

The Situation of Children and Young People at the Regional Level in Ukraine

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The project to monitor the impact of economic and social change on children in Eastern and Central Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (MONEE) was initiated at the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in 1992. The project seeks to monitor, analyse and disseminate information on economic and social trends affecting children's rights and wellbeing in countries in the region. A key feature of the Project is a network of correspondents in the 27 National Statistical Offices (NSOs). On an annual basis these correspondents complete an extensive data template which in turn is used for calculating indicators, supporting research of the project and, in due course, being made publicly available as the TransMonee database and in tables and graphs of the Innocenti Social Monitor.

For a number of years, each participating NSO prepared a Country Analytical Report based on extensive outline from UNICEF IRC on a different theme on the situation of children every year. These analytical reports have provided valuable input into the research at UNICEF IRC and, as significantly, have also served as important national documents on monitoring aspects of child wellbeing in the countries. Some of these Country Analytical Reports have been issued by the NSOs (in the national language) as part of their publication programme.

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The State of Children and Young People in Ukraine's Regions Analytical Report

In the years between the two censuses, Ukraine's population decreased by 3,291,200, or 6.3% (from 51,706,700 to 48,415,500). Ukraine's population peaked at 52,244,100 in early 1993. Between that time and 5 December 2001, population losses totalled 3,787,000, with natural population decline accounting for 72% of that reduction.

According to census data, the share of urban population remained practically unchanged between 1989 and 2001, accounting for more than two-thirds of Ukraine's population. The most urbanized regions are: Donetsk Region (90%), Lugansk Region (86%), and Dnepropetrovsk Region (83%). The least urbanized regions (with urbanization levels under 50%) are: the Vinnitsa, Rovno, Ternopol, Ivano-Frankovsk, Chernovtsy, and Transcarpathian regions (in the Transcarpathian Region, urban population makes up less than 40% of the total).

The population is dominated by two ethnic groups: Ukrainians (37.5 million, or 77.8%) and Russians (8.3 million, or 17.3%). In the years between the two latest censuses, the number of Ukrainians somewhat increased, while the number of ethnic Russians shrank by a quarter. Jews, their number having decreased by nearly four-fifths, dropped from third to tenth place among Ukraine's ethnic groups. Overall, the 2001 census recorded more than 130 ethnic groups in Ukraine.

Ukrainians prevail in all the regions, except the city of Sevastopol and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, where the largest ethnic group is Russians (71.6% and 58.3%, respectively). In nearly all the other regions, Russians rank second in number; in two regions, however, Russians rank fourth: in the Transcarpathian Region (after Ukrainians, Hungarians, and Romanians) and in the Chernovtsy Region (after Ukrainians, Hungarians, and Moldavians). Russians account for large population percentages in the Donetsk Region (38-39%), in other regions in the eastern and southern parts of Ukraine, and in the Sumy Region. The most ethnically diverse regions are the Chernovtsy, Odessa, and Transcarpathian regions, as well as Crimea, where ethnic groups other than Russian or Ukrainian account for 16-21% of the total population (in other regions, the figures do not exceed 6%).

Ukraine has a high population density, averaging 80 persons per sq km. The population density is the highest in the industrialized regions in the east (178 persons per sq km in the Donetsk Region) and lower in the north and the south (38 persons per sq km in the Chernigov Region).

There are 454 cities and towns, 889 urban settlements, and 28,619 villages in Ukraine; 46 cities are large, with populations of 100,000 or more (another five cities exceeded the 100,000 mark during the 1990s). Some 38.3% of the total population, or 56.9% of Ukraine's urban population, live in cities. Half of Ukraine's cities are situated in the industrialized East (7 in the Donetsk Region, 5 in the Dnepropetrovsk Region, 4 in the Lugansk Region, and 3 in the Zaporozhiye Region) and in Crimea (3 in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol). Five Ukrainian cities have populations in excess of one million (Kiev has 2,611,000; Kharkov, 1,470,000; Dnepropetrovsk, 1,065,000; Odessa, 1,029,000; and Donetsk, 1,016,000); another four major cities are Zaporozhiye (815,000); Lvov (733,000); Krivoi Rog (669,000); and Nikolaev (514,000).

Ukrainian population is ageing, primarily due to lowering birth rates, which for a long time have been below the simple reproduction level. In economically advanced countries, this factor is accompanied by a longer life expectancy. Population ageing in such countries is counterbalanced to a significant degree by immigration, because immigrants are mainly young. In Ukraine, like in many transition economies, migration actually enhances the effect of lower birth rates, while the rise in life expectancy, especially for older-age population groups, is not observed.

**Age/sex structure of Ukraine's population, by integrated age group in the regions,
according to the 1989 and 2001 censuses, % of total**

Regions	Percentage of population age groups:					
	1989			2001		
	Under working age	Working age	Over working age	Under working age	Working age	Over working age
Ukraine	22.9	55.8	21.2	18.1	58.0	23.8
Crimea	23.8	57.9	18.2	18.0	59.5	22.5
Cherkassy Region	21.6	53.2	25.2	18.0	54.9	26.9
Chernigov Region	20.4	51.1	28.4	16.5	53.8	29.6
Chernovtsy Region	24.8	54.6	20.6	21.2	56.9	21.9
Dnepropetrovsk Region	22.5	57.3	20.2	17.2	58.5	24.3
Donetsk Region	22.0	56.9	21.2	16.1	58.4	25.5
Ivano-Frankovsk Region	25.7	54.7	19.7	21.7	56.7	21.6
Kharkov Region	21.3	56.9	21.8	15.8	60.0	24.1
Kherson Region	24.8	57.0	18.2	19.4	58.5	22.1
Khmelnytsky Region	22.2	52.7	25.0	19.0	55.2	25.7
Kiev Region	22.9	54.9	22.2	18.2	57.2	24.6
Kirovograd Region	22.1	53.6	24.3	18.5	55.6	25.9
Lugansk Region	22.3	56.7	20.9	19.5	55.0	25.4
Lvov Region	24.0	56.3	19.7	20.2	57.9	21.9
Nikolaev Region	24.3	56.2	19.5	18.8	58.8	22.4
Odessa Region	22.8	57.5	19.7	18.4	59.3	22.3
Poltava Region	21.0	53.6	25.4	17.3	55.9	26.8
Rovno Region	26.8	53.9	19.2	23.0	56.8	20.2
Sumy Region	21.4	53.1	25.5	17.1	56.5	26.2
Ternopol Region	23.7	52.6	23.7	20.3	55.5	24.1
Transcarpathian Region	27.9	56.1	16.0	23.1	59.1	17.8
Vinnitsa Region	21.4	52.6	26.0	18.9	54.4	26.7
Volyn Region	26.0	52.8	21.2	22.1	56.4	21.5
Zaporozhiye Region	22.8	57.1	20.1	17.1	58.6	24.2
Zhitomir Region	23.3	53.1	23.6	19.5	55.0	25.4
City of Kiev	22.8	62.3	14.9	15.4	66.0	18.6

