

**POVERTY AND WELFARE TRENDS IN UKRAINE
OVER THE 1990s**

Country Paper

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Population

The current sex and age structure of the population in Ukraine has been formed under the influence of a number of historical and socio-economic factors and changes in society over the past hundred years. Major changes in the sex and age structure of the population occurred in the period following the latest census held in Ukraine in 1989. A downward trend in the number of the country's population is observed every year. This is due to a dramatic drop in birthrate over the past 12 years: from 13.3 newborns per mille in 1989 down to 7.8 in 2000, or by 41%.

This drop in birthrate reduced the share of children in the 0-15 age group in the total number of population from 23% in 1989 down to 18.7% (or by 19%) as of the start of 2001. The process is more intensive in urban areas where the share of children fell by 23%, whereas in rural areas it went down by 8%.

(%, 1989 census results, beginning of 2001)

Age group	Urban areas and rural areas		
	1989	2001	2001 in % to 1989
Male and female			
0-15	23.0	18.7	81.3
16-59	59.0	60.5	102.5
60 +	18.0	20.8	115.6
Male			
0-15	25.4	20.6	81.1
16-59	61.8	63.3	102.4
60+	12.8	16.1	125.8
Female			
0-15	21.0	17.1	81.4
16-59	56.6	58.0	102.5
60 +	22.4	24.9	111.2

The share of the most numerous age group, 16-59, grew over that period by a mere 2.5% due to the fact that this age bracket was entered by fairly numerous age groups of persons born in 1974-1985 when the birthrate was double its present level (14.6-16.0 per 1,000) and exited by a small number of persons born in the famine years in Ukraine—from 1931 to 1934 inclusive. The share of this group would have been much higher if not for the excessively high mortality rate among the working-age male population. In addition, during the past 12 years age indices of mortality rate in this group grew even more: by 40% on the average among men and by 25% among women.

The sharp drop in birthrate and an increase in working-age mortality rate led to the growth in the share of old people, i.e. ageing of the population.

The rural inhabitants are much older than the urban dwellers, which is indicated by the average age that was 39.9 in the countryside and 37.9 in urban areas as of the beginning of 2001 (2 year age difference).

A higher degree of the ageing of the population in the countryside, as against urban areas, means a higher burden on the working-age population. As of the beginning of 2001 there were 726 persons past working age per 1,000 able-bodied population (633 in urban areas and 961 in the countryside). The share of children in the “demographic load” is shrinking while the number of persons in retirement age is growing. As of early 2001, the figures were 324 and 402, respectively.

There is 53.6% of women and 46.4% of men in the population in Ukraine (according to the 1989 census, 53.8% and 46.2%, respectively). The excess of females over males begins from the age of 32 years, whereas in the developed countries the excess in the number of women over that of men is observed at the age of 50 to 55 years.

In the majority of developed countries the process of population ageing is accompanied not only by a decline in birthrate but also in a lower mortality rate and, as a result, greater life expectancy. In Ukraine, birthrate declines and mortality rate goes up simultaneously. As a result, life expectancy at birth was 62 years for males and 74 years for females in 1999-2000.

During 2000 Ukraine’s population decreased by 419,600 (0.8%) to constitute 49,291,200 in early 2001. This decline is due to natural (373,000) and emigration (46,600) reasons, respectively.

Natural decline was a decisive factor behind the formation of the population. Last year the vital statistics were as follows:

	Total, thous.		2000 in % of 1999	Per 1,000	
	1999	2000		1999	2000
Number of births	389.2	385.1	98.9	7.8	7.8
Number of deaths	739.2	758.1	102.6	14.8	15.3
Including infants under 1 year	5,064 ¹⁾	4,607 ¹⁾	91.0	12.6 ²⁾	11.9 ²⁾
Natural decline	-350.0	-373.0	106.6	-7.0	-7.5
Number of marriages	344.9	274.5	79.6	6.9	5.5
Number of divorces	175.8	197.3	112.2	3.5	4.0

¹⁾ Persons.

²⁾ Per 1,000 newborns.

Natural population decline in the countryside is almost 50% up on the relevant figure for urban areas (9.7 and 6.5 per 1,000 residents, respectively).

Greater natural decline is due to a decrease in the number of births paralleled by an increase in the number of deaths. In 2000, 4,100 births less (1.1%) than in 1999 were registered.

The total birthrate was 7.8‰. It was 7.1‰ in urban settlements and remained traditionally higher in the countryside, at 9.3‰.

A downward trend is observed in the average number of children born by a woman during her entire lifetime. The fertility rate was 1.1 in 1999-2000 as against 2.0 in 1988-1989.

The process of birthrate decline is going on against the background of fewer registered marriages and more divorces. In 2000 the number of registered marriages dropped dramatically as compared to the 1999 figure (by 70,400 or by 20.4%). The number of registered divorces grew by 21,500 or by 12.2%. There are 5.5 registered marriages and 4.0 divorces per 1,000 population.

Higher mortality rate is the main factor behind the greater natural decline of the population. In 2000 the number of deaths in Ukraine was by 18,900 (or by 2.6%) higher than in 1999.

The number of deaths caused by infectious and parasitic diseases, digestive system diseases, circulatory system diseases, accidents, murders, suicides and other external factors, increased last year:

	Thous. persons		2000 in % of 1999
	1999	2000	
Total deaths	739.2	758.1	102.6
including deaths caused by:			
infectious and parasitic diseases	12.0	13.2	110.0
digestive system diseases	20.7	22.2	107.2
circulatory system diseases	449.0	463.9	103.3
accidents, murders, suicides, effects of other external factors	71.0	73.2	103.1
respiratory system diseases	37.1	37.9	102.2
tumours	98.5	97.9	99.4

The average mortality rate in the country is registered at the level of 15.3‰. In the countryside, it is higher than in urban areas: 18.9 and 13.6‰, respectively.

In contrast to the total mortality rate, that of infant mortality is decreasing. Whereas 5,064 infants under 1 year of age died in 1999, the figure for 2000 was 4,607, and infant mortality rate dropped from 12.6 to 11.9 per 1,000 newborns.

Last year infants under 1 year of age died, above all, of causes arising in the perinatal period (38.6%) and of congenital anomalies (29.0%).

In 2000 maternal mortality rate fell down to 24.4 per 100,000 live births as against 27.2 in 1998 and 32.4 in 1990.

Population decrease is also caused, in addition to natural decline, by the number of persons leaving Ukraine exceeding the number of those arriving in Ukraine (negative balance of migration).

Population migration affects various aspects of the socio-economic and political development of the nation and, moreover, is one of the key factors determining its total population.

Over the past decade notable changes occurred in migration processes in Ukraine. In 1991-1993, the migration balance was positive and the population of the country grew by almost 500,000. Since 1994 Ukraine has had a negative migration balance and that same year it was at its peak of 143,000; during the following four years it varied between 82,000 and 131,000. In 1999 and 2000 certain positive trends emerged: migration-related population decrease went down by more than 50% and in 2000 accounted for 46,600 persons.

Over the past two years the migration balance in Ukraine was formed by migration exchange with non-CIS countries. Thus, in 2000, non-CIS countries accounted for 87% (40,700) and CIS nations for a mere 13% (5,900) of the total migration-related decrease (46,600 persons).

