**Figure 2. Location of the population of Kashkadarya region (01.01. 2023, in percent)**

The demographic potential of the largest districts of Kashkadarya region - Dehkhanaabad (4.0 thousand km<sup>2</sup>), Mirishkor (3.21 thousand km<sup>2</sup>) and Mubarak (3.07 thousand km<sup>2</sup>) is relatively small. 156.3 thousand people live in Dehkhanaabad

district, 126.8 thousand people live in Mirishkor district, and 91.9 thousand people live in Mubarak district. Thus, districts in the mountainous and desert areas of the region are the least populated districts.

In general, the upper region (Shahrisabz, Yakkabog and Kitab districts) is similar to densely populated oases and valleys of our Republic. However, it is worth noting that the density is much higher in some districts of the lower region (Kasbi, Karshi), i.e. it is equal to 190-200 people.

The population density in the Kashkadarya region is 124.4 people per square kilometer. In turn, Kashkadarya region ranks second in terms of population density in the Republic after Fergana Valley, Tashkent and Samarkand regions.

Until the 70s of the last century, small villages were the majority in Kashkadarya region. Due to the improvement and irrigation of the Karshi desert, the increase in the level of use of underground resources, the development of production, the expansion of villages took place. Secondly, it was influenced by the relocation of the population from the small villages in the mountain area to the Karshi desert, and the transfer of the villagers to other areas in the place of water reservoirs. Therefore, new villages were established in the Karshi desert. However, the number of villages did not increase at the regional level, on the contrary, it decreased. In 1970, there were 1,211 villages in the region, in 1979, the number of villages was 1,014, and in 1989, it was 1,080. According to the data of 2023, there are 1042 villages in the region.

The decrease in the number of villages is also related to the annexation of villages adjacent to cities to cities. In 1979-1992, 33,000 rural residents received the status of urban residents due to the incorporation of villages into cities. During these years, 17 villages near the city of Karshi (Aralovul, Arabkhana, Qavali, Khudoyzot, Tutak, Yakkabog, Kamandi and other villages); In connection with the construction of Chimkurgan, Pachkamar and Hisorak reservoirs, the village in their place was moved. Also, 15 villages were added to the city of Shahrisabz and 3 villages to the city of Kitab. Due to this, 31 villages were formed in new territories. Chamanzor, Navbahor, Gulistan, Abad, Cholkuvar in Mirishkor district



in Karshi desert; Shortan, Chilgiz and 8-March in Guzor district; Gulistan, Mirzadala in Kamashi district; Bogabad, Yangiabad, Haqiqat in Karshi district; Gulbog in Koson district; Yangiyer, Gulshan, Zarbulok in Mubarak district; Aydin, Dustlik, Nuristan, Kochatzor, Navruz, Oqoltin, Pakhtakor, Yulduz, Shirinabad, Gulistan in Nishan district; Navruz and other villages were formed in Chirakchi district. Also, new villages were formed on the banks of ditches (canals) and old ones were enlarged due to the specialization of farms specialized in cattle breeding on the basis of new irrigation facilities.

The opening and use of underground natural resources in the region, a number of transport infrastructures were used - Karshi, Yakkabog, Kamashi - Chirakchi, Kamashi - Langar, Karshi - Samarkand, Karshi - Bukhara highways and Karshi - Amudarya, Karshi - Samarkand railway; Due to the start of the construction of the Guzor-Boysun-Kumkurgan railways, small villages began to grow. As a result, the number of villages decreased to 121 in 1970-1989, and to 16 in 1996-2004. However, the number of inhabitants in the villages of the region grew rapidly in 1970-1989 and 1996-2004. In 1970, on average, 552.8 people lived in each village, in 1979, 808.7 people and in 1989, 1098.8 people lived in each village. Currently, with the expansion of villages in the region and the formation of new villages, the distance between villages is also significant. changed. For example, in 1989, the distance between the villages of the region was 5.4 km, and in 2023 it was 5.1 km. Therefore, villages are densely located in Kitab, Shakhrisabz, Yakkabog, Kamashi, Chirakchi, Kasbi, Karshi districts of the region.

Among the villages of the region, those with a population of 100 and 101-500 people are decreasing. For example, as a result of the expansion of villages in recent years, while their number decreased, the number of villages with a population of 501-1000 people increased from 310 to 369, villages with a population of 1001-3000 people increased by 161, and villages with a population of more than 3000 people increased by 36%. . The density of villages and the number of people living in them differ sharply in regional districts.

Therefore, it is advisable to preserve villages with a population of 101-500 people in the mountainous part of the region in the future. Because even now, along with the increase in the population in the plains, problems have started to arise in providing the population with drinking water.

There are more villages with 101-500 people living in the mountainous areas of the province. The majority of villages with 500-1000 and 1001-3000 people live in the Chirakchi, Kamashi, Yakkabog districts in the mountainous hills.

There are many villages with 1001-5000 people in the Karshi desert districts, 101-500 and 501-1000 people in the mountainous regions of Qamashi, Dehkanabad, Shahrisabz, Chirakchi, Yakkabog districts. In general, there are few large villages in the mountain zone of the region due to the low economic coefficient of land reserves and water shortage, inconvenience of transport connections, and the unevenness of the earth's surface, but the expansion will continue.

In many villages of the region, due to the rapid increase in population, economic opportunities are decreasing year by year, surplus labor resources are emerging. The number of villages with a population of more than 1,000, or even more than 3,000-5,000 people is increasing. This situation accelerated especially in 1996-2023.

In 49 villages with a population of 3,000-9,000 people, in these large villages with a population density of 4,000-12,000 people, industrial enterprises for the processing of raw materials have not been significantly built, and as a result, the economic, social and ecological situation in these villages is worsening.

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