

## Social Aspects of the Demographic Situation in Uzbekistan

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### ABSTRACT

This article investigates the sociocultural dimensions of the demographic landscape in Uzbekistan, with a particular emphasis on population expansion, urbanization processes, and transformations in familial structures. The demographic populace of Uzbekistan has exhibited consistent growth, surpassing 36 million individuals in the year 2023, characterized by an annual increase rate of 1.5%. Current urbanization patterns indicate that half of the populace now inhabits urban locales, thereby engendering challenges in educational access, healthcare provision, and employment opportunities. The research employs data derived from national censuses alongside academic investigations to scrutinize these dynamics and offers policy recommendations aimed at alleviating their societal repercussions. Also, in this article, an attempt was made to predict the demographic state of birth, marriage, employment, urbanization and its prospective state in Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** Demographic Landscape, Sociocultural Dimensions, Population Expansion, Urbanization, Familial Structures, Uzbekistan.

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### Özbekistan'daki Demografik Durumun Sosyal Yönleri

#### ÖZ

Bu makale, özellikle nüfus artışı, kentleşme süreçleri ve aile yapılarındaki dönüşümlere vurgu yaparak Özbekistan'daki demografik manzaranın sosyokültürel boyutlarını araştırmaktadır. Özbekistan'ın demografik nüfusu, 2023 yılında 36 milyon kişiyi aşarak istikrarlı bir büyüme sergilemiştir [1] ve yıllık %1,5'lik bir artış oranıyla karakterize edilmiştir. Mevcut kentleşme kalıpları, nüfusun yarısının artık kentsel yerlerde yaşadığını ve dolayısıyla eğitim erişiminde, sağlık hizmeti sunumunda ve istihdam fırsatlarında zorluklar yarattığını göstermektedir. Araştırma, bu dinamikleri incelemek için akademik incelemelerle birlikte ulusal nüfus sayımlarından elde edilen verileri kullanmakta ve toplumsal etkilerini hafifletmeyi amaçlayan politika önerileri sunmaktadır. Ayrıca bu makalede Özbekistan'daki demografik doğum, evlilik, istihdam, kentleşme durumu ve bunun muhtemel durumunu tahmin etmeye çalışılmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Demografik Yapı, Sosyokültürel Boyutlar, Nüfus Artışı, Kentleşme, Aile Yapıları, Özbekistan.

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## INTRODUCTION

The demographic transitions occurring within Uzbekistan encompass not merely the growth of the population but also the reconfiguration of the nation's social and economic

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frameworks. The accelerated trend of urbanization, wherein 50% of the populace currently resides within urban settings, is prompting substantial alterations in the demand for infrastructure, housing, and public service provisioning. The migration of individuals from rural areas to urban centers is instigating disparate developmental patterns across geographical regions, thereby exerting pressure on urban resources while rural territories grapple with the phenomenon of depopulation. Furthermore, these transitions are influencing familial configurations, as younger cohorts relocate to urban environments, resulting in the disintegration of extensive family support networks and modifying traditional roles related to caregiving and social unity.

Education and healthcare represent two pivotal sectors that are profoundly impacted by these demographic transformations. The significant influx of individuals into urban regions has engendered a heightened demand for improved educational institutions, while the resultant overcrowding has adversely affected the caliber of educational delivery. Likewise, healthcare infrastructures within urban centers are confronting challenges in fulfilling the healthcare requirements of burgeoning populations, whereas rural locales persist in facing obstacles regarding access to sufficient medical services. Additionally, with approximately 30% of Uzbekistan's populace being under the age of 14, there exists an escalating exigency for these systems to adapt and scale effectively to accommodate impending demands.

These demographic variables further exert influence over the labor market dynamics. As the working-age demographic expands, particularly within urban contexts, job competition has intensified, culminating in increased youth unemployment rates. Conversely, rural regions are experiencing labor deficits, especially within the agricultural sector, as a greater number of individuals migrate to urban areas in pursuit of enhanced opportunities. This demographic transition is fostering a multifaceted socio-economic milieu that necessitates strategic policy interventions to ensure sustainable development. This article undertakes an exploration of these salient social dimensions of Uzbekistan's demographic scenario, addressing both the challenges encountered and the potential resolutions available.

### **Methodology**

This article employs a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods to analyze the social aspects of Uzbekistan's demographic situation. Primary data is gathered from official government reports, such as census data from Uzbekistan's State Statistics Committee and demographic studies from the World Bank and UNFPA. Additionally,

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secondary data is collected through academic research articles and policy reports focusing on urbanization, family structure changes, and social services. Analytical tools, including statistical analysis and trend observation, are used to interpret the impact of demographic changes on education, healthcare, and employment sectors. This approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between demographic dynamics and social factors in Uzbekistan.

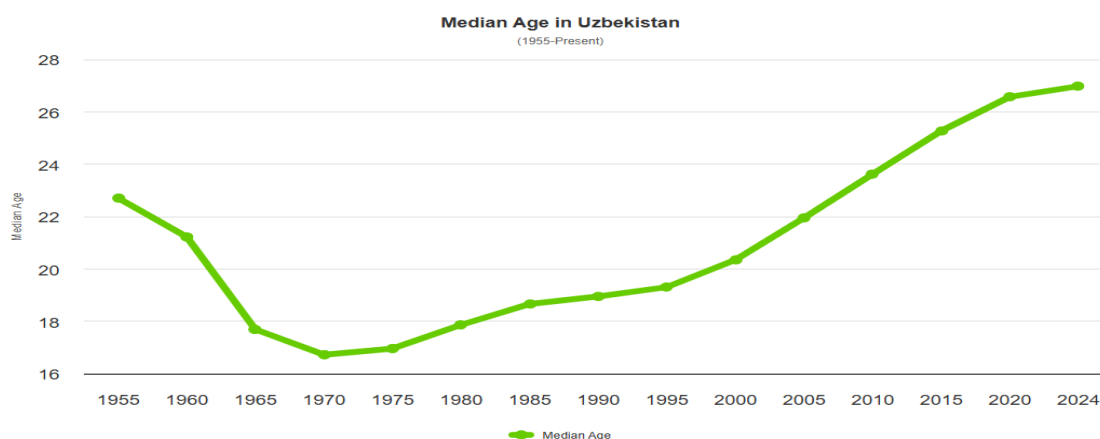
### Research and Analysis

The role of demographic processes in the socio-economic development of any state is great, and the scientific study of important aspects of population growth, location, demographic composition and much more is of great importance. The population plays a decisive role in the development of society both as a productive force and as a consumer. The demographic situation is at the center of economic reforms aimed at forming a stable and effective economy in the republic.

