

Population of Ukraine

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Abstract

The features of the population location on the territory of Ukraine are analyzed. The areas of the highest population concentration according to other areas are concerned. Life expectancy of Ukrainians is staffed.

Ключові слова: населення, територія, місце розташування, людина, демографія, урбанізація.

Проаналізовано особливості розташування населення на території України. Висвітлено області з найбільшою концентрацією населення відповідно до інших областей. Тривалість життя українців є забезпеченою.

Keywords: population, area, location, person, demography, urbanization.

Ukraine is a part of Eastern Europe. It shares borders with the Russian Federation to the east and northeast, and with Belarus towards the northwest border. Hungary, Slovakia and Poland are to its west; Romania and Moldova share its southwest border; and the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea are to its south and southeast borders. The entire country constitutes a total land area of 603,628 Km². This makes Ukraine by far the biggest country in the whole of Europe. The total population in Ukraine is estimated to be 44,840,743 in 2014, down from 45.55 million in 2013. This figure makes it the 31st most-populated country in the world. The population growth rate, as of 2012, is estimated to be -3.1%. The negative growth rate indicates a decline in the population.

The population of Ukraine has undergone a major crisis since the 1990s. This is mainly because of the high death rate and a very low birth rate. The country's population is shrinking by over 150,000 people every year. However, things have changed a little since the year 2000. The birth rate, which was previously very low, has risen recently and now is comparable to that of the European average. However, it still needs to increase by 50% more in order for the population to stabilize [1].

The life expectancy rate in Ukraine is very low compared to that of the rest of the world. The infant mortality rate has been decreasing in recent years. It reached 9 deaths per 1000 infants in 2011 and was at 8.5 deaths per 1000 infants in 2012 according to the latest statistics. Life expectancy at birth has been increasing, which is a good sign since the population has had a very high death rate in the past few years. In 2011, the results of the official Ukraine census stated a life expectancy of 71.22 years, an increase from what it was in the past. The life expectancy for the male population was calculated to be 65.98 years, whereas it was 75.88 years for the female population.

The fertility rate has been rising as well. With an estimated value of 1.08 children per woman, the rate has risen to 1.46 children per woman - a good sign as it adds to the growth rate of the comparatively low population [2].

Ukraine has a negative population growth rate of -0.4%, which is very low. The death rate of 15 deaths per 1000 compared to 9.59 births per 1000 explains much about the growth rate. Moreover, the low fertility rate contributes to this low population growth rate. The population of Ukraine has shown a marked decrease over the years due to these very factors and will continue to decrease if the growth rate remains as such.

The Ukraine population counter shows a continuously updated estimate of the current population of Ukraine.

Ukraine is fifth in Europe by population (after Germany, Italy, Great Britain, and France) and ranks 21st in the world. Its share makes 7.3% of the total European population and 1% of the population of the Earth.

Table 1. – Population of Ukraine [3].

Year	Population	Yearly % change	Yearly change
2017	44,405,055	-0.49%	-219,318
2016	44,624,373	-0.44%	-199,392
2015	44,823,765	-0.36%	-164,746
2010	45,647,497	-0.5%	-229,563
2005	46,795,313	-0.81%	-390,191
2000	48,746,269	-0.83%	-413,081
1995	50,811,673	-0.22%	-111,667
1990	51,370,009	0.18%	89,846

Like in the majority of European states, Ukraine has a high population density (80 people per sq. km). The lowest population density is in the Chernigov region (39 people/sq. km), and the highest density is in the Donetsk region (183 people per 1 sq. km). The figure in some Eastern regions of Ukraine (90 people per sq. km) exceeds the average. Ukraine is mainly an urban state because the urban population significantly outnumbers the rural one: 32,754,000 urban inhabitants (67.2%) versus 15,883,000 (32.8%) rural inhabitants. The number of towns is increasing. There are currently 454 towns in Ukraine. The population in 37 towns ranges between 100 to 500 ths. people. Nine towns have a population exceeding 500,000 people, and in five of them the population exceeds 1 mn people. More than 2.6 mn people reside in Kiev, the capital city of Ukraine.

Over the period 1991–2015, life expectancy at birth, as well as mortality varied in a wave-like manner and fluctuated from a minimum of 66.9 years in 1996 to the highest level of 71.2 years in 2012. Reasons for these fluctuations were different. At the beginning of the period (1991–1996) the reduction in life expectancy was due to an increase in the already high rates of child and infant mortality, and also the intensive rise of mortality of middle-aged adults and early retirement age. Since 2006 there has been a steady increase in the life expectancy at birth among men that has reached the level of 1989 in 2012 (66.1 years), while it has constituted the highest historical record of 76 years for women. Over the last 16 years there have been positive changes in Ukraine in the lag of life expectancy between men and women that has decreased by almost two years. The present-day difference in the male and female life expectancy is 9.9 years to the benefit of women (2015) against maximum 11.8 years (1997). A comparison of the lag in life expectancy of Ukrainian and European population that comprises 5.8 years (2011) points out to the actual potential for improving the survival of the Ukrainian population as a whole and for each gender in particular. This is especially true of the life expectancy of young men aged 15 to 40 years, which is on average 10 years less than that of their peers in the EU-28 countries [4].

Periods of overcoming the crisis, improvements of the material conditions of the population, development of the social infrastructure and its accessibility altogether foster mortality reduction and increase longevity of the population. Survival regime indices of the representatives of less socially protected groups, like children and senior cohorts are usually the first to react to the positive changes [4]. However, the encouraging trends of the decade (before second part of 2013) give reasons to expect further improvements in the survival regime of the population of both genders and types of settlement. The gradual convergence of survival curves of men and women in Ukraine of young and senior age, the fact that they are approaching the European average, as well as reduction of the excess mortality of middle-aged men contribute to the overall prolongation of life expectancy and slowing down of depopulation. Research results can be taken into account in further investigations at the evaluation of losses of the Ukrainian population through political and military conflict. Over the period 1991–2012, life expectancy at birth, as well as mortality varied in a wave-like manner and fluctuated from a minimum of 66.9 years in 1996 to the highest level of 71.2 years in 2012. Reasons for these fluctuations were different. At the beginning of the period (1991–1996) the reduction in life expectancy was due to an increase in the already high rates of child and infant mortality, and also the intensive rise of mortality of middle-aged adults and early retirement age. Since 2006 there has been a steady increase in the life expectancy at birth among men that has reached the level of 1989 in 2012 (66.1 years), while it has constituted the highest historical record of 76 years for women. Over the last 16 years there have been positive changes in Ukraine in the lag of life expectancy between men and women that has decreased by almost two years. The present-day difference in the male and female life expectancy is 9.9 years to the benefit of women (2012) against maximum 11.8 years (1997). A comparison of the lag in life expectancy of Ukrainian and European population that comprises 5.8 years (2011) points out to the actual potential

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