At present, people aged 60 or older account for 21.4% of Ukraine's total population – one of the highest percentages in the world. The age pyramid of the urban population shows a fairly even distribution of pre-working-age, working-age, and post-working-age contingents, but the rural population age pyramid features two large age groups – the generation born during the short-lived baby boom in the mid-1980s and those born in the mid-1930s. Children account for a higher percentage of the rural population than of the urban population – a sign of hope that the rural population will become somewhat younger in the future.

The “oldest” populations (with people aged 60 or older accounting for over 24%) are in the Vinnitsa, Poltava, Sumy, Cherkassy, and Chernigov regions. The “second-oldest” (with the 60+ age group accounting for 22.9 to 24%) are the Donetsk, Zhitomir, Kirovograd, Lugansk, and Khmelnytsky regions. The third category (21.7-22.9%) includes the Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhiye, Ternopol, Kharkov, and Kiev regions). The fourth group includes Crimea and the Volyn, Ivano-Frankovsk, Odessa, Nikolaev, Kherson, Lvov, and Chernovtsy regions, and the city of Sevastopol (19.3-21.7%). The “youngest” populations (15.5 to 19.3%) are in the Transcarpathian and Rovno regions, and the city of Kiev. Whereas in the western regions such age structure has to do with relatively high birth rates, in Kiev it is mainly maintained by a constant migration inflow of young people.

Throughout the 1990s, Ukraine had death rates exceeding its birth rates. As a consequence, the total population decreased by 2,880,700.

Natural population decline rates are significantly higher in rural areas than in urban ones. In 2001, the natural reduction of Ukraine's population averaged 7.6%, with 6.5% in urban areas and 9.8% in rural areas. In urban communities, it is male population that shows higher decline rates, whereas in rural areas, it is female population.

The total number of births decreased from 691,000 in 1989 to 390,700 in 2002 (from 471,100 to 248,900 in cities, and from 219,900 to 141,800 in villages). The crude birth rate went down from 13.3% in 1989 to 8.1% in 2002 (from 13.6% to 7.7% in urban areas and from 12.9% to 9.0% in rural areas).

The majority of children (82.6% in 2001) are born to women under 30. As nuptiality figures go down and unregistered marriages (de-facto marriages) increase, the percentage of children born to formally unmarried women grows. It increased by 66.7% in 1989-2001, reaching 18% of all births; in 1989-1992, the percentage was higher in rural areas, from 1993 on, it has been higher in urban communities.

The total fertility rate shrank from 1.9 in 1989 to 1.2 in 2003 (in urban communities, it shrank by half, from 1.8 to 0.9, in rural areas, from 2.4 to 1.4). Most married couples do not have more than one child.

Ukraine's regions clearly fall into three groups according to the total fertility: the eastern regions, with the lowest fertility rate indices – less than one child (the Donetsk, Lugansk, Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk, and Zaporozhiye regions), the western regions, with relatively high indices – 1.3 to 1.6 children, and all the other regions, with indices ranging from 1.0 to 1.3). However, the maximum fertility rates are considerably higher in the western regions than other regions but are significantly below the simple reproduction level (2.2-2.3 children). Only rural areas in the Volyn and Rovno regions come close to that level (2.0-2.1 children). There is practically an inverse relationship between the total fertility rate and abortion rates.

Although there have occurred substantial changes in death rate trends since 2000, the number of deaths was still greater in 2003 than in 1989. These processes are influenced mainly by changes in male death rates (52.3% of total changes), including 33.8% of town dwellers and 18.5% of rural residents. Changes in female death rates accounted for merely 28.4% of total changes. Structural changes, mainly population ageing, caused 19.3% of total changes.

The major causes of death are circulatory disorders, neoplasms, external causes, and respiratory diseases. But due to these causes Ukrainians die several years earlier than people of economically advanced countries.

Ukraine's most acute demographic problem is the ongoing increase in death rates of the working-age population groups. Between 1989 and 2001, the probability of living beyond working age decreased from 81% to 74% (including for men, from 73% to 63%). There has been an almost double growth in the number of deaths among 40-year-old men, resulting from accidents, poisoning and injuries, and from circulatory, respiratory, and digestive tract diseases which are normally associated with physiological ageing. The death rates in that population cohort have been growing particularly fast and determine life expectancy of the entire population.

In Ukraine, death rates vary considerably from region to region, with the regions falling into three groups. Group 1 (lower death rates) includes the Chernovtsy, Ivano-Frankovsk, Khmel'nitsky, Lvov, Ternopol, and Transcarpathian regions and the city of Kiev. Centrally located regions: the

Cherkassy, Kharkov, Kiev, Poltava, Rovno, Sumy, Vinnitsa, Volyn, Zaporozhiye, and Zhitomir regions, as well as Crimea – form Group 2 with the medium-level death rates and life expectancy indices.

Death rates are very high in most regions in the southern and eastern parts of Ukraine (Group 3 comprises the Chernigov, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kherson, Kirovograd, Lugansk, Nikolaev, and Odessa regions). Life expectancy at birth is 1.5 years lower in those regions than Ukraine's average; the gap between sexes in this index is the greatest, and the share of people living to old age is the smallest. In addition, life expectancy at birth still tends to decrease in six of the Group 3 regions (except for the Dnepropetrovsk and Odessa regions).

