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Gender analysis of census data

Analysis of gender indicators based on census data from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States¹

Note by the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)

Summary

This note has been prepared by CIS-STAT on the basis of data from the 2010 round of censuses in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with, in certain cases, the use of current data obtained from information exchanges.

Main objectives:

- To analyse social indicators of change in gender parameters in the areas of demographics, education and economic activity over the most recent intercensal period
- To study the possible use of the new variables on well-being and access to information and communications technology included in the census programmes of a number of CIS countries in order to carry out gender analyses according to living standards and conditions

¹ Prepared by Valentina Bryseva, CIS Interstate Statistical Committee (CIS-STAT). CIS-STAT organizes the multilateral exchange of statistical information and contributes to the development of a common information and statistical space within the CIS countries; it also officially disseminates socio-economic data on the CIS countries.

I. Introduction

1. Gender statistics are statistics that reflect the situation of men and women in all areas of social and economic activity. In recent years, the international statistical organizations have focused particularly on providing information on the gender issues of most importance in the formulation of social policies or national programmes, and on analysing the implementation of State programmes for gender equality: equal opportunities for men and women on the labour market, in professional careers, access to new technologies, education, health care, etc.

2. Gender parameters are now widely used by the national statistics services of the CIS countries² in statistics on population, education, the labour market, and political and social activity. Most of the CIS countries publish regular statistical compilations on women and men, based on demographic and sectoral data.

3. However, in a number of areas, censuses are the main, and for some issues the only, source of data for gender analysis. Censuses provide a unique opportunity to conduct complex analyses of gender parameters in various areas of social and economic life. At regular intervals, they provide control data for population reporting at national and local levels.

4. As of the beginning of 2012, the 2010 round of national censuses had been conducted in: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan³ (in 2009), the Russian Federation and Tajikistan³ (2010) and Armenia (2011). Censuses are planned in Turkmenistan and Ukraine in 2012. The most recent census in the Republic of Moldova took place in 2004, and that in Uzbekistan in 1989.

5. The 2010 round of censuses has so far covered approximately 70 per cent of the population of the CIS countries.

6. Census results have been published in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and the Russian Federation and Tajikistan have presented preliminary results.

7. This report has been prepared on the basis of data from the CIS countries' censuses, in some cases using current data received by CIS-STAT from information exchange, or taken from the websites of the national statistics services.

8. The main objectives of this work are:

(a) To analyse social indicators of changes in gender parameters in the areas of demographics, education and economic activity in the CIS countries over the most recent intercensal period;

(b) To study the possible use of the new variables included in the 2010 round of censuses in a number of the CIS countries on well-being and access to information and communications technology, to carry out gender analyses according to living standards and conditions.

² The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was set up on 8 December 1991 and currently has 11 member States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

³ Population and housing census.

II. Population demographics

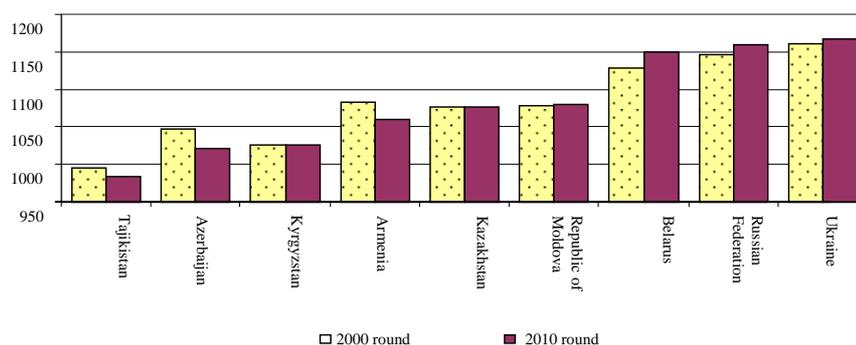
9. Sex and age are the most important demographic indicators included in censuses throughout the world today. They objectively characterize a population's reproduction and demographic situation.

10. The CIS countries can be divided into two groups by type of demographic process during the intercensal period,⁴ according to the prevailing trend.

