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SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS IN BERLIN IN THE YEARS 1990–2002

ABSTRACT. For almost 50 years Berlin was divided into two parts: eastern and western. The first of them was in the zone under the influence of the former Soviet Union, and so socialistic economy. The other (western) part was under the strong influence of the more advanced market economy. This situation led to the strong economic differentiation the two parts of the present German capital. Therefore the study of some socio-economic problems of the reunited Berlin from 1991 up to now (state of the study for 31.12.2002) is extraordinarily actual research problem.

KEYWORDS: Berlin, natural increment, migrations, real increment.

INTRODUCTION

The break-up of the Soviet Union caused obvious changes in the political power system of the world, especially in its European part. At the end of the 80 ties and 90-ties years of the 20th century some countries broke-up, others reunited. An unprecedented event happened on 3rd October 1990 when two countries officially united: The German Democratic Republic (NRD) being until this moment among the socialistic countries, and The Federal Republic of Germany (RFN), a free and independent country. Until that time both of these countries had a separate capital, for the RFN it was Bonn from 1949, while for the NRD Berlin from the same year. At the moment of the reunion of Germany the new state intended to move the capital to the united Berlin. We should remember that for almost 50 years this town was divided into two parts: eastern and western. The first of them was in the zone under the influence of the former Soviet Union, and so socialistic economy. The other (western) part was under the strong in-

fluence of the more advanced market economy. This situation led to the strong economic differentiation the two parts of the present German capital. Therefore the study of some socio-economic problems of the reunited Berlin from 1991 up to now (state of the study for 31.12.2002) is extraordinarily actual research problem. Not having complete statistical data we restrict only to the analysis of the following questions: population number changes in eastern and western Berlin due to natural increment, gender and age structure of population, inflow of foreigners, and the intensity and direction of migration.

STATE AND NUMBER OF THE POPULATION

Analysing the state and number of the population in any town we should remember that population changes and dynamics are long-term processes, therefore to catch certain regularity we took into consideration the last 12 years period (1991–2002) admitting that it is a sufficiently long period for tracing population changes and processes.

In 1991 Berlin had 3,446,031 inhabitants and during the next two years this number slightly increased to 3,475,392 in 1993. Afterwards until 2000 the number of population decreased and in 2000 it was 3,382,169 – 98.1% of the value in 1991. The next years were again characterised by a slight increase. In 2001 Berlin had 3,388,434 inhabitants, while in 2002 3,392,425 (see Table 1).

We should mention here that the increase on the population number in Berlin was and is caused by foreign population inflow. As it can be seen from the data in Table 1. during the period studied the number of Germans continuously decreased and the number of foreigners increased. In 1991 there were 3,118,117 Germans living in Berlin, in 2000 2,947,657 what means the loss of 170 thousand person of German origin during 12 years. From this follows that the population number grows in Berlin due to the increasing number of foreigners. From 1991 to 2002 the number of inhabitants in Berlin not having German origin raised by 125,199 person (see Table 1) what makes an increase by 139.7% compared to 1991.

A vehement growth in the number of inhabitants not being of German origin in Berlin was noted in the period 1991–1997. In 1997 435,094 foreigners lived in the German capital what made 137.9% compared to 1991. During the following years the number of foreigners decreased and in 1999 it was 431,654. From that time up to now a small, 3% increase of foreigners can be observed who in 2002 made 13% of the population in Berlin (see Table 1).

Compared to 1991 the total population of Berlin continuously decreases. This process is caused by the decrease of the population of German origin. As it was mentioned above during the period studied (1991–2002) the number of foreigners grew by almost 130 thousand person. Comparing the years 1991 and 2002 we can see that almost 130 thousand German citizens were replaced by citizens from outside Germany.

