DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF POLOG REGION

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Abstract

In this paper we will address the demographic features of the Polog Region, with special emphasis to population structure. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the movement of the population according to registrations, population density, population structures by gender, age, nationality, education and employment for the period 2002-2018, based on municipalities. Population is the main factor of diverse and dynamic changes in area. Polog region, with its favorable position and suitable living conditions, has been populated since prehistoric times, but studies for that period are deficient. Through this paper we aim to highlight the features of the social life of the inhabitants of this geographical area. Some of methods that we used in this paper are: descriptive method, analytical, comparative, statistical and cartographic method, by taking for study the official data of the State Statistical Office for population of Republic of North Macedonia. The Polog region has a total area of about 2417 km², with 322338 inhabitants or 15.5 % of the total population of North Macedonia and a density of 133 i/ km². The population structure by gender in the Polog region out of a total of 322338 inhabitants is in the ratio 162306 or 50.36% males and 49.64% females, while the structure of the population by age has this ratio: age group 0-19 includes 72419 or 22.47%, age group from 20-59 includes 202314 or 62,76% and the age group of over 60 years old includes 47 605 inhabitants or 14.77%.

Keywords: population, density, gender, age group, ethnicity.

1. Introduction

The Polog region lies in the northwestern part of the Republic of North Macedonia, has a total area of about 2417 km², within which it includes 9 municipalities. In terms of geographical position, Polog is an important hub with numerous natural resources and opportunities for very suitable connections within the Balkan Peninsula and beyond. The very suitable geographical position and the diverse natural resources have influenced this region to be populated much earlier, which even today continues to be populated. 321199 inhabitants live in this region.

The study of the population is of great importance for the economic and social development of the region and the state. The expansion of economic production capacities that affect the increase of living standards, depends on the number of population, the dynamics of its growth, the territorial distribution of the population, the age and gender structure, the educational and economic one, etc. That is, the population is the bearer of economic and social development, of the general development of the state or its special regions, but it cannot be studied in isolation, separated from the space where it is located and by economic and social development in general, but it must be studied in an integrated way.

Recently, especially in the last two decades between 2002-2018 which we have analyzed in this paper, it is noticed that the structures of the population have changed. The changes are mainly observed in the age structure, which also determines the number of active population for work. From the analysis we notice that there have been changes in the population at a young age (0-19), which has decreased from 35.75% to 22.47%, while the active age group for work from 51.67% increases to 62.76% in 2018, but the possibility of increasing the number of age groups over 60 years in 2018 is not excluded. And as a result we have changes in the composition of the structure of the active population for work. For this reason, in this paper we will analyze the population structures in the Polog Region, analyzing in detail these structures by municipalities, for the period 2002-2018.

This paper focuses on the movement of population, population density, analyzing mainly the population structures, as well as the structure by gender, age, nationality, education and the structure of the active population for work over the age of 15 years.

2. Characteristics of the demographic development of the Polog region

The Polog region lies in the northwestern part of the Republic of North Macedonia, is bordered on the east by the Skopje Region, on the south and southeast by the Southwest Region, on the west by Albania and on the north by Kosovo. [2].

The region has a total area of about 2417 km², in which 321199 inhabitants live. In terms of geographical position, Polog is an important hub with numerous natural resources and opportunities for very suitable connections within the Illyrian (Balkan) Peninsula and beyond.
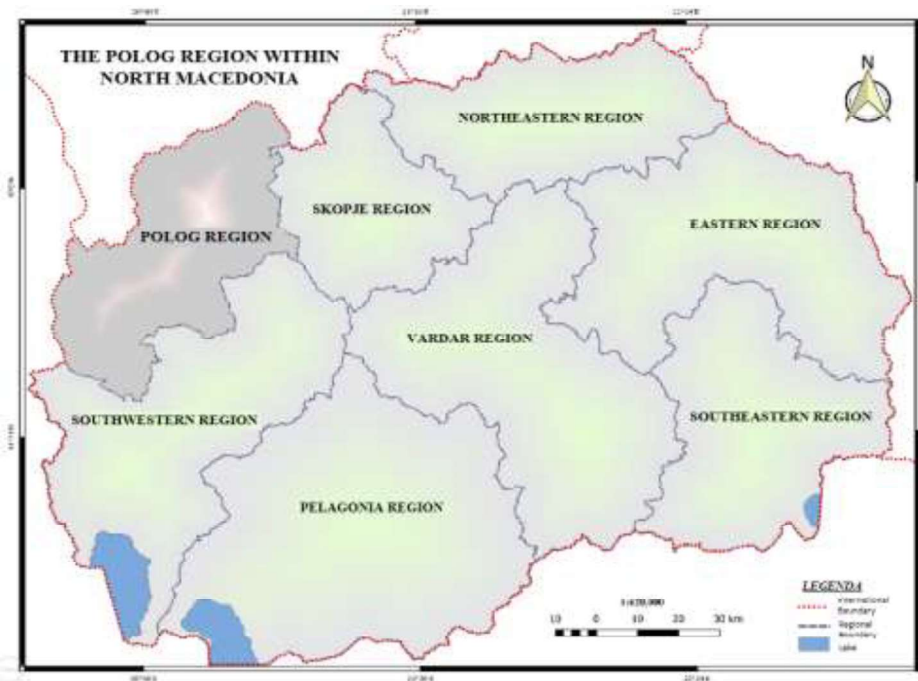

