

# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE CITY OF KARSHI**

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*Abstract: The article analyzes the demographic indicators of the city of Karshi, the state and prospects of economic and social development of the city of Karshi, the use of labor resources, and the city's social infrastructure.*

*Keywords: large city, industrial hub, labor resources, migration, employment, infrastructure, social sphere, diversification, industrial production, service sector.*

## **СОЦИАЛЬНО-ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЕ РАЗВИТИЕ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ РАЗВИТИЯ ГОРОДА КАРШИ**

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*Аннотация: В статье анализируются демографические показатели города Карши, состояние и перспективы экономического и социального развития города Карши, использование трудовых ресурсов и социальная инфраструктура города.*

*Ключевые слова: крупный город, промышленный центр, трудовые ресурсы, миграция, занятость, инфраструктура, социальная сфера, диверсификация, промышленное производство, сектор услуг*

Geourbanism, or urban geography, is the most developed area of study of population and settlements, and in general, economic and social geography. Cities are distinguished from other economic geographical objects by their holistic, immediate visibility. The reason for this is their unique representation of production, socio-economic reality in the territory, on a geographical map.

As is known, economic maps mainly show three territorial forms: lines correspond to roads, areas or fields - to agricultural sectors, and points and nodes (nodes) reflect industrial centers, cities. Therefore, it can be said that the main object of study of economic and social geography is this triad, territorial or geographical geometry, and their analysis is the fundamental problem of this

science.

The functions of cities within the framework of economic and social geography are reflected in the following. First of all, it should be noted that cities are territorial units; secondly, they are a complex socio-economic category; thirdly, in cities, the environment, the socio-economic activity of this territory, as if reflected in a mirror, are integrated; fourthly, cities serve as the fulcrums, "pillars" of the economic and social geographical system of each state, region. Cities are our past, our present power, and our potential for development in the future.

The city of Karshi is located in the southwestern part of our country, on the banks of the Kashkadarya River, at an altitude of 378 meters above sea level. In some places, namely from the east, it has a noticeable undulating appearance.

The current total area of the city of Karshi is 8.3 thousand hectares. Due to the growing population and economy of the city, it is planned to expand the territory in stages in the coming years. According to the project: by 2030, the area of Karshi is planned to exceed 11 thousand hectares, and by 2042 - to 16 thousand hectares. As part of the expansion, areas will be allocated for new housing estates, road infrastructure, industrial areas and social service facilities.

Karshi is a large city in Southern Uzbekistan, ranked 8th among the cities of the republic in terms of population according to 2025. The economic and geographical location of the city is very favorable. Almost in the center of the region and the developed Karshi steppe, at the intersection of the main railway and highway routes, there is an oasis with extensive pastures, where agriculture has been intensively developed since ancient times, between the Karshi-Zarafshon, Surkhan-Sherabad valleys and a convenient industrial hub. At the same time, the republic's production forces are located in a rapidly developing region.

In accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to improve the processes of development and implementation of master plans for cities, towns and rural settlements", the master plan of the city of Karshi, the center of our region, was developed on September

13, 2013. According to it, the area of the city's boundary line is 7,551 hectares. According to data as of January 1, 2023, the housing stock is 3,314.75 thousand square meters, 16.7 square meters per person.

The master plan of the city of Karshi proposes to expand the city's territory at the expense of adjacent territories. The municipal districts of Karshi district: Gubdin, Shoykhodja, Kochkak, Uzumzor, Gulistan, Tinchlik, Batosh, Yangi Batosh, Jumbozor Istiqlol, Koratepa, Kat, Pakhtazor, Chaman, Bogobod, Yangi Bogobod have been transferred to the city of Karshi. In particular, according to the new master plan, it is proposed to add 434.2 hectares of land from the adjacent territory of the Karshi district to the city of Karshi. It is reported that 302.1 hectares of the area planned to be transferred from the Karshi district to the city of Karshi will be under construction, and 132.1 hectares will be irrigated farmland.

In the conditions of Kashkadarya, the correct and rational use of labor resources creates an opportunity for the development of productive forces and the effective use of natural resources. The growth of labor resources in the city, the growth of the population depends on its composition and migration. The growth of the city's population has been increasing rapidly since the 1960s. This can be seen from the following data. For example, according to the 1959 census, 33 thousand people lived in the city, while on 01.01.2025 it reached 300.8 thousand people. Such an increase in the population is primarily due to the development of the Karshi desert and the discovery of numerous natural resources in the region, which creates opportunities for the development of the city's economy, which has led to the settlement of many people in the city.