There have occurred especially destructive changes in the size of families, particularly in the industrially developed regions. In those regions, most households consist of 2-3 persons, and the percentage of such households increased in the interval between the two censuses. There emerged certain features in their age-sex structure that are shaped by their economies and employment structure of the able-bodied cohorts. Industrial and cultural centres have relatively high percentages of young people who are studying or have immigrated there in search of employment. So the environment there is conducive for finding a marriage partner and, despite economic difficulties, there are more young families and married couples in those regions. However, they are mostly single-child families. The western regions and agrarian areas have greater percentages of 4-6-person households – a result of economic and marital-family lifestyles. They have smaller percentages of childless or single-child families, and old parents more often live in their children's families. People in those regions devote themselves more to raising children. Such matrimonial and life attitudes are in line with both personal and public interests.

The percentage of two-person households was the highest in the Kirovograd Region (41.7%) and the lowest, in the Transcarpathian Region (22.5%).

Regional differences in the size of Ukrainian families and changes in the geographical distribution of such differences are also reflected in the average family size indices, which integrate a multitude of factors. Just in five regions, the average family size was the same both in urban and rural communities; in all the other regions, rural families were larger. Merely in five regions, the average urban family size remained unchanged in the period between the two censuses, in all the other regions, it shrank. At the same time, the size of rural families increased in most regions, with comparatively high growth rates in the western regions.

The extent of changes in family size differences by region can be measured through comparisons of extreme (the maximum and the minimum) values. The largest average family size was in the Transcarpathian Region: 3.9 persons (the average urban family comprised 3.5 persons, the average rural family, 4.1 persons). Interregional comparisons indicate that the average size of urban and rural families decreased to the minimum of 3 persons. This is characteristic of all the settlements, primarily in industrial regions and the Cherkassy, Chernigov, and Poltava regions; of the industrial regions' urban settlements, and of rural settlements of the Cherkassy, Chernigov, and Kirovograd regions.

One characteristic feature of the inter-census period is that apart from regions with a relatively high proportion of the old-age cohort, industrialized and highly urbanized regions with large percentages of younger marriageable-age populations have also joined the category of regions with a minimum value of the average family size. Low living standards and the lack of conditions for the reproduction of life and manpower discourage realization of matrimonial and especially child-bearing orientations. This adversely impacts family sizes, especially in the above-listed regions, and reduces the population's reproductive potential. Matrimonial processes have been also affected by certain environmental consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident and other

natural disasters. Family sizes in some regions have been impacted by the resulting relocation of families and a reduction of their reproductive activity (due to infertility and other problems).

So the comparative analysis of family size by region have revealed substantial changes in the geographical distribution of family size indices. The total number of families decreased considerably throughout Ukraine due to unfavourable socio-economic and demographic factors.

The macroeconomic situation at the regional level. Major economic processes and phenomena in Ukraine's regions are monitored in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA is calculated as the difference between production output and intermediate consumption by economic activity in all the regions. From 1996 on, Ukrainian regions' GVA decline rates began to slow, and from 2000 on there has been a noted annual growth, from 4.1% to 5.8 in 2002* (with account taken of the inflation level). In 2001, GVA for the first time exceeded the 1996 figure by 9.4%; and by 15.8% in 2002 (with account taken of the inflation level).

The Ukrainian regions' GVA totalled 204,342 million hryvnas in 2002 (5.8% more than in 2001), 4,239 hryvnas per capita (6.9% more than in 2001 and 22.8% more than in 1996).

However, considerable regional differences persist both in terms of the GVA overall and per capita production. Over half of Ukraine's GVA (62.1%) is produced in the city of Kiev and the Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov, Odessa, Zaporozhiye, Lvov, and Lugansk regions. The regions with the highest per capital GVA figures are the city of Kiev and the Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Poltava, Zaporozhiye, Odessa, Kharkov, Kiev, and Nikolaev regions. The lowest per capita GVA levels are in the Ternopol and Chernovtsy regions (54.6% and 58.6% of Ukraine's average figure, respectively).

GVA sectoral structure varies by region. As before, the chief source of GVA is industrial production, which is concentrated in the Donetsk Region (21.2%), the Dnepropetrovsk Region (14.5%), the city of Kiev (7.3%), the Lugansk Region (6.8%), the Zaporozhiye Region (6.4%), and the Poltava Region (6.0%). Extractive industries prevail in the Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Lugansk, Poltava, and Sumy regions; manufacturing industries predominate in the Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhiye, Poltava, Lugansk, and Kharkov regions, and the city of Kiev.

The largest producer of agricultural and forestry GVA is the Kiev Region, accounting for 6.9% of Ukraine's total. Other major producers of GVA in these sectors are the Kharkov Region (6.8%), the Vinnitsa and Dnepropetrovsk regions (5.9% each), the Lvov Region (5.7%), and the Donetsk Region (5.6%).

The leading producer of GVA in construction, wholesale and retail trade, transport, education, health and social assistance is the city of Kiev, accounting for 16.6%, 37.7%, 19.9%, 12.5%, and 15.3% of Ukraine's totals, respectively. Other major sources of GVA are: in construction – the Donetsk Region (8.8%), the Dnepropetrovsk Region (7.2%), and the Odessa Region (6.9%); in wholesale and retail trade – the Donetsk Region (11.5%); in transport – the Odessa Region (13.3%), the Donetsk Region (10.5%), the Dnepropetrovsk Region (7.0%), the Kharkov Region (6.0%), and the Lvov Region (5.5%).

In terms of intra-regional sources of GVA, the shares of transport are high in the Odessa Region (34.0%), the Lvov Region (17.7%), and the Kirovograd Region (15.7%).