Figure 1. Polog region within the Republic of North Macedonia (Rushiti, 2017)

The Polog has suitable physical and geographical conditions and sufficient natural resources for living, development of settlements and various economic activities. Interesting geographical position, suitable living environment and considerable natural potentials are the main factors that have determined the early and intensive population of these territories.

3. Movement of the number of the population

For the data of the population of Polog we will be served with the registrations 1953-2002 and the data for 2018. According to the data from the table we noticed that the number of population in all other municipalities of Polog has increased, except in the municipality of Mavrovo and Rostusha, where the population has decreased due to the displacement of the population and the dispersal of the villages of this municipality.

Table 1. Total movement of population by municipalities (1953, 2002 and 2018)

No.	Municipality	1953	2002	2018
1.	Tetovo	34797	86580	92580
2.	Tearce	14173	22454	23006
3.	Bervenica	9398	15855	16614
4.	Bogovinje	14329	28997	31075
5.	Zhelino	9528	24390	28366
6.	Jegunovce	10752	10790	10363
7.	Gostivar	35084	81042	83838
8.	Vrapchishte	14811	25399	27632
9.	Mavr.& Rostusha	17388	10470	8864
10.	**Polog Region**	160260	305836	**322338**

Source: SSO, 1953-2018

After World War II, in 1953 the Polog had 160260 inhabitants and by 2002 it had a total of 305836, and to date the total population has increased by 162078 inhabitants over a 65-year period. This increase is a result of the high natural increase of the population of Polog compared to other countries. From the table we notice that in the municipality of Mavrovo andRostusha in 1953 there were 17388 inhabitants, while in 2018 there were 8864 inhabitants, so has decreased by 8524 inhabitants, it participates in Polog with 2.75% of the population. Also, the municipality of Jegunovce, which from 1953-2002 increases, after this period has recorded a decrease in population from 10790 in 2002 to 10363 inhabitants in 2018, ie 3.21% of the population in Polog.
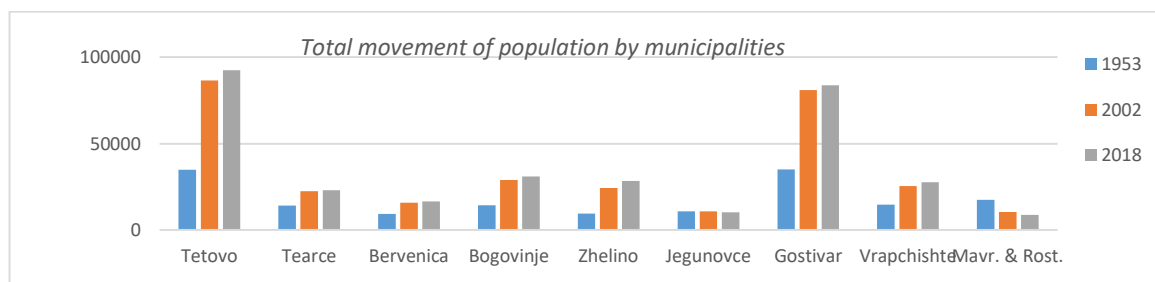

Figure 2. Total movement of population by municipalities (1953, 2002 and 2018)

If the municipalities of Tetovo and Gostivar stand out as urban centers where in 2018 lived 54.72% of the total population of Polog, then the most inhabited rural municipality in 2002 is the municipality of Bogovinje, which continues to be in 2018. The population of this municipality in 2018 is 31075 inhabitants or with 9.64%, then the municipalities are listed: Zhelina with 28366 inhabitants or 8.80%, Vrapçishte with 27632 inhabitants or 8.57%, Tearca with 23006 inhabitants or 7.13%, Bervenica with 16614 inhabitants or 5.15%, these municipalities have an increase of the population because the population which lives there is young and has high rate of natural increase.

