

**Migration processes in Russia and the Central Black Earth region in the 80s - early 90s of the XX century**

Angelina Nikolaevna Pakhomova

South-West State University, 50 let Oktyabrya Str., 94, Kursk, Russia

**Abstract.** The demographic situation in the Central Black Earth region and in the Kursk region. An author investigates migratory processes what be going on in 80-90th in Russia. Conclusions are given on results migratory changes. The author studies the problem of migration in the Central Black Earth (CBE) and in the Kursk regions in 1990s. Demographic processes, the coefficient of migration, dynamics and the proportion of deaths and births in Kursk region are analyzed. The author gives statistics on the rural society in CBE region as a subject of the Russian Federation during the analyzed period. Determined by objective reasons negative social phenomena and trends in society Kursk region and the Central Chernozem region.

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**Introduction**

After the Second World War migration processes in Russia in general and in the CBE region in particular did not stop, but acquired more new shades and nuances. Communist and Komsomol construction sites of the postwar Five Year Plans in Siberia, the Far East and in the North of the country demanded for workers. Thousands of young members of the Komsomol organization went to the Baikal-Amur Mainline every year. Most of them stayed at the new place to live, to build new cities, towns, enterprise and the entire infrastructure. Besides mass migration associated with various construction projects of industrial facilities, there were other officially legalized ones. For example, distribution of graduates of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, when according to the so-called "top-down distribution list" a young specialist had to go to one or the other region of the country to teach, to treat, to build and to interest people in the global and national culture. In addition, if in the late 70s and early 80s of the XX century of the CBE region the number of people departed was high, then in the end of the 80s the number of people arrived increased significantly because of the growth of nationalism and extremism in the Union and autonomous republics and regions. The situation was artificially worsen by their leaders, the number of people arrived increased significantly and became almost equal to those who had departed [1].

However, let us consider the proposed chart of migration processes held on the territory of the CBE region (excluding the Orel region) from 1940 to 1990 in the natural numbers.

The table demonstrates the migration processes in the CBE region and in the Kursk region. Besides there was some inner migration, i.e. the

migration on the territory of the federal subject and traditionally from villages to cities.

**Table 1. Migration processes in the region of the CBE region from 1940 to 1990 (thousands people) [2, p. 190-191].**

| Regions  | Years   |          |        |         |          |        |         |          |        |
|----------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|
|          | 1940    |          |        | 1970    |          |        | 1990    |          |        |
|          | Arrived | Departed | Growth | Arrived | Departed | Growth | Arrived | Departed | Growth |
| Belgorod | 19,4    | 17,9     | 1,5    | 41,4    | 30,6     | 10,8   | 35,3    | 24,5     | 10,8   |
| Voronezh | 94,8    | 94,6     | 0,2    | 74,6    | 59,0     | 15,6   | 42,2    | 32,4     | 9,8    |
| Kursk    | 40,8    | 37,6     | 3,2    | 35,8    | 25,6     | 10,2   | 24,7    | 17,7     | 7,0    |
| Lipetsk  | 29,9    | 26,8     | 2,9    | 37,2    | 27,7     | 9,6    | 21,9    | 13,4     | 8,5    |
| Tambov   | 45,5    | 44,8     | 0,7    | 38,6    | 30,7     | 7,9    | 22,0    | 17,0     | 5,0    |
| CBE      | 230     | 221      | 9      | 228     | 174      | 54     | 146     | 105      | 41     |

The natural population increase (the balance between the born and the dead), is negative throughout the region. According to the CBE region (1996 data per 1000 of the population) - "minus" 7.8 people, and, accordingly: the Belgorod region - "minus" 5.7; the Voronezh region - "minus" 8.4; the Kursk region - "minus" 8.5; the Lipetsk region - "minus" 7.3; the Tambov region - "minus" 8.8 [1]. However, let us take a broader period and show it in in the natural numbers in chart 2.

