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EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION IN SHARUR DISTRICT AND FACTORS AFFECTING IT

Abstract

It has been determined on the basis of the analysis of official statistical data, the changes in the employment structure in the Sharur administrative district during the last 10 years (2009-2019), and the factors influencing the formation of the population's employment in the article.

In the Sharur administrative district, the number dynamics, gender and age composition of the population, settlement of the able-bodied population in villages and cities, changes of the economically active population over the years, as well as the distribution of the population by economic activities have been analyzed. The reasons why the economically active population works more in various fields of agriculture were analyzed, and negative and positive factors affecting the structure of employment in the region were noted. Statistical data are shown and compared with tables and charts. The differences in the working population according to employment status were analyzed according to the statistical data of 2009 and 2019. The changes in the wage-earning and self-employed population over the years, the gender composition, and the settlement of the population working in these fields were recorded and compared on the basis of the data recorded in the tables.

Keywords: *employment, working age population, economically active population, gender and age composition of the population, urban and rural population*

Introduction

Sharur district is located in the west of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, its area is 815.18 km². (14.8% of the territory of Nakhchivan AR). The administrative center is the city of Sharur. The administrative structure includes 1 city, 64 rural settlements, 1 urban administrative territorial district, and 51 rural administrative territorial districts (statistical data of Nakhchivan AR as of January 1, 2023; 11). The Sharur region borders with the Islamic Republic of Iran from the south and Armenia from the north. It is surrounded by Kangarli district from the east and Sadarak district from the west (12). According to the statistics of January 1, 2023, the population of the Sharur region was 112,292 people. 7.4 thousand people (6.6%) of the population live in urban areas, and 104.9 thousand people (93.4%) live in rural areas. 24.1% of the population of Nakhchivan AR, 4.5% of the urban population, and 34.9% of the rural population belong to the Sharur administrative district. 55879 people, i.e. 24.02% of the population are men, and 56413 people, i.e. 24.2% are women. The density in the district is 137 people per km². Most of the territory of Sharur district is made up of plains, which made it ahead of other districts of Nakhchivan AR in terms of population density (10).

Research. When studying the employment structure of the population in the administrative region of Sharur, it is important to study the main factors affecting the formation of employment, including the number of the population, the average age limit, age-gender composition, labor reserves, economic fields where the working-age population is engaged, economically active and inactive population (Geography of the Republic of Azerbaijan, volume II Economic, social and political geography, 2015: 73).

One of the factors influencing the employment structure of the population is determining the gender and age composition of the population. Therefore, the age and gender composition of the population in the Sharur region was studied and the results are reflected in Table 1.

As can be seen from the table, the population of the Sharur region increased by 14.8% in 2019 compared to 2009, including the male population by 15.3% and the female population by 14.2%. An increase in the age-gender composition of the working-age population in the Sharur administrative region was also observed in 2009 and 2019. So, while in 2009, 69,027 people were of working age, in 2019, 14,790 people increased to 83,217 people. (Population Census of the Republic of Azerbaijan 2009, Volume I, 2010: 248) This shows an increase of 21.4% in the working-age population within 10 years. Among the working-age population, the male population increased by 7,420 (21.4%) and the female population by 7,370 (21.5%) to 42,143 and 41,674 respectively in 2019. During the 10 years of the study, the population below working age decreased by 0.5%, i.e. by 124 people, to 25,884 people. On the contrary, the population over working age increased by 5.9%, that is, by 427 people, reaching 7674 people. The average age of the population increased by 4.4 years to 32.6 during 2009-2019.

In general, since a high growth rate was observed in the total number of the population, the absolute increase in the number of the working-age population was also high.

Table 1.
Distribution of the population of Sharur administrative region by age and gender groups
(Based on population census data, in people and %).