As for the urban municipalities which participate with 54.72% of the population in Polog, are the municipality of Tetovo which participates with 92 580 inhabitants or 28.72% and that of Gostivar with 83 838 inhabitants or 26.00% , which are the centers of gravity in this region and therefore have a larger population

4. Population density

To determine the population density, the area of a given geographical area and the total population living in it must be taken into account. The increase in population has led to an increase in population density in each municipality of Polog. In the Polog Region, due to the significant population, the population density is much higher compared to many other areas in North Macedonia. Such population density in Polog confirms the phenomenon of high agrarian density, which proves that high density poses a risk to population survival if based only on simple agricultural activities, although in some rural settlements of Polog has begun to thrive small private industry, which is not enough. Below we will provide data on population density in all municipalities of Polog 1953-2018.

Table 2. Density of population by municipalities (1953, 2002 and 2018)

No.	Municipality	Surface area in km²	Density of population (inhabitants/km²)		
			1953	**2002**	**2018**
1.	Tetovo	**261.89**	133	331	353
2.	Tearce	**136.54**	104	164	168
3.	Bervenica	**164.30**	57	97	101
4.	Bogovinje	**141.65**	101	205	219
5.	Zhelino	**201.04**	47	121	141
6.	Jegunovce	**176.93**	61	61	58
7.	Gostivar	**513.39**	68	158	163
8.	Vrapchishte	**157.98**	94	161	175
9.	Mavr.& Rostusha	**663.19**	26	13	13
10.	**Polog Region**	**2416.91**	**66**	**126**	**133**

Source: SSO, 1953-2018

From the table we notice that the largest area has the municipality of Mavrovo and Rostusha of 663.19 km², while the smallest has the municipality of Tearce with 136.54 km². While the total area of Polog is 2416,91 km² and within this area, the total population density in Polog, in all registration years has been constantly increasing. The density increased from 66 inhab./km² in 1953 to 133 inhab./km² in 2018. Whereas if we compare the municipalities the density in all other municipalities has increased, except for the municipalities of Mavrovo and Rostusha, which has a density of 13 inhab./km², which has been steadily declining, due to declining population numbers. We also see a decrease in density in the municipality of Jegunovce in the period 2002-2018, but this is mainly, as mentioned above, a result of the decrease in the number of population in these two municipalities during these years. The largest population density in all recording years was the municipality of Tetovo with 133 inhab./km² in 1953, which reached 353 inhab./km² in 2018, followed by the municipality of Bogovinje with 205 inhab./km² in 2002 and 219 inhab./km² in 2018.
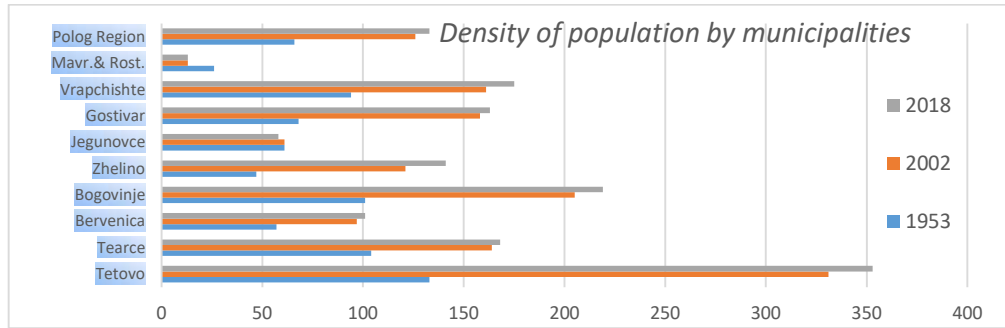
Figure 3. Density of population by municipalities (1953, 2002 and 2018)

Figure 4. Map of the population density of the municipalities in Polog region (2018)

5. The structural composition of the population

Gender composition of the population

The gender composition of the population plays a role in the reproduction of the population as well as in recognizing the structure of the labor force. Large differences between the number of males and females lead to marital disorders, biological reproduction and population growth, workforce by profession, and so on [8].

The gender composition of the population is influenced by the difference in the number of male and female births, epidemics and diseases, wars, migrations and selective migrations (usually more men emigrate), etc. The more intensely these factors act, the greater the differences in gender structure.

