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Ethno-demographic development of Northern Kazakhstan from 1999 to 2022: history, issues and prospects

The article analyzes the ethno-demographic development of Northern Kazakhstan on the basis of statistical data from the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The purpose of the article is based on the analysis of historical factors affecting the ethno-graphical development of Northern Kazakhstan, to study new processes and trends taking place in the field of ethno-demographic processes on the territory of Northern Kazakhstan in 1999-2022. The article examines in detail the population structure of Northern Kazakhstan according to the 1989, 1999 and 2021 censuses. The authors come to the conclusion that at the present stage, the Kazakh ethnic group has managed to regain its lost positions to some extent by increasing its number and specific weight in Northern Kazakhstan and one of the main directions for improving the demographic development of the northern regions is the implementation and improvement of resettlement programs from the southern regions to the northern ones.

Keywords: Northern Kazakhstan, demography, ethno-demography, population, ethnos, population dynamics, population census.

Introduction

Northern Kazakhstan is the main breadbasket of the republic, the leading economic region. During the Soviet years, agricultural and industrial development was concentrated here. Railway and river highways pass through here. The subsoil is rich in hard and brown coal, iron and copper ore, bauxite, gold. The fuel and energy, mining, mechanical engineering industries are developed; there are oil refining enterprises for the production of ferroalloys, aluminum, tractors. Three quarters of the sown area is allocated for grain crops, the food industry is developed.

Today the region is represented by four regions — Akmola, Kostanay, Pavlodar and North Kazakhstan. One of the main problems of Northern Kazakhstan at the present stage is the reduction of the population, while in the country as a whole the process of decline has been replaced by growth. In this regard, the relevance of the study is determined by the fact that the process of development of ethno-demographic relations in the multinational regions of Kazakhstan, which includes modern Northern Kazakhstan, was not the subject of special study. The research literature of Kazakhstan has not yet attempted a comprehensive analysis of this problem, although some aspects of this problem have been studied by demographers and sociologists, as well as historians.

The study of ethno-demographic processes taking shape in the late XX — early XXI centuries in Northern Kazakhstan, adjacent to Russia, is extremely relevant in practical and political terms, primarily in connection with the announced State resettlement program “South-North” to assist voluntary resettlement from Southern Kazakhstan to Northern Kazakhstan. Meanwhile, there are extremely few works devoted to historical, modern and predictable ethno-demographic processes in Northern Kazakhstan, which complicates the scientific and practical solution of ethno-demographic problems. The study of the evolution of ethno-demographic processes in 1999-2022 in the Russian-Kazakh border area can provide a basis for forecasting the migration and demographic development of Northern Kazakhstan. The relevance of this article is also determined by the need to establish the causes of the current unfavorable demographic situation in Northern Kazakhstan in order to eliminate and/or smooth out negative consequences in the processes of reproduction and migration of the population.

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Research methods

The research is based on the general scientific principles of historicism, objectivity, which orient the researcher to an unbiased analysis and evaluation of facts related to the topic. The basis for the consideration of the phenomenon of population in the territory of Northern Kazakhstan in 1999-2022 is the principle of consistency, which allows to identify the interrelationships of historical-demographic, socio-political, administrative-territorial, ethno-political, and migration aspects of the studied object. When writing an article, a whole range of methods of various disciplines is used — first of all, historical ones. Historical genetic method helps to identify historical prerequisites for the formation of the ethnic structure of the population of Northern Kazakhstan since 1999. Using comparative historical methods, population dynamics and distribution, the distribution of ethnic groups in northern Kazakhstan is correlated. Demographic research methods and techniques are used to analyze and process statistical and demographic data.

Discussion

The contemporary ethnic structure of the population of northern Kazakhstan has been formed for a long time and has repeatedly undergone serious changes and transformations. In the mid-19th century, the population of the area had an almost monochromatic structure with a complete predominance of the Kazakhs. From the end of the 20th century until the formation of a sovereign state, the dynamics of ethnic composition was defined by a continued expansion of the representation of different ethnic groups, the predominance of city-states. Russian-Slavic part and decrease the proportion of Kazakhs [1; 60].