11. The first group includes those countries where the population growth over the period in question was mainly a result of natural increase: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Kazakhstan also saw a marked growth in its population between 1999 and 2009 as a result of an increase in migration. The male population grew faster in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, whereas the rates were practically equal in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

12. The second group of countries includes Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, where the population was shrinking against a background of a long natural decline resulting from the low birth rate and high death rate, the latter particularly affecting men of working age and thus leading to a slight decrease in the ratio of men to women over the intercensal period. This group of countries also includes the Republic of Moldova, which saw a population decline between 2004 and 2010, due to a great extent to migration, with the female population declining more than the male population.

Graph 1
Number of women per 1,000 men



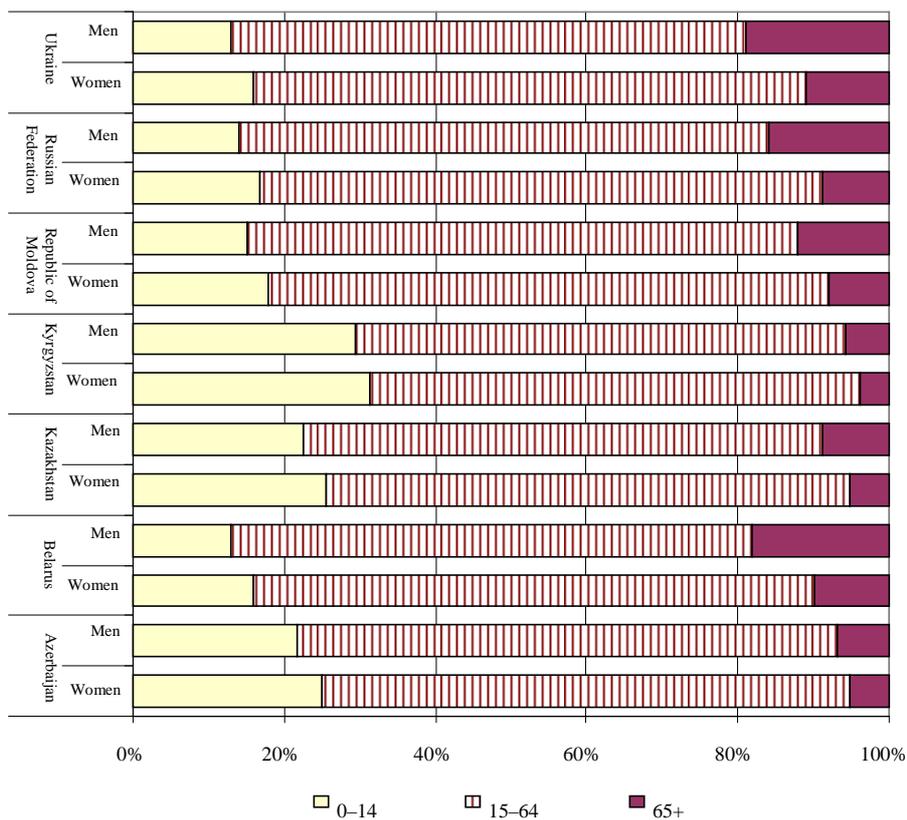
Sources: National censuses; 2010 figures for Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine from current reports as of 1 January 2011.

13. In all the CIS countries except Tajikistan, there are more women in the population than men, beginning at the age of 29 to 30 years and increasing thereafter. Thus, in the 65-and-older age group, there are between 1.4 and 1.8 times more women than men in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova, and between 2.0 and 2.2 times more in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

⁴ The 2000 round was conducted in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in 1999, in Tajikistan in 2000, Armenia and Ukraine in 2001, the Russian Federation in 2002, and the Republic of Moldova in 2004. For Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, indicators from the most recent census round were analysed using data from 1 January 2011; CIS-STAT does not have any data for Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan.