Table 3. The structure of population according to the gender by municipalities (2002 and 2018)

No.	Municipality	2002			2018		
		Total	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**
1.	**Tetovo**	70362	35312	35050	92580	46489	46091
	%	100	50,18	49,81	100	50,21	49,78
2.	**Tearce**	22508	11541	10967	23006	11808	11198
	%	100	51,28	48,72	100	51,32	48,67
3.	**Bervenica**	15871	7939	7932	16614	8342	8272
	%	100	50,02	49,98	100	50,21	49,79
4.	**Bogovinje**	14708	7423	7285	31075	15874	15201
	%	100	50,47	49,53	100	51,08	48,91
5.	**Zhelino**	24407	12353	12054	28366	14338	14028
	%	100	50,61	49,39	100	50,54	49,45
6.	**Jegunovce**	7277	3720	3557	10363	5341	5022
	%	100	51,12	48,88	100	51,53	48,46
7.	**Gostivar**	49513	24733	24780	83838	41912	41926
	%	100	49,95	50,04	100	49,99	50,00
8.	**Vrapchishte**	8536	4238	4298	27632	13765	13867
	%	100	49,64	50,35	100	49,81	50,18
9.	**Mavr.&Rost.**	10470	5237	5233	8864	4437	4427
	%	100	50,02	49,98	100	50,06	49,94
10	**Polog Region**	305836	153614	152222	322338	162306	160032
	%	100	50,22	49,77	100	50,35	49,65
11.	**N. Macedonia**	2020157	1014355	1005802	2077132	1040200	1036932
	%	100	50,21	49,78	100	50,07	49,92

Source: SSO, 2002-2018

In 2002, the share of males is higher than that of females, the percentage participation is (50.2% / 49.8%). The influence of gender structure on the natural movement of the population is seen in the possibilities for marriage, which later spread mainly to fertility. In addition, gender structure has an impact on specific mortality, working age population, active population, ratio of active to inactive population, etc. The gender structure is also presented as a precondition for the location of certain activities, etc.

From the data of the table above it can be seen how the situation of the population was, according to the gender composition in nine municipalities of Polog. In some municipalities of Tetovo, Tearce, Bervenica, Bogovinje, Zhelina, Jegunovce and Mavrovo and Rostusha, the male to female predominates, while in the municipalities of Gostivar and Vrapchishte it is the opposite, so the female gender predominates.
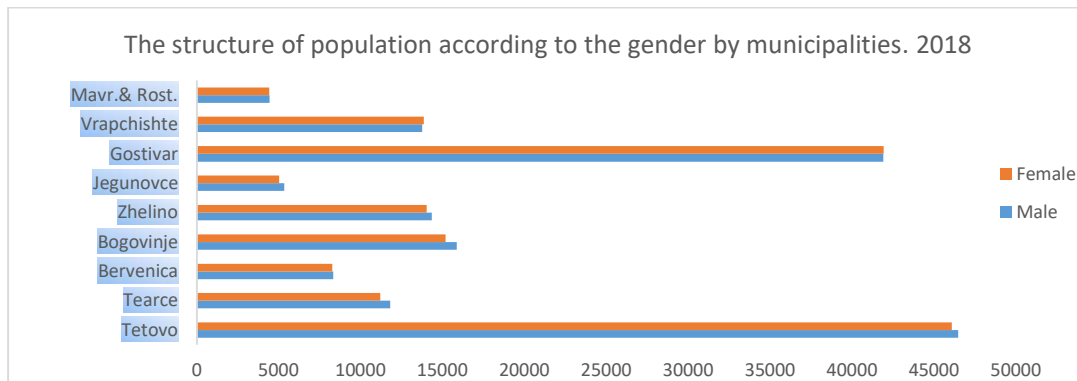

Figure 1. The structure of population according to the gender by municipalities (2002 and 2018)

Meanwhile, the situation of the population according to gender composition in all municipalities of Polog in the registration year 2018 has very small differences between males and females. It is therefore a positive phenomenon, both for the employment of the able-bodied active population of both sexes, and for the further prediction of the increase of the population through the connection of new marital and other pairs.

6. Age structure of the population

The age composition of the population is calculated as one of the most important demographic elements, respectively it represents the basis for all other demographic research, as it shows the vitality and potential biodynamics of the population in a given area. The natural increase of the population, the number of students according to the levels of the education system, the able-bodied population, the perspectives of population development in a territory or geographical space cannot be predicted without knowing well the age composition of the population. In the conditions of a normal demographic development of a population in a stable socio-economic system, the age composition of the population is determined by the progress of fertility and mortality. In other circumstances it is the natural, historical, political, social and economic factors that determine the age composition of the population. The age composition of the population is changed by migratory movements, which are provoked by inappropriate natural conditions, wars, genocide and discriminatory attitudes, limited opportunities for education and social services, inability to work and provide sufficient income, etc. [6].