The ethno-demographic development of Northern Kazakhstan, as well as general trends, has always had and has its own distinctive features. One of the main problems of Northern Kazakhstan is population decline, while nationally the decline has been replaced by growth. The population of Northern Kazakhstan in 1999-2016 is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Population of Northern Kazakhstan by regions in 1999-2016

Years	Regions				Kazakhstan
	North Kazakhstan	Akmola	Kostanay	Pavlodar	
1989	921 416	1 061 820	1 220 750	943 745	16 222 324
1999	727 003	829 212	1 020 507	808 365	14 955 337
2009	648 236	741 897	889 368	748 823	15 776 492
2016	569 446	758 479	883 640	744 386	17 670 579

Note: the table is compiled by the author based on statistical materials of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Table 2

Population of Northern Kazakhstan in 1999-2016

Years	North Kazakhstan
1989	4 147 761
1999	3 385 087
2009	3 028 324
2016	2 955 951

Note: the table is compiled by the author based on statistical materials of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

So since 1989, the population has been decreasing, peaking in 2009, then there is an increase. In 1999, compared with 1989, the decrease was 762,674 people, while in Kazakhstan — 1,266,987 people. Thus, the population reduction rate of the region is close to 69 %. The maximum decrease in the number of residents in the northern regions recorded in the 2009 census compared to 1989. It exceeded 1,119,437 people. After

2009, the decline began. As a result, in 2016 the population of the whole region was lower than in 2009 by over 72,373 people.

In general, the development of the demographic situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan follows a positive trend. Thus, at the beginning of 2008 compared to 2007, the national population increased by 0.17 million people (equivalent to 1.14 %) to 15.57 million people. Compared to 2006, an increase of 0.35 million people (equivalent to 2.3 %). This development is explained by positive trends in the dynamics of natural growth and migration.

However, not all regions of the country have a similar situation. For example, in the North Kazakhstan region, many demographic indicators for the period 2005-2007 tended to be negative. Thus, at the beginning of 2008, in comparison with 2007, the population of the North Kazakhstan region decreased by 7.1 thousand people (or 1.1 %) and amounted to 653.9 thousand people. Compared with 2006, this indicator decreased by 9.2 thousand people (or 1.4 %). This decrease is explained by negative trends in the dynamics of natural and mechanical gains. Natural growth in the period 2005-2007 was negative (in 2005 — 470 people, in 2006 — 914 people, and in 2007 — 870 people). Approximately the same dynamics was characteristic of the migration balance, which in 2005 amounted to 2340 people, in 2006 — 3600 people, and in 2007 — 1639 people. Life expectancy in the region in 2007 was 64.73 years, which is 0.08 years less than in 2006 and 0.19 years less than in 2005. As can be seen from the analysis, negative demographic trends are noted in the North Kazakhstan region, associated with excess mortality over fertility, as well as the outflow of population from the region [2].

Compared with other regions of the country, according to the results of the National Census conducted on February 25, 2009, the number of permanent residents in the Republic of Kazakhstan is 15,776,492 people. During the intercalary period, the population of the republic increased by 1,028,316 people. The population growth rate compared to the previous survey (1999) was 6.9 %. According to the analysis report of the census results, a significant increase in population was recorded in Mangystau region — 54.3 % increase, Southern Kazakhstan region — 24.8 % increase, in Astana — 86.7 % increase and in Almaty — up 20.8 %. In the northern regions of Kazakhstan, Kostanay and Akmola, population declines were 17.8 %, 12.9 % and 10.9 %, respectively [3; 15].

2017-2020 The population of Northern Kazakhstan has undergone some changes. We can see this in the following table (Table 3).