14. The censuses and current reports show an increase in the proportion of older people in the population, with demographic ageing particularly affecting the female population. The 65-and-older age groups are proportionately the largest in Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

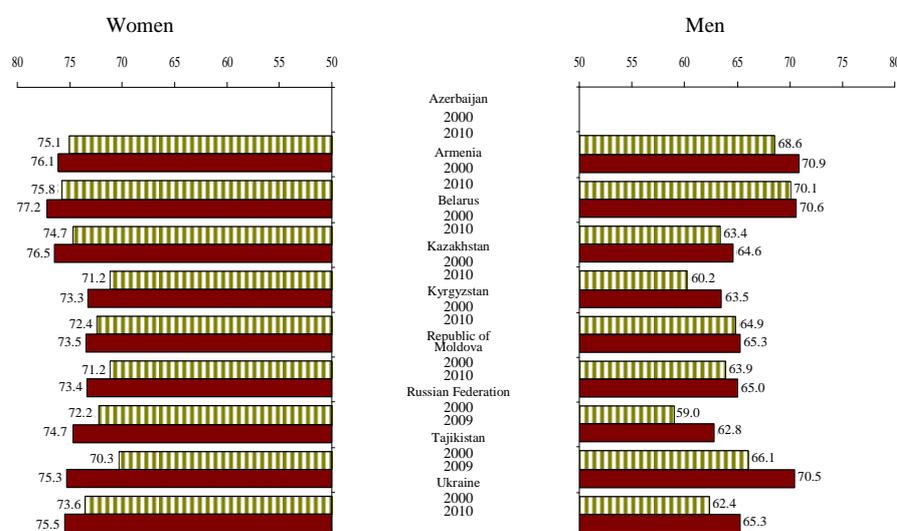
Graph 2
Population structure by sex and age group in CIS countries
 (age groups as % of total population)



Source: 2010 round censuses; figures for Republic of Moldova and Ukraine from current reports as of 1 January 2011; figures for Russian Federation from current reports as of 1 January 2010.

15. Life expectancy rose over the reporting period in many CIS countries, and particularly in Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan.

Graph 3
Life expectancy at birth in a number of CIS countries
 (in years)



Sources: Data from national statistics services of CIS countries.

III. Education and information and communications technology

16. Census data on levels of education provide information on the effectiveness of Government policy on the dissemination of knowledge in the population and the existence of qualified staff by sex for the needs of the economy.

17. Education is a key factor in quality of life, and one of the basic conditions for bridging the gap between the possibilities open to women and those that men have in terms of jobs and careers.

Census data reveal the differences in level of education according to sex, age, place of residence (town or country), etc., and also serve as important indicators of a country's potential economic and social development. They can also be used to compare the levels and types of education of adult men and women with the needs of the labour market. Censuses are the only source of information on the level of literacy in the population, including comparisons between men and women.

18. The CIS countries have adopted the slogan of the 2000 World Education Forum, held in Dakar, Senegal: education for all, women and men, of all ages, because education plays a principal role in establishing and developing human identity, in economic growth and in strengthening social relations. It is also an important weapon in the fight against poverty and a basis for sustainable development.

19. The current issue in education in many CIS countries is how to increase the number of children in preschool education, which will, in turn, provide greater access to better quality education at subsequent levels.

20. According to the most recently published data, 25 per cent of children of preschool age in Armenia were in education; the figures were less than 20 per cent for Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, 11 per cent for Kyrgyzstan, and 6 per cent for Tajikistan. In Belarus, the figure was 77 per cent, in Ukraine 67 per cent, and it was 58 per cent in the Russian Federation. In

most countries there are slightly more boys than girls in preschool education because of the gender structure in that age group.

21. A number of CIS countries included a question on preschool attendance in their censuses and precise figures for that indicator will be available once the results have been processed.

22. The increase in the proportion of children in preschool education will help to boost the level of women's participation in the economy and work.

