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ANALYSIS OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF THE VITEBSK REGION IN THE CONDITIONS OF GLOBALIZATION

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Favorable conditions for social development stimulate fertility growth in the country and gradually overcome the negative trends in population decline. However, despite the improvement in the dynamics of these indicators, they still do not fit into the threshold limits of social security, which indicates the continuing relevance of demographic problems in the long term. In addition, there is an increase in the demographic burden, including due to an aging population, it is forecasted that this indicator will change for the worse, from 422 in 2015 to 575 people. older than retirement age per 1000 people. able-bodied citizens in 2030 [1, p. 8]. The object of the study is the Vitebsk region, because, as the researchers in 2017, the "oldest" region is the Vitebsk region with an indicator of 41.5 years "[2], and accordingly the same region can be used to consider the worst state of the birth to death ratio for the Republic of Belarus.

The analysis of the birth rate in the Vitebsk region between 2008-2018 (Fig. 1) showed that its level is relatively stable. Since 2012, a small jump of 0.8 has been observed, in the subsequent period from 2013-2016, relative stability is also observed. However, in 2017, the birth rate declines by 1.5, given that before that the maximum fluctuation between the indicators of 2013-2016. was 0.1, in 2018 this trend continues.

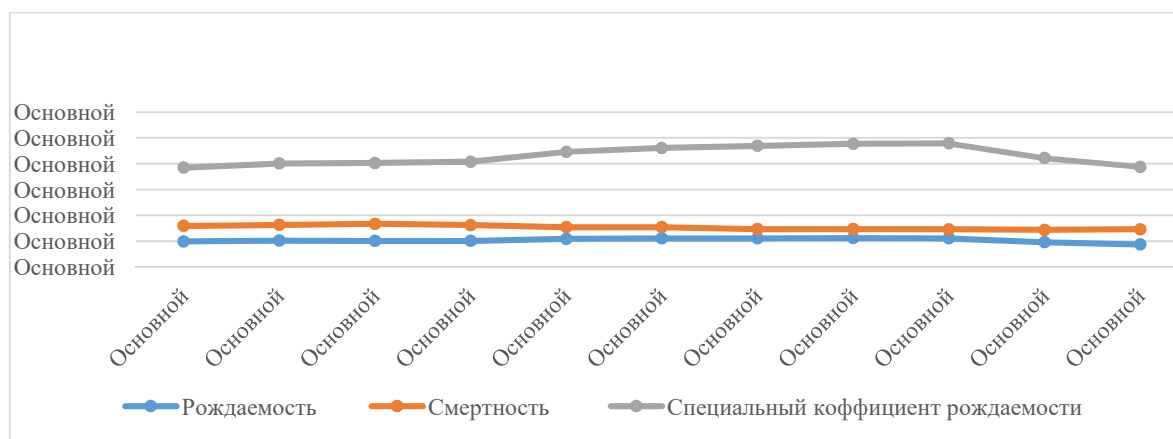


Figure 1. – Fertility, mortality and special fertility rates in the Vitebsk region in the period from 2008-2018.

Source: compiled by the author according to [3, p. 57]; [4, p. 54, 65]

I would like to pay special attention to the average age of the mother at the birth of the first child. This indicator has been rapidly increasing since 2008 and for 2018 amounted to 26.4 years. [4, p. 64]. This is due to the fact that recently higher education has begun to gain great popularity, which takes people from 4-6 years old (depending on the specialty received) [4, p. 92]. As for the special birth rate, it shows us such statistics that starting from 2008 - 2016. This indicator was growing rapidly and changed by 9.4, but by 2017 there was a sharp decline, by 5.7, which continued in 2018, in which the 38.8 indicator almost equaled the 2010 indicator of 38.5.

The general demographic state is affected by such an indicator as mortality. Based on the available data, it can be noted that in the period from 2008-2010. the mortality rate increased, in 2010 there is the so-called "peak" in mortality in the period under consideration - 16.7. By 2014, the mortality rate was gradually decreasing and the difference with 2010 was already 2.

To assess the dynamics of fertility and mortality, growth rates were calculated according to two calculation schemes: basic and chain. The difference between the basic and chain schemes is that the basic indicators characterize the final result of all changes in the levels of the series from the period to which the basic level belongs to the analyzed i-th level, and the chain indicators characterize the intensity of level changes from period to period within the studied time interval [5, p. 250].

Economics

If we consider the dynamics of fertility (Fig. 2), then the basic pattern shows a positive trend until 2016, after which a negative trend begins, while the growth rate of the birth rate in 2018 by 2008 is 88%. If we talk about the chain scheme, then there is a relative stability of indicators, but since 2016, negative dynamics have also been observed. All this tells us that the birth rate in the Vitebsk region has recently begun to decline.