Table 3

2017-2020. Population of Northern Kazakhstan (by region)

Regions	2017	2018	2019	2020
North Kazakhstan	563300	558 584	554 517	548 755
Kostanay	879134	875 616	872 795	868 549
Akmola	734369	738 942	738 587	736 735
Pavlodar	757014	754 854	753 853	752 169

Note: the table is compiled by the author based on statistical materials of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

As can be seen, of the four regions, the least populated is the northern part of Kazakhstan. The population in 2018 decreased by 4,716 people compared to 2017, in 2019 it was 554,517 people, in 2020 it decreased by 5,762 people. In the remaining three regions, we see an annual decrease in the population over three years.

The development of the ethnic structure of the population of Northern Kazakhstan also has its own characteristics. During the study period, the national composition changed several times. The dynamics of the number of the main ethnic groups of Northern Kazakhstan in 1989-2014 is shown in Table 4.

Table 4

**Dynamics of the number of the main ethnic groups of Northern Kazakhstan in 1989-2014
(thousand people). [1; 62]**

Years	Kazakhs	Russians	Belarusians	Ukrainians	Germans	Tatars	Poles	Uzbeks
1989	1 075,6	2 044,2	452,7	100,6	450,7	99,6	44,1	4,9
1999	1 205,0	837,6	182,9	64,4	199,4	70,8	31,8	2,3
2009	1 213,1	1 221,6	231,6	49,1	111,5	61,3	18,9	3,6
2014	1 275,0	1 192,4	148,9	35,7	78,1	56,5	23,3	4,1

In 2009, there was an increase in the number of Russians, Kazakhs, Ukrainians, Uzbeks and Chechens. The number of Belarusians, Germans, Tatars, Poles has decreased. At the same time, Russians showed much greater growth than Kazakhs. The same applies to Ukrainians. The number of Russians has increased from 837,661 to 1,221,646 people compared to 1999 (by 383,985), Ukrainians — from 182,942 to 231,685 people (by 48,743), while Kazakhs showed an increase from 1,205,027 to 1,213,190 people — by 8,163 people. 2014 was marked by multi-vector trends in the change in the number of ethnic groups in the region. Thus, the Kazakh population showed continued growth, while the Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, German, Tatar and Chechen populations showed a decline. Poles and Uzbeks have slightly increased their numbers. In percentage terms, in 2014, Kazakhs accounted for 43.3 % in the region, and Russians — 40.5 %. At the same time, the percentage of Kazakhs, Russians and other ethnic groups is unevenly distributed in the context of the regions. Kazakhs make up over 50 % in Akmola and Pavlodar regions, the least of them in the North Kazakhstan region — 34.62 % [4].

If only the northern region of Kazakhstan is taken into account, the number of the seven largest ethnic groups living in the northern region of Kazakhstan amounts to 562.3 thousand people, accounting for 97.7 % of the total population of the region, as of January 1 2014 up to 575 thousand people. In addition to Russians (49.9 %) and Kazakhs (34.2 %), there are Ukrainians (4.5 %), Germans (3.5 %), Poles (2.2 %), Tatars (2.2 %), Belarusians (1 % of the total population). The data of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the beginning of 2014 showed that the significant majority in the North Kazakhstan region is the Russian population — 287 thousand people, their share in the total population was 49.9 %, compared with 2009 decreased by 0.5 %. The number of Kazakh population of the region was 196 thousand people or 34.2 % of the total population of the region has increased by 0.9 % compared to 2009. The proportion of Ukrainians decreased by 0.5 %, Poles and Belarusians decreased by 0.1 %, the proportion of people of different ethnicities remained at the level of 2009. Since the 2009 Census, mainly due to the influx of migrants to the region, the number of Tajiks has increased by 84.7 % and amounted to 774 people, Uzbeks by 19.4 % (486 people), Azerbaijanis by 11 % (1736 people), Armenians by 6.5 % (1353 people), Ingush by 0.8 % (762 people). The number of other ethnic groups compared to 2009 decreased by 4.4 % Russians, 0.9 % Kazakhs, 12.5 % Ukrainians, 1.8 % Germans, 8.1 % Poles, 4 % Tatars, Belarusians by 11.9 %, Chuvash by 10.2 %, Bashkirs by 3.7 %, Lithuanians by 4.4 %, Mordvins by 17.1 %, Chechens by 0.6 % [5].