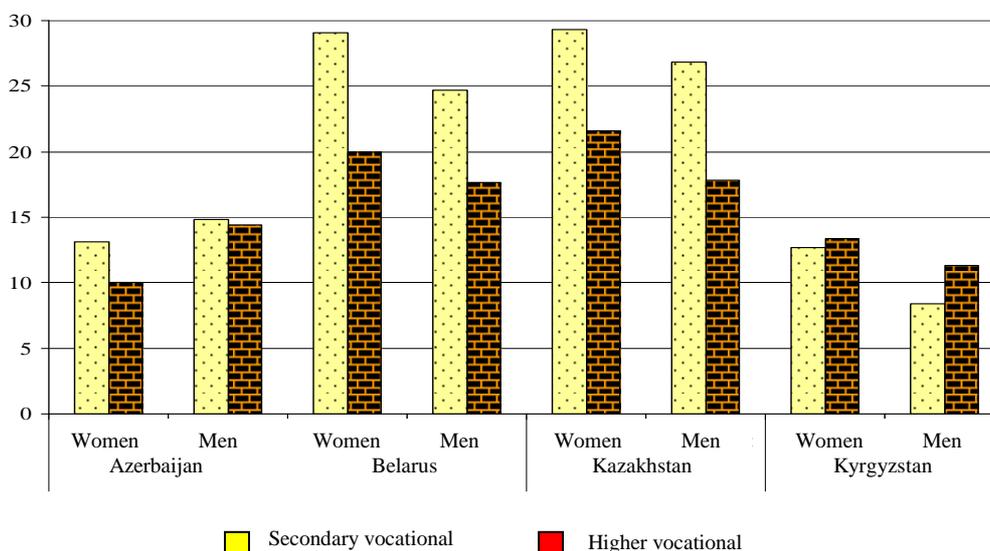
23. In general, the level of education in most of the CIS countries is high, as can be seen from the census results that have been published.

24. In 2009, in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, there were more women than men with higher or secondary vocational⁵ training in the 15-and-over age group; in Azerbaijan, the opposite was true.

Graph 4

Proportion of men and women aged 15 and over with higher or secondary vocational education in CIS countries

(% of age group)

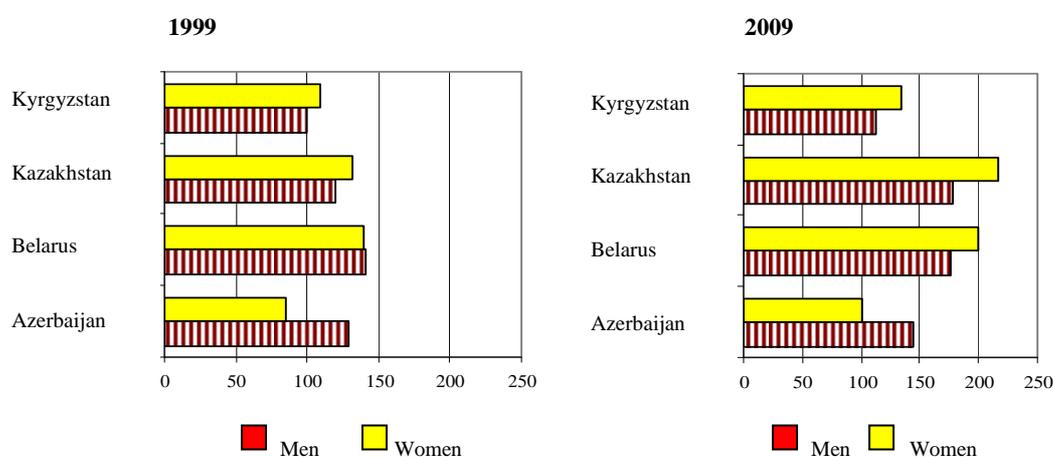


Source: 2009 national censuses.

25. The census data show that there has been a rise in the level of education of both men and women over the past 10 years.

⁵ Including incomplete higher and vocational education.

Graph 5
Women and men aged 15 and over with higher education
 (per 1,000 persons in age group)



Source: 1999 and 2009 national censuses.

26. One factor that has contributed to this rise in education at all levels is the growing access to information and communications technology (ICT). Some CIS countries included a question on access to ICT in the census.

27. Census data from Kazakhstan show that there is no significant difference in the level of computer literacy between men and women of working age: 33 per cent of men and 35 per cent of women are familiar with word processing programmes, and 20 per cent of men and 21 per cent of women use the Internet.

IV. Economic activity

28. Census data offer extensive possibilities for analysing indicators of the level of gender equality on the labour market. Alongside the traditional indicators showing total figures for economically active men and women, the tables compiled from the census results show data by age group of economically active men and women, family status, level of education and distribution by employment group, broken down by age group and level of education, employment status and place of residence.