In terms of education's contribution to GVA, just about all the regions are close to Ukraine's average (5.3%). The figures are the highest in the Ternopol Region (9.1%) and the Chernovtsy Region (8.8%). In terms of health care and social assistance, Ukraine's average is 3.6%, and

* The latest statistics available are dated 2002; regional statistics for 2003 will be generated by February 2005.

regional figures range from 2.7% in the Donetsk Region and 2.8% in the Poltava Region to 8.6% in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, 5.3% in the Lvov Region, and 4.9% in the Transcarpathian Region.

However, certain changes do occur in the structure of regions' economies every year. In 2002, the share of manufacturing in GVA production grew by 6.4 percentage points in the Poltava Region, by 2.2 percentage points in the Ivano-Frankovsk Region, by 1.5 percentage points in the Nikolaev Region, by 1.2 percentage points in the Cherkassy Region, and in Sevastopol, the share of construction increased by 2.2 percentage points.

The share of agriculture and forestry decreased by 4.5 percentage points in the Poltava Region, by 4.1 percentage points in the Khmelnytsky Region, by 3.8 percentage points in the Nikolaev Region, by 3.6 percentage points in the Zhitomir Region, by 3.3 percentage points in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, 3.3 percentage points in the Sumy Region, by 3.2 percentage points in the Cherkassy Region, and by 3.0 percentage points in the Kiev Region. The share of transport decreased in the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol (by 2.2 and 1.8 percentage points, respectively), the share of power generation and distribution, gas and water production and distribution decreased by 1.8 percentage points in the Rovno Region. Changes in the contributions of other economic activities were insignificant.

Importantly, GVA increased in every region of Ukraine in 2002.

The highest GVA growth rates were in the Poltava Region (17.1%), the Lvov Region (11.2%), the Ivano-Frankovsk Region (10.1%), the Odessa Region (9.3%), the Transcarpathian Region (9.0%), the Ternopol Region (8.5%), the Chernovtsy Region (8.1%), the Zhitomir Region (7.5%) and Sevastopol (8.9%), as compared with Ukraine's average of 5.8%.

In 2002, Ukraine saw a GVA rise in all economic activities, except for construction and education). The highest GVA growth rates were observed in manufacturing (9.5%), wholesale and retail trade (7.8%), and transport (7.4%). GVA generated by the above economic activities increased in just about every region of Ukraine. However, there was registered a decline in GVA in certain economic activities.

In 2001, for instance, GVA in construction increased in Ukraine by 107.8%, but in 2002 it shrank by 97.4%, as GVA in that industry decreased in 12 regions. The decline was particularly significant in the Kherson, Kiev, Odessa, Chernigov, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, and Zaporozhiye regions and in the city of Kiev.

GVA production is driven not only by the production of goods and services but also by the intermediate consumption level, or the share of intermediate consumption in the production volume. Intermediate consumption is a measure of production efficiency and directly impacts GVA.

In recent years, there were no major fluctuations in intermediate consumption to production ratios in Ukraine. In 2002, the national average ratio was 59.46%. The ratios remain the highest in the predominantly industrial regions – the Lugansk, Poltava, Zaporozhiye, Dnepropetrovsk, and Donetsk regions.

Gross Value Added, by region

	In 2002 actual prices			2002 figures, % of 2001 figures (in comparable prices)		2002 figures, % of 1996 (in comparable prices)
	Total, million hryvnas	Per capita, hryvnas	% of Ukraine's GVA	Total	Per capita	Total
Ukraine	204,342	4,239	100	105.8	106.9	115.8
Autonomous Republic of Crimea	6,033	2,979	3.0	103.2	103.9	102.3
Cherkassy Region	3,852	2,764	1.9	103.2	104.4	93.4
Chernigov Region	3,836	3,108	1.9	104.4	105.5	105.5
Chernovtsy Region	2,135	2,321	1.0	108.1	108.7	118.8
Dnepropetrovsk Region	18,059	5,090	8.8	103.3	104.4	112.4
Donetsk Region	25,285	5,263	12.4	102.8	104.3	113.3
Ivano-Frankovsk Region	4,518	3,213	2.2	110.9	111.6	114.6
Kharkov Region	11,801	4,070	5.8	105.9	106.8	120.7
Kherson Region	3,265	2,997	1.6	101.3	102.6	107.5
Khmelnitsky Region	3,944	2,773	1.9	106.6	107.8	104.8
Kiev Region	6,868	3,780	3.4	106.2	107.3	100.0
Kirovograd Region	3,399	3,025	1.7	104.6	105.9	121.5
Lugansk Region	8,570	3,394	4.2	106.1	108.0	126.7
Lvov Region	8,578	3,277	4.2	111.2	112.1	117.5
Nikolaev Region	4,702	3,739	2.3	105.5	106.7	115.8
Odessa Region	10,788	4,391	5.3	109.3	110.3	108.7
Poltava Region	7,811	4,825	3.8	117.1	118.8	109.1
Rovno Region	3,467	2,963	1.7	105.6	106.1	101.7
Sumy Region	4,384	3,401	2.1	103.1	104.7	100.6
Ternopol Region	2,631	2,313	1.3	108.5	109.3	105.6
Transcarpathian Region	3,211	2,557	1.6	109.0	109.3	115.9
Vinnitsa Region	5,319	3,019	2.6	102.6	103.7	95.9
Volyn Region	3,112	2,943	1.5	104.2	104.8	130.1
Zaporozhiye Region	8,629	4,498	4.2	102.2	103.2	119.4
Zhitomir Region	3,549	2,570	1.7	107.5	108.9	106.7
City of Kiev	35,200	13,456	17.2	106.4	106.1	156.4
City of Sevastopol	1,396	3,684	0.7	108.9	109.1	130.0

