

NEWS

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

SERIES OF SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

ISSN 2224-5294

<https://doi.org/10.32014/2019.2224-5294.78>

Volume 2, Number 324 (2019), 252 – 258

UDC 332.6

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ANALYSIS OF QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE POPULATION OF KAZAKHSTAN

Abstract: The article is devoted to questions of the standard of living of the Kazakh population and forecasting its future state in the country based on data from the Statistics Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The article analyzes the main components of the quality of life of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan according to such indicators as the level of income of the population and their purchasing power, average monthly wages, average size of pensions accrued, the minimum subsistence level. As a result of the study, differentiation factors have been identified that affect the social situation and determine the standard of living of the population.

Key words: quality of life, social security, living standards of the population, cash income, living wage.

Introduction

The economy of Kazakhstan is at an important stage of development, including the formation of a socio-economic model focused on overcoming the consequences of the financial crisis and able to adapt to the realities of modern processes taking place in the entire global economy, which is characterized by increased globalization and convergence. In modern conditions in Kazakhstan, one of the priority directions of socio-economic policy is to improve the quality of life of the population. Kazakhstan is positioning itself as a socially-oriented state, which still has a significant burden on the state budget for social security expenditures. The share of social security expenditures is 1/5 of the state budget, while the sector together with healthcare creates less than 2% of GDP. At the same time, among the key areas of the Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025, primary tasks are set to improve the quality of life of citizens and ensure social well-being [1].

Mainpart

According to world rankings, Kazakhstan is among the countries with a high level of human development (HDI). Thus, in 2018, in the ranking of the human development index of the United Nations Development Program, the Republic of Kazakhstan ranks 58th among 189 countries of the world; in 2017, the World Economic Forum's Human Capital Development Index was ranked 29th among 130 countries. In addition, Kazakhstan in terms of income differentiation of the population - the Gini coefficient is in the group of countries with a relatively even distribution of income.

According to the UN report, the assessment of the human development index of Kazakhstan was 0.8 out of 1 (Table 1), which allowed the country to enter the top category of the rating.

Table1 - Human Development Index of Kazakhstan and its components

Indication	Data
Human development index	0,8
Lifexpectancy, years	70
Expected duration of study, years	15,1
Average duration of study, years	11,8
GNI per capita, PPP in dollars	22,626
[2] Human Development Indices and Indicators: 2018 Statistical Update Development Report	

The primary characteristics of the standard of living are the monetary incomes of the population, their amount, structure, and indicators of the differentiation of their distribution.

According to the results of the household survey [3], in the 2nd quarter of 2018, cash income averaged 153,725 tenge per capita, which is 9.3% higher than in the corresponding period of the previous year. At the same time, there are significant differences in the living standards of the population in urban and rural areas (Table 2).

Table 2 - Monetary incomes of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the 2nd quarter of 2018, ths. Tonspercapita

Indication	In general, in Kazakhstan	In urban area	In rural area
Cash income, total	153,7	177,9	121,0
Income of employment	115,1	132,7	91,3
Including			
Income from employment	98,4	118,5	71,2
Income from self-employment and business activities	16,7	14,3	20,1
Social transfers	32,0	36,9	25,3
Financial assistance from relatives, alimony	4,5	5,6	3,1
Other income (property income, etc.)	2,0	2,5	1,3
Average household size, person	3,4	3,1	4,0

[3] <http://stat.gov.kz>

According to the survey results, the cash income of the urban population exceeds the income of the rural population by approximately 57 thousand tenge or 47%. In addition, the average household size in a city is smaller than in a rural area and does not exceed the national average size of a household. Analyzing the structure of incomes, we note that the main source of monetary incomes of the urban and rural population is the income from labor activity, which is about 75%.

The most important difference in the income structure of urban and rural residents is the nature of work. Thus, the income of the urban population is almost 90% of the income from employment and 10% of the income from self-employment and entrepreneurial activity. The main source of income for residents of rural areas are also income from work, but they only 78% consist of income from work for hire and 22% from income from self-employment. Thus, for rural areas, a higher proportion of income from self-employment is characteristic than for the urban population.