From the data in the table above for 2002 it appears that in the population of Polog the age group 0-19 years is 35.7%, the age group 20-59 years is 51.7% and the age group over 60 years is 11.3%. Whereas from the data of 2018 it appears that in the population of Polog the age group 0-19 years is 22.4%, the age group 20-59 years is 62.8% and the age group over 60 years is 14.4%. So with a higher percentage, the age group is 20-59 years old, with a tendency in the future that this age group will increase even more, but the possibility of increasing the number of the age group over 60 years is not excluded.

Table 4. The structure of population according to the age group by municipalities (2002 and 2018)

No	Municipality	2002				2018			
		Total	**0-19**	**20-59**	**60+**	**Total**	**0-19**	**20-59**	**60+**
1.	Tetovo	70362	23418	38564	8380	92580	22821	55624	14135
2.	Tearce	22508	7763	11919	2826	23006	4483	14951	3572
3.	Bervenica	15871	5732	8086	2053	16614	3744	10376	2494
4.	Bogovinje	14708	5462	7733	1513	31075	7147	19789	4139
5.	Zhelino	24407	10033	12260	2114	28366	7739	17522	3105
6.	Jegunovce	7277	2125	3964	1188	10363	2255	6358	1750
7.	Gostivar	49513	16760	27093	5660	83838	16436	54125	13277
8.	Vrapchishte	8536	2991	4441	1104	27632	6019	17804	3809
9.	Mavr.&Rost.	10470	4018	5246	1206	8864	1775	5765	1324
10	**Polog Region**	305836	109342	158046	34395	322338	72419	202314	47605
11	**N. Macedonia**	2020157	595376	1123327	301454	2077132	459625	1197494	420013
					Structure %				
No	Municipality	2002				2018			
		Total	**0-19**	**20-59**	**60+**	**Total**	**0-19**	**20-59**	**60+**
1.	Tetovo	100%	33,28	54,80	11,91	100%	24,65	60,08	15,27
2.	Tearce	100%	34,49	52,95	12,55	100%	19,48	64,99	15,52
3.	Bervenica	100%	36,11	50,94	12,93	100%	22,53	62,45	15,01
4.	Bogovinje	100%	37,13	52,76	10,28	100%	22,99	63,68	13,32
5.	Zhelino	100%	41,11	50,23	8,66	100%	27,28	61,77	10,95
6.	Jegunovce	100%	29,2	54,47	16,32	100%	21,76	61,35	16,89
7.	Gostivar	100%	33,85	54,72	11,43	100%	19,60	64,56	15,83
8.	Vrapchishte	100%	35,03	52,03	12,93	100%	21,78	64,43	13,78
9.	Mavr.&Rost.	100%	38,37	50,10	11,52	100%	20,02	65,04	14,93
10	**Polog Region**	100%	35,75	51,67	11,24	100%	22,47	62,76	14,77
11	**N. Macedonia**	100%	29,47	54,61	14,92	100%	22,12	57,65	20,22

Source: SSO, 2002-2018

The largest number of the population in the age group 0-19 years is the municipality of Zhelina 27.28%, Tetovo 24.65%, Bogovina 22.99%, Bervenica 22.53% and Vrapchishte 21.78%, these municipalities are inhabited by Albanians and still have a high natural increase, which means that in them the birth rate is higher than the mortality rate. In the second age group of 20-59 years, the largest number of able-bodied population is in the municipalities of Mavrovo and Rostusha, Tearce, Gostivar, Vrapchishte and Bogovinje, while less in the municipalities of Tetovo, Jegunovce, Zhelina and Bervenica. The largest number of elderly people is in the municipalities: Jegunovce, Gostivar, Tearce, Tetovo, Bervenica, while the lowest number is in the municipalities: Zhelina, Bogovinje, Vrapchishte and Mavrovo and Rostusha. From this we can conclude that the largest percentage of the age group over 60 years has the municipality of Jegunovce 16.89%, while the smallest municipality of Zhelina with 10.95%.
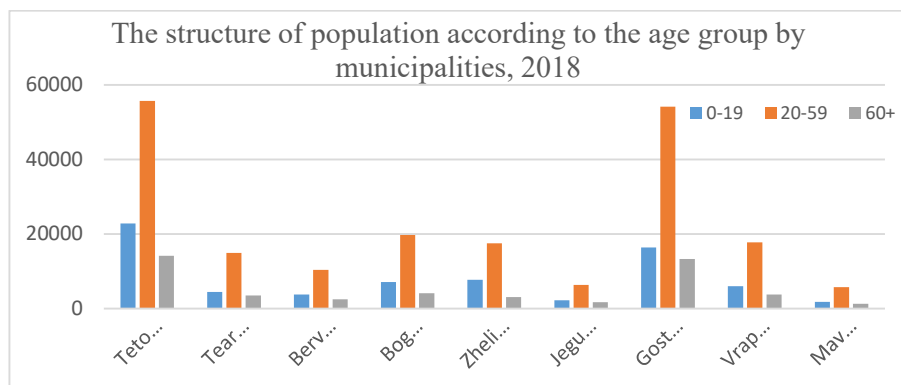
Figure 2. The structure of population according to the age group by municipalities (2002 and 2018)