Migration exchange with non-CIS countries, unlike that with CIS members, is outbound in nature, with 45,100 persons going out of and a mere 4,400 arriving in Ukraine. More than 90% of emigrants to non-CIS countries are seeking permanent residence. In 2000, main destination countries for emigrants were: Israel—17,500 persons (39% of all those leaving Ukraine), Germany—11,500 (26%), the United States—9,700 (21%).

Whereas in the early 1990s emigration to these countries was of explicitly “ethnic character”, in recent years the situation has changed: for instance, of those who left for Israel in 2000 Ukrainians accounted for 42%, Jews 28% and Russians 23%; for Germany: Ukrainians 35%, Jews 32%, Russians 15% and Germans only 10%; for the US: Ukrainians 69%, Russians 13% and Jews 10%.

Emigration to non-CIS countries entails not only quantitative but also qualitative losses in the population as emigrating to these countries in the first place are people of working age and having a high level of education. For instance, out of the total number of persons who left for permanent

residence in Germany in 2000, 61% were of working age and 30% had a higher education; in Israel 61% and 22%, respectively.

Migration exchange with CIS countries is characterised by somewhat bigger numbers of emigrants than in the case of non-CIS countries—55,000 in 2000; however, given a considerable number of immigrants, the negative balance is insignificant: -5,900. The bulk of migration movement is from Ukraine to Russia and vice versa. In 2000, 48,100 persons left for Russia (87% of all those who moved to CIS countries) while 35,000 persons arrived from Russia (71% of all those who arrived from CIS countries). These flows of migrants consist of almost equal shares of Ukrainians and Russians. All in all, the balance of migration exchange with Russia amounted to 13,100. The scale of migration exchange with Belarus in 2000 was much lower (3,700 left and 1,900 arrived).

Whereas in Ukraine's migration exchange with Russia and Belarus emigratory trends predominate (with the resulting negative migration balance), that with Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Uzbekistan is marked by prevailing immigration. In 2000, due to the inflow of immigrants from these countries, the population of Ukraine increased by almost 8,000.

In Ukraine as a whole the migration reduction rate in 2000 was 0.9 persons per 1,000.

It should be noted that a part of immigrants were granted the status of a refugee. A total of 895 persons holding this status were registered in Ukraine as of early 2001.

Employment and Incomes

In 2000, Ukraine's workforce remained practically unchanged, at the same level of 30 million persons as in previous years. Over the last three years a trend of working age group growth has been observed in the workforce pattern which is due to demographic processes. For instance, in 2000 this group increased by 218,100 or by 0.8% as against 1997. At the same time, the number of elderly people employed in the economy, conversely, decreased by 54,500 or by 2.1%.

The share of employed elderly people and teenagers in the able-bodied population notably changed. In 2000 there were 700 working age persons per 100 elderly people and teenagers employed, whereas five years ago the figure was almost 850.

In 2000, the total number of persons employed in the economy shrank by 555,200, or by 2.5%, with the average of 21.3 million during the year.

Out of every 100 persons employed in the economy (less those self-employed at personal farming units, or subsidiary farms) there were 50 women, 17 young people aged 15 to 28 years, and 14 old-age, social benefit or disability pensioners.

The number of working age persons employed in the economy decreased over 2000 by 462,200 or by 2.4% and amounted to 18.7 million (by 2.5 million or 13.1%, respectively, as against the 1995 figure).

The redistribution of employed population from the state to the non-state sector (corporate and private) of the economy is going on. Over the past year the number of employees at state-owned enterprises dropped by 413,800, or by 5.3%, and made up 7.3 million, or 33% of the employed.

The share of non-state sector employees grew over the same period by 1.1 percentage points to reach 14.0 million.

Personal subsidiary farms and self-employment form an important component of the private sector of the economy.

In 2000 more than 50% of agricultural output (potatoes, vegetables, fruit, berries and livestock products) was produced by subsidiary farms.

The structural transformation of economic relations is accompanied by changes in the distribution of the employed by status. Thus, the share of non-hires (self-employed, engaged at subsidiary farms, employers) went up from 23.8% in 1999 to 25.6% in 2000 (by 225,500 persons).

In terms of gender analysis the issues of employment and unemployment are extremely significant features allowing to identify the place of females and males in society. Certain differences in their status are observed on the labour market of Ukraine. The level of economic activity among males over recent years has been considerably higher than that among females and in 2000 it was 69% and 59%, respectively. This is explained by the longer working age for men (up to 60 years) as compared to women (up to 55 years).

The level of employment among women is also lower than among men and this trend can be traced during the period from 1995 to 2000. Last year the level of employment among women was 52% as against 61% among men.

In 2000, female and male unemployment stood at the same level of 11.7%, although in previous years unemployment had been more widespread among men. When it is a question of registering as unemployed women are more inclined to accept it than men. For nine years (from the introduction

of official registration of the unemployed in Ukraine) women have made the majority of registered unemployed. Among the unemployed who applied to the state employment service during 2000, women accounted for 53.3%; however, their share has been gradually going down: for instance, in 1992, 79.2% of registered unemployed were women. The number of persons who looked for a job and applied to the state employment service in 2000 is presented in the table below:

	Cumulative		Including formerly employed, %		
	Thous.	% of 1999	Black collar	White collar	Jobs that demand special training
Total	1,539.5	107.2	53.0	28.4	18.6
including:					
females	820.6	108.5	42.5	37.6	19.9
young people under 28	566.6	100.0	49.1	27.1	23.8

By the beginning of 2001, 32 in every 100 unemployed had vocational training, 29 complete secondary education, 23 basic higher education, 11 complete higher education, and the rest had basic or primary secondary education.

The findings of sample surveys and data provided by the state employment service indicate that unemployment has been acquiring an increasingly static character. According to information given by the unemployed, the time of job search has grown and in 2000 it took 10 months on the average to find a job, as against 9 months in 1999, while the period of unemployment doubled. The average monthly number of unemployed staying out of job (occupation) for more than one year went up on the 1999 figure by 10.4% and reached 1,370,900. The average length of unemployment grew from 21 to 23 months. This indicator was notably higher among unemployed women as compared to men and the figures were 25 and 22 months, respectively, in urban areas, as against 24 and 21 months, respectively, in the countryside.

The main causes of unemployment more often cited by the public were: redundancies due to reorganisation, liquidation, conversion of defence industry facilities, and personnel reduction; quitting one's job; failure to find a job upon graduation.

The most frequent reason for unemployment among young people was failure to find a job upon graduation, and among middle-aged persons it was connected with redundancies due to reorganisation of production.

According to labour statistics reports by large and medium-size enterprises, they have approximately equal numbers of female and male employees. However, the situation in certain sectors is very different. Some of them can be described as "male" sectors: these are transport,

communications and civil engineering where male employees account for 62-75% of the total workforce. At the same time, in “female” sectors, such as trade, finance and crediting, culture, education, health care and public catering, the share of female employees is 58 to 79%.

The size of wages depends on many various factors, such as labour input, working conditions, position, level of education and skills.

Almost 60% of employees with higher education (graduates of higher education establishments of accreditation levels from I to IV) in Ukraine are women. Nonetheless, women are paid on the average 29% less than men. However, this gap in wages cannot be fully accounted for by discrimination factors. Another explanation is that labour law bans female labour at hard and health-hazardous jobs. Furthermore, men employed in such jobs receive benefits and compensations, which raises their pay.

On the average, however, in all sectors of the economy women’s pay is lower than that received by men. In certain sectors, such as, say, social security and health care the wage difference is insignificant and does not exceed 10%.