For the disabled population, the main source of cash income is the social security system (pensions, benefits, targeted social and housing assistance, scholarships, etc.). Thus, the level of development and capabilities of the social support system are crucial for assessing the prospects for the standard of living of this socially vulnerable category of population.

Within the framework of social security, the subsistence minimum plays a key role. From January 1, 2018, the subsistence minimum (VPL) for calculating the amount of basic social benefits was set at 28,284 tenge, an increase of 15.6% compared to last year. The structure of the subsistence minimum was also changed: a fixed share of expenditures on non-food goods and services was set at 45% of the cost of the minimum consumer basket (against 40% earlier). By the end of June, the subsistence minimum in Kazakhstan amounted to 27.85 thousand tenge on average per capita - this is by 5.2% more than in May, by 8.8% - than at the beginning of the year, and immediately by 10.9% - than last June. For comparison, the inflation rate for the corresponding period was only 0.2% - for the month, 2.6% - from the beginning of the year and 5.9% - for the year.

It is curious that for different socio-demographic groups the growth is also different. Thus, since the beginning of the year, the subsistence minimum for able-bodied women and men has risen by 9%, pensioners by 8.8%, children under 13 years old - only by 7.9%.

Recall that in the Republic of Kazakhstan it is considered that women and men should have different subsistence minimum: for example, able-bodied women rely according to this indicator by 20.6% less food and, accordingly, so much less non-food goods and services.

At the same time, neighboring Russia, like another EAEU ally, Belarus, does not divide the minimum subsistence level by gender, only by socio-demographic criteria (age and work capacity). At the same time,

in Kyrgyzstan's neighboring Central Asia, they also believe that women have a lower subsistence minimum than men.

To clarify, the subsistence minimum is calculated on the basis of the cost of the food basket, which is then increased by a fixed share of the cost of the minimum necessary non-food goods and services. Since January 2018, a fixed share of expenditures on non-food goods and services has been set at 45% (against 40% earlier) to the cost of the minimum consumer basket.

Table 3 - The magnitude of the subsistence minimum by socio-demographic groups. June 2018 (tg)

Indicators	All	Including		Value on average (%)	By the beginning of the year (by 2017 \ 12)
		Food basket	Non-food products and services		
Percapita average	27850	15317	12533	100	108,8
Children under 13	22285	12257	10028	80	107,9
Working age population over 18					
Male	33155	18236	14919	119	109
Female	26327	14480	11847	94,5	109
Pensioners and the elderly	26081	14344	11737	93,6	108,8
[4] www.ranking.kz					

It is indicated that the food basket is calculated "according to scientifically based physiological norms of food consumption approved by the authorized body in the field of sanitary and epidemiological well-being in coordination with the authorized body in the field of health". We note that the WHO and FAO (UN) standards do suggest for women lower rates of recommended calories consumed per day than for men; however, for example, during pregnancy and lactation, rates for women are not less, and for some indicators more than for men.

At the same time, the largest gap between the subsistence minimum for women and men is not only in adolescence (girls 14-17 years old "rely" immediately on 23.4% less food, and, accordingly, non-food part of the minimum than boys), but also for the main childbearing age - 18-29 years, when at least for women at once is 22% less than for men.

But the main "controversial" point is that the non-food part of the subsistence minimum directly depends on the food. That is, women and girls are supposed not only to eat less than boys and men, but also to purchase less non-food goods and services. However, the majority of goods (for example, furniture or appliances), and a considerable part of services (for example, utilities or repair) are not divided along gender lines, and they are equally affordable for Kazakhstanis, regardless of gender.