In 2018 in the Polog Region the ratio of the age group under 5 years and that over 80 years is 28.49%, while in the municipalities we have this ratio: in the urban municipalities of Tetovo 24.31% and Gostivar 34.71%, while in the rural municipalities: Bogovinje 22.35%, Bervenica 30.86%, Vrapchishte 23.59%, Zhelino 20.09%, Jegunovce 41.08%, Mavrovo and Rostushe 61.61% and Tearce 4.21%.

If we analyze the results of aging for the contingent over 65 years, for 2018 which today is used as a criterion for determining the type of population according to the rate of aging, the flows have almost the same functional order by municipality [5].

Table 5. Structure of ageing system of the population in the Region of Polog (2018)

No.	Municipality	Age group		Ratio (65+)/(15-64) in percentage	Ageing type
		15-64	**65+**		
1.	Tetovo	66121	9381	14.19%	Demographic ageing
2.	Tearce	17491	2273	13.00%	Demographic ageing
3.	Bervenica	12291	1633	13.29%	Demographic ageing
4.	Bogovinje	23283	2750	11.81%	In the process of demographic ageing
5.	Zhelino	20729	2082	10.04%	In the process of demographic ageing
6.	Jegunovce	7559	1137	15.04%	Demographic ageing
7.	Gostivar	63686	8785	13.79%	Demographic ageing
8.	Vrapchishte	20973	2464	11.75%	In the process of demographic ageing
9.	Mavr.& Rost.	6817	831	12.19%	Demographic ageing
10.	**Polog Region**	238950	31336	13.11%	Demographic ageing
11.	**N. Macedonia**	1445077	292100	20.21%	Demographic ageing

Source: SSO, 2002-2018

According to the data in the table, based on the ratio of age group (over 65) and (15-64) for 2018, both in the region and in the country, we have demographic ageing of the population (over 12%), in the Polog Region this ratio is 13.11%, while RNM is 20.21%. In the phase of demographic ageing (over 12%) there are also some municipalities in the Polog Region such as: urban municipalities Tetovo and Gostivar and also rural municipalities such as: Tearce, Bervenica, Jegunovce and

Mavrova and Rostushe. While three municipalities such as Bogovinje, Zhelino and Vrapchishte are in the process of demographic ageing (10% -12%).

7. Population composition by ethnicity

Polog is distinguished as a region with a heterogeneous composition of the population. As a result, many languages, cultures, beliefs, traditions, customs, etc. are intertwined in this region. Albanians make up the majority of the Polog population. Their number increased from 90931 inhabitants (59.6%) in 1948 to 222679 inhabitants (73.2%) in 2002.

Table 6. The structure of population according to the ethnic affiliation by municipalities -2002

No.	Municipality	Ethnic affiliation							
		Macedonian	Albanian	Turkish	Rom	Serbian	Bosnian	Other	Total
1.	Tetovo	20053	60886	1882	2357	604	156	642	86580
2.	Tearce	2739	18950	516	67	14	1	167	22454
3.	Bervenica	5949	9770	2	/	78	1	55	15855
4.	Bogovinje	37	27614	1183	5	1	9	148	28997
5.	Zhelino	71	24195	2	/	1	5	116	24390
6.	Jegunovce	5963	4642	4	41	109	1	30	10790
7.	Gostivar	15877	54038	7991	2237	160	39	700	81042
8.	Vrapchishte	1041	21101	3134	/	4	8	111	25399
9.	Mavr.&Rost.	4349	1783	680	10	6	31	59	8618
10.	**Polog Region**	56079	222679	17394	4717	977	251	1342	304125
11.	**N. Macedonia**	1297981	509083	77959	53879	35938	17018	30689	2020157
		Structure %							
No.	Territory	Ethnic affiliation							
		Macedonian	Albanian	Turkish	Rom	Serbian	Bosnian	Other	Total
1.	Tetovo	23.16	70.32	2.17	2.72	0.70	0.18	0.74	100
2.	Tearce	12.20	84.39	2.30	0.30	0.06	0.01	0.74	100
3.	Bervenica	37.52	61.62	0.01	/	0.49	0.01	0.35	100
4.	Bogovinje	0.13	95.23	4.08	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.51	100
5.	Zhelino	0.29	99.20	0.01	/	0.00	0.002	0.48	100
6.	Jegunovce	55.26	43.02	0.04	0.38	1.01	0.01	0.28	100
7.	Gostivar	19.59	66.67	9.86	2.76	0.19	0.04	0.85	100
8.	Vrapchishte	4.09	83.08	12.34	/	0.01	0.03	0.44	100
9.	Mavr.&Rost.	50.46	17.20	31.09	0.11	0.06	0.35	0.68	100
10.	**Polog Region**	18.44	73.22	5.72	1.55	0.32	0.08	0.44	100
11.	**N. Macedonia**	64.25	25.20	3.85	2.66	1.77	0.84	1.51	100