Gross Value Added, by economic activity, 2002

	Agriculture and forestry	Extractive industries	Manufacturing	Power, gas, and water production and distribution	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade, repair services	Transport	Education	Health care and social assistance	Other activities
Ukraine	14.4	4.9	19.8	5.6	3.8	12.0	13.5	5.3	3.6	17.1
Autonomous Republic	14.8	1.9	11.3	3.0	5.4	12.7	14.5	6.8	8.6	21.0

of Crimea										
Cherkassy Region	29.0	0.7	19.8	3.0	2.8	10.0	10.9	7.0	4.5	12.3
Chernigov Region	28.2	4.0	21.6	2.7	2.5	8.8	9.6	5.9	4.1	12.6
Chernovtsy Region	28.1	0.1	11.6	2.3	4.2	16.4	9.6	8.8	4.1	14.8
Dnepropetrovsk Region	9.5	12.2	32.8	4.6	3.1	5.6	10.7	4.2	3.0	14.3
Donetsk Region	6.5	12.6	32.9	6.3	2.7	11.1	11.4	3.6	2.7	10.2
Ivano-Frankovsk Region	21.7	7.5	19.1	9.0	4.9	6.3	12.8	6.3	3.1	9.3
Kharkov Region	16.9	2.6	19.1	6.7	3.4	7.0	14.0	7.0	3.0	20.3
Kherson Region	26.2	0.0	24.4	3.0	2.7	11.5	9.3	7.4	4.2	11.3
Khmelnitsky Region	30.9	0.3	11.6	10.4	4.1	9.4	9.6	7.3	4.1	12.3
Kiev Region	29.4	0.1	15.0	9.1	5.8	5.7	11.0	5.0	3.7	15.2
Kirovograd Region	31.4	2.1	13.5	2.3	3.1	8.1	15.7	6.2	3.9	13.7
Lugansk Region	9.2	17.8	26.7	4.5	3.2	8.4	9.0	5.1	3.6	12.5
Lvov Region	19.6	2.1	15.8	3.1	4.2	9.4	17.7	6.9	5.3	15.9
Nikolaev Region	17.9	0.1	20.7	9.6	4.1	10.6	13.5	5.5	3.4	14.6
Odessa Region	11.5	0.0	15.1	2.6	4.9	8.1	34.0	5.5	3.1	15.2
Poltava Region	16.0	11.9	32.1	3.1	5.0	6.7	9.1	4.3	2.8	9.0
Rovno Region	26.2	0.4	12.8	11.9	4.2	11.8	11.7	6.7	3.8	10.5
Sumy Region	22.0	15.0	17.2	3.2	5.0	8.0	8.9	6.1	3.4	11.2
Ternopol Region	32.8	0.2	12.1	3.7	3.5	11.6	11.3	9.1	4.6	11.1
Transcarpathian Region	29.0	0.3	12.0	1.6	6.0	12.7	14.4	7.4	4.9	11.7
Vinnitsa Region	32.5	0.3	17.8	5.4	3.7	7.4	11.8	5.6	4.5	11.0
Volyn Region	29.7	0.8	10.0	2.3	4.6	19.5	10.7	6.4	3.9	12.1
Zaporozhiye Region	13.0	1.2	32.6	12.4	2.8	5.6	8.8	4.9	3.4	15.3
Zhitomir Region	27.7	2.7	16.4	2.2	2.5	11.3	11.3	7.7	4.6	13.6
City of Kiev	0.0	0.0	6.5	6.4	3.6	26.4	15.6	3.8	3.2	34.5
City of Sevastopol	0.1	1.0	11.4	3.5	7.3	23.8	12.5	7.4	3.9	29.1

Regional distribution of poverty. In Ukraine, poverty indices vary quite widely across regions. In the city of Kiev, the poverty level was 15.0% in 2003 (the percentage of population living below the region's poverty line) as compared to 50.1% in the Transcarpathian Region. Differences in the poverty gap are less significant, ranging between 16.7% and 27.8%.

In 2003, poverty was the worst (in terms of both parameters) in the Transcarpathian and Sumy regions and in Crimea. The best situation was observed in the city of Kiev and the Vinnitsa, Dnepropetrovsk, and Donetsk regions.

Changes in poverty levels (based on the regional poverty line) during 1999-2003 indicate consistent negative trends in the Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankovsk, Odessa, and Sumy regions and in Crimea, while in the Vinnitsa, Nikolaev, and Poltava regions poverty levels had a downward trend.

Considering poverty gap indices, the best poverty parameters are in the city of Kiev, the Donetsk, Ivano-Frankovsk, and Dnepropetrovsk regions. The regions with critical poverty gap parameters are the Transcarpathian, Khmelnytsky, Sumy, Rovno, and Lugansk regions.

The 1999-2003 figures indicate an appreciable deterioration in Crimea, the Kirovograd, Zhitomir, and Sumy regions. The Nikolaev and Chernovtsy regions have practically quitted the poorest regions' category.