By the beginning of 2019, the number of individual ethnic groups of the peoples of Northern Kazakhstan had undergone some changes. We can see this in the following table (Table 5):

Table 5

Population of Northern Kazakhstan by individual ethnic groups at the beginning of 2019:

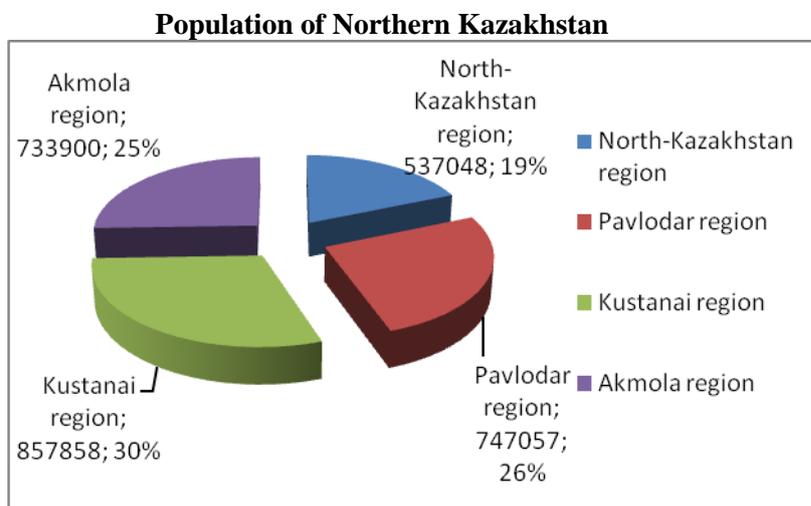
	Kazakhstan	Russians	Uzbeks	Ukrainians	Tatars	Germans	Azerbaijan	Belarusians	Tajiks	Poles	Others
Northern Kazakhstan	194 239	274 629	678	22 883	12 058	19 680	1 953	5 401	1 026	11 478	10492
Pavlodar	394 674	267 142	1 421	32 373	13 946	20 297	2 191	4 365	369	881	16194
Kostanay	355 746	357 587	1 317	71 778	15 965	27 168	3 985	12 832	700	1 375	24342
Akmola	379 326	242 707	1 485	31 835	13 174	25 965	2 150	9 832	406	7 748	23959

Note: the table is compiled by the author based on statistical materials of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

As the table shows, at the beginning of 2019, part of the main ethnic groups living in the northern regions of the country are Kazakhs, Russians, Ukrainians, Tatars, Germans, Belarusians, Poles. In particular, the share of Kazakhs in the North Kazakhstan region was 35.03 %, Russians — 49.53 %, Ukrainians — 4.13 %, Tatars — 2.17 %, Germans — 3.55 %, Belarusians — 0.97 %. In Pavlodar region, 52.35 % of the total population is Kazakhs, 35.44 % is Russians, and among the rest of the population there are the following: 4.29 % are Ukrainians, 2.69 % are Germans, and 1.85 % are Tatars. In Kostanay region, Kazakhs accounted for 40.76 %, Russians-40.97 %, Ukrainians-8.22 %, Germans-3.11 %, Belarusians-1.47 %. Thus, by the beginning of 2019, in two regions in the north of the country (in North Kazakhstan and Kostanay regions), the largest number of representatives of the nationalities were Russians.