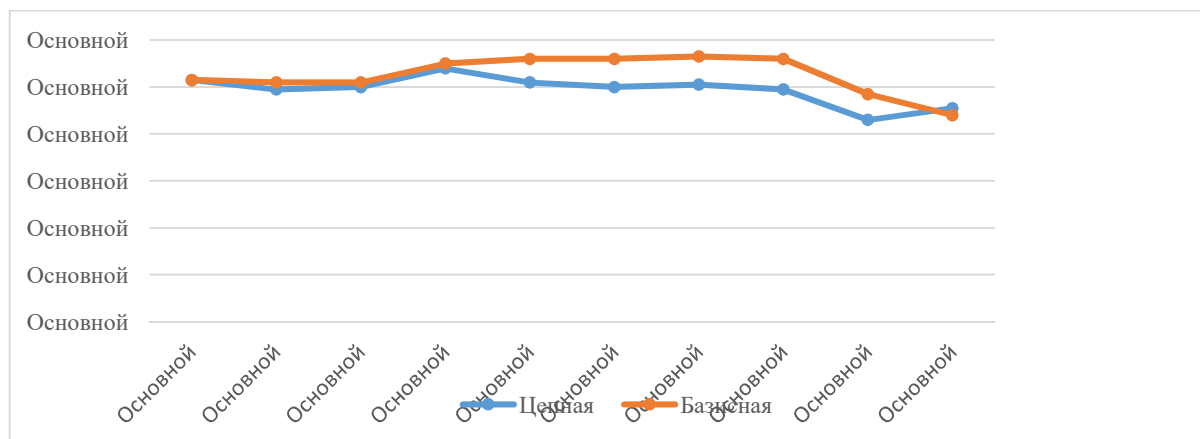


Figure 2. – The dynamics of the birth rate for 2008-2018.

Source: calculated by the author according to [3, p. 57]; [4, p. 54]

Considering the dynamics of mortality (Fig. 3), it can be noted that according to the basic scheme, it has a stable negative dynamics. According to the chain scheme, there are some jumps in indicators that occurred in 2013 and 2015, but in general, negative dynamics are also observed. We can say that in Belarus there is a positive trend in the fight against mortality, as her indicators are rapidly falling.

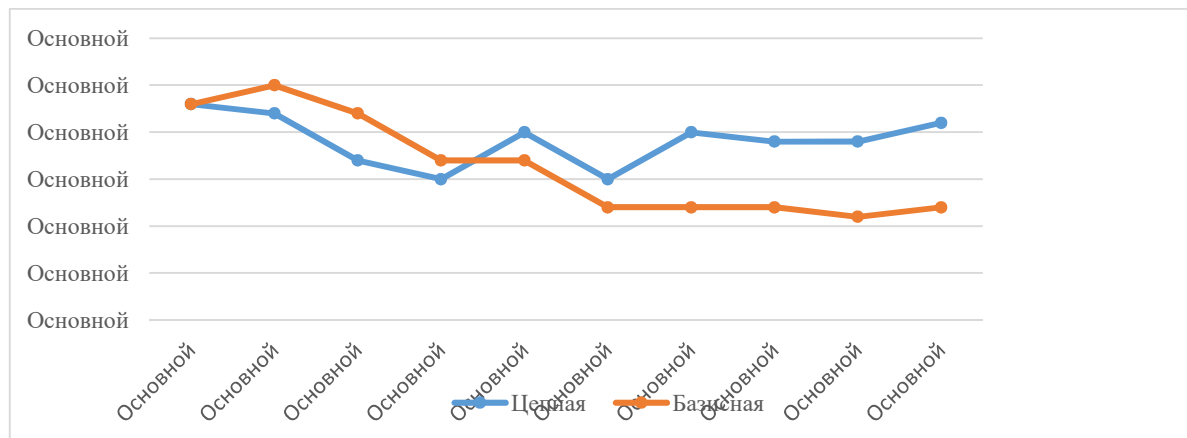


Figure 3. – The dynamics of the mortality rate for 2008-2018.

Source: calculated by the author according to [3, p. 57]; [4, p. 54]

If we talk about a special birth rate (Fig. 4), then its chain and base patterns practically do not differ from the chain and base birth patterns, but nevertheless there is some differentiation.

For a comparative analysis of the demographic status of the Republic of Belarus with other countries, France and Poland were chosen because "France is one of the European leaders in fertility, and in Poland one of the lowest birth rates in Europe" [6]. Both of these countries are part of European Union.

The analysis showed (Fig. 5) that the natural population growth of Poland had a positive value from 2008-2012, then, starting in 2013, the values had mostly negative readings, but they did not go beyond -0.7. In the Republic of Belarus, negative natural growth prevails, although from 2011 the readings began to improve until 2015, in which they reached their maximum mark of -0.1, it is also worth noting that this is the only year in which the Republic of Belarus, according to indications, exceeded Poland, but after 2016, there was a sharp decline,

which lasted until 2018. In France, the birth rate exceeds mortality throughout the entire period under review, however, since 2008 in France there has been a gradual decrease in natural growth rates. Despite the fact that Poland is one of the countries of the European Union with the worst rates of natural population growth, it is still far ahead of the Republic of Belarus in this matter.