Wages and salaries are the main source of income for meeting the needs of households and form the biggest share of average monthly assets at the disposal of households.

Household Incomes (the average per household over the year, grivnas)

	1999			2000		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Money income	2,539.6	2,797.4	1,969.8	3,456.4	3,677.0	2,968.1
Aggregate assets	3,983.4	3,811.4	4,363.3	5,074.6	4,881.7	5,500.6
Real money income*	2,069.8	2,279.9	1,605.4	2,696.1	2,868.2	2,315.2
Real aggregate assets*	3,246.5	3,106.3	3,556.1	3,958.3	3,807.9	4,290.6

* inflation index included.

In 2000, money incomes accounted for over two-thirds (68%) of aggregate assets of an average household. As compared to 1999, the share of money income grew by four percentage points.

The key sources of income in households were salaries and wages, the share of which was 37% of the total. The cost of consumed products provided by private subsidiary farms accounted for 17% of the total; pensions, student grants and social benefits—16%; assistance from relatives and other persons with money and food (in money terms)—9%; proceeds from agricultural produce sale—5%; benefits and subsidies for housing rents and utilities charges and for buying fuel—3%; income

from business and self-employment—2%; benefit payments for sanatorium and resort vouchers, inter-city transportation and communications—0.9%.

Notable differences are observed in the pattern of household aggregate assets between urban and rural areas.

In urban households three-quarters of such assets were money incomes, with the bulk of them being wages and salaries (62% of money income as compared to 59% in 1999) and pensions (20% and 22%, respectively). The cost of consumed products from private subsidiary farms accounted for 8% of the aggregate assets of urban households (12% in 1999).

Whereas in 1999 in the formation of the aggregate assets of rural households the shares of money income and cost of consumed products from private subsidiary farms remained practically the same (about 45% each), in 2000 the share of the first item of income grew by 9 percentage points and of the second dropped by 10 percentage points. Furthermore, wages and salaries have continued to play a considerably lesser role in the structure of money income of rural households than in that of urban households, their share being only 35%, or 1.8 times lower. Other additional sources of money income in rural households were pensions and proceeds from agricultural produce sale, each accounting for a 25% of the total money income (1.2 and 16.6 times, respectively, as much as in urban households). It should be noted that the shrinking share of products from personal subsidiary farms in the structure of rural households' aggregate assets with a simultaneous increase in the share of proceeds from agricultural produce sale is indicative of an increasingly commercial nature of agricultural production at private subsidiary farms of the rural population in 2000.

In households with one child wages and salaries were the main source of aggregate assets (47%), while in households having four and more children this income item accounted for only 23%, the cost of consumed products from private subsidiary farms for over 33%, and pensions, student grants, welfare payments, benefits and subsidies for 17% of the total.

Irrespective of the average per capita total expenses, wages and salaries accounted for nearly 33% of aggregate assets in the majority of households. In the structure of aggregate assets of worse-off households in the first decile group and of poor households the share of pensions (18% and 17%, respectively), social benefits (2% each), the cost of consumed products from private subsidiary farm (19% each), was higher than in better-off households in the tenth decile group. In households with average per capita expenses below the officially established subsistence level (270.1 grivnas per person per month = US\$52) one-sixth of assets was formed of pensions, student grants and social

benefits, and an equal part was formed by the cost of consumed products from private subsidiary farms.

The share of household money incomes spent on food was higher than all other lines of spending in all households without exception (urban, rural, of different sizes, with and without children, having and not having working members) and in all decile groups of households.

The daily average cost of food was 4.2 grivnas (=US\$0.81) per person. The caloric content of daily diet of one household member was 3,354 kcal, with 87 g of protein content in consumed foodstuffs, 131 g of fats and 467 g of carbohydrates.

In 2000, one person consumed a monthly average of 3.3 kg of meat and meat products (meat-based), 17.1 kg of milk and dairy products (milk-based), 18 eggs, 1.3 kg of fish and fish products, 3.5 kg of sugar, 1.8 kg of sunflower oil and other vegetable oils, 10.4 kg of potatoes, 9.5 kg of vegetables, 2.5 kg of fruit and berries, 10.7 kg of bread and bakery products.

The more members in a household, whether adults or children, the more pronounced is an upward trend in the share of aggregate food expenses, accompanied by a lower cost and caloric content of food. A similar trend was observed in the relative decline of households' standard of living, both in various groups of households and terms of their decile group classification according to the average per capita aggregate expenses.

EDUCATION

Education in Ukraine has a complicated European-type structure and includes preschool education, general secondary education, out-of-school education, vocational training, higher education, postgraduate education, including degree tertiary level education, and self-education. In addition, the following education levels are established: primary general education, basic general secondary education, complete general secondary education, vocational training, basic higher education and complete higher education; education and skill levels are arranged according to the following classification: skilled worker, junior specialist, bachelor, specialist, master. The fundamental significance of such a ramified system consists in guaranteeing a person freedom of choice and an opportunity to acquire an education corresponding to one's intellectual and professional abilities.

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION. An important factor behind further reforms of preschool education is the fact that the Government has managed to preserve the network of preschool establishments. As of early 2001, there were 17,200 preschool establishments with a total enrolment of 1,055,000 children, or approximately 39% of the total number of preschool children. The network of permanent preschool establishments satisfies the needs of the population in all regions of Ukraine, and preschool establishments are able to accommodate a bigger number of children (in 2000 there were 88 children per 100 vacancies). For handicapped children and those with chronic diseases of internal organ systems there are specialised establishments (groups) of a compensatory type: 1,300 specialised establishments catering for 58,200 children; 507 sanatoriums for 32,600 children; and 1,100 educational centres for 40,200 children.

GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION. The national system of general secondary education has been preserved quantitatively and qualitatively. By the beginning of the 2000/2001 academic year the system covered 6.76 million schoolchildren and had over 576,000 teachers or 0.1% more than in the preceding academic year. The teachers' load and the average size of classes remained the same.

The network of secondary educational establishments was stabilised. Thus, as of 1 September 2001, 22,210 schools began working with some 676,000 first-year pupils (12% up on the figure of the preceding academic year), of them 248,000 in the countryside. Pursuant to the Law of Ukraine on General Secondary Education, the education system covered 305,700 six-year-olds. For gifted children 273 gymnasia (132,500 students), 232 lycees (73,800 students), 25 colleges (14,400 students) have been set up. The network of such institutions has been expanding yearly. Over the

past year the number of private educational establishments grew by 8.5%, and the number of children they enrol, by 13.4%.

In compliance with the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine concerning compulsory nature of complete general secondary education, in 2000 the share of ninth-form graduates continuing education in 10th and 11th forms of day schools went up to reach 72.5%.

A significant achievement consists in a decrease in the number of schoolchildren having classes in the second and third shifts by 11.5% down from the preceding academic year figure.

Pursuant to the Laws of Ukraine on Education and on General Secondary Education, the Government passed a resolution, On General Education Establishments of Ukraine Going Over to a New Content, Structure and 12-Year Term of Instruction; the Primary Secondary Education State Standard has been approved; and work on the General Secondary Education State Standard is nearing completion.

Higher requirements to the quality of school education and a longer term of instruction are a general trend in the world. In the developed countries complete secondary education is provided during a term of 12 to 14 years. Complete enrolment of six-year-olds in school education improves the situation that has emerged due to insufficient use of a child's sixth year for his adequate development.