Age	2009					2019				
	Both genders	Including				Both genders	Including			
		Male		Female			Male		Female	
		Person	%	Person	%		Person	%	Person	%
Total:	102282	50586	49,5	51696	50,5	117375	58319	49,7	59056	50,3
Including										
Below working age	26008	13618	52.4	12390	47,6	25884	13502	52,2	12382	47,8
At working age	69027	34723	50.3	34304	49,7	83817	42143	50,3	41674	49,7
Above working age	7247	2245	31	5002	69	7674	2674	34,9	5000	65,1
The average age	29,2	28,1		30,3		32,6	31,5		33,6	

Note: Compiled by the author based on statistical data of 2009-2019.

One of the factors influencing the employment structure is the location of the district population in urban and rural settlements. Table 2 and Table 3 show the changes in the settlement of the working-age population in urban and rural areas in Sharur administrative region in the period 2009-2019. From the statistics given in Table 2, it can be seen that in 2019, compared to 2009, the urban population among the working-age population increased by 14.3%, that is, by 695 people, from 4853 to 5548 people. Despite this, the urban population decreased from 7% to 6.6% in relation to the total working-age population during this period. In the 10-year period, increases were also observed in the gender distribution of the urban population of working age. Thus, the male population increased by 15.8%, i.e. 377 people, to 2768 people, and the female population increased by 318 people, i.e. 12.9%, to 2780 people. In relation to the working age population, men increased by 0.6%, while women decreased by 0.6% (Tahirova, 2016: 59).

Table 2.
The number of working-age population of city population in Sharur administrative district, by number and percentage.

By years	Working age population		Including					
			Urban population					
	Person	%	Total		Male		Female	
			Person	%	Person	%	Person	%
2009	69027	67,5	4853	7	2391	49,3	2462	50,7
2019	83817	71,4	5548	6,6	2768	49,9	2780	50,1

Note: Compiled by the author based on statistical data of 2009-2019.

Table 3 analyzes the statistical data of the working-age population of the rural population. Based on the given data, it can be determined that a continuous increase in the number of the rural population was observed during the years 2009-2019. Thus, the village population, which was 64,174 people in 2009, increased by 22%, i.e. 14,095 people, and reached 78,269 people in 2019. As can be seen from the table, among the working-age rural population of Sharur administrative region, the male population in 2019 compared to 2009 was 7043 people (21.8%), and the female population increased by 7052 people (22.1%) and reached 39375, respectively. and reached 38894 people. It can be observed that the male population increased by 0.1% and the female population decreased by 0.1% in relation to the total number of the working-age population (Census of population of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic 2019, volume I, 2022: 23).

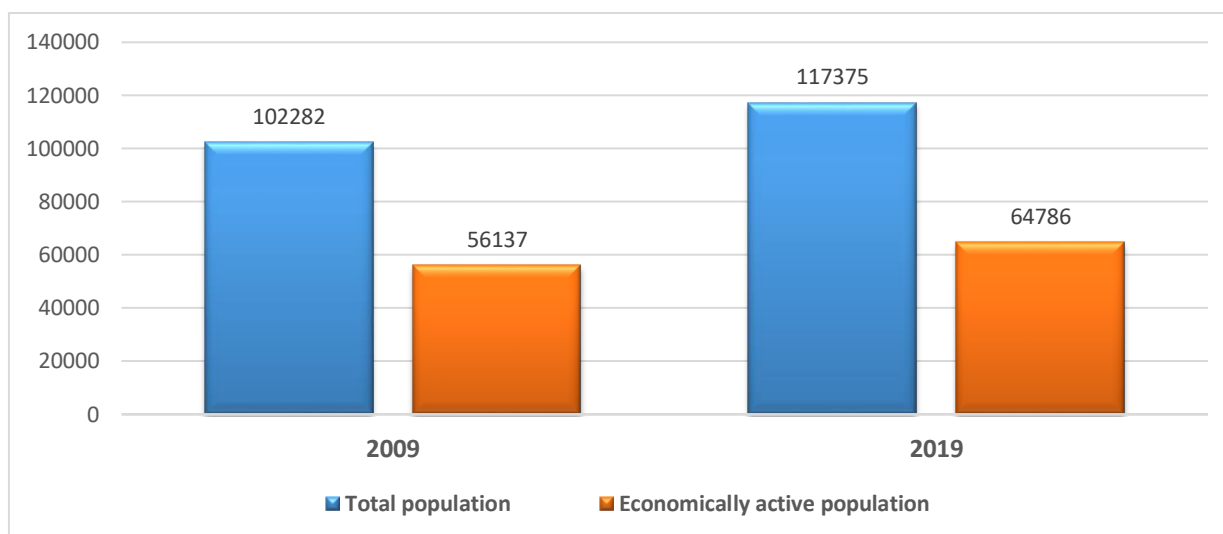
Table 3.
The number of working-age population in the Sharur administrative region by rural population, by number and percentage.