29. The census results from Azerbaijan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan show that the level of economic activity and employment in these countries is higher among men than among women.

Table 1
Level of economic activity and level of employment
 (% of population aged 15 and over)

	<i>Economically active</i>		<i>Employed</i>	
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
Azerbaijan	58	77	52	74
Belarus	55	68	52	63
Kyrgyzstan	54	72	47	66

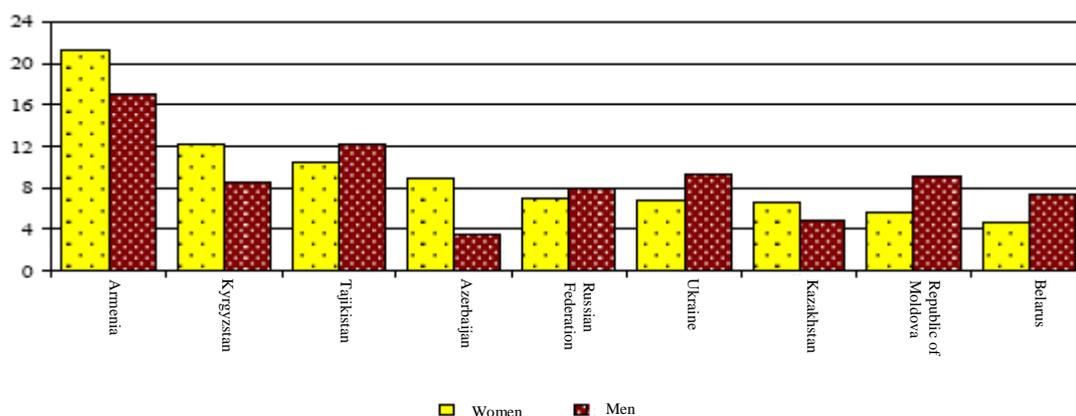
30. In Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, men represent 57 per cent of the working population and women 43 per cent. The figures for Kazakhstan are 55 per cent for men and 45 per cent for women; and 50 per cent each in Belarus.

31. Women make up 67 per cent of the unemployed⁶ population in Azerbaijan, 57 per cent in Kazakhstan and 53 per cent in Kyrgyzstan, while men make up 63 per cent of the unemployed in Belarus.

32. Census data and labour force surveys show that, in Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine, there is a higher level of unemployment among men than among women, while the opposite is true in the other CIS countries.

Graph 6
Unemployment

(number of unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population)



Sources: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan – national censuses; Armenia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine – Labour Force Surveys 2010; Tajikistan – Labour Force Survey 2009.

33. In analysing gender equality, extensive information can be drawn from data on the distribution of men and women in economic activities on the basis of national classifications of economic activities, developed from the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE).

34. Census data show significant disparities in the distribution of employed men and women in different economic activities in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. For instance, 70 per cent of those employed in education and health care in Kyrgyzstan are women, and the figure rises to 84 per cent in Belarus. The branches where men dominate include construction (between 84 and 97 per cent of those employed) and transport and communications (between 67 and 96 per cent). Men are about 60 per cent of those employed in the civil service in Belarus and Kazakhstan, 65 per cent in Kyrgyzstan and 78 per cent in Azerbaijan.

35. An analysis of salaries by economic activity in those countries indicates that women tend to have less well-paying jobs. For example, recent statistics show that average pay in

⁶ Unemployment figures are calculated using the methodology of the International Labour Organization.

education and health care (where most of the staff are women) is approximately 60 to 80 per cent of average wages generally.

V. Income

36. One important factor in well-being is the existence of a regular source of income. For example, in Kyrgyzstan, obtaining information on livelihoods is seen as one of the statistics agencies' most important tasks in conducting the population and housing census.

37. All the CIS countries include questions on income in the census to varying degrees. The information collected generally relates to the main income source and a number of additional sources.