In the context of general secondary education reform aimed at making instruction more humane and democratic, and at methodologically refocusing the process of instruction on the development of a student's personality, a new system and 12-point mark system of students' achievement assessment had been developed and introduced from the 2000/2001 academic year. These are based on a positive approach that provides for recording a student's achievements, rather than failures. The system of compulsory repetition of a course by students has been cancelled. A form of control over the compliance of the graduates' level of education to study programme requirements has been introduced in the form of official final attestation.

One of priority lines in the education policy of the Ukrainian Government is the implementation of an education computerisation programme. In order to create an adequate logistical base for that, the Government initiated a relevant state programme and in 2000 allocated 6.5 million grivnas (US\$1.2 million) for computerisation of schools, rural schools in the first place. This policy was continued in 2001, with almost 20 million grivnas being allocated from the state budget for rural schools computerisation.

The Government pays considerable attention to children who need special assistance from the state in terms of access to education and social and labour rehabilitation. In accordance with changes in the demographic situation and socio-economic conditions the boarding institutions network is being improved. It has undergone positive change: new kinds of boarding institutions are functioning: training/educational establishments, rehabilitation centres, boarding lycees and boarding gymnasia. By the beginning of the 2000/2001 academic year there were 401 specialised boarding schools for physically and mentally retarded children and a general education school for social integration.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING. At the present stage of socio-economic transformations in Ukraine this kind of education is acquiring exceptional importance.

In recent years, economic difficulties notwithstanding, the scale of training skilled workers for the purpose of restoration of national workforce capacity has not been reduced; almost 250,000 graduates are sent to work in the production and services sectors every year.

More than 40% of graduates acquire two and more specialties thanks to which their employment is sustained at a relatively high level (91%) despite the problems faced by Ukrainian enterprises.

Enrolment in vocational training institutions is largely carried out in accordance with the state order which in recent years has been 225,000 and basically meets the actual requirements of the labour market and the demographic situation in Ukraine.

The total body of students in 966 vocational training schools is 523,000, of these 350,000, or 68%, in addition to a profession, receive complete secondary education. Almost 50% of vocational school students are in need of a higher level of social safety. These are children from poor families, orphans and half-orphans, and disabled children for whom vocational training is a necessary condition of their self-support in the future.

HIGHER EDUCATION. In recent years the educational capacity of Ukraine has notably grown. The state sector of higher education has 223 universities, academies and institutes and 593 colleges, technical and vocational schools. They are harmoniously supplemented by 163 private higher education establishments. As compared to 1992, the number of higher education establishments of the 3rd and 4th levels of accreditation went up in 2000 from 158 to 315, while 38 higher education establishments were granted the status of a national institution for their achievements in training, research and socio-political activities. At the same time the network of higher education establishments of the 1st and 2nd levels of accreditation was reduced (from 753 to 664), they were amalgamated or reorganised into departments of universities, academies and institutes. Integration of higher education establishments is carried out gradually by setting up

education/research/production and training complexes the number of which today exceeds 1,600. This contributes to the formation of a step-by-step pattern of higher education and to the implementation of the programme of support to gifted young people and reduces the cost of acquiring the highest level of education and skills.

Important for higher education reform is the creation of necessary conditions for a maximum number of Ukrainian citizens having an opportunity to receive a quality higher education. In recent years, difficult socio-economic conditions notwithstanding, the size of the state order has been stabilised. Thanks to the improvement of various sources of funding more people get access to higher education. The share of students per 10,000 population went up from 360 to 392. Major investors in higher education remain as before the state budget (48.3% to higher education establishments of the 1st and 2nd accreditation levels and 46.8% to those of the 3rd and 4th levels) and individual and corporate investors (50% to establishments of the 1st and 2nd levels and 41% to those of the 3rd and 4th levels). At the same time, local budgets provided to higher education a mere 0.5% and 11.1% of funding, respectively, and sectoral financing accounted for 1.3% and 1.1%. In 2001, it is planned to provide funding to 56% of students out of the budget. Priority is given to the expansion of such professions that provide specialists for the humanitarian, economic, technological and managerial fields.

Number of students at educational establishments of different levels

	1990/1991	1995/1996	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
Total number of students, thousand	9,430	9,239	9,230	9,174	9,220
• in secondary schools	7,132	7,143	6,987	6,857	6,764
including:					
- day-schools	6,939	7,007	6,876	6,743	6,647
- night (shift) schools, including by correspondence	193	136	111	114	117
• vocational training schools	660	555	529	528	525
• higher education establishments					
1-2 accreditation levels	757	618	504	504	528
3-4 accreditation levels	881	923	1,210	1,285	1,403
Per 10,000 population					
• secondary schools	1,373	1,391	1,394	1,379	1,372
• vocational training schools	127	108	106	106	106
• higher educational establishments					
1-2 accreditation levels	146	120	101	101	107
3-4 accreditation levels	170	180	242	258	285

In 2000, long-term soft loans by the state to young people for acquiring higher education were granted for the first time. Five million grivnas were earmarked for this purpose in the 2000 state budget.

The Government regulates matters related to postgraduate education establishments (of which there are more than 500) that are to provide for life-long educational requirements of the adult population. In 2001, it is planned to expand personnel retraining for working in new business entities and small businesses, pension and insurance systems, bankruptcy, competitiveness and intellectual work protection spheres. The amount of budgetary funds for advanced training and retraining of personnel was increased by 39%, as compared to the preceding year.

Employment of higher education establishment graduates remains to be a major problem. In recent years an upward trend has been observed in the number of job placements for graduates of higher education establishments of the 3rd and 4th accreditation levels: 80% in 1997; 83.2% in 1998; 85.4% in 1999; 88.8% in 2000. The index of junior specialist job placements was stabilised (80-83%).

FINANCING OF EDUCATION. The situation in the education sector in the preceding several years had been aggravated by large wage arrears which sometimes reached on the average 2.5 monthly payrolls in educational establishments financed out of local budgets and up to 1.5 in those financed out of the state budget.

The year 2000 marked a turning-point, and as of 1 January 2001 no arrears of wages and social benefits were recorded. Moreover, 2001 has become the first in the recent 5 years when the Government began to raise real pay in the sphere of education.

All in all, the funding of education in 2001 went 1,782.5 million grivnas up on the 2000 figure and reached 6,884.9 million grivnas.

HEALTH

Unfavourable trends produced by demographic processes have developed, in a greater or lesser degree, in a number of countries, including Ukraine, and acquired a critical character. The critical situation is characterised by depopulation. Decline in birthrates and the worsening of public health are observed, which is manifested in fast shrinking life expectancy.

Ukraine's mortality rate is still high. Over the past seven years the population decreased approximately by 0.4 million a year. In 2000, the population decreased by 419,600, the key factor being natural reduction of the population, which in 2000 reached the 373,000 mark.

In recent years average life expectancy has been growing in the majority of countries of the world. However, in Ukraine this indicator is a cause for concern due to its obvious downward trend. Life expectancy among women is 11.2 years higher than among men (1999-2000). This gap is, to a certain degree, an indicator of medical and demographic troubles in the country; it is conditioned by men dying at a younger age in respect of almost all causes of death.

The total mortality rate has been growing in recent years (12.9% in 1991; 14.8% in 1999; 15.3% in 2000). Mortality rate in terms of gender and age shows stable features, with male mortality being higher than female mortality in all age groups. The gap is particularly large in the active working age bracket. Male mortality rate in 20-49 age bracket is 3.5 to 4 times higher than that of females. The pattern of causes of death remains the same. The highest figure is associated with circulatory system diseases, malignant tumours, accidents, injuries and respiratory diseases. The above listed diseases were the cause of death in 89% of cases. The total mortality rate among men and women of working age especially differs in level and structure, with malignant tumours being the predominant cause of death among women and accidents, poisoning and injuries among men.