In general, in the Republic of Kazakhstan, in just over 30 years of independence, the Kazakhs have regained their demographic advantage, becoming the largest ethnic group. According to official data, at the beginning of 2022, 19 million 503 thousand 159 people lived in Kazakhstan. The population as of January 1, 2023 was 19 million 765 thousand 4 people. The total population growth for the year amounted to 261 thousand 845 people [5]. The share of Kazakhs in the ethnic composition of the population reached 70.4 %. Between the censuses conducted in 2009 and 2021, the number of Kazakhs increased by 33.7 %, and the share in the ethnic composition of the population of Kazakhstan increased from 63.1 % to 70.4 %. Russians remain the second largest ethnic group in Kazakhstan. At the same time, the share of Russians in the 12 years that have passed between the two censuses has decreased from 23.7 % to 15.5 %. The number of Russians decreased by 21.4 %. In general, during the time between censuses, the share of only two ethnic groups decreased — in addition to Russians, they are also Turks (by 11.9 %). The number of other ethnic groups grew. Thus, the number of Azerbaijanis increased by 70.7 %, Dungans — by 51.7 %, Kyrgyz — by 46.9 %, Tajiks — by 37.9 %, Uzbeks — by 34.4 %. The largest ethnic groups in Kazakhstan, by the number of Kazakhs and Russians, are Uzbeks (3.2 % of the population), Ukrainians (2 %), Uighurs (1.5 %), Germans (1.2 %), Tatars (1.1 %), Azerbaijanis (0.8 %), Koreans (0.6 %), Turks (0.5 %) [6].

It is assumed that Northern Kazakhstan, and today Kazakhs do not have the first group membership, not only in separate regions, but also in general in the region. For example, the population of Northern Kazakhstan by the beginning of 2022 can be seen in the following diagram created by the author (Fig.1):



As can be seen from the diagram, 19 % of the total population of Northern Kazakhstan is located in northern Kazakhstan, Akmola Region — 25 %, Pavlodar region — 26 % and Kostanay region — 30 %. Thus, it is possible to determine the low population of the North Kazakhstan region at the moment.

By the beginning of 2022, we can see the ethnic composition of Northern Kazakhstan by region in the following table (Table 6):

Ethnic composition of Northern Kazakhstan by region in 2022

	Kazakhstan	Russians	Uzbeks	Ukrainians	Tatars	Germans	Azerbaijan	Belarusians	Tajiks	Poles	Others
Northern Kazakhstan	191 984	263 730	826	20 838	11 538	19 051	2 076	4 972	1 213	10 532	10288
Pavlodar	405 134	255 049	1 609	29 255	13 606	19 290	2 235	3 904	450	838	15687
Kostanay	359 198	346 462	1 449	66 606	15 435	26 488	4 156	11 974	823	1 298	23969
Akmola	387 690	234 336	1 607	29 511	12 792	25 243	2 156	9 162	454	7 234	23715

Note: the table is compiled by the author based on statistical materials of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The representatives of other nationalities include Uighurs, Turks, Koreans, Dungans, Chechens, etc.

As the table shows, there are 71,746 more Russians in the northern region of Kazakhstan than there are Kazakhs. And in the remaining three regions, the Kazakh population predominates. In all four regions, after the Kazakhs and the Russians there are the representatives of the Ukrainians and Germans. That is, in terms of the proportion of individual ethnic groups in the total population at the beginning of 2022, in the Northern region of Kazakhstan, Kazakhs make up 35.75 % and Russians — 49.11 %. Of the remaining nationalities, Ukrainians accounted for 3.88 %, Germans — 3.55 %. In Pavlodar region, Kazakhs accounted for 54.23 %, Russians — 34.14 %, Ukrainians — 3.92 %. In Kostanay region, Kazakhs accounted for 41.87 %, Russians — 40.39 %, Ukrainians — 7.76 %. In Akmola region, Kazakhs accounted for 52.83 %, Russians — 31.93 %, Ukrainians — 4.02 %, Belarusians — 1.25 %, Germans — 3.44 %.

Thus, compared to 2019, we can see that in 2022 the share of Kazakhs in the North Kazakhstan region (2019) increased from 35.03 % (2022) to 35.75 %, and the share of Russians decreased from 49.53 % to 49.11 %. In Pavlodar region, the share of Kazakhs increased from 52.35 % to 54.23 %, Russians decreased from 35.44 % to 34.14 %. We can see an increase in the number of Kazakhs in Kostanay region from 40.76 % in 2019 to 41.87 % in 2022.