**Poverty levels and poverty gap indices by region
(based on regional poverty lines*)**

	Poverty level, %					Poverty gap index, %				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Autonomous Republic of Crimea	32.7	23.8	40.7	45.9	49.3	23.1	23.3	26.2	26.2	21.3
Cherkassy Region	30.0	26.0	29.8	31.5	33.8	21.6	25.3	24.5	24.3	25.1
Chernigov Region	17.4	28.9	34.4	27.8	27.4	19.3	27.5	26.6	21.3	23.0
Chernovtsy Region	37.7	40.2	36.9	38.8	31.8	27.1	25.1	20.3	27.4	27.0
Dnepropetrovsk Region	30.0	31.6	27.4	33.3	26.2	24.4	22.3	24.6	25.8	21.7
Donetsk Region	30.9	26.2	25.6	30.1	27.7	22.9	25.6	24.7	22.6	21.6
Ivano-Frankovsk Region	29.4	33.5	41.1	43.5	29.9	18.3	24.7	22.2	21.0	20.9
Kharkov Region	19.6	21.9	23.1	22.4	30.3	21.6	23.6	24.1	24.4	23.1
Kherson Region	28.4	30.0	34.3	31.3	34.3	22.9	25.7	29.4	34.1	27.8
Khmelnitsky Region	40.9	25.1	36.8	38.5	36.7	26.0	24.7	32.2	25.7	26.1
Kiev Region	25.1	28.3	28.3	30.5	34.9	22.4	24.2	20.1	30.3	28.3
Kirovograd Region	23.1	22.5	23.2	33.5	37.4	21.8	20.9	23.8	23.8	25.7
Lugansk Region	45.4	36.9	38.5	41.0	37.8	29.3	28.9	28.8	24.1	26.5
Lvov Region	32.8	31.4	34.3	27.0	34.0	20.9	21.3	24.2	20.9	22.9
Nikolaev Region	40.2	39.6	35.8	23.4	22.9	22.3	24.0	29.3	22.5	21.2
Odessa Region	26.7	23.4	32.5	40.1	33.0	22.9	24.6	27.9	31.1	27.2
Poltava Region	23.4	24.9	26.6	22.7	29.0	21.3	25.0	24.2	20.4	24.5
Rovno Region	31.0	30.7	23.2	38.7	43.9	23.0	22.5	23.0	26.6	27.4
Sumy Region	23.7	28.7	34.2	37.2	38.7	24.7	19.3	26.7	26.1	24.8
Ternopol Region	30.8	29.8	37.0	29.7	33.1	18.9	20.9	19.5	23.5	25.2
Transcarpathian Region	29.6	30.1	54.1	64.9	50.1	26.9	20.4	26.6	32.0	22.8
Vinnitsa Region	26.9	32.0	28.4	21.6	25.9	21.9	22.8	25.9	20.7	20.0
Volyn Region	37.0	36.3	35.5	37.4	30.7	21.3	25.8	24.4	17.9	16.7
Zaporozhiye Region	32.1	25.9	34.2	36.6	31.0	25.8	27.4	27.0	24.1	24.0
Zhitomir Region	33.3	24.6	26.2	31.9	34.3	26.1	25.7	26.5	26.9	24.6
City of Kiev	15.3	14.2	13.4	16.7	15.0	18.9	22.7	20.6	22.4	18.3

Ukraine's transition to new socio-economic relationships is accompanied by substantial changes in labour force use and its distribution by activity, with the number of wage workers decreasing and unemployment levels rising.

Employment and unemployment levels, by region, % of economically active population

	Employment level			Unemployment level		
	1995	2000	2003	1995	2000	2003
Autonomous Republic of Crimea	60.4	56.5	59.3	6.9	8.8	6.7
Cherkassy Region	63.2	52.3	53.5	6.1	12.0	11.2
Chernigov Region	69.8	57.7	59.9	3.9	11.3	10.2
Chernovtsy Region	66.6	45.1	49.6	4.5	17.3	10.0
Dnepropetrovsk Region	62.4	56.9	59.6	4.7	11.6	7.4
Donetsk Region	65.1	58.1	57.3	4.8	9.6	8.0
Ivano-Frankovsk Region	63.0	58.0	46.8	7.0	10.6	12.1
Kharkov Region	61.0	57.8	59.4	6.4	13.0	9.6
Kherson Region	66.4	54.1	52.8	5.2	14.0	11.7
Khmelnitsky Region	74.0	53.9	52.9	3.9	14.2	13.3
Kiev Region	63.8	55.4	55.9	4.9	12.9	9.9
Kirovograd Region	63.0	52.7	56.2	6.1	14.9	10.0
Lugansk Region	59.5	51.5	51.3	7.1	11.2	9.2
Lvov Region	64.6	57.2	56.6	7.6	13.4	10.5
Nikolaev Region	64.4	52.9	54.1	6.2	14.7	12.8

* A region's poverty line is calculated using a composite criterion based on food prices in the region. Therefore, poverty levels based on regional poverty lines are a more accurate characteristic of the situation in the region.

Odessa Region	63.2	55.1	57.5	4.3	11.8	5.4
Poltava Region	67.0	56.3	56.5	4.8	10.3	8.3
Rovno Region	64.6	52.0	50.6	6.6	12.3	12.5
Sumy Region	67.0	53.3	59.1	4.8	15.0	11.9
Ternopol Region	66.2	50.0	45.9	4.3	14.2	13.0
Transcarpathian Region	64.8	55.7	60.5	6.1	11.6	7.0
Vinnitsa Region	67.8	65.3	65.1	3.8	9.1	5.6
Volyn Region	59.9	64.1	60.0	6.0	10.4	12.1
Zaporozhiye Region	59.5	55.0	55.0	6.3	12.8	10.4
Zhitomir Region	57.1	54.3	50.5	7.1	12.5	12.8
City of Kiev	65.1	61.3	65.2	7.2	8.5	4.8
Ukraine	64.0	56.1	56.6	5.6	11.7	9.1

Public health is one of the principal conditions of social well-being and successful economic growth, longer active life span and better demographic situation. Improving public health requires better quality and effectiveness of health care, adequate staffing and funding of medical institutions.

To achieve these objectives, Ukraine has optimized and streamlined its healthcare facilities network and staffing levels. For instance, between 1990 and 2003, the number of inpatient clinics was reduced from 3,900 to 3,000, while the number of outpatient clinics increased from 6,900 to 7,600. Correspondingly, the number of hospital beds was considerably reduced (from 700,000 to 458,000), while the outpatient facilities' capacity increased from 895,000 to 981,000 visits per shift.

There was a reduction in the medical personnel strength in 1990-2003, too: the number of physicians employed decreased from 227,000 to 223,000 and of mid-level medical personnel from 607,000 to 523,000.

So at present, Ukraine has 97 hospital beds per 10,000 population, including 82 hospital beds per 10,000 children (varying from 130 per 10,000 population in Kiev to 57-60 per 10,000 population in the Rovno and Volyn regions); 981 scheduled outpatient visits per shift; 47 physicians, including 25 paediatricians per 10,000 children (ranging from 47 in Kiev to 14 in the Rovno Region); and 110 mid-level medical personnel per 10,000 population.

It is important to note that overall morbidity rates have increased by 7.8% since 1990, largely due to a number of socio-economic factors and the increased share of old-age population.

Prevalence grew of just about all diseases, particularly of circulatory, blood and blood-making organ diseases, and certain immune system disorders (by a factor of 2.2).

During the past 13 years, there has been a consistent decline in nominally healthy people relative to Ukraine's total population.