A number of measures in the field of mother and child protection, implemented in Ukraine following the Fourth World Conference on the status of women, contributed to decreasing infant mortality. Whereas in 1995 the relevant figure was 14.7% per 1,000 live births, in 2000 it went down to 11.9 (Table 1). Infant mortality in the first year of life dropped in both urban and rural areas. Difference in mortality rates of boys and girls is obvious: in 2000 mortality rate among boys was 13.8% as against 8.9% among girls (in 1991 it was 15.6% and 12.1%, respectively; in 1995, 16.5% and 12.7%; in 1999, 14.9% and 9.4%).

Table 1

Basic Health Care Indicators

Year	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)	Infant mortality (per 1,000 newborn deaths under 1 year of age)	Population per one physician (persons)
1990	70.5	32.4	12.8	228
1991	69.7	29.8	13.9	225
1992	69.1	31.3	14.0	228
1993	68.4	32.8	14.9	225
1994	67.8	31.3	14.5	227
1995	66.9	32.3	14.7	222
1996	67.1	30.4	14.3	221
1997	67.1	25.1	14.0	222
1998	67.4	27.2	12.8	220
1999	68.1	25.2	12.8	217
2000	67.9	24.7	11.9	218

Table 1 (continued)

Year	Conventional health indicator (%)*	State health care expenditures (percentage of total state spending)	State health care expenditures (percentage of GDP)	Total spending on health care, sport and social security (percentage of GDP)
1990	62.6	10.1	2.6	2.6
1991	60.8	9.5	3.1	3.5
1992	58.9	9.8	3.7	4.2
1993	56.9	10.4	4.0	3.8
1994	55.3	9.1	4.8	5.0
1995	53.7	10.3	4.7	5.9
1996	51.9	9.2	3.9	5.6
1997	50.0	11.5	4.2	6.3
1998	48.0	11.6	3.5	5.4
1999	46.6	10.9	2.9	4.7
2000	46.4	10.3	2.8	5.0

*Conventionally healthy are all who are not disabled and are not entered in follow-up registers of specialised medical institutions.

The causes of death of infants in the first year of life have remained without change in recent years, with the so-called perinatal states predominating, i.e., complicated pregnancy or delivery (38%) followed by congenital defects (28.3%). In this connection women consultation centres need improvement in terms of fetus protection, antenatal diagnostics of fetus condition and identification

of defects at the stage of pregnancy. Pathology and malformation condition the level and structure of child disability in future and occupy the second place in child disability pattern. Therefore energetic efforts had been made on the national scale and a Decree of the President of Ukraine on the Target Programme of Genetic Monitoring in Ukraine for 1999-2003 was issued in 1999. The implementation of this Programme will provide for a comprehensive description of the gene pool of the Ukrainian people and the mutagenic load; an improvement of the medical and genetic services in Ukraine; a reduction in the incidence of fetal pathology and congenital defects, reproduction losses and child mortality and disability; integration into the system of European Congenital Anomalies Registration; and supplying the state authorities with authentic information on the state of public health conditioned by congenital anomalies and the environment to be taken into account in the development of current and long-term plans for the country's socio-economic development.

Differences in mortality rates gender-wise are observed in other age groups as well. Thus, in 2000 mortality rate among boys at the age of 0-14 was 12.1 and among girls 8.9 per 10,000 population; among working-age male population it was 901.3, whereas among female population in the same age group it was 230.3 per 100,000 population in a respective group.

In the past five years, access to medical services and basic health care resources for women was not reduced, which is confirmed by the available wide network of medical institutions. Today in-patient treatment is provided by 3,258 medical institutions with a total of over 460,000 beds. Of these 26 are regional and 596 city children's homes, 91 autonomous maternity hospitals, 487 central district hospitals with obstetric and pediatric divisions, and 1,351 healthcare institutions with gynaecological and obstetric divisions. Primary health care to women in the whole range of medical services is provided by 6,380 institutions capable of receiving over 800,000 visitors during one work shift.

At the pre-hospital stage, gynaecological and obstetrical aid is provided by 16,354 paramedical obstetrical points, 1,351 medical institutions having gynaecological and obstetrical surgeries at central district hospitals and city outpatient clinics; 1,694 with consulting rooms for early identification of oncological diseases; 469 with gynaecological consulting centres. The medical sector employs over 200,000 physicians of 100 specialisations (Table 2), for instance 13,140 obstetrician gynaecologists and 250 oncological gynaecologists, i.e. 2.58 per 10,000 population. The coverage figure has been growing over the recent years (2.2 in 1991; 2.17 in 1995; 2.36 in 1998; and 2.52 in 1999). It means that every woman has an opportunity to get adequate medical care. These figures indicate that in Ukraine women have full access to health care services.

Table 2

Distribution of Physicians by Specialisation

	1990	1995	1998	1999	2000
Total	227,194	230,309	227,028	227,572	226,320
Including					
Therapists	58,165	58,512	58,374	58,626	58,302
Surgeons	26,663	25,983	28,284	28,923	29,322
Obstetrician-gynaecologists	12,595	12,181	13,251	13,382	13,390
Pediatricians	24,771	21,820	21,364	20,779	20,012
Oculists	4,278	4,097	4,308	4,347	4,343
Otolaryngologists	4,072	3,917	4,121	4,079	4,045
Neurologists	6,387	7,279	7,540	7,472	7,463
Psychiatrists and narcologists	6,982	6,539	6,543	6,572	6,544
Phthisiatricians	4,158	3,436	3,479	3,404	3,410
Dermatologist-venerologists	3,418	3,374	3,867	3,922	3,984
Roentgenologists and radiologists	6,655	5,765	5,387	5,332	5,192
Remedial gymnastics doctors	1,115	1,054	919	914	905
Sanitary and epidemiology doctors	11,209	9,842	9,555	9,613	9,198
Stomatologists	21,044	22,793	23,334	23,830	2,3904
Dentists	5,700	4,250	3,907	3,794	3,592
Family doctors	190	344	480
Other	29,982	39,367	32,795	32,583	32,234

In the early 1990s, family planning, reproductive and sexual health care services were in short supply in Ukraine. As a result, unsatisfactory indicators of reproductive health were registered in 1995: high rate of maternal mortality (32.3 per 100,000 live births); high infant mortality rate (14.7 per 1,000 live births); a high share of miscarriages (10%); growing number of childless couples (almost 1 million) and a large number of abortions (740,172, or 58.5 per 1,000 fertile-age women). Abortion had become the chief method of family planning in Ukraine.

An important legal document aimed at improving reproductive health was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in 1995 under the title: Family Planning National Programme. Its main objectives were as follows: establishment of family planning agencies; training of medical and teaching personnel in the field of family planning; satisfaction of the population's demand for contraceptives; prevention of undesirable pregnancies associated with a high risk of maternal mortality; formation of a system of sterility treatment centres; raising public awareness in the matters of family planning; sexual education and development of responsible sexual behaviour.

The above set of measures contributed to a notable reduction in the number of abortions and broader use of mechanical and hormone-based contraceptives (Table 3).

