



SYSTEMATIZATION OF URBANIZATION PROCESSES IN THE EXAMPLE OF KASHKADARYA REGION: STATISTICS AND ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This article analyzes the state of urbanization processes in the Kashkadarya region based on demographic, economic, and infrastructural indicators of recent years. The purpose is to determine the main directions for systematizing urbanization and to develop practical recommendations for regional policy.

Keywords: Urbanization, Kashkadarya, demographic indicators, urbanization level, infrastructure, sustainable development.

Introduction

Urbanization is the process of concentrating population, productive forces, and social infrastructure around cities at a certain stage of socio-economic development. In recent years, the acceleration of urbanization processes in Uzbekistan has become one of the strategic priorities of the national economy. In 2022, the Presidential Decree “*On Measures to Accelerate Urbanization Processes*” (PP–270) was adopted, after which modern urban development policy began to take shape in regional centers and districts.

Urbanization leads to economic, social, and environmental renewal of regions. In the Kashkadarya region, recent years have seen a significant increase in the size of the urban population, construction activities, investments, and the



services sector. However, this growth can be unbalanced, causing excessive pressure on urban infrastructure and deterioration of living conditions.

Urbanization is associated with territorial concentration of population and economic activity and represents a complex systemic process. Its main components include:

Demographic component: population growth and migration flows;

Economic component: development of industrial and service centers;

Social component: improved quality of life, education, and healthcare indicators;

Territorial component: functional integration of urban and rural areas.

If urbanization is not managed systematically, it may lead to environmental overload, infrastructure shortages, and rising social inequality.

State of Urbanization Processes in the Kashkadarya Region

Kashkadarya region is located in the southwest of Uzbekistan and, as of 2025, its population exceeds 3.4 million people. Of these, approximately 1.15 million people (33.8%) live in urban areas, while 2.25 million (66.2%) live in rural areas.

Table 1

Year	Population (thousand)	Urban population share (%)	Rural population share (%)
2010	2750	30.1	69.9
2015	2985	31.2	68.8
2020	3220	32.7	67.3
2024	3400	33.8	66.2

Over the past 15 years, the urbanization rate has increased by **3.7 percentage points**, but remains significantly lower than the national average (49.5%).

Kashkadarya is one of the economically important regions of the country, and systematic reforms in the sphere of urbanization are currently being actively implemented.

Below are the main demographic, economic, and infrastructural indicators of recent years.



Table 2

Indicator	Value / Growth
Permanent population (as of July 1, 2025)	3,673,755 people
Gross Regional Product (Q1–Q2 2025)	105.9% compared to the same period in 2024
Industrial growth	107.0%
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries	104.1%
Fixed capital investments	102.9%
Construction works	102.7%
Retail turnover	108.2%
Services sector	113.0%
Urban & rural population (2023–2025)	In 2023: 1,433 thousand (43%) urban; 1,901.5 thousand (57%) rural. Population in 2025: 3,673,755
Urbanization level	~ 43%
Housing provision	16.4–16.6 m² per person
Marriage rate (2024)	6.7‰ , decreased by 0.5‰ compared to 2023

Analytical Assessment of Trends

The rise in the urban population share (to ~43%) shows a continuing imbalance between cities and rural areas. Migration inflows increase the load on urban infrastructure.

Growth in GRP, industrial production, construction, and the services sector reflects intensifying economic activity. Particularly strong growth is observed in the services sector — **113%**.

Housing provision (16.4–16.6 m²) is below the national average (18–19 m²), indicating a shortage of housing stock.

Migration processes, although moderate, noticeably affect the pressure on urban services.

Industrial development (107%) shows strengthening of the region's production base, while services growth reflects rising consumer demand.

Key Problems

Overload of urban infrastructure — transport, roads, utilities.

Housing shortage — low residential area per person.



Imbalanced internal migration — population inflow without matching infrastructure expansion.

Gap in social services access between urban and rural areas.

Demographic pressure — changes in birth, death, and marriage rates.

Recommendations for Systematizing Urbanization Processes

1. Development of Territorial Planning Strategy

Identification and development of service centers.

Formation of agglomerations (e.g., Karshi — Shakhrisabz — surrounding districts).

2. Affordable Housing Programs

Expansion of low-cost housing construction programs.

Increasing the standards of living space.

3. Development of Transport and Utility Infrastructure

Expanding public transport networks.

Improving roads and connections to peripheral areas.

Ensuring sustainable energy, water supply, and ICT systems.

4. Strengthening Social Infrastructure

Balanced placement of education and healthcare facilities.

Development of cultural, sports, and social institutions.

5. Monitoring and Digital Governance

Continuous monitoring of urbanization using GIS and statistical systems.

Forecasting models for resource planning.

Studying population needs through surveys.

Conclusion

Urbanization processes in the Kashkadarya region have intensified significantly: the population is growing, the industrial and service sectors are expanding, and investments and construction activities are increasing. However, growth remains



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unbalanced, and problems such as housing affordability, infrastructure quality, and access to social services persist.

Systematizing urbanization through territorial planning, infrastructure investments, development of social services, and digital monitoring will transform the region into a sustainable, competitive area with a high standard of living.

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