Table 1. Major data on the population size, vital statistics and migration for Berlin

YEAR	BERLIN							EAST BERLIN							WEST BERLIN						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1990	3,433.7	100.0	10.9	12.8	-1.9	-	9.2	1,275.7	100.0	12.1	10.8	1.3	-	1.8	2,158.0	100.0	10.3	14.0	-3.7	-	13.5
1991	3,446.0	100.4	8.9	12.7	-3.8	7.4	9.9	1,281.1	100.4	6.8	10.7	-3.9	6.2	2.5	2,164.9	100.3	10.1	13.8	-3.7	8.1	14.2
1992	3,465.7	100.9	8.6	12.1	-3.5	9.2	10.7	1,294.0	101.4	6.0	10.0	-4.0	10.3	3.5	2,171.8	100.6	10.1	13.4	-3.3	8.6	15.0
1993	3,475.4	101.2	8.3	11.9	-3.6	6.4	11.3	1,298.9	101.8	5.8	9.6	-3.8	6.1	4.2	2,176.5	100.9	9.7	13.2	-3.5	6.5	15.5
1994	3,482.0	101.1	8.2	11.7	-3.5	2.5	11.7	1,301.0	102.0	5.8	9.3	-3.5	3.5	4.8	2,171.0	100.6	9.6	13.2	-3.6	2.0	15.9
1995	3,471.4	101.1	8.3	11.3	-3.0	2.9	12.2	1,301.1	102.0	6.2	8.7	-2.5	2.3	5.4	2,170.3	100.6	9.5	12.9	-3.4	3.3	16.3
1996	3,458.8	100.7	8.6	11.0	-2.4	-1.3	12.3	1,296.7	101.6	6.7	8.8	-2.1	-3.1	5.7	2,162.1	100.2	9.8	12.4	-2.6	-0.2	16.7
1997	3,425.8	99.8	8.9	10.6	-1.7	-7.9	12.6	1,286.0	100.8	7.1	8.4	-1.3	-10.6	5.7	2,139.7	99.2	9.9	12.0	-2.1	-6.2	16.8
1998	3,398.8	99.0	8.7	10.4	-1.7	-6.3	12.7	1,273.9	99.9	7.2	8.2	-1.0	-9.5	5.8	2,124.9	98.5	9.6	11.7	-2.1	-4.3	16.9
1999	3,386.7	98.6	8.8	10.3	-1.5	-2.1	12.8	1,269.3	99.5	7.7	8.1	-0.4	-4.7	6.0	2,117.4	98.1	9.5	11.5	-2.0	-0.5	16.9

Explanations: 1 – number of population in thousands; 2 – dynamics of changes in the population number, 1990 = 100%; 3 – number of birth per 1,000 inhabitants; 4 – number of death per 1,000 inhabitants; 5 – natural increment per 1,000 inhabitants; 6 – migration balance per 1,000 inhabitants; 7 – share of foreigners in percentages in the total number of inhabitants.

Source: the Authors' own elaboration on the basis of Statistisches Landesamt Berlin, 2002.

Components having an impact on the real increment are the natural increment and the migration balance. Both of the components are derived from the gender and age structure of the population.

GENDER AND AGE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION

The actual gender and age pyramid of the inhabitants of Berlin (state for 2002) reflects the demographic processes that took place during the last century.

As in the case of the majority of western states the pyramid has regressive character, small number of youth and increasing number of older population. It is interesting to trace the difference in the age and gender pyramid for the German and foreign population. The gender and age pyramid of foreigners shows that the share of young population to 20 year of age is over 20% of the total population, while that of the population above 65 years of age is less then 6%. In this pyramid persons between 21–64 year of age dominate decidedly, they make 3/4 of the total foreigners. A certain indicator is here also the surplus of men over women, the masculinisation coefficient equals 113.2% in the foreigner group. The gender and age pyramid for the German population is characterised by the considerable share of women, the feminisation coefficient equals 108.3% for this group of the population. The highest predominance of women, almost 5%, occurs among the older population, above 65 years of age. Young persons to 20 years of age makes less then 18%, while inhabitants between 21–64 year of age 64%.

For Berlin the share of young people (to 20 years) in 2002 was 18.1% and was close to the share of people above 65 years of age (16.7%). The most numerous group is the population between 21–64 year of age, 65.2%. The predominance of women is also inconsiderable, the feminisation coefficient equals 105.4% and is the most strongly outlined in the group of older population.