A specific demographic situation has developed in Uzbekistan: it is manifested in an increase in the rate of population growth, its birth rate, a decrease in mortality rates and, at the same time, an increase in the number of people of working age.

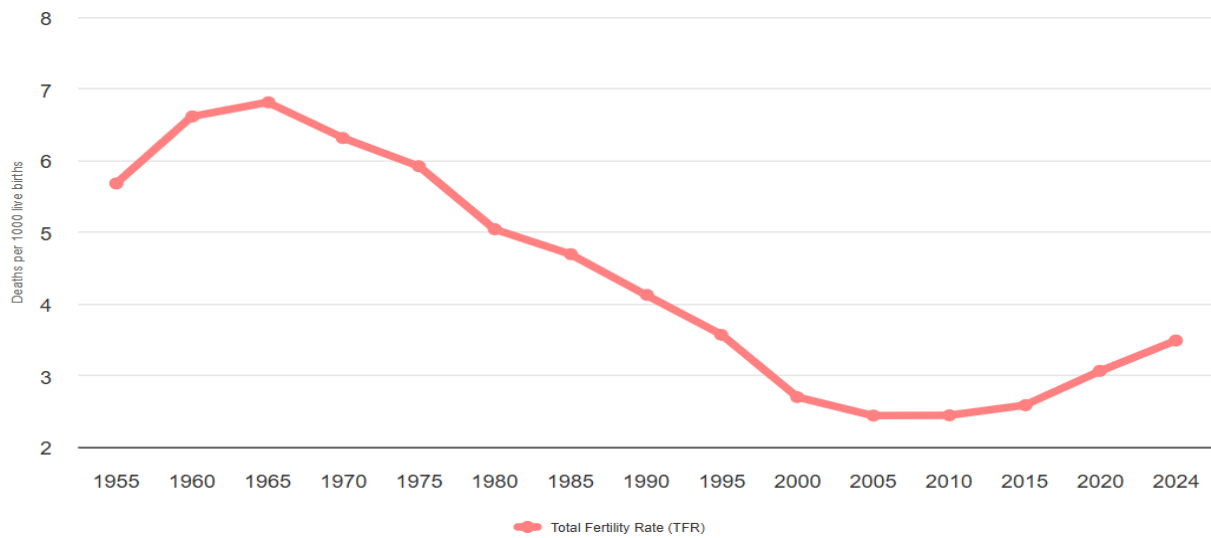
**Figure: 1.** The Median Age in Uzbekistan (World Bank n.d.)

The **median age** in Uzbekistan is **27.0 years** (2024).



A Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 represents the Replacement-Level Fertility: the average number of children per woman needed for each generation to exactly replace itself without needing international immigration. A value below 2.1 will cause the native population to decline (URL-1).

**Figure: 2.** Total Fertility Rate in Uzbekistan (World Bank n.d.)



The graph depicts the **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** from 1955 to 2024 in terms of deaths per 1,000 live births. The TFR peaked in the 1960s, indicating a high birth rate, followed by a consistent decline until around 2000. From 2005 onwards, there is a slight rise in the fertility rate, showing a reversal in the long-term decline.

**Possible Reasons:**

**1.Economic and Social Development:** As countries develop, fertility rates often decrease due to higher education, healthcare access, and women's employment.

**2.Recent Increase:** Policy interventions, improved healthcare, or cultural factors may have contributed to the slight rise after 2015. The table below provides relevant data on life expectancy in Uzbekistan based on the latest figures.

**Life Expectancy in Uzbekistan**

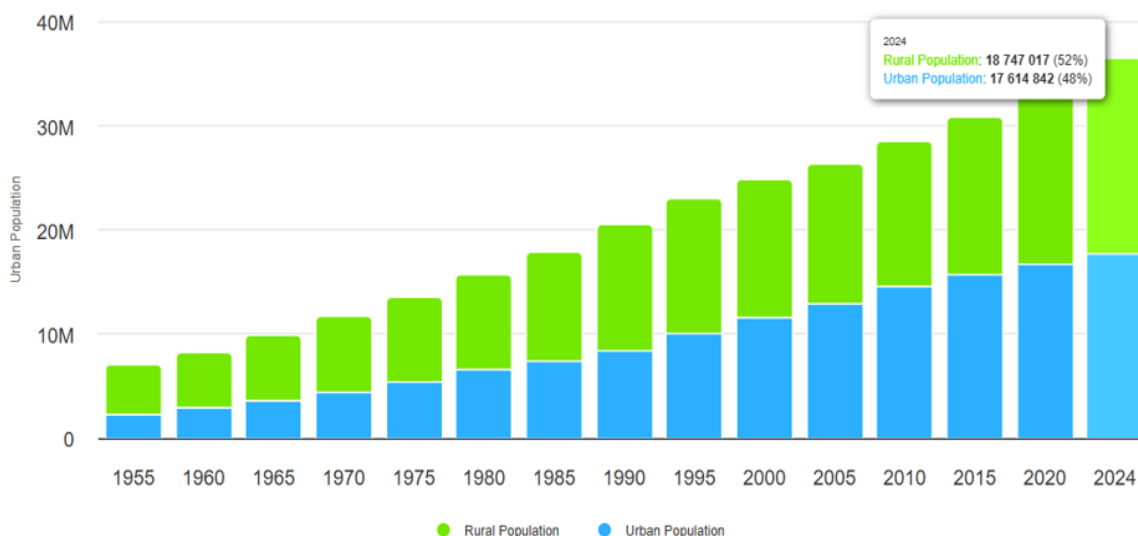
<b>BOTH SEXES</b>	<b>FEMALES</b>	<b>MALES</b>
<b>72.5 years</b> (life expectancy at birth, both sexes combined)	<b>75.5 years</b> (life expectancy at birth, females)	<b>69,6 years</b> (life expectancy at birth, males)

Source: <https://database.earth/population/uzbekistan/life-expectancy>

Currently, **48.4 %** of the population of Uzbekistan is **urban** (17,614,842 people in 2024)

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**Figure: 3.** Uzbekistan Urban vs. Rural Population from 1955-2024 (World Bank n.d.)



