

## FACTORS AND ECONOMIC–GEOGRAPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF URBANIZATION DEVELOPMENT IN SURKHANDARYA REGION

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18906957>

**Eshboyev Asliddin Xudoyberdi ogli**

*2nd year Master's student in Geography Termiz state university*

### **Abstract**

This article analyzes the factors of development and the economic–geographical foundations of the urbanization process in the Surkhandarya region. The study examines the impact of territorial development, migration processes, economic growth, urban infrastructure, and transport networks on urbanization. The research results show that the urbanization process in the region is closely connected with economic, social, and geographical factors, and its future prospects are strengthened by investment, transport development, and infrastructure expansion. In addition to these aspects, the article also considers regional disparities, cross-border economic cooperation, demographic transformation, and the role of institutional reforms in shaping sustainable urban growth. The research highlights the importance of strategic territorial planning and integrated regional development policies in accelerating balanced urbanization in southern Uzbekistan.

### **Keywords**

urbanization, economic–geographical foundation, Surkhandarya region, urban infrastructure, migration, territorial development, regional planning, sustainable growth.

**Introduction:** Urbanization is the process of population movement to urban and semi-urban areas, accompanied by changes in the structure of society and the economy through the development of urban infrastructure and social systems. On a global scale, urbanization is associated with more than 55% of the world's population living in urban areas, and by 2050 this figure is projected to reach 68% (UN-Habitat, 2020). Urbanization not only changes the place of residence but also transforms labor markets, education systems, social services, production structures, and governance mechanisms.

In the context of Uzbekistan, urbanization is directly linked to economic growth, migration dynamics, regional policy, and modernization reforms. The Surkhandarya region, rich in natural resources and located in a strategic border area, creates specific conditions for the urbanization process. Scientifically studying

the urbanization of the region provides opportunities to improve territorial policy, strengthen cross-border cooperation, and ensure effective urban management.

International and national studies on urbanization demonstrate its relationship with sustainable development, demographic change, and social service systems (UN-Habitat, 2020). Demographic research proves that as the urban population increases, the economically active population also grows, which positively affects services, entrepreneurship, and the labor market. Moreover, urban centers often become hubs of innovation, investment attraction, and human capital development.

In national sources, particularly reports of the State Statistics Agency of Uzbekistan (2023), regional differences in urbanization and population migration in border regions such as Surkhandarya are highlighted. At the same time, Tuxtamuratova D. D. (2025) analyzed the economic and geographical factors of urbanization and substantiated the influence of urban infrastructure, transport, and demographic changes on urbanization processes. These studies provide a theoretical and empirical basis for assessing regional urban growth patterns.

#### **Methodology:**

The following methods were used in the research:

Territorial analysis – comparison of urban and rural areas within the region.

Statistical analysis – examination of population size, migration indicators, employment structure, and economic data.

Economic-geographical indicators – transport networks, industrial capacity, natural resources, urban infrastructure, investment flows, and spatial accessibility.

Data sources included the State Statistics Agency of Uzbekistan, reports of the Surkhandarya regional administration, scientific articles, and UN global reports on urbanization. Comparative regional analysis and descriptive-analytical methods were also applied to interpret socio-economic trends.

#### **Analysis and Results:**

Main Factors of the Urbanization Process

##### **Economic Factors:**

The main factors influencing urbanization in the region are industry and the service sector. In Termiz city, shopping centers and industrial zones are stimulating population migration. In addition, job opportunities, entrepreneurial development, small business growth, and economic potential support urbanization.

Industrial diversification, agro-processing enterprises, logistics centers, and trade activities connected with cross-border commerce also contribute significantly to the concentration of population in urban areas. Economic modernization policies and investment projects further enhance the attractiveness of urban settlements.

### **Social Factors:**

Migration is a central element of the urbanization process. Movement to urban areas mainly consists of young people, skilled labor, and students seeking higher education. This process increases demand for urban infrastructure, housing, utilities, healthcare, education, and social services.

Urban areas offer better employment prospects, access to universities, modern communication technologies, and improved quality of life. At the same time, rural-to-urban migration may create challenges such as housing shortages, pressure on infrastructure, and environmental stress if not managed properly.

### **Geographical Factors:**

Surxondaryo viloyati influences urbanization due to its proximity to transport routes and its border location. Being situated at the southern gateway of Uzbekistan, the region strengthens trade and economic relations with neighboring countries.

Its geographical position provides access to international transport corridors and cross-border markets, which increases its strategic economic significance. Natural resources, climatic conditions, and agricultural potential also shape settlement patterns and urban growth. Mountainous and plain landscapes influence infrastructure development and territorial planning decisions.

### **Territorial Differences**

Clear differences exist between urban and rural areas. Urban residents have greater access to employment, social services, utilities, and infrastructure. Rural areas experience slower urbanization processes, which stimulates migration and urban expansion.

The imbalance between urban and rural development leads to spatial disparities in income levels, education quality, and public service provision. Therefore, balanced regional development strategies are essential to prevent excessive concentration of population in a single urban center.

### **Strategic Recommendations for the Future**

*To effectively manage urbanization in the Surkhandarya region, the following strategies are recommended:*

Expansion of industrial zones and development of infrastructure.

Improvement of transport networks and intercity connectivity.

Expansion of education and healthcare systems to improve urban quality of life.

Strategic management of urbanization through investment attraction and territorial planning.

Promotion of sustainable urban policies considering environmental protection and resource efficiency.

Integrated regional planning, digital governance systems, and public-private partnerships can further accelerate balanced urban development.

**Conclusion:** The urbanization process in the Surkhandarya region is closely connected with economic, social, and geographical factors. Urban infrastructure, transport potential, and territorial planning support urbanization. To reduce regional disparities and manage urbanization effectively, strategic investments, institutional reforms, and policy measures are necessary. Urbanization in Surkhandarya should be viewed not only as demographic growth but also as a multidimensional transformation of economic structure, spatial organization, and social development. Sustainable and inclusive urban growth will ensure long-term regional competitiveness and socio-economic stability.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Tuxtamuratova D. D. (2025). Urbanization processes and the interrelation with natural-geographical factors: The case of Uzbekistan. *Ilm fan xabarnomasi*.
2. Tuxtamuratova D. D. (2025). Territorial and socio-demographic analysis of urbanization processes in Uzbekistan. *Ta'limda raqamli texnologiyalar*.
3. Quvondiqova H. N. (2023). Geographical analysis of urbanization development in Uzbekistan. *Educational Research in Universal Sciences*.
4. *Research in Universal Sciences*.
5. State Statistics Agency of Uzbekistan. (2023). *Urbanization statistical bulletin of Uzbekistan*.
6. UN-Habitat. (2020). *World Urbanization Prospects 2025*.
7. *Urbanization in Uzbekistan: The path of innovation and growth. Obrazovanie, nauka i innovatsionnye idei v mire, 2025*.
8. Olimqulov Y. M., Nominov A. V., Narziyev F. F., Xudoyqulova S. I. (2023). *Urbanization processes in Uzbekistan. Journal of Universal Science Research*.