Source: SSO, 2002

The second largest population in Polog is that of Macedonian ethnicity, which in 2002 was 18.5%. The decrease in the percentage of the population with Macedonian ethnicity in Polog is primarily due to the departure of this population towards larger and more developed centers such as Skopje and to a lesser extent as a result of the lower birth rate of the Macedonian population. compared to the Albanian and Turkish. The Turkish population in the Polog region in 2002 was about 5.7%. The above data show that Albanians in the municipalities of Jegunovce and Mavrovo and Rostusha are below 50%, respectively 43.02% in Jegunovce and 17.20% in Mavrovo and Rostusha. While in other municipalities this participation ranges from 61.6% in the municipality of Bervenica to the municipality of Zhelina in which the participation of Albanians is 99.2%. Macedonians in only two municipalities are the majority with 55.2% in the municipality of Jegunovce and 50.4% in the municipalities of Mavrovo and Rostusha, while in the other seven municipalities they are a minority. The Turkish population as the third most present is present in the municipality of Vrapchishte (12.34%) and that of Gostivar (9.86%). In terms of participation of other nationalities they have very low participation in the region.

8. Educational composition of the population

Population education as a very important component of socio-economic development is of particular importance for the study of this nature. The Polog region differs from other regions of the Republic of North Macedonia in terms of education and socio-economic development. The two urban centers of Polog, Tetovo and Gostivar, have seen an increase in the level of education in recent years. The period of the Second World War for Albanian education in the Polog region is a real boom because in these years the first schools in the Albanian language are opened with the care of teachers from Albania. Out of 92 settlements of the municipality of Tetova, the primary school, where the educational process is regularly conducted, has 87. Of these, 45 are of the eight-year level, of which six in the city and 39 in the villages. There are also 42 four-year primary schools in this municipality. Today, we can call Tetovo as a university city, as there are two universities in this city, such as: the State University of Tetova and the University of Southeast Europe.

Gostivar together with 91 rural settlements (villages), has over 64 primary schools. Of these 30 schools, there are 4 primary schools, 4 of which are located in the city of Gostivar, while the other 26 are in villages, while the remaining 34 primary schools are four years old. Regarding the network of high schools, it is worth mentioning that in the Municipality of Gostivar today operate 4 schools such as: gymnasium, medical high school, economic and industrial school which is the only such school in the Polog region.

Table 7. Number of schools according to the levels of education

2002			
No.	**Education level**	**North Macedonia**	**Polog Region**
1.	**Primary and lower secondary education**	987	147
2.	**Upper secondary education**	132	19
3.	**Tertiary education**	19	2

Source: SSO, 2002

The table shows the number of schools, according to the level of education, where we see that out of a total of 987 primary schools in North Macedonia, 147 belong to Polog, and out of a total of 132 high schools in North Macedonia, 19 belong to Polog and a total of 19 universities in North Macedonia, 2 belong to Polog.

9. Socio-economic structure of the population
The composition of the population by activity, as one of the most important economic indicators, depends on many economic, social, demographic factors, primarily by the contingent of the able-bodied population. The composition of the population according to three categories (active population, with personal income and withholding) varies according to municipalities and regions. The socio-economic development of the country caused changes in the economic structure of the population, which are necessarily reflected in all components of life.

The first group that stands out in the general population in the case of examining its socio-economic structure is the able-bodied population, respectively the labor contingent. The able-bodied population consists of men aged 15-65 and women aged 15-59 (this varies by country).

The reserves of the able-bodied population often remain unexploited, because its exploitation depends directly on the opportunities of the country's economy for the creation of new jobs. Changes in the economic structure of the population of Polog, for a long time, are better understood based on the data presented in the following statement, where we see that the active population in Polog participates with 50.5%, which at the state level is 56.9%.