The 2024 population density in Uzbekistan is 85 people per Km<sup>2</sup> (221 people per mi<sup>2</sup>), calculated on a total **land** area of 425,400 Km<sup>2</sup> (164,248 sq. miles).

**Table: 1.** Largest Cities in Uzbekistan (World Bank n.d.)

NUMBER	CITY NAME	POPULATION
1	Tashkent	1,978,028
2	Namangan	1,010,000
3	Samarkand	513,572
4	Andijon	447,800
5	Nukus	332,500
6	Fergana	299,200
7	Bukhara	280,187
8	Qarshi	278,300
9	Qo'qon	259,700
10	Marg'ilon	242,500

In the first half of 2024, the population of Uzbekistan increased by more than 334 thousand and amounted to 37 million 134.2 thousand people. The mortality rate for these six months was the highest compared to each of the first half years of the last 9 years, including those affected by the pandemic (Akhmedov & Ismailova 2022: 13).

The permanent population of Uzbekistan as of July 1, 2024 was 37 million 134.2 thousand people. Thus, since the beginning of the year, the growth of the permanent population was more than 334 thousand people, and compared to the same period in 2023 - 761.8 thousand people, or 2.1%. This is stated in the report of the Agency of Statistics under

the President (Dates prepared by the author based on the information of the Kun.uz website: 21.08.2024).

There are 18.7 million men and 18.4 million women among the population. The urban population is over 18.9 million people, the rural population is 18.2 million people. The average age of the population is 28.5 years for men, 30 years for women. The average age of the population is an approximate general description of the age composition of the population. It is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the ages of all people in the general population. Among the total number, 32% of the population are under working age, 56.4% are of working age, and 11.6% are over working age. By age group, the largest share is still occupied by the population aged 31-59 years - 13.2 million people (Rahimova 2023: 44).

Next come youth (14-30 years) - 9.6 million, children aged 5-13 years - 6.1 million, children under 4 years - 4.3 million and the population aged 60 years and older - 3.4 million people. Among men, children under five years old made up the largest figure - 2.3 million people, the smallest - 60-64-year-olds, there were 657 thousand of them. Among women, the largest figure was also made up of girls under five years old - 2.1 million people, the smallest number of women was noted in the age group 60-64 years - 736 thousand people (Rahimova 2023: 47).

The population density in Uzbekistan was 82.7 people per square kilometer. This is 1.7 people more than in the same period in 2023 (81 people per 1 sq. km as of July 1, 2023). By region, the highest population density was 6864.4 people in Tashkent, 796.4 in the Andijan region, 606.3 in the Fergana region. The lowest rates were recorded in the Navoi region - 9.8 and the Republic of Karakalpakstan - 12.1 people (Rahimova 2023: 51).

The highest permanent population by region is 4.25 million people in the Samarkand region, 4.1 million people in the Fergana region, 3.6 million people in the Kashkadarya region. The smallest population is recorded in the Syrdarya region - 922.1 thousand people, Navoi region - 1.1 million people and Jizzakh region - 1.5 million people (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 82).

The number of live births in January-June amounted to 419.9 thousand children, of which 218.1 thousand were boys and 201.8 thousand were girls. The number of births in urban areas reached 212.3 thousand people, in rural areas - 207.6 thousand. Every month over the past six months, more boys were born in Uzbekistan than girls. When analyzing the

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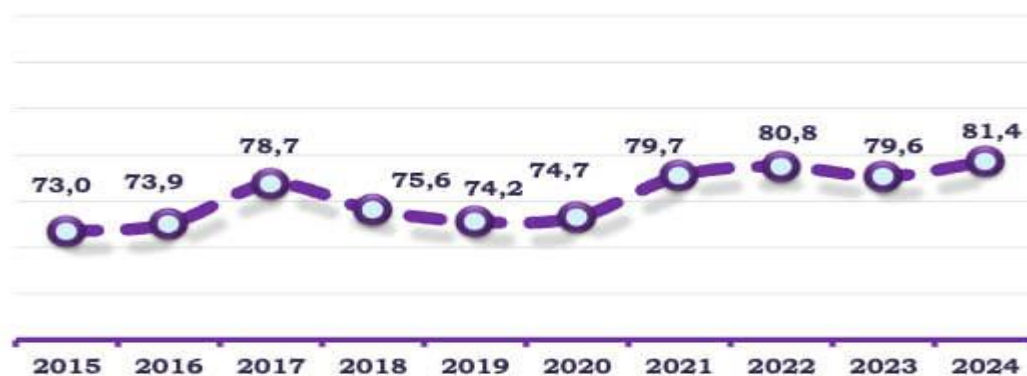
number of births, the following distribution was noted: the birth of one child was 97.7%, two children - 2.2%, three or more children - 0.1% (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 83).

Among the fathers, 9.9% were under 25 years old, 82.9% were 25-39 years old, and 7.2% were 40 years old and older. The age of the mothers of 37.4% of newborns was under 25 years, 61.3% were 25-39 years old, and 1.3% of infants had mothers 40 years old and older (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 85).