By years	Peaople at the age of able to work		Including					
			village population					
	Person	%	Total		Male		Female	
			Person	%	Person	%	Person	%
2009	69027	67,5	64174	93	32332	50,4	31842	49,6
2019	83817	71,4	78269	93,4	39375	50,3	38894	49,7

Note: Compiled by the author based on statistical data of 2009-2019.

In the 10-year period after 2009, when analyzing the number dynamics of the population of working age in Sharur administrative district, despite the socio-economic difficulties, it can be observed that the urban and rural population, as well as the general population, are constantly increasing.

Diagram 1.
Economically active population of Sharur administrative region (15 years old and over)



Note: Compiled by the author based on statistical data of 2009-2019.

Diagram 1 shows the number of total population and economically active population in Sharur administrative district by year. The concept of economically active population is widely used in world statistics. It shows the number, composition and level of employment of the employed population. It is clear from the diagram that during the ten years of our research, an increase was observed in both the population and the number of economically active population. So, while the economically active population was 56,137 people in 2009, it was 64,786 people in 2019, that is, 8,649 people increased by 15.4% (Census of population of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic 2019, volume III, 2022:26). At the same time, compared to the total population of the administrative region, the economically active population increased from 54.9% to 55.2%. It is clear from this information that during these years, the economically active population has grown at a higher rate than the general population (total population growth was 14.8%).

In Table 4, statistical data are analyzed according to the gender and age composition of the economically active population, as well as their settlement in rural and urban areas. When comparing men and women, it is possible to determine that the ratio among the working population is equalized in both research years. Thus, in 2009 there were 28,124 men and 28,013 women, including only 111 people, i.e. 0.4%, and at the same time in 2019, there were 32,707 men and 32,079 women, including 628 people, i.e. 1.9%. A difference of 9% was observed. In both years, men dominate over women among the economically active population. If we pay attention to the employment status of the working population, it can be seen that men prevail in the category of wage earners, and women prevail in the category of self-employment. The reason for this is that many factors affect women's work, including religious factors, women doing more housework, the difficulties they face in getting higher education, family status, the location of business enterprises in urban areas, long working hours, etc.

When we compare the urban and rural population according to the employment status of the working population, we see that in 2009, 7.1% of the employed population, and 6.6% in 2019, were urban population, respectively 92.9% and 93.4% were rural population. Regarding the employment status of the urban and rural population, the urban population working for wages decreased by 1,967 people (55.7%) to 1,563 people, and the rural population working in the same field decreased by 1,859 people (9.5%) to 17,801 people. In addition, the urban population working in the field of self-employment increased 6.2 times during 10 years and from 441 people to 2737 people, and the rural population increased 1.3 times from 32504 people to 42672 people (Population census of the Republic of Azerbaijan 2009, volume XIV, 2010:160).