**Table 2. Demographic processes in the CBE region from 1940 to 1990 (one thousand people) [3, p. 50-51].**

| Regions  | Years |      |                             |      |      |                             |      |      |                             |
|----------|-------|------|-----------------------------|------|------|-----------------------------|------|------|-----------------------------|
|          | 1940  |      |                             | 1970 |      |                             | 1990 |      |                             |
|          | Born  | Died | Natural population increase | Born | Died | Natural population increase | Born | Died | Natural population increase |
| Belgorod | 41,6  | 22,6 | 19,0                        | 15,5 | 11,9 | 3,6                         | 18,0 | 17,9 | 0,1                         |
| Voronezh | 76,3  | 47,9 | 28,4                        | 31,2 | 23,4 | 7,8                         | 28,5 | 34,4 | -5,9                        |
| Kursk    | 47,9  | 26,3 | 21,6                        | 18,2 | 14,6 | 3,6                         | 15,8 | 18,6 | -2,8                        |
| Lipetsk  | 35,2  | 22,7 | 12,5                        | 16,8 | 10,7 | 6,1                         | 14,9 | 15,9 | -1,0                        |
| Tambov   | 55,2  | 36,0 | 19,1                        | 18,9 | 15,6 | 3,3                         | 15,4 | 19,6 | -4,2                        |
| CBE      | 256   | 156  | 100                         | 101  | 76   | 25                          | 92,7 | 106  | 13,7                        |

The table clearly shows demographic processes in each of the CBE region, and compares one region to another. The Belgorod region has the most "favorable" situation in this regard. It managed to keep the positive balance in 1990. The worst results are observed in the Voronezh region.

The table 3 shows the dynamics of natural growth and of population decrease in the Kursk region (both urban and rural) in the mid-80s and early 90s.

**Table 3. Crude rates of the population movement in the Kursk region (per 1000 people) [3, p. 35].**

|  | Years   |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
|  | In 1985 | In 1990 | In 1991 |
| 1  | 2       | 3       | 4       |
| Number of newborns (the total) per 1000 people | 13,9    | 11,8    | 10,6    |
| urban  | 16,0    | 12,9    | 11,1    |
| rural  | 11,4    | 10,4    | 9,8     |
| Number of the dead (total) per 1000 people     | 14,4    | 13,9    | 14,7    |
| 1  | 2       | 3       | 4       |
| urban  | 10,0    | 9,7     | 10,7    |
| rural  | 19,8    | 19,9    | 20,6    |
| natural growth (the total) per 1000 people     | -0,5    | -2,1    | -4,1    |
| urban  | 6,0     | 3,2     | 0,4     |
| rural  | -8,4    | -9,5    | -10,8   |

The data in table 3 clearly show that in the Kursk region the most unfavorable demographic balance refers the rural population, which is the least socially protected.

It is known, that components of the demographic balance in any society are birth and death. However, these components have their internal processes of a certain level. For example, such social factors as the proportion of women in civil marriages, the ratio of registered marriages and divorces, and the number of abortions influence the birth rate. Chart 4 shows the problem of women who have children in civil marriages in the Kursk region.

**Table 4. The percentage of children born in civil marriages in the total number of newborns (in percent) [3, p. 34].**

|                           | Years |      |      |
|---------------------------|-------|------|------|
|                           | 1985  | 1990 | 1991 |
| In the region (the total) | 8,5   | 11,6 | 12,5 |
| Urban areas               | 7,1   | 9,0  | 10,1 |
| Rural areas               | 10,9  | 16,2 | 16,5 |

The second component of the negative demographic balance is mortality. However, it is also heterogeneous: the death in the old age and the death of working age people, or of newborns. Moreover, there are deaths from alcoholism and drug addictions, as well as deaths from intentional crimes (intentional homicide, serious body injuries that resulted in death), robbery, rapes and traffic accidents. In addition, there are many cases of suicide. Let us start with children mortality.

It should be noted that the total number of deaths of one year old children in the CBE decreases, as shown in table 5. However, reducing of the children mortality rates in the recent decades is not because of high social medicine and health measures, but because of the overall decrease in the birth rate.

**Table 5 Infant (babies up to 1 year old) mortality rates in the CBE region from 1940 to 1990 [2, p. 122-123].**

| Regions  | Years |       |      |      |      |      |
|----------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
|          | 1940  | 1950  | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 |
| Belgorod | 7403  | 1717  | 994  | 227  | 332  | 312  |
| Voronezh | 14550 | 2779  | 1464 | 585  | 602  | 399  |
| Kursk    | 7987  | 2157  | 1498 | 353  | 310  | 292  |
| Lipetck  | 6840  | 1521  | 840  | 352  | 288  | 219  |
| Tambov   | 10786 | 2401  | 1123 | 379  | 343  | 266  |
| CBE      | 47566 | 10575 | 5919 | 1896 | 1875 | 1488 |

The table 6 shows infant mortality in the Kursk region in the late 80s - early 90s of XX century.