The highest birth rate was recorded in the Samarkand region - 12%, Fergana region - 11.2%, Kashkadarya region - 10.5%, Andijan region - 9.2% and Surkhandarya region - 9%. The birth rate is relatively low in the Syrdarya region - 2.5%, Navoi region - 2.9%, Jizzakh region - 4.4%, Khorezm region - 4.5% and Karakalpakstan - 4.5% (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 79).

The total number of deaths in January-June was 81.4 thousand people, including 44.4 thousand men and 37 thousand women. In cities, the same figures were 46 thousand people, in rural areas - 35.4 thousand. Deaths among the population in the first half of the indicated years, in thousands (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 86).

**Figure: 4.** Deaths Among the Population from 2015 to 2024, in thousands (SCRUS n.d.).



It should be noted that the graph above shows that the number of deaths in the first half of 2024 is higher than in the same periods of the previous nine years, including 2020, 2021 and 2022, which were marked by the coronavirus pandemic (Rahimova 2023: 52).

Among the deaths registered in the first half of the year, the main causes were diseases of the circulatory system - 58.4% of cases, neoplasms - 9.4% of cases, diseases of the respiratory system - 6.6%, accidents, poisoning and injuries - 5.3%, diseases of the digestive

system - 4.1%, infectious and parasitic diseases - 1.1%, other diseases - 15.1% (Rahimova 2023: 53).

By region, the highest mortality rate was recorded in Tashkent - 5.2 ppm, Tashkent region - 5 ppm, the lowest rate was 3.9 ppm in Jizzakh region. The highest proportion of fatalities was recorded in Samarkand - 10.9%, Fergana - 10.4%, Tashkent - 9.7%, Andijan - 9.3% and Kashkadarya - 9.1% regions. The proportion of fatalities is relatively small in Syrdarya - 2.5%, Navoi - 2.8%, Jizzakh - 3.6%, Khorezm - 5.2% and Bukhara - 5.4% regions (Rahimova 2023: 53).

### **Marriages**

The number of registered marriages amounted to 97.4 thousand, decreasing by 1200 compared to the same period of the previous year. Of these, 50.1 thousand, or 51.4%, were registered in urban areas, 47.3 thousand, or 48.6%, in rural areas. The average age of women at marriage was 22.9 years, while the average age of men was 27.8 years (Rahimova 2023: 55).

The highest percentage of marriages was noted in the Samarkand region - 10.5%, Kashkadarya region - 10.1%, Fergana region - 10.0%, Tashkent - 9.2% and Surkhandarya region - 8.3%. A relatively low share of marriages was observed in the Syrdarya region - 2.5%, Navoi region - 2.7%, Jizzakh region - 3.6%, Bukhara region - 6% and Karakalpakstan - 6.6% (Rahimova 2023: 55).

### **Divorces**

The number of divorces in the first half of the year was 22.5 thousand. Over the past four years, their average number has increased significantly. Of the total number of divorces, 13.8 thousand were registered in cities (61.6%), and 8600 in rural areas (38.4%) (Rahimova 2023: 56).

The number of divorces of couples without children was 10.5 thousand cases, with one child - 6616 cases, with two or more children - 5372 cases. The average age of divorced men was 37.1 years, women - 32.2 years (Rahimova 2023: 56).

The highest percentage of divorces was 13.1% in Tashkent, 10.6% in the Andijan region, 10.5% in the Fergana region, 10.2% in the Tashkent region and 10.1% in the Samarkand region (Rahimova 2023: 57).



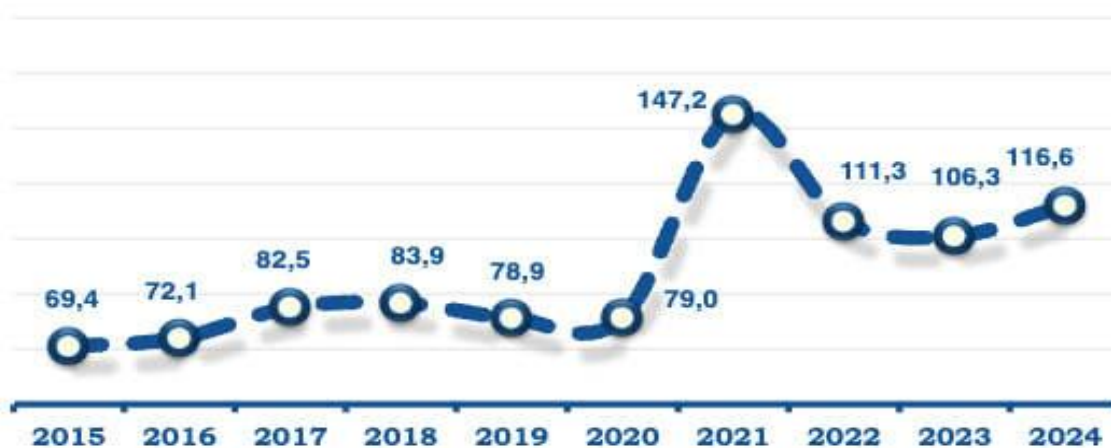
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The number of divorces is relatively small in Navoi - 2.6% of the total number of divorces, Syrdarya - 3.4%, Jizzakh - 3.7% regions, Karakalpakstan - 4% and Khorezm region - 4.4% (Rahimova 2023: 57).

### Migration

Migration plays a crucial role in the global economy and society by fostering cultural exchange, boosting economic growth, and addressing labor shortages. It allows people to seek better opportunities, education, and living conditions, contributing to both the host and home countries through remittances, skills, and knowledge transfer. Migration also helps fill gaps in industries that face shortages of skilled or unskilled labor. While it can create challenges like integration and resource allocation, effective migration policies can drive innovation, enhance diversity, and strengthen international relations.