Table 3

Year	Number of abortions	Per 1,000 fertile-age women	Application of intra-uterine devices per 1,000 reproductive-age women	Application of hormone-based contraceptives per 1,000 reproductive-age women
1995	740,172	58.2	177.0	34.4
1996	687,035	53.8	169.0	34.3
1997	596,740	46.7	159.6	40.4
1998	525,329	41.1	147.0	47.8
1999	495,760	38.8	143.8	62.0
2000	434,223	34.1	145.6	70.2

However, a steady downward trend in the number of abortions, according to WHO, can be expected provided only that at least 30% of women apply intra-uterine contraceptives. Therefore the advocacy of safe contraceptives and their use contributes to further reduction of the number of abortions. Methodological coordination of the family planning effort in Ukraine is provided by the Ukrainian Family Planning Centre of the Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Ukrainian Academy of Medical Sciences.

In addition, transformation of socio-economic relations, reform of health care and its funding, and family mentality concerning the number of children require novel conceptual approaches towards family planning and its treatment as a factor affecting reproductive health and safe maternity. Today Ukraine has a Safe Maternity Conception and a Reproductive Health National Programme for 2001-2005.

Thanks to improvements in the legal and regulatory framework, a whole set of measures has been carried out to promote child health-building, preserve reproductive health and prevent undesirable pregnancies. As a result, the situation changed for the better. Starting from 1995 the number and frequency of abortions among young and teenage girls was going down: 317 abortions (0.17 per 1,000 children) were registered among girls under 14 in 1995 and 198 (0.09 per 1,000 children) in 2000; among girls in the 15-17 age group the figure was 20,512 (19%) and 10,857 (9.8%), respectively.

In recent years, the growing incidence of sexually transmitted diseases has been observed both generally and among women. Particular concern is caused by the growing incidence of syphilis. Whereas in 1990 its incidence rate was 6.2 per 100,000 women, in 2000 the figure was 91.7. However, starting from 1995, when government measures were drawn up to reduce this disease, a downward trend emerged. For instance, syphilis incidence among women in 1996 was 144.8; in 1998, 134.8; and in 1999, 111.5 per 100,000 female population.

The Beijing Platform for Action provides for every state adopting inter-sectoral HIV/AIDS prevention programmes. Such programmes have been adopted in Ukraine, but the menacing situation persists. As of 1 January 2001, 30,000 HIV-infected persons were registered in Ukraine (75% of whom are injected drug addicts). The majority of HIV-infected are in the 20-39 age bracket. An upward trend in the number of persons infected through heterosexual contacts has been recorded, as well as of children born of infected mothers. Whereas in 1996 there were 92 such infants, in 2000 their number reached some 600. Parenteral transmission through injection of a HIV-infected drug predominates. Those infected in this way account for 70 to 80% of the total number of HIV cases. At the same time, the number of sexually transmitted HIV infection cases began to grow in recent years.

Children in At-Risk Groups

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Ukraine in 1991 is a document of great social topicality. Based on the priority of universal human values and harmonious development of the personality, it acknowledges the priority of children's interests in society and specially points out the inadmissibility of any discrimination against children and, what is most important, the need for special care on the part of the state and society for socially vulnerable children: orphans, disabled, refugees and delinquents.

The socio-economic crisis characterised above all by a considerable drop in the living standards of the bulk of the population and a notable differentiation of society in terms of income, as well as a worsening demographic situation, affect children in the first place. More vulnerable categories of children—orphans and children left without parental care—are most sensitive to worsening social conditions.

In 2000, the network of institutions for organised maintenance and education of such children included 57 children's homes run by the Ministry of Education of Ukraine, 44 infant's home run by the Health Ministry of Ukraine, 77 family-type children's homes, 57 boarding schools of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine which accommodated 11,200 children and teenagers. As compared to 1995, the number of orphaned children increased 50%.

Access to education for this category of children was provided by educational establishments of various levels. Thus, 59,300 orphaned children received training at schools and boarding schools of all kinds (of them 11,700 were trained at specialised boarding schools for orphans and children left without parental care), 8,400 went to vocational schools and 4,000 to higher educational institutions of different accreditation levels.

Some orphans were adopted. In 2000, 7,700 orphans were adopted, of them 5,500 by Ukrainian families and 2,200 by foreign nationals.

The state also paid attention to children's rights protection. In 2000, 6,100 children were withdrawn from parents who failed to provide adequate care and were deprived of parental rights. Children's rights to property were protected in court in 4,700 cases.

The number of homeless children is the cause of particular concern in Ukraine. Most of them lost family ties being abandoned by their parents or having run away from families that failed to provide adequate conditions for their normal development.

Pursuant to the Law of Ukraine on the Agencies and Services for the Affairs of Minors and Specialised Institutions for Minors, agencies for juvenile cases have been put in charge of providing social protection for minors, coordination of efforts by executive authorities, local self-government bodies, enterprises, institutions and organisations to prevent children's homelessness. Special work with homeless children is carried out in Ukraine, and a network of shelters for minors has been set up. At the close of 2000, Ukraine had 86 shelters for minors with a capacity of 3,600 which accommodated 27,800 during the year. Most of them got there due to roguery (57.0%) and begging (19.5%) which they resorted to as a result of conflicts at home or at school (25.3%); 160 inmates had been subjected to physical or sexual violence.

A survey of families whose children were found in shelters for minors showed that the parents or guardians of the majority of these children did not care for them, abusing alcohol, exhibiting asocial behaviour or taking drugs. The social pattern of shelter inmates is as follows: 38.0% came from one-parent families; 14.6% were orphans and children left without parental care; and 2.1% were under guardianship.

The more important of factors adversely affecting the status of children are the poverty of their families and job search problems, with the state being unable to essentially mitigate the influence of such factors. For instance, the average monthly benefit paid by the state to parents for disabled child care is 27.9 grivnas (= US\$5.4); children benefit to single mothers is 8.3 grivnas (= US\$1.65); temporary benefits to children whose parents evade alimony payment is 8.0 grivnas (= US\$1.5). It should also be mentioned that the number of children whose parents are in need of these kinds of assistance in Ukraine is fairly high: 46,100, 429,900 and 28,500, respectively.

The growing number of disadvantaged families, lower quality of diet and child neglect are the reasons for the increase in disease incidence among children (tuberculosis, HIV-infection and STD).

Patients for whom tuberculosis was first identified in 2000 included 3% of children under 15. Neither do they escape STD; among those for whom syphilis and gonorrhoea were diagnosed for the first time in 2000, there were 450 and 255 children, respectively.

Special attention is given to disabled and mentally and physically retarded children.

By the beginning of the current year, 156,000 disabled children were registered with social protection bodies. Material aid to parents of or guardians for 46,100 such children was provided during 2000.

For these children special boarding institutions have been set up with their maintenance fully funded by the state. In 2000, there were 391 such institutions in Ukraine, including 345 boarding schools. The disabled children's institutions accommodate 61,200 inmates, including 38,100 mentally retarded, 4,800 emotionally retarded, 4,400 weak-sighted, 3,900 deaf-mute and 3,200 serious paraphasia cases.

A problem of particular significance for any state is child and juvenile delinquency.

In 2000, one in every 10 criminal suspects was a minor, although as compared to 1990 a certain decline has been observed in juvenile delinquency (one in every 7 in 1990). In this category of offenders a steady upward trend can be observed in certain kinds of crime (theft, murder, malicious infliction of grave bodily harm, drug-related crimes).

Out of the total number of those convicted in 2000, one in every 12 was under age, whereas in 1990 it was one in every eight.