The number and share of disabled persons have been growing, too, due to a multitude of health factors, such as the environmental situation, well-being (nutrition quality, work effort intensity), medical care availability/affordability and quality, and work safety. It does not take an expert to see a considerable deterioration of all those factors for an absolute majority of Ukraine's population in the past ten years. Correspondingly, the number of disability pensioners increased from 1,313,000 in early 1991 to 1,977,000 in early 2004, or by 51%.

Another urgent concern for Ukraine is infectious diseases, which rank ninth among the top morbidity causes. Constant attention must be given to certain specific diseases of this class that are socially dangerous: tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases.

During the twentieth century, major achievements were scored in combating TB. In 1990, for instance, Ukraine had an all-time low figure of 31.9 newly diagnosed TB patients per 100,000

population. But from the early 1990s on, TB incidence started growing fast in most countries, so a third of the world's population are now infected with TB mycobacteria. Ukraine is no exception: in 2003 it had 37,500 newly diagnosed cases of TB, or 78.0 per 100,000 population, – practically the same figure as in 1970.

Almost three out of four newly diagnosed TB cases in 2003 were men, 82% were employable-age persons.

HIV/AIDS is a major challenge to all humanity. Until the 1980s, the virus was spreading throughout the world. Ukraine was not spared, and the HIV/AIDS situation in Ukraine is quite grave. During 2003, more than 8,000 persons were diagnosed HIV-positive, and 2,000 persons were registered as AIDS patients, which is 6,700 and 2,000 more than in 1995, respectively.

Of the 45,000 registered HIV-positive persons and AIDS patients, two-thirds were injectable drug users. Concern is caused by the growing spread of HIV among the fairly well-off population categories, pregnant women, and children.

An overwhelming majority of new HIV/AIDS infections (62%) were registered in the Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kherson, Nikolaev, and Odessa regions and in the city of Kiev.

Neoplasm incidence stabilization trend, which was observed in 1998-2000 (with 318 newly registered cases per 100,000 population), was not consolidated, so newly registered tumour cases were up to 320 in 2001 and to 326 in 2003.

The past nine years have witnessed a rise in the incidence of neoplasma, digestive system diseases, and urogenital system diseases in children. Child morbidity rates remain consistently high in terms of incidence of certain infectious and parasitic diseases, eye, ear, respiratory, and skin diseases, injuries and poisonings.

The spread of socially dangerous diseases remain an extremely acute problem. The growth in TB incidence which began in 1990s was not curbed in the early years of the third millennium. During 2003, 684 children aged between 0 and 14 years, or 9.2 per 100,000 children, were newly registered as having active TB condition, as compared with 490, or 4.4 per 100,000, in 1990. A total of 1,800 children aged 0-14 and 1,400 teenagers were registered as TB cases at clinics at the end of 2003. The regions with the highest TB incidence rates in children aged 0-17 are the Kherson Region (22.8 cases per 100,000 children), the Donetsk Region (21.7), the Dnepropetrovsk Region (21.6), the Lugansk Region (19.2), and Crimea (18.6).

The HIV infection continues to spread. Some 3,199 children aged 0-17 and 16,937 women were registered as HIV-positive or AIDS patients at the end of 2003, which is a 30-fold and 43-fold increase over the end of 1995 (105 and 397, respectively). HIV incidence in the 0-14 age group is six times as high as in the adolescent group: 20.9 and 3.4 HIV-positive persons per 100,000 children of the relevant age group. Seventy-nine percent of all registered HIV-positive children live in five regions (Crimea and the Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Odessa, and Nikolaev regions).

Mental and behavioural disorders caused by abuse of psychoactive substances are a major problem. Drug-induced disorders in women have become increasingly widespread. At the end of 2003, 13,100 teenaged abusers of alcohol, narcotic drugs, and psychoactive substances were undergoing preventive treatment in medical institutions; 8,600 of them were newly registered during that year (as compared...)

Special attention should be focused on children affected by consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. Their health status is unsatisfactory and tends to deteriorate. Just as in previous years, the incidence rates of musculoskeletal system, nervous system, and blood-forming

organ diseases, as well as certain immune system, endocrine system, nutrition, and metabolic disorders are higher in those children than Ukraine's averages by a factor of 1.3 to 2.1.

Certain positive trends should be mentioned, too.

There have been positive trends in infant and maternal mortality rates.

Infant mortality gradually decreased throughout the latter 1990s and was 25% lower in 2003 than in 1990 (12.8 and 9.6 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively). The regions with infant mortality rates above the national average are: Zaporozhiye Region (12.7), Donetsk Region (11.3), Lugansk Region (11.0), and Kirovograd, Sumy, Kherson, and Cherkassy regions (10.7 each). The lowest infant mortality rates are in the Vinnitsa and Khmelnytsky regions (7.0 each), the Kiev Region (7.8), the Volyn and Transcarpathian regions (8.1 each).

2003 registered the lowest maternal mortality rate since 1990 (21.8 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births).

However, many problems confronting the healthcare sector remain unresolved.

Health care development in rural areas is inadequate; some villages do not have even primary healthcare facilities, such as feldsher-midwife stations, so people in such villages have very little or no access to competent medical services.

Ukrainian population, especially its socially vulnerable groups, are inadequately provided with drugs at affordable prices. This is largely explained by the poor development of domestic pharmaceutical industry and the people's low purchasing power. A Ukrainian spends on medications 55-60% less money than a Russian citizen and 85-95% less than a West-European. According to numerous surveys, about one-third of the population cannot afford medical care.

Education. Financing of education has been growing during the past years.