**Figure: 5.** The Number of Arrivals in Uzbekistan in the First Half of the Indicated Years, in Thousands (SCRUS n.d.).



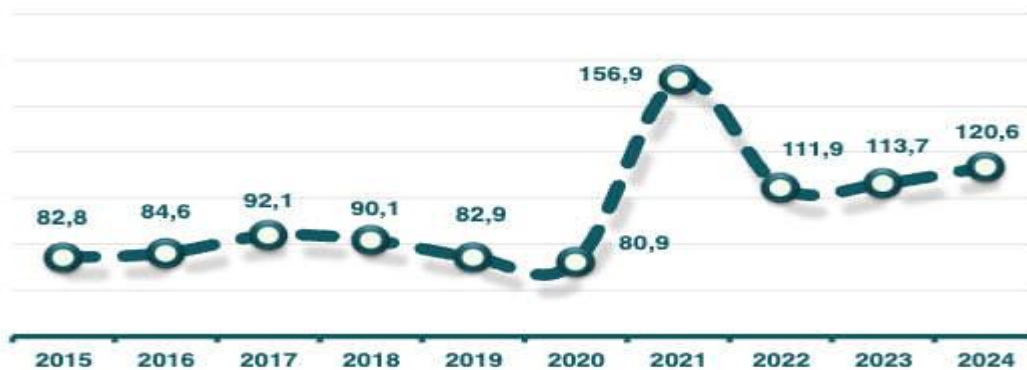
Over the past six months, 116.6 thousand people arrived in Uzbekistan, including 50.7 thousand men and 65.9 thousand women. The number of those arriving in urban areas reached 87 thousand, and 29.6 thousand people in rural areas (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 88).

The largest share of those arriving for permanent residence in Uzbekistan from abroad (as a percentage of their total number) came from the Russian Federation (36.1%) and Kazakhstan (24.1%). 10.7% of those arriving were registered from Tajikistan, 7.2% from Kyrgyzstan, 2% from Turkmenistan, and 19.9% from other countries (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 88).

By age groups: 10.8% of those arriving were younger than working age, 81.7% were of working age, and 7.5% were older than working age (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 89).

The largest share of immigrants is in Tashkent (38.2%), Tashkent region (13.3%), Samarkand region (6.1%), Navoi region (5.1%) and Kashkadarya region (4.9%) (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 89).

**Figure: 6.** Number of People Leaving Uzbekistan in the First Half of the Indicated Years, in Thousands (SCRUS n.d.).



The number of people leaving Uzbekistan over the past six months was 120.6 thousand people, including 52.8 thousand men and 67.8 thousand women. Those leaving cities amounted to 83.9 thousand people, and 36.7 thousand people from rural areas (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 90).

By age groups: 11.2% of those leaving were under working age, 81% were of working age, and 7.8% were over working age (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 90).

The main share of those leaving Uzbekistan for permanent residence in foreign countries falls on Kazakhstan (81.5%). Then come the Russian Federation (15%), Kyrgyzstan (0.7%), South Korea (0.7%), Turkmenistan (0.3%), and other countries (1.8%) (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 91).

The largest share of those who left was in Tashkent - 29.5%, Tashkent region - 11.5%, Kashkadarya region - 7.3%, Samarkand region - 6.7% and Karakalpakstan - 6%. Their share is relatively small in Namangan region - 2.2%, in Syrdarya region - 3.2%, in Jizzakh region - 3.7%, in Andijan region - 3.7% and in Bukhara region - 5% (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 91).

The role of demographic processes in the socio-economic development of any state is great, and the scientific study of important aspects of population growth, location, demographic composition and much more is of great importance. The population plays a

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decisive role in the development of society both as a productive force and as a consumer. The demographic situation is at the center of economic reforms aimed at forming a stable and efficient economy in the republic.

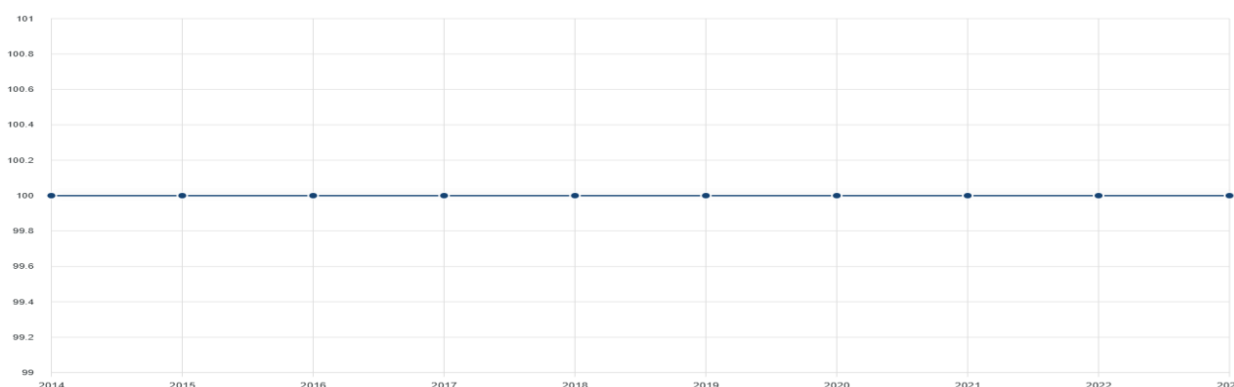
A specific demographic situation has developed in Uzbekistan: it is manifested in an increase in the rate of population growth, its birth rate, a decrease in mortality rates and, at the same time, in the growth of the working-age population.

In terms of demographic indicators, Uzbekistan is among the countries that are in the “first demographic dividend” stage. According to the UN study “World Population Prospects”, by 2048, the largest part of the population of Uzbekistan (27.6 million people) will be able-bodied citizens (15 to 64 years old). The predominance of the share of the working-age population in the structure of the total population, the addition of an average of about 600 thousand young people to the working age annually determines the need to ensure their employment, the creation of new jobs (Karimov & Mamatkulov 2023: 92).

### Literacy

Uzbekistan it has, according publishes UNESCO, an adult literacy rate of 100%. In comparison with other countries the literacy rate in Uzbekistan is very high. The literacy rate, held up in the past years.

