

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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The country's population is the basis of its potential, the possibility of further growth and development. In this regard, the current demographic situation highlights the need for a deep study of the characteristics of the population of countries and regions.

The purpose of this research is to compare the demographic situation in the Republic of Belarus (RB) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), define general trends and differences, and identify the main demographic problems.

The methodical approach to assessing the demographic situation includes the following areas and the corresponding indicators of assessment: the size and structure of the population; fertility, mortality and reproductive behavior; life expectancy at birth; migration processes.

Table 1 presents data on the change in population in both countries during 2010–2018.

*Table 1*

**Population (the beginning of the year)**

Year	Republic of Belarus			Democratic Republic of the Congo		
	Total population (thousands of persons)	Change, %	Population density (persons per square km)	Total population (thousands of people)	Change, %	Population density (persons per square km)
2010	9500,0	–	45,76	64523,3	–	28,46
2011	9481,2	99,80	45,67	66713,6	103,39	29,43
2012	9465,2	99,83	45,59	68978,7	103,40	30,43
2013	9463,8	99,99	45,59	71316,0	103,39	31,46
2014	9468,2	100,05	45,61	73722,9	103,37	32,52
2015	9480,9	100,13	45,67	76196,6	103,36	33,61
2016	9498,4	100,18	45,75	78736,1	103,33	34,73
2017	9504,7	100,07	45,78	81339,9	103,31	35,88
2018	9491,8	99,86	45,72	83279,0	102,38	36,73

Over the past 10 years, the population of the Republic of Belarus has remained actually unchanged and in 2018 amounted to 9,491.8 thousand people. At the same time, the population growth was observed only in 2014–2017. The population grew steadily (about 3% per year) and by 2018 equalled to 83279.0 thousand people in the DRC. The population density in the Republic of Belarus is higher than in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in 2018 it was 45.7 people per square kilometer, in the DRC – 36.7 people per square kilometer.

Table 2 presents the gender and age structure of the population in both countries.

Table 2

**Population by gender and age in 2018 year  
(the beginning of the year; thousands of persons)**

	Republic of Belarus						Democratic Republic of the Congo					
	male and female	%	male	%	female	%	male and female	%	male	%	female	%
Total population	9491,8	100	4421,5	100	5070,3	100	83279,0	100	42544,3	100	40734,7	100
of which by age, years:												
0–14	1594,9	16,8	820,6	18,6	774,3	15,3	34394,3	41,3	17735,6	41,7	16658,7	40,9
15–24	965,9	10,2	496,4	11,2	469,5	9,3	17904,9	21,5	9184,9	21,6	8720,0	21,4
25–54	4148,6	43,7	2042,7	46,2	2105,9	41,5	25733,3	30,9	13176,7	30,9	12556,6	30,8
55–64	1362,7	14,4	599,4	13,6	763,3	15,1	2998,0	3,6	1472,8	3,5	1525,2	3,7
70 and over	1419,7	14,9	462,4	10,5	957,3	18,9	2248,5	2,7	974,3	2,3	1274,2	3,1

The age structure of the population of the two countries has significant differences. Children aged 0–14 years old account for 41.3 % of the total population in the DRC, the proportion of children of the same age groups is 16.8 % in the Republic of Belarus. At the same time, the number of the senior population in the DRC is: at the age from 55 to 64 years old – 3.6 %, from 70 years old and above – 2.7 %. These population groups in the Republic of Belarus are 14.4 % and 14.9 %, respectively. Based on this, it can be said that the Republic of Belarus has a regressive age structure. The regressive structure is characterized by a low proportion of children and a much higher proportion of grandparents, and does not ensure further population growth. This age structure is associated with the presence of the problem labor resources formation and social provision of the retirement age population. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has a progressive population structure. This structure is characterized by a high proportion of children and a low one of the elderly, that is, the progressive structure ensures a rapid population growth.

There are also differences in the sexual structure. The proportion of women is higher than the proportion of men (54.4 % and 46.6 %, respectively) in Belarus. The situation is reversed in DRC: the share of women in the total population is 48.9 %, men – 51.1 %.

Table 3 presents the general indicators of population reproduction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Belarus over the past 9 years.

Table 3

## Per 1000 population births, deaths and natural increase (decrease)

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CBR, crude birth rate (per 1000)									
Republic of Belarus	11,4	11,5	12,2	12,5	12,5	12,5	12,4	10,8	9,9
Democratic Republic of the Congo	44,86	44,55	44,19	43,77	43,31	42,81	38,7	33,5	32,8
CDR, crude death rate (per 1000)									
Republic of Belarus	14,4	14,3	13,4	13,2	12,8	12,6	12,6	12,6	12,7
Democratic Republic of the Congo	11,64	11,33	11,04	10,76	10,48	10,19	9,93	9,69	9,45
IMR, infant mortality rate per 1000 births									
Republic of Belarus	4,0	3,9	3,4	3,5	3,5	3,0	3,2	3,2	3,3
Democratic Republic of the Congo	77,95	75,88	73,97	72,17	70,45	68,8	–	–	–
NC, natural change ( <i>natural increase, decrease</i> (–)) (per 1000)									
Republic of Belarus	–3,0	–2,8	–1,2	–0,7	–0,3	–0,1	–0,2	–1,8	–2,8
Democratic Republic of the Congo	33,22	33,15	33,01	32,83	32,62	28,77	23,81	23,81	23,35

The comparison of population reproduction processes has shown that the birth rate is three times higher in the DRC than in the Republic of Belarus. At the same time, the crude death rate is lower with the result that the natural change in the population aspect in the DRC has a high positive value (in 2018 – 20,35), although the value of NC is decreasing. The Republic of Belarus has a natural decrease in the population (the death rate exceeds the birth rate); in 2018, the NC was –2,8. At the same time the DRC has a very high infant mortality rate, in 2015 it was 68.8, whereas in the Republic of Belarus the value of this indicator is much lower (3,0).

Table 4 presents the Life expectancy at birth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Belarus over the past 9 years.

Table 4

## Life expectancy at birth, years

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Republic of Belarus	70,4	70,6	72,2	72,6	73,2	73,9	74,1	74,4	–
Democratic Republic of the Congo	55,48	55,96	56,75	57,65	58,10	59,21	59,62	60,03	60,44

Life expectancy at birth has increased in both countries over the past 10 years. However, in Belarus the value of this indicator is 14 years higher than in the DRC.

The knowledge of the region's demographic situation peculiarities such as population, its dynamics, structural characteristics of the population's composition and reproduction, basic demographic trends and patterns, their territorial differentiation, features and

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intensity of migration processes form the basis of competent and effective demographic policy. The profound knowledge of these aspects will allow identifying the main demographic problems and will provide the opportunity to introduce measures to solve them.

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