	Outlays on education (% of total public expenditures)	% of total public expenditures on education allocated to		
		Pre-school education	Secondary education	Higher education
1990	14.7	9.8	41.2	18.1
1995	12.1	16.2	47.2	17.8
1999	13.5	12.8	45.7	20.6
2000	14.7	11.1	36.2	32.3
2001	17.2	11.1	37.0	31.9
2002	20.3	11.1	40.2	34.0
2003	19.8	11.4	41.7	30.9

According to the 2001 census, the analysis of the population's education levels across regions reveals significant regional differences, stemming primarily from dissimilar urbanization levels. It is also important to note that the age brackets having the biggest share of people with higher education ranges from 30-34 years in poorly urbanized regions (the Chernigov, Khmelnytsky, Sumy, Vinnitsa, and Zhitomir regions) to 50-54 years in the Lugansk Region, where high economic growth rates a while ago attracted an inflow of well-educated young people. Without the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol, which predictably concentrate a significant portion of well-educated people, the coefficient of variation is 49%, with the difference between the maximum share of people with higher education (in the Dnepropetrovsk Region) and the smallest share (in the Rovno Region) being 50%.

Since there are significant differences in the population age structures of various regions it is expedient to eliminate that factor. Unifying Ukrainian population's age structure yields the following results: with the exception of Kiev and Sevastopol, which are certainly far ahead of other

regions in education level (51.4% and 47.6% of people aged 25 or older have higher education, respectively), the third best-educated region is the Dnepropetrovsk Region (45%). The western regions have relatively low percentages of people with higher education: the Transcarpathian Region has 23.3%, the Chernovtsy Region, 27.2%, the Zhitomir Region, 30.9%, the Ivano-Frankovsk Region, 31.2%, and the Rovno Region, 33.8%.

The past 13 years have seen significant changes in students to population ratios. The number of general school students per 10,000 population decreased from 1,373 to 1,269 since 1990, and the number of vocational school students went down from 127 to 105, while the number of university students per 10,000 population increased from 316 to 512, i. e. by 62%.

Ukraine has a far-flung network of education facilities. In 2003, there were 15,000 pre-school institutions, taking care of 977,000 children; 21,900 general secondary schools, with 6,044,000 students; 953 technical vocational schools, with 493,000 students and trainees; and 1,099 tertiary education institutions, with 2,436,000 students.

Importantly, there has been a consistent growth in the number of non-public schools and their students. The number of non-public schools increased from 74 to 278 (nearly four-fold) in eight years, and the number of their students, from 7,500 to 27,000 (by a factor of 3.6). Thus, 4 out of 1,000 school students go to non-public secondary schools, lycées and grammar schools. The regions with the largest numbers of such schools are Kiev, the Donetsk Region, the Vinnitsa Region, and Crimea.

There were 1,009 tertiary education institutions of all accreditation levels in the 2003/2004 school year, with 2,436,000 students – 58% more than in 1995/1996 school year. The greater part of such institutions are in Kiev (116), Kharkov Region (78), Donetsk Region (93), Dnepropetrovsk Region (63), and Lvov Region (63).

The number of non-public colleges and universities has been growing consistently: from 111 in the 1995/1996 school year to 188 in 2003/2004. They still account for a relatively small percentage of students, but that percentage is gradually increasing, from 4.6 to 11.9% in the past 8 years.

According to statistics, men and women have equal access to higher education. Traditionally, females make up just over half of the total number of students (54% in the 2003/2004 school year).

Access to higher education is increasingly impacted by market economics. The percentage of tuition-paying university students increases with every year. In the 1995/1996 school year, students admitted to colleges and universities for a tuition paid by individuals or legal entities accounted for 18% of the total enrolment; in the 2003/2004 school year, the percentage increased to 60%.

In recent years, the number of tertiary education institutions with a higher status tends to increase. In the 1995/1996 school year, universities accounted for 27% of institutions with accreditation levels 3 and 4; in the 2003/2004 school year, the percentage was 42 (the figures for academies were 16% and 19%, respectively). Three quarters of students (76%, or 1.8 million) go to universities, academies, institutes, or conservatoires. Some 1,499,000 students study on a full-time basis.

However, the first step to education is pre-school education.

Between 2002 and 2003, the number of children attending pre-school institutions increased from 973,000 to 977,000, or about 48% of children of the relevant age group (64% in urban areas, and 21% in rural areas), as compared with 44% in 1995. The greatest pre-school education enrolment figures were in Kiev (74% in 2003, as compared with 58% in 1995), Dnepropetrovsk Region (59% and 54%), Donetsk Region (58% and 54%), Zaporozhiye Region (59% and 51%), and Cherkassy Region (57% and 56%). The lowest figures are in Ivano-Frankovsk Region (24% and 22%), Rovno

Region (27% and 29%), and Lvov Region (29% and 23%). Another interesting trend is the increasing “net” pre-school education enrolment of the youngest age groups. The share of children aged 0-2 in pre-school institutions increased from 12% to 14%, and the share of 3-4-year-olds, from 46% to 62%. These changes are especially in evidence in urban communities. At the same time, as the primary school enrolment age was changed to 6 years, the share of 6-year-olds decreased from 39% to 21%.

Social sector financing. The financial component of social development reflects the regional policy focus more than any other criteria. To characterize this aspect, a set of parameters has been established in the integral regional human development indices, to describe local budget social spending, local budget structure, and national budget transfers:

- local budgets’ expenditures on health care, hryvnas per person;
- local budgets’ expenditures on education, hryvnas per child aged 3-17;
- local budgets’ expenditures on social protection, hryvnas per person;
- transfers from the national budget, hryvnas per person;
- expenditures on education, per cent of local budget’s total social outlays;
- expenditures on health care, per cent of local budget’s total social outlays;
- expenditures on social protection, per cent of local budget’s total social outlays;
- correlation of transfers and local budget’s social outlays.

Kiev leads other regions in local budget’s spending on education (1,181 hryvnas per child aged 3-17), a long way ahead of the Ivano-Frankovsk, Chernovtsy, and Ternopol regions (632, 652, and 661 hryvnas, respectively). Kiev also leads in expenditures on health care (232 hryvnas per person) – far ahead of the Odessa, Ivano-Frankovsk, Ternopol, Lvov, Nikolaev, and Chernovtsy regions (130-136 hryvnas per person).

In terms of social sector financing the situation is the worst in the four western regions – Ternopol, Ivano-Frankovsk, Chernovtsy, and Transcarpathian.

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