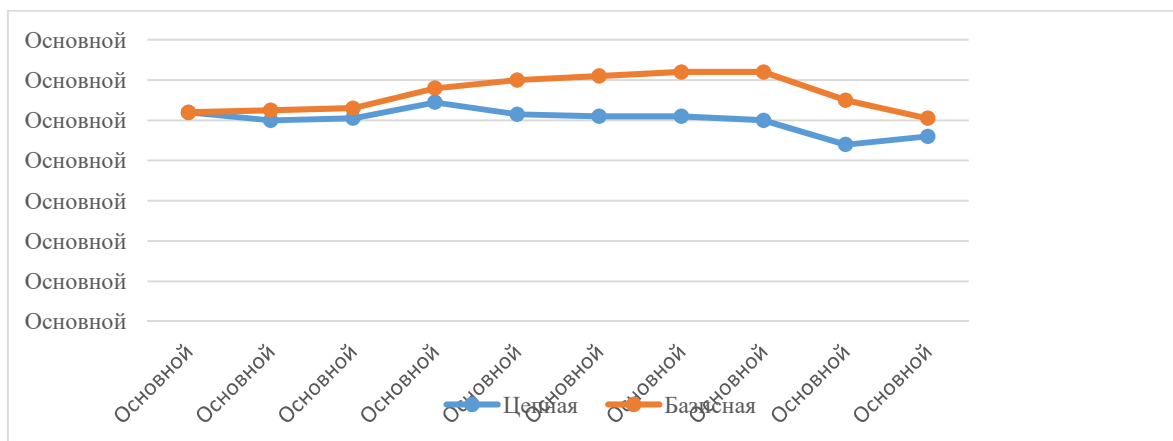


Figure 4. – The dynamics of the special birth rate for 2008-2018.

Source: calculated by the author according to [4, p. 65]

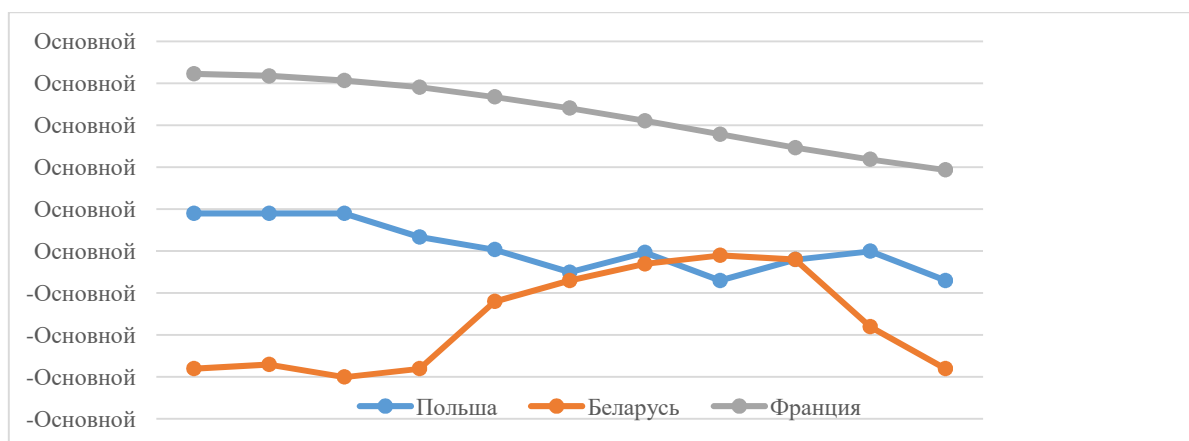


Figure 5. – Dynamics of indicators of natural population growth in the Republic of Belarus, Poland and France in the period from 2008-2018.

Source: compiled by the author according to [7; 8, p. 131; 9]

Consider the demographic policy of the Republic of Belarus. Today, parental leave in Belarus is one of the longest (3 years) among European countries, which surpasses even the West European leaders France and Germany. The advantage of such a long vacation for our women is that it improves the life and health of the mother and child, creates the conditions for successful breastfeeding, while women are paid benefits for which they can support their child [10]. So this part of the demographic policy of our country can be called successful.

In order to stimulate the birth of 3 or more children, a maternity capital payment program has been developed, the essence of which is that families with 3 or more children are paid 10 thousand US dollars [11]. In our opinion, this program has its drawbacks, since the payment of maternity capital after only 18 years significantly reduces the value of this capital for the family. In addition, payment only at the birth of a third child does not create motivation for families who are considering the birth of a second child. Accordingly, it is worth making such changes as: to pay this capital to families who have 2 or more children, and also to allow its use from any age of the child, and not only when they are 18 years old.

Economics

One of the factors of having no more than 1 child in a family is the low level of wages (in July 2018, the average wage in the country amounted to 974 rubles), for comparison, in Poland the average salary in July of that year amounted to 2735 Belarusian rubles, which is almost 3 times more [12]. It is worth noting that the Vitebsk region is on the penultimate place in terms of the salary of the population, in the 1st half of 2019 it amounted to 874.4 rubles [13].

Thus, measures to stimulate the birth rate of the population in the Republic of Belarus may include: modifying the policy of maternity capital, assistance in acquiring own housing, raising the level of wages.

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