

1. Balashova, I.E. Implementation of technological aspects of contextual learning in the branches of departments in the preparation of future specialists / I.E. Balashova, I.A. Litvenkova, M.Yu. Masherava. – 2022. – № 1. – P. 85–91. <https://rep.vsu.by/handle/123456789/31969>

2. Bezhenar, Yu. P. Organization of the work of the student volunteer group "Ecological Patrol" on the basis of VSU named after P.M. Masherov / Yu.P. Bezhenar, I.A. Litvenkova, E.V. Shamatulskaya // Higher School. – 2020. – №2. – P. 38–41. <https://elib.bsu.by/handle/123456789/248365>.

PROBLEMS OF REPRODUCTION OF LABOR RESOURCES RURAL TERRITORIES OF THE VITEBSK REGION

Angelina Luneva¹, Natalia Novikova²

¹VSU named after P.M. Masherov, Vitebsk, Belarus,

²RSSU, Moscow, Russia

Keywords: labor resources, rural area, Vitebsk region.

For a long period, there has been a steady decline in the population in the rural areas of the Vitebsk region of Belarus. The working-age population is of great importance for the economic development of the region. The formation of labor resources and their use in various sectors of the national economy of the region have their own characteristics. In agriculture, the number of workers directly involved in the production of products is decreasing. Given the current situation, the growth of the able-bodied population, which makes up the bulk of the workforce, is problematic and their sources in rural areas are problematic. Therefore, taking into account the peculiarities of agricultural production, economic growth in agriculture (the main area of application of the labor of the rural population) can only be ensured on the basis of an increase in labor productivity [1].

The purpose of the study: to analyze the quantitative composition of the labor force in rural areas of the Vitebsk region.

Material and methods. The information base of the study was the data of the results of the population censuses of the Republic of Belarus for 2009 and 2019 and the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus [2, 3]. Comparative geographic, statistical and analytical methods were used.

Findings and their discussion. In 2019, the rural population of the Vitebsk region was 22%, and its share is constantly decreasing (27% in 2009). Natural and migration decline leads to a stable reduction and aging of the rural population and significantly affects the dynamics of all major demographic processes.

The reduction in the working-age population leads, first of all, to a reduction in the labor force, as well as to an increase in the proportion of people in old age. If in 2009 the post-working population accounted for 31.9%, then in 2019 this share increased to 34.1%. The demographic burden on the working-age population is increasing all the time: 597 pensioners in 2009 and 672 in 2019. All this increases the cost of pensions, medical services and social assistance for the elderly.

Analyzing the structure of the rural population by sex in working age, there is a noticeable excess of men. The exodus of young women from rural areas leads to a disproportionate sex ratio and, most often, this has an economic basis. In rural areas it

is difficult to find a decent and prestigious job for young people, there are no alternative places of employment, places of leisure, poor transport accessibility and security, lack of preschool (and not only) institutions, so more mobile young women and men leave the village.

An analysis of the structure of the rural population of the Vitebsk region by age showed an absolute and relative decrease in the able-bodied rural population. From 2009 to 2019, the rural population of working age decreased from 178.7 thousand people up to 132.0 thousand people or by 26.1% over 10 years (Fig.).

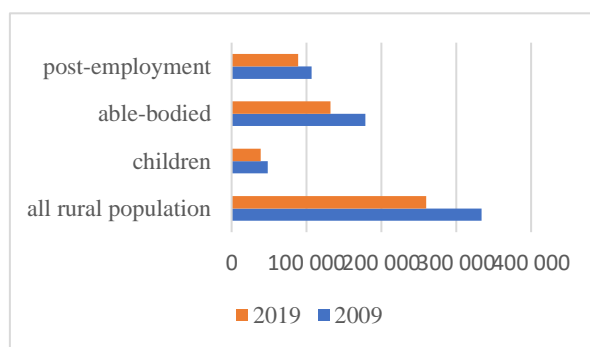


Figure – The structure of the rural population of the Vitebsk region by age groups in 2009 and 2019 years

After working age, there is a clear advantage in the number of women over men, and in rural areas, settlements turn out to be in fact settlements and villages of elderly women, widows and pensioners.

Conclusion. As the statistics show, the population peak in Belarus has already been passed. The population, especially the rural population, will decrease every year. If the rate of decline does not change, then according to the demographic forecast, in 2019-2029 the formation of labor resources of the rural population of the Vitebsk region will be influenced by the absolute reduction of the able-bodied population and may decrease by about 30–35%.

The transformation of modern rural society requires a qualitatively new level of formation of rural labor resources. To solve this problem, effective socio-economic programs are needed, otherwise there will be even more empty towns and villages by the next census [4].

1. Teterinets, T.A. Labor potential of agriculture in Belarus: assessment, management, development. / T.A. Teterinets // Research, results. – 2018. – № 3 (79). – P. 280–290.

2. Statistical Yearbook of the Vitebsk Region 2019. National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus. Main Statistical Office of the Vitebsk Region. – Minsk. 2019. – 482 p.

3. Statistical compilation: Population of the Republic of Belarus: its size and composition. – Minsk. 2010. – 414 p.

4. Shamatulskaya, E.V. Research of quantitative parameters of depopulation of rural territories of the Vitebsk region. E.V. Shamatulskaya // Law. Economy. Psychology. – № 2 (22). – 2021. – P. 60–65. URL: <https://rep.vsu.by/bitstream/123456789/27808/1/61-65.pdf> (date accessed: 8.11.2022).