The number of registered crimes committed by teen delinquents (aged 14-17) or with their accomplices in 2000 was 37,200, every other being a grave crime. Juvenile delinquency trends are presented in the table below:

	1990	1995	2000
Number of registered offences	2,8819	41,648	37,239
Number of criminal suspects	27,339	33,028	29,615
Number of convicted persons	12,659	16,745	20,016

Criminal aggression became a sustained trend in the behaviour of minors aged 14 to 17. In 2000, 257 juvenile delinquents were convicted for murder or attempted murder, 233 for malicious infliction of grave bodily harm, 106 for rape and attempted rape, 1,475 for hooliganism, and 13,809 for theft.

In the total number of criminals convicted in 2000, juvenile delinquents accounted for 8.7% (13.4% as much as in 1999 and 19.5% as in 1995).

	1990	1995	2000
Total juvenile delinquents convicted	12,659	16,745	20,016
imprisonment:	3,914	4,927	4,810
including:			
Up to 2 years	734	1,070	1,133
From 2 to 5 years	2,608	3,060	2,991
Over 5 years	572	797	686
Imprisonment with suspended execution of sentence	6,766	7,013	8,059
Sentenced to imprisonment and correctional labour on probation	1,581	2,593	5,112
Other criminal punishment	398	2,212	2,035

Juvenile delinquents are classified by criminal punishment awarded as follows: 8,100 sentenced to imprisonment with suspended execution of sentence; 5,100 to imprisonment and correctional labour on probation; and 4,800 to imprisonment.

The problem of drug trafficking in Ukraine and its impact on the younger generation requires special attention. The interior agencies recorded 287 crimes committed by juvenile drug addicts in 2000 (23.7% more than in the preceding year). All in all, 1,044 juvenile delinquents were identified as having committed offences related to narcotic, psychotropic and other powerful drugs, and 681 teenagers were convicted of such crimes.

According to data provided by the interior agencies on the identification and registration of persons using narcotic and psychotropic drugs for non-medical purposes, by the end of 2000, 3,994 juvenile delinquents were registered, 1,149 of them being diagnosed as drug addicts. In the total number of persons put on record by the interior agencies, juveniles accounted for 4.2%.

In 2000, the number of persons brought to administrative responsibility for prostitution increased dramatically. The share of juveniles among them was 69.1% (2,500 persons) in 2000, 13.5% in 1990, 3.4% in 1995, 4.3% in 1999.

The situation with juvenile delinquency is further aggravated by the unfavourable material situation of families, especially those where one of divorced parents is evading alimonies. Thus, in 2000 the interior agencies registered 4,600 cases of non-support to children, 5,100 were brought to book (with regard to previous offences registered) and 3,700 were convicted.

At the close of 2000, criminal police in charge of the affairs of minors had on record 39,800 juveniles, of whom 39.1% were general education school students; 16.3% were vocational

school students; 25.2% neither worked nor studied at the time of registration; 1.4% were released from prison; 26.1% had only one parent; and 879 were teenage orphans.

According to the Interior Ministry of Ukraine, out of 1,700 minors sent to juvenile detention centres in 2000, 417 teenagers were sent by court to specialised institutions for minors; 706 had only one parent; and 228 were orphans. It should be noted that the majority of minors sent to such centres during the year were general school students (1,100).

	1990	1995	2000
Number of minors passing through juvenile detention centres over the year	1,0652	8,974	1,736
Juveniles aged 11 to 14 years who committed socially dangerous acts	126	227	754
Sent to specialised institutions for minors by court judgement	1,159	430	417
Left specialised educational institutions without sanction	143	94	61
General education school students	6,408	4,414	1,059
Vocational school students	648	230	39
Neither worked nor studied	2,094	2,833	638
Had a job	412	87	-
Girls	2,270	2,135	258
Had no parents	937	1,057	228
Had only one parent	4,300	3,769	706

The more vulnerable categories of minors are in need of qualified aid—pedagogical, legal, socio-methodological and informational—more than anybody else. To this end 559 centres providing social services to young people operated in the country, employing 2,609 experts in various fields. In 2000, 1.5 million persons applied to these centres for help, of them more than 0.5 million were children and teenagers. Most frequently they needed and received the following kinds of assistance: psychological and pedagogical support (44.2%), information support (30.9%) and social and medical aid (11.9%).

Status of Large Families

The formulation and implementation of effective state policy in respect of the family involves the elaboration of integrated target programmes. In present conditions, the socio-economic situation of the more vulnerable families deserves special attention, in particular families hard put to maintain and bring up their children. This category includes large families in the first place. In recent years the state has focussed on the situation in this very important segment of Ukraine's society. In order to enhance social protection, improve living conditions and social support, and to create more favourable conditions for raising children precisely in this kind of family, two special Presidential decrees were drawn up in 1999 and 2000: Measures to Improve the Situation of Large Families; and Additional Measures to Enhance Social Protection for Large and One-Parent Families.

In 2000, Ukraine had 445,300 large families, of them 321,400 with three children; 79,300 with four children; and 44,600 with five and more children.

More than half (57.2%) large families reside in rural areas; 23.9% in small towns; and only 18.9% in large cities. Therefore large families are most typical of rural areas. Whereas in the countryside one in every ten families has many children, in large cities such families account for less than 3% of the total.

All in all, in Ukraine large families make 5.7% of the total number of families with children, however in certain regions the figure ranges from 2.1% to 21%; the largest number of such families is found in western areas of Ukraine.

Most frequently children in large families live with two adults (56%) and less frequently with three and more adults (38.9%); 5.1% of large families have only one adult, i.e. one-parent large families.

The average large family consists of 6.03 members, the average number of children being 3.4. Apart from three or more children such a family includes 1.3 pension-age members and only 1.5 employed members, on the average. Thus, the demographic load (per one of working age person) is 2.6, while the demoeconomic load (per one employed) is 4.0. One employed member of a large family has to provide subsistence to three members of the family apart from oneself, which is fairly unlikely given the current low pay level.

Income and expense figures for large families differ fundamentally from the average for Ukraine in terms of both size and pattern.

For instance, the per capita equivalent monthly income* in large families is 121.8 grivnas, i.e. almost 30% below the average level in the country.

Per capita equivalent expenses exceed relevant income indicators 1.3-fold and amount to 161.9 grivnas, or 68% of the country's average. It is worth noting that the gap between incomes and expenses in large families is slightly lower than in the country as a whole, 1.3 as against 1.4. Thus, one conventional member of a large family accounts for two-thirds of funds in terms of both incomes and expenses if compared to an average family member.

The low level of incomes and expenses in large families even by Ukrainian standards is confirmed by the fact that more than half of all large families (59.4%) in terms of per capita equivalent

* Per capita equivalent incomes and expenses are indicators calculated for a conventional adult family member, with coefficient 1 being assigned to the first member, and coefficient 0.7 to all other members irrespective of age.

expenses are found in the first three (poorest) deciles and only 1% of such families belong to the 10th (wealthiest) decile.

Whereas the modal (most widespread) value of per capita monthly expenses for the entire population is at a level of 160 to 180 grivnas, in large families it is shifted down to the 80 to 100 grivnas level. It means that in Ukraine the largest area of the curve of distribution by income is within the range from 120 to 240 grivnas, and for large families it is in the range from 80 to 180 grivnas. The population group with per capita equivalent income in excess of 400 grivnas includes 9.6% households across Ukraine and less than 1% of large families.