**Table 6 The dynamics of the infant mortality in the Kursk region [3, p. 34]**

| Infant (up to 1 year olds) mortality rates      | Years |      |      |
|---|-------|------|------|
|   | 1985  | 1990 | 1991 |
| In the region                                   | 353   | 292  | 251  |
| Urban areas                                     | 225   | 196  | 169  |
| Rural areas                                     | 128   | 96   | 82   |
| The ratio of the infant mortality in the region | 18,5  | 18,1 | 17,5 |
| Urban areas                                     | 18,8  | 19,1 | 18,9 |
| Rural areas                                     | 17,9  | 16,6 | 15,2 |

The data in table 6 make us come to two main conclusions. The first is that infant mortality started to decrease slowly due to the development of Public Health Service. The second is that infant mortality in rural areas was two times lower than in the city, because women worked in the open air more often and the environmental conditions were better than in the city.

Speaking of the total mortality of people of the working age, we should pay attention to the fact that the number of them was 4101 in 1990, and 4312 in 1991 [3]. The following years may give the higher numbers, but since we are talking about the late 80s and early 90s in this paper, the data for 1992 and the subsequent years will be given in our following papers. So, let us return to the topic under consideration and offer the data which reflect the main causes of people mortality in Kursk in 1990 and 1991 (without decryption data on homicides, suicides and cases of alcohol poisoning; see the column "accidents").

The data in table 7 show that there is an increase in mortality in spite of the overall development of Public Medical Service. There are many reasons, but, in our opinion, the main ones are

the political and social troubles in the Russia, when people lose confidence in themselves and frustrated. The same "disease symptoms" had an effect on the growth of the number of murders, suicides and poisoning by alcohol. Nevertheless, before analyzing chart 8 for these types of mortality, let us consider if people had any problems with alcoholism and drugs in Kursk. In 1985, according to health authorities, 1808.1 per 100 000 people suffered from alcoholism and alcoholic psychosis in the Kursk region. 203.0 per 100 000 patients were registered in 1985. In 1990, 1813.8 patients had been already registered and 189.6 of new ones were registered later. In 1991, the situation changed, but not because the patients gave up drinking, but because the compulsory registration of people suffering from alcoholism was banned by legislative acts. 1776.0 of patients had been registered and 131.1 of new patients were found out. In 1985, there were 5.8 of drug addicts and substance abusers per 100 000 people; in 1990 there were 4.6 of drug addicts and substance abusers; in 1991 there were 5.1 of drug addicts and substance abusers [2]. As you can see, this "reserve" is inexhaustible.

**Table. 7 Mortality of persons of working age in the Kursk region [4, p 24].**

| The main causes                        | In 1990   |             | In 1991   |             |
|--|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
|  | naturally | per 100 000 | naturally | per 100 000 |
| Total deaths                           | 4101      | 571.8       | 4312      | 603.5       |
| Diseases of the circulatory            | 1346      | 187.7       | 1363      | 190.8       |
| Neoplasms                              | 897       | 125.1       | 903       | 126.1       |
| Accidents and traumas                  | 1271      | 177.2       | 1373      | 192.8       |
| Respiratory diseases                   | 183       | 25.5        | 196       | 27.4        |
| Digestive diseases                     | 130       | 18.1        | 166       | 23.2        |
| From infectious and parasitic diseases | 77        | 10.7        | 90        | 12.6        |

Psycho-demographic attitude of society was so sensitive to changes that the reaction was negative.

Against this background, it is interesting to observe some changes in the population of the CBE region (including the Orel region) at significant stages and milestones of historical and social development of the region for 100 years since the first population census.

Let us have a look how the population of the last Russian rural census since the First National Census changed on the territory of the CBE and the Kursk region.

Massey scientist proves that the difference in income is not the principal factor responsible for the migration, the difference shall not entail invalidity of the instant emergence of flow and leveling of wages is its instant termination [6].

Some scientists see the following main causes of migration related to globalisation. Determine that the economic growth of developed countries and the problems in developing form the pull and push factors for migration [7, 8], as well as

migration flows along with the movement of goods and capital contribute to the erosion of borders and weakening State sovereignty [9].