Table 4 - The size of the subsistence minimum in terms of gender. June 2018 (tg)

Indicators	All	Including		By the beginning of the year (by 2017\ 12)	All	Including		By the beginning of the year (by 2017\ 12)	To the subsistence minimum of men (%)
		Food basket	Non-food goods and services			Food basket	Non-food goods and services		
	Men, includingteenagers, years				Women, includingteenagers, years				
Under 1 years	18697	10283	8414	106,6	17574	9666	7908	106,6	94
1-3	19324	10628	8696	107	19168	10542	8626	111,6	99,2
4-6	23572	12964	10608	108,4	21237	11680	9557	108,4	90,1
7-10	26628	14473	11842	108,7	23263	12795	10468	108,7	88,4
11-13	29628	16295	13333	108,4	24633	13548	11085	108,4	83,1
14-17	35151	19333	15818	108,8	26933	14813	12120	108,8	76,6
18-29	33754	18565	15189	109	26327	14480	11847	109	78
30-62	32519	17885	14634	109	26327	14480	11847	109	81
Older than63\58,5 (m/f)	27964	15380	12584	108,8	24053	13229	10824	108,8	86
[4] www.ranking.kz									

Among the regions, the largest subsistence minimum is in Mangistau Oblast (34.27 thousand tenge, + 10.8% since the beginning of the year), Astana (32.25 thousand tenge, + 9.4% since the beginning of the year), and Almaty (31.29 thousand tenge, + 7.9%).

In 8 regions of Kazakhstan at a time, the subsistence minimum was raised by more than 10% since the beginning of the year. The largest growth was recorded in Akmola region - by 13.5% from the beginning of the year, to 26.61 thousand tenge.

Table 5 - The size of the subsistence minimum by region. June 2018 (tg)

Regions	All	Including		By the beginning of the year (by 2017 \ 12) %
		Food basket	Non-food goods and services	
Kazakhstan	27850	15317	12533	108,8
Mangistau	34269	18848	15421	110,8
Astana	32251	17738	14513	109,4
Almaty	31291	17210	14081	107,9
East Kazakhstan	28860	15873	12987	109,7
Almaty region	28615	15739	12876	107,8
Atyrau	26875	14781	12094	102,6
Karagandy	26802	14741	12061	110,3
Akmola	26610	14635	11975	113,5
Aktobe	26168	14392	11776	111,8
West Kazakhstan	25947	14271	11676	110,3
Kostanay	25861	14224	11637	110,3
North Kazakhstan	25722	14147	11575	111,7
Shymkent	25567	14062	11505	106,9
Turkestan	25370	13954	11416	104,5
Kyzylorda	25325	13929	11396	106,6
Pavlodar	25318	13925	11393	111,6
Zhambyl	24853	13669	11184	106,4
[4] www.ranking.kz				

Inflation is still kept in the target corridor of the National Bank (5-7%), despite the fall of the tenge. Recall, in relation to the US currency, the tenge in August depreciated by 3.6%, before 2 months in a row the national currency had already fallen against the dollar by 2.4%, and the dollar continues to grow every day in September. According to the forecast of the National Bank, inflation for the current year will be in a given corridor, as planned. However, in the years 2019-2020, inflation out of a given corridor is possible. Firstly, it is connected with the regime of sanctions against the Russian Federation, secondly, the decline in oil prices, thirdly, with the growth of social expenditures and loans.

Food products, according to the statistics committee, in July 2017 compared with July 2016 increased in price by 8.6%.

- The increase in prices for meat and meat products over the period was 11.1%. The price of beef was higher by 14.1%, lamb - by 13.4%, poultry meat - by 11.4%, pork - by 10%, horse meat - by 8.7%, sausage products - by 5.9 % In general, over the 7 months of 2017 in relation to December 2016, products went up by 4.6%, non-food products - by 3.5%, paid services - by 3.3% [5].

Among other things, prices rose for:

potatoes by 47.4%

lamb by 11.5%,

beef by 10%,

fresh vegetables by 9.1%.

There are also cheaper products, mainly seasonal. For example, cucumbers became cheaper by 69.3%, tomatoes - by 45%, sweet pepper - by 6.3%. Buckwheat (16.4%) and sunflower oil (9.7%) also went down in price. The remaining types of cereals remained at about the same level as before.