As regards families with four children and more, they belong for the most part to the three poorest deciles (71.6%), and are not represented on the tenth decile at all. Moreover, per capita equivalent income of such families is a mere 104.1 grivnas, or 61% of the average for Ukraine, while per capita equivalent expenses amount to 134.9 grivnas, or 57% of the country's average.

The income pattern of large families has its clearly-cut specifics. The money income of large families accounts for only 55% as against the average of 68% across the country. This can be explained in part by the fact that large families reside primarily in the countryside where a sizable portion of their aggregate incomes comes from subsidiary farms. Indeed, the weighted share of consumed subsidiary farm products cost in the aggregate income of large families is 32.5% as compared to the country's average of 17%. In terms of place of residence of large families both in urban and rural areas the share of subsidiary farm products in total incomes is higher than in other households.

In addition, the share of benefits, subsidies and individual kinds of social assistance is higher in incomes of large families than of other households: whereas the average figure is 5.8%, in families with three and more children the figure is close to 10%.

It should be noted that in large families the share of wages and salaries is far lower than in the country as a whole: 27.6% as against 37%; pensions, 8.1% as against 17.5%; and revenues from business, 1.7% as against 2%. And, vice versa, the aggregate incomes of large families depend to a greater extent on the sale of agricultural products: 7.5% as compared to the average 5% in the country as a whole. Therefore aggregate income of many large families is formed on a different basis and its key feature is that revenues from subsidiary farms and transfers of various kinds make up its largest part and that revenues in the form of wages and salaries is lower.

The pattern of aggregate expenses in large families shows basically the same trends as are typical of the population at large. For instance, like with the rest of the population, the bulk of expenses in

large families goes for food. Moreover, large families spend over 78% of their money on food (i.e. 10% more than the country as a whole).

The spending pattern shows that in percentage large families spend more on bread and bakery products, potatoes and dairy products and less (as compared to other population groups) on meat and eggs. Therefore with a very high level of spending on food large family members cannot satisfy their requirements for all kinds of food even at the average Ukrainian level. And miserable amounts that remain in families after food expenses are not enough to meet their requirements for consumer goods and services. An average family spends on consumer goods per one person 18 grivnas a month, a large family—only 11.4 grivnas, while a family with four children and more—8.5 grivnas.

Quantitative and qualitative characteristics of large families' diet substantially differ from the average figures for Ukraine.

Thus, the average daily energy value of food per one member of a large family is 2,077 kcal, which is below the minimum permissible standard. The average figure for Ukraine is 3,354 kcal and it exceeds the level of large families by almost 60%.

Daily food consumption in families with four children and more is on the average even below 1,900 kcal, which is a dangerously low level. Almost 70% of such families daily consume 2,100 kcal. The World Health Organisation has proved that such insufficient consumption over a long period of time (more than six months) produces irreversible processes in the human body. Such malnutrition is especially harmful to children's health.

The daily energy value of diet of each fifth large family is below 1,300 kcal and this can be described as marginal subsistence. That means that approximately 300,000 children in large families suffer from chronic malnutrition given sufficiently good quantitative indicators for the country as a whole.

As regards food quality indicators, such as the content of proteins and fats in daily diet and the pattern of consumer basket in respect of individual groups of products, their analysis offers disappointing conclusions concerning the consumption pattern of large families. The average daily consumption of proteins and fats is 61 and 72 g, respectively, which is below the country's average by 24% and 34%, respectively. Thus, these substances' presence is closely connected with the energy value of consumption: the lower kilocalory daily consumption, the lower, accordingly, protein and fat consumption.

The large family consumption pattern by groups of products is fundamentally different from the typical pattern in Ukraine. The largest share is taken by dairy products and potatoes (their consumption is close to the average figures for the country as a whole). However, consumption of fish and eggs is almost half the figure for the country, and consumption of such important products as meat, meat products, vegetables, fruit and berries is below the average level by 40%.

Consumption of even those products that can be grown in subsidiary farms does not solve large family problems. Large families, even if they spend almost all their assets on food, cannot provide for themselves at least minimum permissible standards of consumption. This is indicative of extreme poverty according to two, absolute and relative, criteria.

Housing is among key indicators of the situation of families in Ukraine. In 2000, 93.3% of large families had their own housing (a house or an apartment), which is only by 0.4% below a similar figure for Ukraine as a whole. However, there still are large families living in multi-family apartments (2.8%) and in hostels (1.4%). Although large families are provided with housing on the level that is average for the country as a whole, it is inadmissible that almost 7% of them have no apartment or house of their own.

It should be noted that large families have considerably less effective floor and living space per family member. Whereas a large family lives in a home with 10.7 sq m per one member, an average family has 15.0 sq m.

The level of housing comfort is an important factor determining living conditions of the population. As regards amenities, houses where large families live essentially differ from national standards of housing. The quality of housing is determined by the availability of a water supply system, sanitation, telephone, central heating and hot water supply. A marked trend can be observed in connection with all these characteristics: the more children are in a family, the fewer such families live in apartments or houses with all amenities.

For instance, every other family in Ukraine as a whole lives in a house with central heating, but only one in every four large families. Access to centralised gas supply is available to 49.4% of large families (as against the average of 62.5%); 44.4% and 39.8% large families have water supply and sanitation, respectively (with the average for Ukraine being 66% and 61%). Still fewer large families have a shower or a bathroom—37.1% as against 56.3% in the country as a whole; and only 25.8% of large families have a telephone at home (42.9% on the average). Whereas one in every three families in Ukraine has hot water supply, among large families it is one in every five.

Household durables can be conventionally divided into two groups:
traditional (possessed by a large part of the population);
rare (rarely found in households).

Provision of large families with traditional household durables is notably below the average level in the country. The only exception is vehicles with which large families are provided above the average level. But in most cases these are old cars of domestic make bought at a minimum price.

Of traditional durables large families have: colour TV-sets at 85% of the country's average level (58 per 100 families); washing machines at 87% (64 per 100 families), and refrigerators at 88% (81 per 100 families).

However, strange as it may seem, possession of household appliance of rare use shows somewhat different trends. For instance, microwave ovens and kitchen processors are possessed by even more large families than by the average families in the country, whereas an air conditioner is something almost absolutely unlikely to be found in a large family (in 2 out of 1,000 large families). In addition, large families have considerably fewer satellite aerials, music centres and PCs. This suggests the conclusion that large families can afford only such durables that are intended for household use and not for entertainment.

The poverty situation in large families is acquiring catastrophic dimensions. In 2000, the poverty level* in such families was 55% as against 26.7% on the average for Ukraine, and the extreme poverty level reached 38%, or 2.6 times the country's average.

The situation is even worse in families with four and more children: the poverty level is 70%.

If we take other poverty criteria broadly applied in international statistics the problem of poverty in large families looks even more acute. For instance, if we apply the standard consumption criterion (less than 2,100 kcal per day) then 61.4% of large families would fall in the category of poverty, with the average level in the country as a whole being 36.2%, and among families with four children and more the poverty level would be 69.5%.

If the structural criterion is applied (the share of expenses on food accounting for over 80% of the aggregate expenses), then 41.2% of large families can be placed in the extreme poverty category (with the average in the country according to this criterion being 22.7%).

* *Calculated according to the following criterion: 75% of a median of average per capita expenses per conventional adult.

To sum up, the arrival of the third child in a family makes it more exposed to the risk of poverty and of finding itself at a deadlock.