Conclusion

Today, there are large ethnic-demographic differences between regions of Kazakhstan. The population of the southern and western regions is almost entirely Kazakh, in the northern regions the number of Kazakhs and Russians is almost equal.

Major changes are taking place in the ethnic structure of the region's population. The number of Kazakhs is increasing rapidly, they came out on top in this indicator in Akmola and Pavlodar regions. The exception is the North Kazakhstan region, where the Russian population still leads. Ukrainians are in third place by number in Northern Kazakhstan, followed by Germans.

Thus, at present, the national population structure of northern Kazakhstan remains multi-ethnic, with the largest ethnic groups being Kazakhs and Russians. Therefore, today it is necessary to address the ethnographic problems that have developed in the north of the country. In this regard, there is currently a need to further improve the mechanisms for ensuring demographic security in Kazakhstan. For example, since 2017, it is necessary to follow the work of the voluntary resettlement program from the densely populated southern regions to the northern regions, where there is a shortage of labor.

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1999-2022 жж. Солтүстік Қазақстанның этнодемографиялық дамуы: тарихы, мәселелері және болашағы

Мақалада Қазақстан Республикасы Стратегиялық жоспарлау және реформалар агенттігінің Ұлттық статистика бюросының статистикалық мәліметтеріне сүйене отырып, Солтүстік Қазақстанның этнодемографиялық дамуы талданған. Мақаланың мақсаты — Солтүстік Қазақстанның этнодемографиялық дамуына әсер еткен тарихи факторларды талдау нәтижелері негізінде 1999 жылдан бастап 2022 жылдар аралығындағы Солтүстік Қазақстан аумағында этнодемографиялық процестер саласында орын алған жаңа процестер мен тенденцияларды зерделеу. Авторлар 1989, 1999 және 2021 жылдардағы халық санағы бойынша Солтүстік Қазақстан халқының құрылымын егжей-тегжейлі қарастырған. Бұл өз кезегінде олардың қазіргі кезеңде қазақ этносы өзінің саны мен Солтүстік Қазақстандағы үлес салмағын ұлғайта отырып, белгілі бір дәрежеде жоғалған позицияларын қалпына келтіре алды деген қорытынды жасауына негіз болды, ал солтүстік өңірлердің демографиялық дамуын жақсартудың негізгі бағыттарының бірі оңтүстік өңірлерден солтүстікке қоныс аудару бағдарламаларын іске асыру және жетілдіру қажет.

Кілт сөздер: Солтүстік Қазақстан, демография, этнодемография, халық, этнос, халық санының динамикасы, халық санағы.

Г.С. Ильясова, Т.С. Садыков, И.Л. Жеребцов

Этнодемографическое развитие Северного Казахстана в 1999–2022 годы: история, проблемы и перспективы

В статье на основе статистических данных Бюро национальной статистики Агентства по стратегическому планированию и реформам Республики Казахстан проанализировано этнодемографическое развитие Северного Казахстана. Цель статьи — по результатам анализа исторических факторов, влиявших на этнодемографическое развитие Северного Казахстана, изучить новые процессы и тенденции, развернувшиеся в сфере этнодемографических процессов на территории Северного Казахстана в период с 1999 по 2022 гг. Авторами подробно рассмотрена структура населения Северного Казахстана по переписям 1989, 1999 и 2021 гг. Что, в свою очередь, явилось основанием им прийти к выводу, что на современном этапе казахскому этносу удалось в некоторой степени вернуть утраченные позиции, увеличив свою численность и удельный вес в Северном Казахстане, а одними из основных направлений улучшения демографического развития северных регионов являются реализация и усовершенствование программ переселения из южных регионов в северные.

Ключевые слова: Северный Казахстан, демография, этнодемография, население, этнос, динамика численности населения, перепись населения.

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