Table 8. Activity rates of the population aged 15 years and over

2002			
		North Macedonia	**Polog Region**
Working age population (persons)		1682702	264725
Activity rate		56,9	50,5 %
Employment rate		45,1	35,8
Unemployment rate	**Total**	20,7	29,0
	Male	21,3	26,8
	Female	19,9	34,5

Source: SSO, 2002

In the Polog region, in terms of employment and unemployment rate, we have differences, where we notice that the employment rate in Polog is 35.8%, while the unemployment rate is 29.0%, which also differs by gender, where the female gender in unemployment it participates with 34.5%, while the male one with 26.8%, while at the state level it is the opposite.
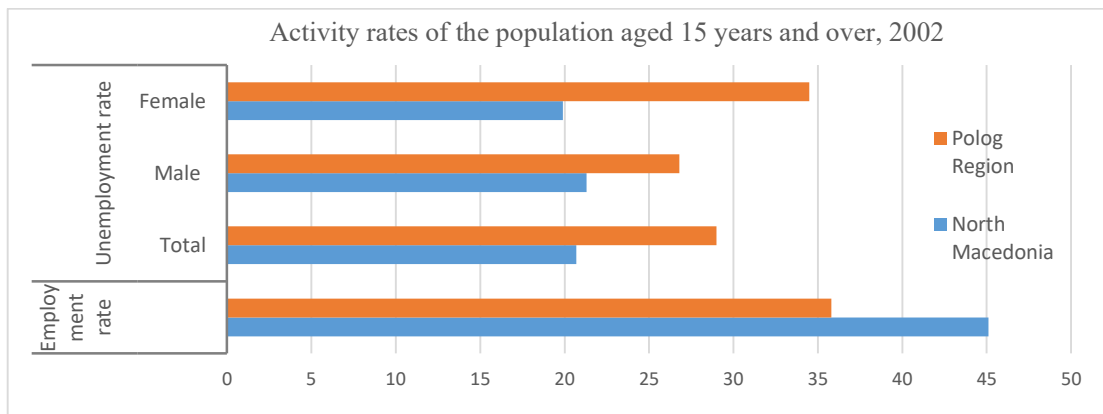

Figure 3. Activity rates of the population aged 15 years and over

10. Conclusion

This paper focuses on the movement of population, population density, analyzing mainly the population structures, as well as the structure by gender, age, nationality, education and the structure of the active population for work over the age of 15 years. The process of demographic transition is realized through the changes of demographic components. These changes in the Polog region are relatively slower compared to processes occurring at the state level. According to the mentioned changes, there were also changes in the structures of the population, mainly in the composition of the population by age, which affects the change of the structures of the active population, with personal income and maintenance. Then we have very small differences in the gender and educational structure.

Thus, after the Second World War, 1953 Polog had 160260 inhabitants until 2002 where there were a total of 305836, and to date the total population has increased by 162078 inhabitants over a period of 65 years. Within the Polog area of 2416.91 km^2, the total population density is constantly increasing. The density increased from 66 inhab./km² in 1953 to 133 inhab./km² in 2018. While according to the municipalities, the density in all other municipalities has increased, with the exception of the municipalities of Mavrovo and Rostusha, which has a density of 13 inhab./km^2, which has been steadily declining, due to declining population numbers. Data on the gender structure of the population in Polog in the period 2002-2018 show that there are small differences, but men have an advantage over women, with the exception of the municipalities of Gostivar and Vrapchishte where the opposite occurs. In the population structure by age group, it can be concluded that in 2018 there is a decrease in the weight representation of the age group 0-14 years, while the participation of older age groups increases, especially from 60 and more years. Polog is distinguished as a region with a heterogeneous composition of the population. As a result, many languages, cultures, beliefs, traditions, customs, etc. are intertwined in this region. Albanians make up the majority of the Polog population. The development of the general education system, in particular primary and secondary education, plays a crucial role in achieving the general goals of eliminating illiteracy and providing professionally qualified staff to contribute to the faster development of the region. In the economic structure of the population of Polog, the active population in Polog participates with 50.5%, which at the state level is 56.9%, while the employment rate in Polog is 35.8%, while the unemployment rate is 29.0%, with gender differences.

From these analyses we can conclude that the demographic development trends in Polog tend to continue to grow in the future, both in terms of population size and overall population density. Meanwhile, the situation of the population according to gender composition with very small differences between males and females is a positive phenomenon, either for the employment of the able-bodied active population of both genders, or for further forecasting the increase of the population through the connection of new marriages and others. From the analysis of population change by age group in Polog the process of population aging is slower compared to the national average, but this change also affects the composition of the active working population, ie population growth over the age of 15, and as a result the reserves of the able-bodied population often remain untapped, because its utilization depends directly on the opportunities of the country's economy for the creation of new jobs. While the development of the general education system tends to completely eliminate illiteracy and improve the quality of education.

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