NATURAL INCREMENT

As it was mentioned above the balance of young persons of both gender oscillates around 17–18%, but it should be mentioned here that significant difference can be observed between the procreative behaviour of Eastern and Western Berlin.

With the general decreasing number of birth in Berlin the birth-rate in 1990 was 10.90‰, while in 1999 only 8.80‰. The biggest fall during the period studied was noted in East Berlin (see Table 1). In West Berlin in 1990 the birth-rate equalled 10.30‰, while in 1999 it was 9.50‰, so 0.8 point fall was noted. In East Berlin during the same period 4.4 point decrease was noted from 12.10‰ in 1990 to 7.40‰ in 1999.

The second component of the natural increment is the death rate. Analysing the mortality of the inhabitants of the whole Berlin we should mention, that in the years 1990–1999 the mortality rate decreased from 12.80‰ to 10.30‰, by 2.5 points. Similar decreasing tendency in the number of death was noted in the eastern as well in the western part of the capital (see Table 1).

The result of the changes in the number of birth and death is a negative natural increment during the period studied. In 1990 the natural increment for Berlin was minus 40 and its value increased until 2000 when it reached minus 1.10‰ and in 2002 the negative natural increment grew again to minus 1.40‰.

The negative natural increment influenced the changes in the number of population in Berlin, but comparing data from Table 1 we can see that that the number of inhabitants in Berlin at the beginning of the 90ies years of the 20th century increased and the natural increment, in spite of the decreasing number of death, remained negative what was of course caused by the decreasing number of birth in this period. At the second part of the 90ies years of the last century the natural increment grew to minus 1.10‰, while the number of inhabitants in Berlin slightly decreased. Spatial movements of the population had a great impact on the formation of the state of the population number in the German capital during the period studied.

MIGRATIONS

At the beginning of the 90ties years of the 20th century a few thousand people came to the new German capital and this tendency keeps up. The migration balance in 1992 was 9.20‰, the it decreased and positive migration balance of 2.90‰ was noted in 1995 for the last time (see Table 1). The following years were characterised by negative migration balance.

In 1991 the difference between the number of persons leaving Berlin and the number of persons coming to the town reached its maximal value in the period studied: 26,926 persons. The following years bring again a slight increase in the number of arriving to the town persons. Similar tendency was observed in both parts of the town. In 1992 in West Berlin the migration balance was 8.60‰, in East Berlin 10.30‰, while in 1997 minus 6.20‰ and minus 10.60‰, respectively.

REAL INCREMENT

Comparing the data from Table 1 we can notice that the real increment in the period studied was dictated by the spatial motion of the population. In 1991 the real increment for Berlin reached 3.6‰, a year later already 5.6‰. The following years brought a considerable fall to as low as minus 9.7‰ and

from that moment the real increment begun to grow again. In the case of East Berlin population processes were relatively more intensive and in 1991 the real increment equalled 2.3‰, in the next year 6.3‰ and in 1997 minus 11.9‰. In West Berlin the changes observed in the real increment were not so drastic and in 1991 the real increment was 4.4‰, in the next year 5.3‰, and in 1997 minus 8.6‰.

FINAL REMARKS

To sum up we have to state that during the period studied significant changes occurred in the population structure of Berlin. They manifested themselves in the percentage share decrease of the population of German origin and share increase of foreigners.

We should also mention that Berlin in spite of the inflow of young people (the capitol of an 80 million country) begins to get older in demographic meaning, because in 2002 from the total inhabitants of Berlin persons above 65 years of age made almost 17%, while to 15 years of age 13.8%. The ageing process concerns mainly the population of German origin (to 15 years 13.4%, above 65 years 16.7%). The high masculinisation coefficient observed in the group of foreigners can be explained by the fact that Berlin is a huge building place where mainly men find employment.

The slight growth of birth-rate noted during the last years may cause the population in Berlin to get younger. On the other hand the constant high share of foreigners leads to nationality differentiation in the town. So Berlin was and is an international town. On this have impact not only the localisation of agencies (insurance, trade, diplomatic, financial, and the like) of different countries in the German capital but also employment possibilities.

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NOTES

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