**Table. 8 Population change in the CBE from 1897 to 1990 (thousand people) [2, p: 51, 58-59] [3, p: 121, 246, 675, 714, 1306] [5, p: 121, 246, 675, 714, 1306].**

| Provinces/<br>regions | Area<br>(sq. km.) | Years |       |       |       |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
|                       |                   | 1897  | 1914  | 1926  | 1939  | 1950 | 1985 | 1989 |
| Voronezh              | 52,4              | 2531  | 3691  | 2525  | 2710  | 2194 | 2460 | 2470 |
| Kursk                 | 29,8              | 2371  | 3257  | 1846  | 1773  | 1408 | 1339 | 1339 |
| Belgorod              | 27,1              | -     | -     | 1677  | 1440  | 1408 | 1331 | 1381 |
| Orel                  | 24,7              | 2034  | 2782  | 1537  | 1286  | 941  | 868  | 891  |
| Lipetck               | 24,1              | -     | -     | 1478  | 1353  | 1230 | 1213 | 1230 |
| Tambov                | 34,3              | 2684  | 3555  | 2016  | 1878  | 1540 | 1321 | 1320 |
| Total                 | 192,4             | 9820  | 13283 | 11079 | 10440 | 8721 | 8532 | 8331 |

**Table. 9 Rural population in the CBE regions until [10, p. 222; 11, p. 233-234].**

| Regions  | Years  |        |         |        |        |        |        |
|----------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|          | 1897   | 1917   | 1926    | 1937   | 1985   | 1997   | 2002   |
| Belgorod | -      | -      | -       | -      | 551,0  | 516,0  | 526,1  |
| Voronezh |        |        | 5694,9  | 5024,5 | 1009,0 | 958,0  | 907,0  |
| Kursk    | 1677,6 | 2669,7 | 4446,0  | 3664,4 | 603,0  | 530,0  | 478,6  |
| Lipetck  | -      | -      | -       | -      | 461,0  | 451,0  | 433,5  |
| Tambov   |        |        | -       | -      | 608,0  | 546,0  | 504,3  |
| Total    |        |        | 10110,9 | 8688,9 | 3232,0 | 2996,0 | 2849,5 |

The table 9 shows that the rural population in the CBE region in general and in the Kursk region in particular has been steadily reducing since 1926. In the period from 1985 to 1997, the average annual reduction in the CBE region was 29.5 thousand people, and in the period from 1997 to 2002, it totaled 29.2 thousand people. The average annual reduction in the Voronezh region was 6.3 and 10.2 thousand people; in the Kursk region – 3.5 and 10.2 thousand people; in the Lipetck region – 1,2 and 3,7 thousand people; in the Tambov region – 7.7 and 8.3 thousand people. Only the Belgorod region has its benefits in demographic background in comparison with other regions, especially in the considered period. So, if the rural population in the Belgorod region had a decrease of 4.4 thousand people annually in the period from 1985 to 1997, whereas in the period from 1997 to 2002, we can note stabilization and some annual growth (more than 2000 people) as well. However, that increase was not due to the birth rate and a positive demographic balance, but due to a smarter immigration policy by the Belgorod region authorities.

As you can see by the example of the BCE region and the Kursk region, the rural population decreased significantly in accordance with the plans of the classics of Marxism-Leninism and due to objective historical and economic reasons. The classics of Marxism-Leninism tried to create a homogeneous classless society, which would consist of the working class only [12]. The population is still decreasing,

though there is no communist ideology in Russia anymore; and the country itself has changed its geographical and historical borders. Unfortunately, not only the rural population, but also the population overall is decreasing, especially the Russian one. Even the official data shows that the population of Russia has been decreasing at a "catastrophically high speed." Over the past 15 years, the birth rate has fallen sharply and mortality has increased in the country. If in 1991 the birth rate was 12.1 per 1000 people, and mortality was 11.4, then by 2000 the birth rate was 8.8, and the mortality rate was 15.4. Scientists engaged in gender research, suggest that women are more likely to migrate than people of the opposite sex. According to different data, the proportion of women in the structure of international migration is hovering around 50% [13].

Other researchers say that the life expectancy in Russia has decreased by more than ten years, as well as the mortality rate exceeds the birth in half. This excess is one million people. They also add that about 800 thousand children (about 70% of all births) are born with different forms of pathology every year [14].

#### **Corresponding Author:**

Dr. Pakhomova Angelina Nikolaevna  
South-West State University, 50 let Oktyabrya Str., 94,  
Kursk, Russia

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