Table 4.
Employment status of the working population

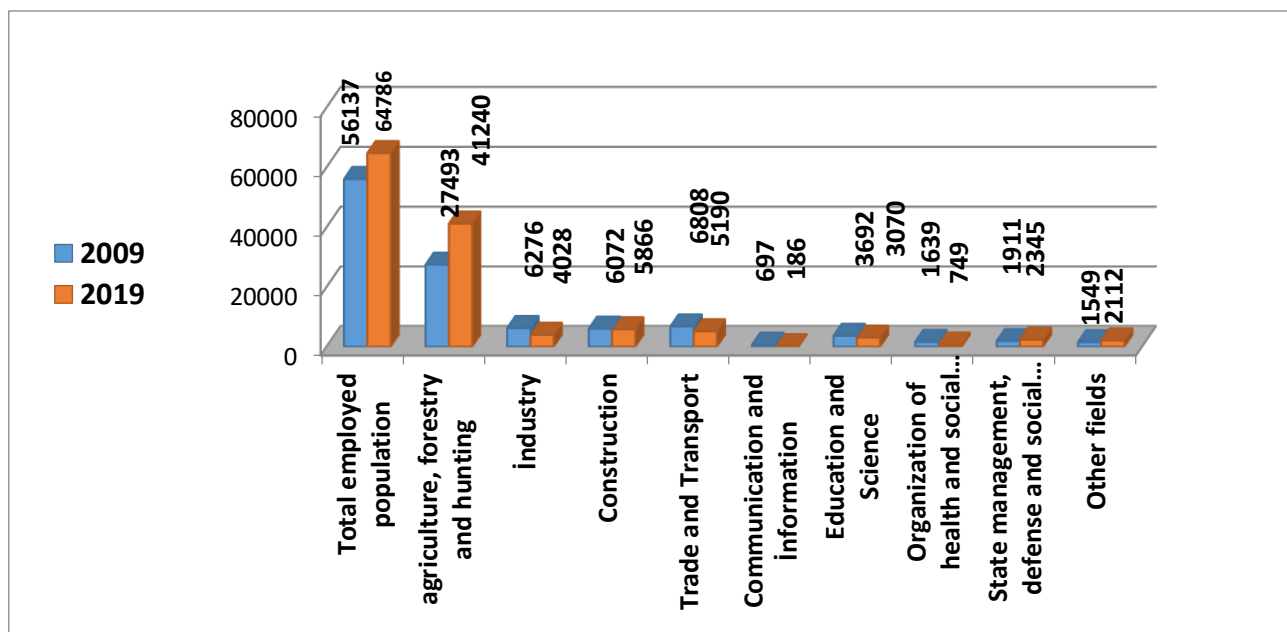
		2009			2019			
By region	Working population	Including			Working population	Including		
		Salaried	Self employment	Other		Salaried	Self employment	Other
Total	56137	23190	32945	2	64786	19364	45409	13
Male	28124	14735	13387	2	32707	13038	19663	6
Female	28013	8455	19558	0	32079	6326	25746	7
Urban population	3972	3530	441	1	4302	1563	2737	2
Rural population	52165	19660	32504	1	60484	17801	42672	11
At working age	55466	22905	32559	2	63984	19095	44876	13
Above working age	671	285	386	0	802	269	533	0

Note: Compiled by the author based on statistical data of 2009-2019.

Table 4 also analyzes the age composition of the employed population. Based on the statistics of 2009 and 2019, it can be determined that in both years, 98.8% of the employed population was of working age. In 2009, 22,905 people, i.e., 41.3% of the working-age population were employed, 32,559 people, i.e., 58.7%, were self-employed. In 2019, 19,095 people, i.e., 29.8% of the working-age population are employed, and 44,876 people, or 70.2%, are self-employed. (Census of population of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic 2019, volume II, 2022: 323). Among the population over working age, the employed population increased by 131 people (19.5%) to 802 people, the wage-earning population decreased by 16 people (5.6%) to 269 people, and the self-employed population increased by 147 people (38.1 %) increased to 533 people. It is clear from the table that in the age distribution of the employed population, from 2009 to 2019, a constant growth rate was observed in the number of the self-employed population compared to the salaried population.