Also, Kazakhs have increased costs for housing and communal services. Sewer tariffs increased by 9.6%, central heating - by 7.3%, cold water - by 5.7%, gas transported through distribution networks - by 4.8%, hot water, electricity - by 3.8 %, housing maintenance - by 3.5%

Thus, the analysis of the main indicators of the standard of living of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan showed both a number of advantages and problems. The standard of living of the population is an integral indicator characterizing the general welfare of the population. The main achievement on the way of entering Kazakhstan among the 30 developed countries of the world can be considered the inclusion of our country in the highest category of the HDI rating. This advantage should be reflected in national indicators, analyzing which, today the situation is the following: on average, cash income per capita is growing (9.3% growth in the 2nd quarter of 2018), but there are certain unevenness in their distribution.

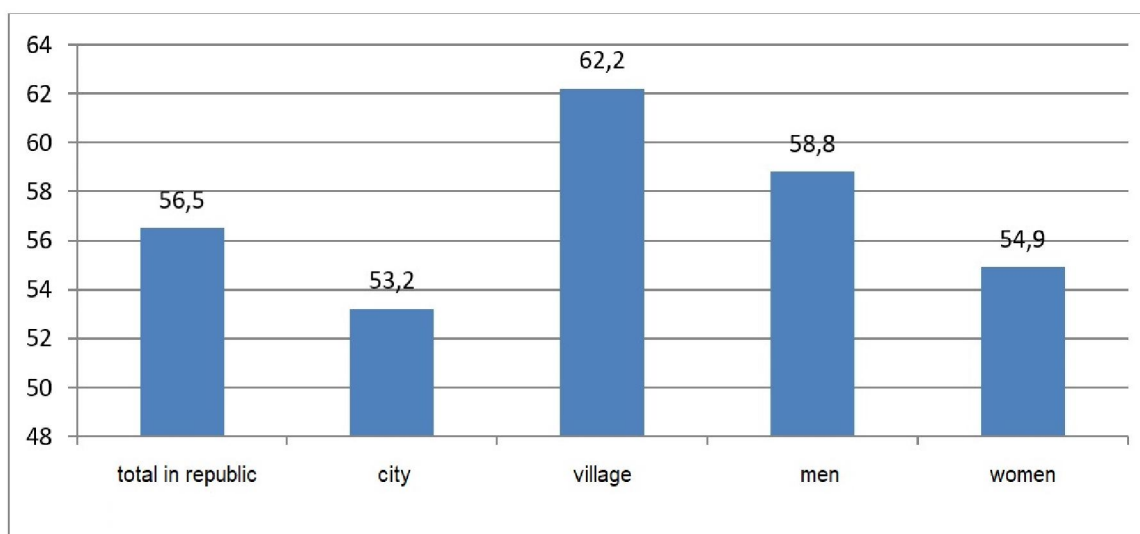


Figure 1 - Satisfaction of the population of Kazakhstan with their lives (%)

According to the results of a sample survey of households on the questionnaire "Quality of life of the population", 56.5% of respondents (according to subjective assessment) are satisfied with their lives in general, while in rural areas there are more satisfied people (62.2%) than in urban areas (53.2 %). There are more men satisfied with their lives than women - 58.8% and 54.9%, respectively [5].

Compared to a similar survey of the previous year, the level of household life satisfaction has not changed.

According to the survey results, 46.7% of respondents were satisfied with their health, partially satisfied - 48.6%. At the same time, the older the respondents are, the lower the proportion of those who are satisfied with their health. Among the respondents at the retirement age, these are 3.3 times less than among the 15-17 age group. According to respondents, frequent problems when visiting healthcare institutions are long queues (68.1%), a shortage of narrowly specialized doctors (46.2%) and incompetence of doctors (27.1%).

More than half of the respondents (55.9%) indicated that they were confident in the moral support of their relatives or friends, while men and women were almost unanimous in the opinion that they would receive moral support if necessary (56.3% and 55.6%, respectively).