The permanent population of the city of Karshi, the center of Kashkadarya region, was 300.8 thousand people as of January 1, 2025, an increase of 2.6 thousand people or 0.9% since the beginning of the year.

With the increase in population, labor resources (178.8 thousand people) also increased. 47.1% of the total population is engaged in social work. The rest are young children, adolescents, and pensioners. Since 2023, the total number of

working-age youth (168.7 thousand people) has been growing. Therefore, the formation of entrepreneurship in the city in order to provide employment for young people requires the development of medium and small businesses and other sectors. In this way, providing employment to the growing working-age population will create the opportunity to produce more consumer goods.

One of the characteristics of the cities of the southern region of Uzbekistan is the natural change of the population, which indicates that the living conditions of the city's population have improved due to the increase in birth rates. In the city of Karshi, the birth rate (per 1,000 people) was 24.6 per thousand, the death rate was 5.4 per thousand, and the natural increase was 19.2 per thousand. The number of people arriving in the city was 2,739, and the number of people leaving was 3,273.

Table 1

**Demographic situation of the city of Karshi**

Indicators	2002	2005	2007	2009	2010	2018	2022	2024
<b>Natural population change (persons)</b>								
Birth	3835	3783	4622	4937	4939	5567	8507	7338
Death	959	947	963	925	935	1158	1581	1606
Natural growth	2876	2836	3659	4012	4004	4409	6926	5732
<b>Per 1000 people (per mille)</b>								
Birth	17,9	17,0	20,2	20,7	20,4	20,7	29,7	24,6
Death	4,5	4,3	4,2	3,9	3,9	4,3	5,5	5,4
Natural growth	13,4	12,8	16,0	16,8	16,5	16,4	24,2	19,2

Source: Data from the Kashkadarya Regional Statistics Department.

As the city's population grows from year to year, it can be seen that labor resources are also increasing. In this case, in the conditions of market relations, it creates a problem of providing employment to the growing population. In order to avoid such problems, it is necessary to work on a program to ensure employment and create new jobs. For this, if new production facilities are launched, the modernization and expansion of existing enterprises are modernized, small

enterprises and micro-firms are established, individual entrepreneurship is established, the development of production, social and market infrastructure is carried out, the restoration of the activities of some non-working enterprises is carried out, and other measures are taken, it is possible to create 8,706 new jobs in 2024.

According to the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 23, 2013, the Master Plan of the city of Karshi for the period until 2030 was approved.

The city plans to build multi-storey buildings - 9-4 storeys, low-rise buildings - 2-3 storeys and individual 1-2 storeys. Depending on the population of each area, it is planned to create schools, kindergartens, neighborhood centers, small alleys. It is planned to create a protected area around the historical and architectural part of Karshi. The construction of advertising boards and various buildings that do not correspond to historical buildings near monuments will be banned. Road transport facilities (bus stations, bus stops, road service stations) will receive additional upgrades. It is planned to further expand the existing highways in the city, later to connect them to bypass roads on the outskirts of the city and transport passengers to other settlements in the region, such as Shahrisabz, Guzar, Koson, Yangi Nishon.

Today's Karshi is a multifunctional city. Light industry and food industry occupy a leading position in the industrial sectors of the city. A cotton ginning plant, an oil and dairy plant, a sewing factory, construction materials, and metal processing plants contribute to the development of the regional economy. Currently, more than 20 joint ventures operate in Karshi. The Uzbek-British "Mevalar kamalagi" and the Uzbek-Singapore "Karshiyog" joint ventures produce products by processing local raw materials. Enterprises such as cotton, silk, oil factories, metalworking enterprises, sewing factories, and a building materials plant have been built in and around Karshi, making Karshi an industrial hub. Karshi is a base for developing the desert. Railways and highways converge in

Karshi. This develops the production links of cities and towns such as Nishon, Talimarjon, and Koson. The city has Karshi State University, Karshi Technical University, and other educational institutions.

To meet the population's demand for affordable housing, more than 3,000 affordable model housing units were built in rural areas this year, or twice as many as last year, as well as 14 multi-story buildings with a total of 630 apartments in the city of Karshi.

The Uzbek-Chinese joint venture "Radiant Silk", which began operating in the city of Karshi last year, is one of the largest industrial enterprises specializing in the processing of cocoon crops. Currently, the enterprise is actively processing the cocoon raw materials harvested this year.