Diagram 2 shows the number of the employed population in different areas of economic activity. Compared to 2009, in 2019, the number of people working in general economic activities increased by 8,649 people or 15.4%. If in 2009 there were 27,493 people working in agriculture, forestry and hunting, in 2019, 13,747 people or 50% increased to 41,240 people, and 434 people or 27.7% were working in public administration, defense and social security. increased to 2345 people. (Population census of the Republic of Azerbaijan 2009, Volume XIII, 2010:16). Except for agriculture, forestry and hunting, public administration, defense and social security, the situation has changed in all the remaining economic activity areas, and reductions in the number of people working in all areas have been observed. Thus, in 2019, according to the official statistics of 2009, there are 2,248 people (35.8%) working in various fields of industry, 206 people (3.4%) working in construction, and 1,618 people (23.8%) working in trade and transport, communication and information workers decreased by 511 (73.3%), education and science workers decreased by 622 people (16.8%), health and social services to the population by 890 people (54.3%).

Diagram 2.
Distribution of the employed population by economic activities



Note: Compiled by the author based on statistical data of 2009-2019.

It can be seen from the diagram that in both years we compare, the largest number of workers in terms of economic activities is in the field of agriculture, forestry and hunting, and in the field of transport and trade. The greater individual activity of the population working in these fields causes them to be ahead in terms of population compared to other fields of economic activity.

During the analysis, the decrease in the specific weight of those working in industrial fields and its growth at a lower rate compared to other fields indicate that these fields are not paid attention to, few measures are taken, and new enterprises are not involved in the development of labor and science-intensive fields.

Economic, social, geographical, demographic, psychological and political factors can have a significant impact on the employment of the population. In addition, the formation of the employment structure of the population is influenced by geographical conditions, the location of the population in altitude zones, the possibilities of using natural resources in the area, the specialized areas of agriculture and industry, the organization of enterprises based on their processing, historical-geographical development characteristics and the traditions of the population. (Geography of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, volume II Economic and social geography, 2018: 138). There are many factors affecting the employment structure of the population in Sharur administrative region. These include economic factors such as population growth, age-gender structure, standard of living, migration, health care development, areas of economic activity, etc., as well as physical factors such as terrain, climate, land cover. The territory of Sharur administrative district is favorable for the development of agriculture. So, most of the region is located in the plains. The rich composition of the soil, the development of agriculture under irrigation conditions and the taking of high productivity provide conditions for the better development of various areas of agriculture compared to other areas of economic activity. Also, Arpachay, which flows through the region, is one of the factors affecting the structure of the economy here. 60% of cultivated fields in Sharur administrative district are irrigated with Arpachay water (Geography of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, volume II Economic and social geography, 2018: 186).

Along with positive factors, there are also negative factors affecting the structure of employment. For example, as we mentioned above, most of the population work in various fields of agriculture. The drying of the climate has a negative effect on the development of the economy in

the administrative region of Sharur. Thus, the fact that agricultural fields require more irrigation, lack of irrigation water especially in the summer period when agriculture is more developed, as well as the lack of warehouses for storing the harvested products, and the low purchasing power of the population belong to these factors. Also, the lack of industrial enterprises, the fact that a part of the population goes to Nakhchivan city and other areas to work has a significant impact on the structure of employment in Sharur administrative district.

Conclusion

The following conclusions were obtained while analyzing the employment structure of the population in Sharur region and the factors affecting it.

1. In the age structure of the population, the working-age population increased by 21.4% and reached 83,217 people in 2019. In the gender structure of the able-bodied population, an increase of 21.4% in the number of males and 21.5% in the number of females was observed.

2. Among the working population, urban population increased by 14.3%, including men by 15.8% and women by 12.9%. There was a 22% change in the number of the rural population among the working-age population. In particular, the male rural population increased by 21.8%, while the female population increased by 22.1%.

3. While in 2009, 41.3% of the working-age population was employed, 58.7% was self-employed, in 2019, this indicator changed, and 29.8% of the working-age population was employed. 70.2% were self-employed.

4. The employed population increased by 15.4% in 2019 compared to 2009. In particular, among the population working in various fields of economic activity, those working in the field of agriculture, forestry and hunting were significantly ahead of other fields in both years.

5. Decreases were observed in the number of people working in all economic activities, except for agriculture, forestry and hunting, public administration, defense and social security.

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