**Figure: 7.** The Literacy Level of the Population Aged 25 and Older



**Source:** <https://siat.stat.uz/reports-filed/2319/line-data>

The consistent high literacy rate can be attributed to Uzbekistan's strong emphasis on education, including free access to primary and secondary education, as well as ongoing educational reforms aimed at improving teaching standards and infrastructure. Additionally, the cultural value placed on education and governmental policies supporting widespread educational attainment contribute to this steady literacy rate.

## Employment

Employment is essential for both individuals and society, providing financial stability, personal fulfillment, and contributing to economic growth. It allows people to earn a livelihood, develop skills, and gain social recognition. For the economy, employment drives productivity, stimulates consumption, and supports government revenue through taxes. It also promotes social cohesion by reducing poverty and inequality. Ensuring access to decent employment opportunities is key to fostering sustainable development and improving overall quality of life.

**Table: 2.** Employment Rate by sectors (2021-2023)

Sectors	2021 year	2022 year	2023 year
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	3414.7	3438.7	3344
Construction	1350.8	1314.3	1502.2
Mining and quarrying	94	57.5	58.9
Manufacturing industry	1642.4	1630.1	1661.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	138	135.7	139.2
Activities for the management and provision of support services	100.2	108.1	108.7
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	637.3	636.8	637.9
Arts, entertainment and recreation	70.2	71.7	71.9
Provision of other types of services	1358.2	1534.1	1560.3
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	76.2	73.5	68.6
Water supply; sewerage, waste collection and disposal	50.6	49.5	46.5
Information and communication	70.5	77.3	87.8
Financial and insurance activities	70.4	69.6	73.4
Transportation and storage	654.2	633.1	640.4
Accommodation and food services	341.1	348.8	367.2
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1535.6	1525.2	1586.1
Operations with real estate	63.2	62.2	64.9
Education	1220.5	1268.7	1299.5
Health and Social Service Delivery	650.8	671.3	694.8

**Source:** <https://stat.uz/uz/rasmiy-statistika/labor-market-2>

Based on the key indicators from the table, we observe the following trends in employment distribution across various sectors in Uzbekistan from 2010 to 2023:

1. **Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries:** Employment in this sector shows a slight decrease, from 3,118.1 thousand in 2010 to 3,344.0 thousand in 2023, indicating a gradual decline in agricultural employment.

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2. **Construction:** There is a noticeable growth in the construction sector, with employment rising from 1,033.7 thousand in 2010 to 1,502.2 thousand in 2023, reflecting the sector's expansion and growing infrastructure development.

3. **Manufacturing:** Employment in the manufacturing sector also grew steadily, from 1,339.1 thousand in 2010 to 1,661.9 thousand in 2023, indicating industrial growth.

4. **Information and Communication:** A notable increase in employment is observed in this sector, from 53.1 thousand in 2010 to 87.8 thousand in 2023, highlighting the expansion of the digital economy and technological advancements.

5. **Education:** Employment in education saw consistent growth, from 1,102.0 thousand in 2010 to 1,299.5 thousand in 2023, showing the importance placed on educational services.

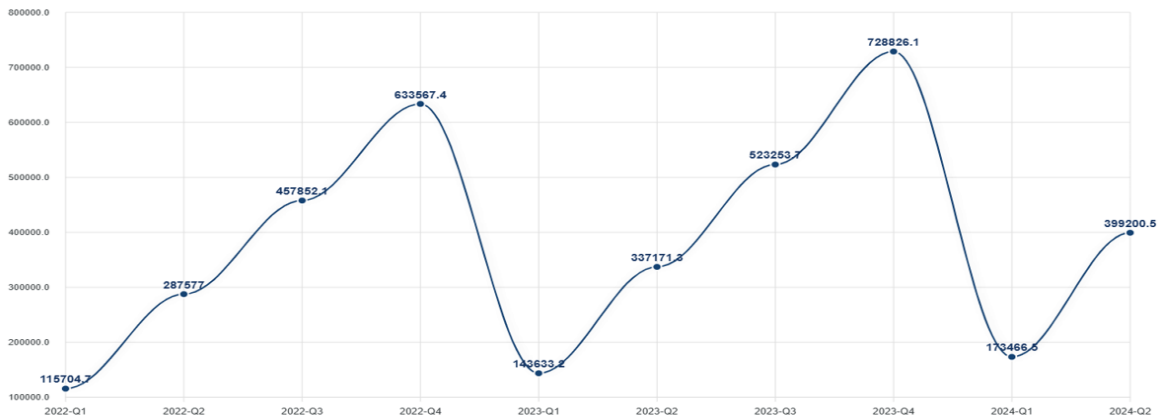
6. **Public Administration and Defense:** Employment in this sector remained relatively stable, with slight fluctuations, closing at 637.9 thousand in 2023.

Overall, the table reveals a shift in employment trends in Uzbekistan, with sectors like construction, manufacturing, and information technology showing significant growth, reflecting industrialization and modernization. Meanwhile, traditional sectors like agriculture experienced a decline, likely due to urbanization and economic diversification. Education and public services remain stable pillars in employment.

### **Income of the Population**

Income of the population is crucial for economic stability and individual well-being. It allows people to meet basic needs, improve living standards, and contribute to savings and investments. A higher income level enhances purchasing power, driving demand for goods and services, which in turn stimulates economic growth. Moreover, income equality is important for reducing poverty and social disparities, fostering social cohesion. Overall, income plays a key role in economic development, quality of life, and the ability to access better education, healthcare, and opportunities.

**Figure: 8.** Total income of the population (quarterly, billion soums)



Source: <https://siat.stat.uz/reports-filed/3973/line-data>

The graph shows seasonal income fluctuations, with peaks toward the end of each year and dips in the first quarter of the following year. This trend is typical in economies where certain industries (like agriculture or retail) play a significant role in boosting income during specific periods, followed by slower economic activity at the start of the year. The overall pattern suggests cyclical growth and income recovery, indicating resilience in the economy despite periodic downturns.

Here are some challenges and potential solutions related to the social aspects of the demographic situation in Uzbekistan:

### 1. Rapid Population Growth

Uzbekistan has one of the highest population growth rates in Central Asia, which puts pressure on social services such as healthcare, education, and housing.