39.9% of respondents are satisfied with the amount of their free time, while only 26.8% of respondents are willing to spend it on sports or physical education.

We note that of the proposed list of providers of basic public services, the respondents are most satisfied with the quality of services provided by Emergency Medical Aid stations - 43.7% of respondents, services provided by the State Corporation "Government for Citizens" amounted to 38.9%.

The fact that their welfare has not changed over the past year was noted by 59.9% of respondents, and that 35.7% of respondents improved.

In terms of material security (prosperity), 55.6% of respondents identified themselves with an average level of security, 1.6% of respondents indicated a low level of security, and only 0.2% of respondents considered themselves a high level of security.

The survey results showed that 14.6% of respondents are satisfied with their financial situation, while satisfaction in urban areas is higher than in rural areas, 15.9% and 12.2%, respectively.

At the same time, by the income level, 25.8% of respondents indicated that they can buy everything they need, 36.5% believe that they have enough food and clothing, but they cannot afford to buy durable goods (TV, refrigerator and other), and 1.7% of respondents indicated that they lack money even for food [6].

Among the main problems in the acquisition of housing, 50.1% of respondents indicated a high cost of housing, 32.3% lack of funds and 30.3% high interest rates on mortgage loans.

78.8% of respondents indicated that they could not spend annual leave outside the home, 26.2% could not pay a paid doctor, 25.6% could not organize ritualistic rituals without burdensome debts, 18.9% of respondents do not always find money for life-saving medications.

37.0% of respondents think positively about their promising future, suggest that there will be an improvement in the future 40.1%, and only 0.6% of respondents think that they will live worse.

The wage increase reported during the whole year did not compensate for inflation, which led to a decrease in the real disposable income of the population. Wage arrears are still preserved, with the main reason - the lack of own funds of enterprises - associated with the crisis in the economy and cannot be eliminated without serious government intervention [7]. In addition, wage increases are, firstly, uneven across the regions of Kazakhstan, which leads to a deepening of the socio-economic differentiation of the regions. Secondly, wage increases are carried out on the basis of its current level, without revising the principles of payroll, for example, in the public sector. Thirdly, there are no reasonable estimates of a decent level of wages, taking into account the social importance of the activity, the professional qualification characteristics of workers and the level of socially determined needs. All this greatly reduces the effect of government wage increases.

The obtained results (conclusions)

The impoverished level of real wages in the country and its critically high differentiation gave rise to numerous problems. Social tension in the society is growing, the proportion of the population having an income less than the subsistence minimum is 25%. With low labor costs, the interest of owners and employers to introduce new equipment and technologies is undermined [9]. In turn, employees have reduced motives for highly productive work. Qualified personnel leaves education, science, and health care, thereby sharply restricting the development of human capital and the transition to a knowledge economy. In addition, low wages hinder the formation of the housing market. Its consequence is also weak effective demand, hampering economic development. Corruption, smuggling of cheap goods, etc. can be added to the problems caused by this factor.

In order to reverse the situation and use the richest natural and human resources of the country in the interests of the whole society, state authorities must take extraordinary measures and make fundamental changes in socio-economic policy, in particular, in income and wage policies.

УДК 332.6

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АНАЛИЗ КАЧЕСТВА ЖИЗНИ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ КАЗАХСТАНА

Аннотация: Статья посвящена вопросам уровня жизни казахстанского населения и прогнозированию дальнейшего его состояния в стране на основе данных комитета статистики РК.

В статье анализируются основные компоненты качества жизни населения РК по таким показателям, как уровень доходов населения и их покупательная способность, среднемесячная заработная плата, средний размер начисленных пенсий, величина прожиточного минимума. В результате исследования определены факторы дифференциации, влияющие на социальную ситуацию и определяющие уровень жизни населения.

Ключевые слова: качество жизни, социальное обеспечение, уровни жизни населения, денежные доходы, прожиточный минимум.

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