This joint venture was established in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 5, 2012 "On measures to organize modern production for processing raw silk on the basis of the property complex of the liquidated open joint-stock company "Karshi 16-Abusov Sarayi" in the city of Karshi, Kashkadarya region" and is equipped with modern equipment based on Chinese technology. The technological equipment has a capacity to process 420 tons of cocoons per year and produce 120 tons of raw silk from them; most importantly, 100 local young men and women are permanently employed here. They mastered the management of modern equipment in a short time. Therefore, the productivity and production rates in the workshops are high.

The processing processes at the joint venture are closely interconnected, and work is carried out in four existing workshops in a balanced manner. In one, the cocoons are sorted, in the next they are spun, and in the third, the silk fiber is wound onto special discs. The wound cocoons are then spun into yarn in the spinning workshop.

The products are currently being exported to the domestic market, as there are textile enterprises in our country that produce satin and adras fabrics from raw silk, and new ones are being built.

The city of Karshi has a significant place in the socio-economic potential of the Kashkadarya economic region. In 2022, the total number of enterprises and organizations was 7,075, including 1,304 newly established ones, and 4,695 enterprises, of which 567 were in industry, 127 in agriculture, 739 in construction, 1,035 in trade and catering, and 2,227 in others.

The main part of the output, or about 14.0 percent, falls on the southern region of Uzbekistan, where, along with light and food industries, some branches of fuel, construction and machine-building enterprises are developed. The geography of the production of consumer goods (CGI) in the region is also narrow, and the importance of the city of Karshi is very large (43.6%). In 2018, 127.1 thousand people were employed at the Kashteks factory, oil extraction and flour factories, fruit and vegetable processing enterprises, of which 30.8 thousand people were employed at state enterprises and organizations and 96.3 thousand people were employed at non-state enterprises and organizations.

In 2022, the volume of industrial production was 15.2%, and in terms of industrial product production, a significant increase in production volume was ensured in the city of Karshi by 109.1%. Analysis of the stratification of industrial product production per capita in the city of Karshi is 12,053.2 thousand soums, which is significantly higher than the average regional level indicator. (6,566.7 thousand soums). The share of small businesses in the production of industrial products in the city of Karshi is 60.0%. Today, more than 2,000 industrial enterprises operate in the region, of which 536 are located in the city of Karshi. 502 new industrial enterprises have been established in the region, of which more than 100 are in the city of Karshi.

Construction works amounted to 2278.3 billion soums, or 112.4%, including regional construction contracting organizations - 97.6 billion soums, with a growth rate of 64.3%. The volume of construction works was observed in the city of Karshi, and its share in the region was 26.2%. The highest growth rate of construction works was observed in the city of Karshi. In this region, the

construction of a multi-purpose swimming pool by "Pudina Kuvonchbek" LLC ensured a growth rate of 108.3%.

The volume of services production is 4001.4 billion soums, an increase of 113.8% compared to the previous year, and Karshi accounts for 53.4% of the total volume of market services. The maximum growth in services provided per capita is 9.4%, per capita indicators are 13990.1 thousand soums, 114.7%. The volume of retail trade turnover is 4639.2 thousand soums, a growth rate of 111.6%. The share of large enterprises and small businesses in retail trade turnover is 75.4 and 24.6%. The share of large enterprises in the turnover structure by region is 7.4%, and the largest share is observed in Karshi, 24.6%.

The economic and geographical location of cities, their population, and the level of provision with transport and utility systems increase the interest of foreign investors in locating industrial enterprises in this region. The fact that most of the industrial enterprises established in Uzbekistan during the years of independence were built in urban areas is proof of our opinion.

o develop the city of Karshi economically and socially, the following should be implemented:

- It is necessary to provide the city with drinking and wastewater, for this purpose, canals (ditches) should be laid through three parts of the city;
- Develop a program to provide the city's population with natural gas and electricity;
- Develop new jobs in the development of medium and small businesses in order to provide the population with jobs;
- Develop construction, improvement and landscaping of modern housing;
- There are many ancient settlements in the city, and their preservation and preservation should be passed on to future generations as historical and archaeological monuments;
- In hot and dry climates, create recreation areas around the city (citizens go to Kitab and Shahrizabz districts for recreation);

- Find ways to attract foreign investment for the further development of the city by improving the infrastructure and investment climate, etc.;
- Along with the construction of modern housing, it is necessary to develop the utility sector.

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