**Solution:** The government can invest in family planning programs, promote women's education, and raise awareness about the benefits of smaller family sizes. Expanding access to quality healthcare, particularly reproductive health services, can help manage population growth sustainably.

### 2. Youth Unemployment

A large proportion of Uzbekistan's population is under 30, leading to a high demand for employment opportunities. Youth unemployment is a persistent issue that could lead to social unrest.

**Solution:** The government and private sector can collaborate to create vocational training programs that equip young people with skills aligned with labor market demands.

Encouraging entrepreneurship through financial support and mentorship programs can also reduce youth unemployment.

### 3. Rural-Urban Migration

Significant migration from rural areas to urban centers is causing overcrowding in cities like Tashkent, leading to housing shortages and pressure on infrastructure.

**Solution:** Balanced regional development programs should be implemented to create job opportunities and improve living standards in rural areas. Infrastructure investment in smaller cities can also help absorb the migrating population and reduce the burden on major urban centers.

### 4. Aging Population

While the youth population is dominant, the aging population is also growing. This poses challenges for the pension system and elder care services.

**Solution:** Reforming the pension system to ensure sustainability and improving healthcare services for the elderly can help address this challenge. Encouraging active aging and integrating older adults into the workforce through flexible work arrangements can also reduce the economic burden.

### 5. Gender Inequality

Despite improvements, gender disparities in education, employment, and political participation remain significant, particularly in rural areas.

**Solution:** The government should focus on policies that promote gender equality, such as ensuring equal access to education, enforcing anti-discrimination laws in the workplace, and encouraging female participation in politics. Awareness campaigns and local community programs can further address deep-rooted gender biases.

### 6. Access to Quality Education

While Uzbekistan has a high literacy rate, the quality of education, particularly in rural areas, remains a concern. Poor infrastructure and outdated curricula are barriers to progress.

**Solution:** Modernizing the education system, improving teacher training, and investing in digital education infrastructure can improve the quality of education. Government partnerships with international organizations can help bring in expertise and resources for educational reform.

### 7. Public Health Issues

Uzbekistan faces public health challenges, including malnutrition, non-communicable diseases, and insufficient access to healthcare in rural areas.

**Solution:** Expanding healthcare access, especially in rural regions, and promoting preventive healthcare programs such as vaccination and health education can help address public health issues. Improving healthcare infrastructure and training healthcare workers will ensure better service delivery.

### 8. Social Inequality and Poverty

Social inequality and poverty persist, particularly in rural regions, where access to services and opportunities is limited.

**Solution:** Implementing comprehensive social protection programs and fostering inclusive economic growth can reduce inequality. Providing microfinance opportunities and supporting small businesses, especially in underdeveloped regions, can help uplift economically disadvantaged communities.

These challenges and solutions outline critical social aspects that impact Uzbekistan’s demographic situation and propose actionable strategies to address them.

**Table: 3.** Population Growth Rate (2023)\*

Country	Population (Millions)	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Key Factors Influencing Growth
Uzbekistan	36.2	1.6	High fertility rates, migration from rural areas
Kazakhstan	19.8	1.2	Moderate fertility, increased urbanization
Russia	145.6	-0.2	Aging population, declining birth rates
Turkey	85.3	0.8	Balanced fertility, urban expansion
Germany	83.2	-0.1	Low fertility, aging population, immigration

Uzbekistan’s population growth rate remains higher compared to its neighbors, driven by a young population and higher fertility rates.

Uzbekistan’s population growth rate (1.6%) is significantly higher than its regional neighbors like Kazakhstan (1.2%) and Russia (-0.2%), where the population is even declining. Factors like higher fertility rates and rural-to-urban migration contribute to this growth.

\* The data in Table 3 is compiled from the World Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and synthesized by the author.



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Uzbekistan is experiencing rapid population growth, which could lead to increased demand for services, jobs, and infrastructure, while Russia and Germany face aging populations and declining growth.

**Table: 4.** Youth Unemployment Rate (2023)\*\*

Country	Youth Unemployment Rate (%)	Youth Population (millions, aged 15-24)	Major Causes of Unemployment
Uzbekistan	15.7	4.5	Skills mismatch, limited job market
Kazakhstan	10.2	2.9	Structural transition, low demand for young labor
Russia	13.8	9.8	Economic stagnation, high labor competition
Turkey	22.4	12.9	Political instability, economic slowdown
Germany	5.6	7.6	High vocational training integration

Youth unemployment in Uzbekistan is a pressing issue, partly due to a mismatch between education and labor market demands. Youth unemployment is a pressing issue in Uzbekistan (15.7%), especially when compared to countries like Kazakhstan (10.2%) and Germany (5.6%). This indicates a mismatch between education and labor market needs. Uzbekistan needs to invest in vocational training and job creation for its youth to prevent social unrest and boost economic productivity, particularly as youth make up a large portion of the population (Formed by the author based on the data of the Statistics Agency of Uzbekistan).

**Table: 5.** Urbanization and Rural Population Share (2023)\*

Country	Urban Population (%)	Rural Population (%)	Key Urbanization Factors
Uzbekistan	51	49	Rural-urban migration, industrial growth
Kazakhstan	58	42	Resource-driven urban centers, investment in infrastructure
Russia	74	26	Developed infrastructure, concentrated urban industries

\*\* The data in Table 4 is compiled from the World Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and synthesized by the author.

\* The data in Table 5 is compiled from the World Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and synthesized by the author.

<b>Turkey</b>	76	24	Economic modernization, tourism
<b>Germany</b>	77	23	High urban density, advanced infrastructure

Uzbekistan has a nearly balanced urban and rural population, indicating ongoing migration to cities and expanding industrialization. Uzbekistan’s urban population is at 51%, indicating ongoing urbanization. However, it still has a substantial rural population (49%), unlike countries such as Turkey and Russia, which are more urbanized. The balance between urban and rural populations in Uzbekistan presents both challenges and opportunities for development. Investments in rural infrastructure and balanced regional development will be critical to managing migration and providing services.

**Table: 6.** Life Expectancy at Birth (2023)\*

<b>Country</b>	<b>Life Expectancy (Years)</b>	<b>Male Life Expectancy (Years)</b>	<b>Female Life Expectancy (Years)</b>	<b>Key Health Factors</b>
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	72.5	70.1	74.8	Improving healthcare, nutrition challenges
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	71.3	68.9	73.7	Health reforms, public health improvements
<b>Russia</b>	70.1	66.5	75.4	High mortality, limited access to rural healthcare
<b>Turkey</b>	78.5	75.1	81.8	Advances in healthcare, reduction in infant mortality
<b>Germany</b>	80.9	78.4	83.3	Strong healthcare system, elderly care programs

Uzbekistan’s life expectancy has been improving yet remains lower than countries with more developed healthcare systems like Turkey and Germany. Uzbekistan’s life expectancy (72.5 years) is improving but remains lower than more developed countries like Germany (80.9) and Turkey (78.5). Gender disparities are also evident, with women living longer than men in all countries. While healthcare improvements have boosted life expectancy in Uzbekistan, further investment in public health, especially in rural areas, is needed to catch up with countries that have more advanced healthcare systems.

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\* The data in Table 6 is compiled from the World Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and synthesized by the author.

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**Table: 7.** Fertility Rate (2023)\*\*

Country	Fertility Rate (Births per Woman)	Key Factors Impacting Fertility Rate
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	2.8	Traditional family values, lack of access to family planning in rural areas
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	2.6	Declining due to urbanization and increased female participation in the workforce
<b>Russia</b>	1.5	Declining birth rate, high urbanization
<b>Turkey</b>	2.0	Moderate fertility decline, focus on women's education
<b>Germany</b>	1.6	Low fertility, advanced healthcare, higher education levels

Uzbekistan's fertility rate remains high compared to other countries in the region, contributing to its growing population. Uzbekistan's fertility rate (2.8 births per woman) is higher than its neighbors and Western countries like Germany (1.6). This high fertility rate contributes to rapid population growth, especially in rural areas. Uzbekistan's high fertility rate reflects traditional family values but may pose challenges for social services and infrastructure in the future. Family planning programs and education are essential to manage sustainable growth (Formed by the author based on the data of the Statistics Agency of Uzbekistan).

**Table: 8.** Education Access and Enrollment (2023)\*

Country	Primary Enrollment (%)	Secondary Enrollment (%)	Tertiary Enrollment (%)	Key Educational Challenges
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	99.4	93.2	20.8	Low tertiary enrollment, rural-urban education gap
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	98.6	97.4	56.2	Access to quality higher education, limited rural infrastructure
<b>Russia</b>	99.8	95.6	79.3	Quality of education, adapting to modern needs

\*\* The data in Table 7 is compiled from the World Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and synthesized by the author.

\* The data in Table 8 is compiled from the World Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and synthesized by the author.

<b>Turkey</b>	99.1	91.5	50.1	Gender disparities, uneven quality across regions
<b>Germany</b>	100	98.1	67.2	Comprehensive vocational training, modern education methods

While Uzbekistan has achieved near-universal primary and secondary education enrollment, tertiary education rates remain relatively low due to economic and infrastructure challenges. Uzbekistan performs well in primary and secondary education enrollment (99.4% and 93.2%, respectively), but tertiary enrollment remains low (20.8%) compared to countries like Kazakhstan (56.2%) and Germany (67.2%). While Uzbekistan has achieved nearly universal access to primary and secondary education, the challenge lies in expanding access to higher education and improving its quality, particularly in rural areas, to meet labor market demands.

In conclusion, the demographic landscape of Uzbekistan is distinguished by a swift increase in population, urban migration, and transformations in familial configurations. These demographic phenomena exert considerable influence on social frameworks, notably in the realms of education, healthcare, and labor markets. The burgeoning urban populace imposes strain on existing infrastructure and resources, while the depopulation of rural areas results in a scarcity of labor. It is imperative to confront these challenges to facilitate sustainable development within Uzbekistan. The demographic tendencies observed in Uzbekistan, including rapid population expansion and elevated fertility rates, present both prospects for economic advancement and obstacles pertaining to employment, healthcare, and education. Tackling youth unemployment, enhancing healthcare services, and broadening access to tertiary education are essential measures to guarantee that the nation’s growth is both sustainable and inclusive.

**Suggestions Augment Urban Infrastructure:**

**1.** Allocate resources towards the enhancement of urban infrastructure to accommodate the increasing urban populace, with an emphasis on housing, transportation, and public services.

**2. Advance Rural Development:** Formulate and execute policies that foster rural development in order to mitigate migration pressures on urban centers and achieve a more equitable regional growth.

**3. Elevate Healthcare and Education:** Amplify investments in healthcare and educational systems to ensure the provision of quality access, particularly in rural areas that are underserved.

**4. Foster Employment Opportunities:** Generate a greater number of job prospects in both rural and urban settings, with a specific focus on addressing youth unemployment through initiatives related to skills training and economic development programs.

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### *Makale Bilgileri/Article Information*

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<b><i>Etik Beyan:</i></b>	Bu çalışmanın hazırlanma sürecinde bilimsel ve etik ilkelere uyulduğu ve yararlanılan tüm çalışmaların kaynakçada belirtildiği beyan edilir.	<b><i>Ethical Statement:</i></b>	It is declared that scientific and ethical principles have been followed while carrying out and writing this study and that all the sources used have been properly cited.
<b><i>Çıkar Çatışması:</i></b>	Çalışmada kişiler veya kurumlar arası çıkar çatışması bulunmamaktadır.	<b><i>Conflict of Interest:</i></b>	The authors declare that declare no conflict of interest.
<b><i>Yazar Katkı Beyanı:</i></b>	Çalışmanın tamamı yazar tarafından oluşturulmuştur.	<b><i>Author Contribution Declaration:</i></b>	The entire study was created by the author.
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