38. Data on income sources broken down by sex are available from, for example, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Women and men aged 15 and over by income source

(per cent)

	<i>Kazakhstan</i>		<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
Total population	100	100	100	100
Of which, by main source of income				
Income from employment	45.2	62.0	46.4	65.0
Of which				
Income from paid employment	35.8	47.2
Income from self-employment (except work in personal household plots)	4.5	8.4
Work in personal household plot	4.9	6.4
Bursaries	1.5	1.1	0.4	0.4
Pensions	18.6	9.1	14.5	8.0
Benefits and other types of State support	5.9	2.7	0.6	1.2
Material assistance from family and friends (dependent)	16.0	12.2	35.7	21.5
Income from property or dividends	0.4	0.7	1.3	2.1
Other income, or did not indicate source of income	12.3	12.2	1.2	1.8

39. The example of these countries shows that there can be substantial disparities in the distribution of income sources between men and women. For most men, the main source of income is employment, while a significant proportion of women aged 15 or over are dependent.

40. A broader survey of incomes was conducted in Kazakhstan, and questions on the size and regularity of income were included in the census. In the 15-and-over age group, 63 per cent of men answered these questions, as did 47 per cent of women.

41. Of those who responded, 76 per cent of men and 81 per cent of women said that they had a monthly income, 3.5 per cent of men and 4 per cent of women had a daily income,

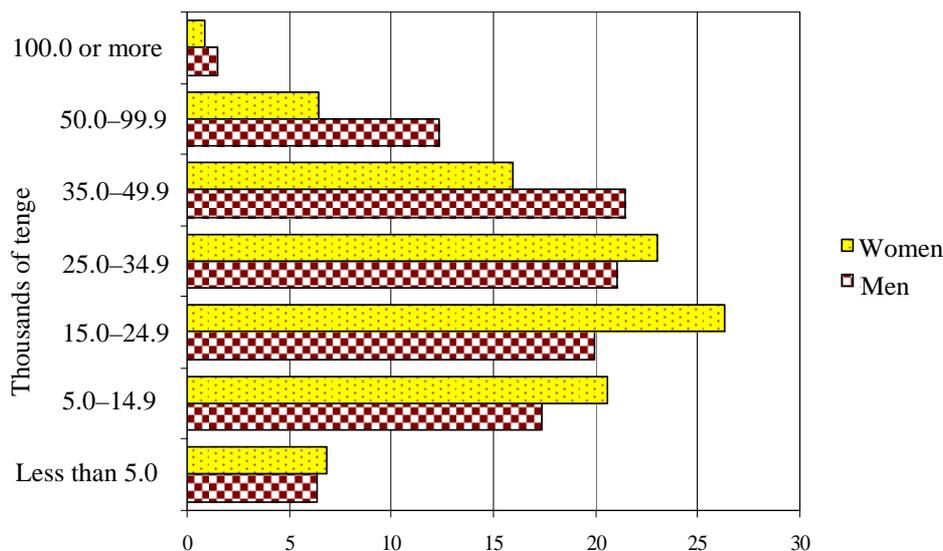
and approximately 20 per cent of men and nearly 15 per cent of women had income that was either irregular or of a different periodicity.

42. Population distribution by average monthly per capita income on an interval scale showed significant disparities in income distribution between men and women, as can be seen below.

Graph 7

Distribution of men and women aged 15 or over by average per capita income

(percentage of respondents in relevant population group)



Source: 2009 national census.

Note: Exchange rate as of March 2009: US\$ 1 = 151 tenge (National Bank of Kazakhstan).

VI. Conclusion

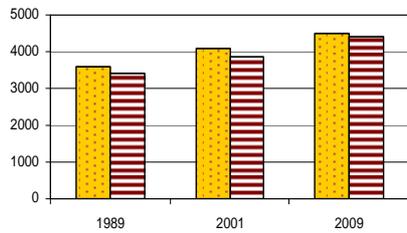
43. CIS-STAT regularly publishes statistical information broken down by sex in statistical compilations and analytical reports on education and science, the labour market, health care and social status, standard of living, and others. Furthermore, as the results of censuses in the CIS countries are received, thematic reports that include gender aspects are published for each country.

44. CIS-STAT provides information to the authorities of the CIS countries and the media, and the data can also be accessed by scientists, companies, international organizations and the general public.

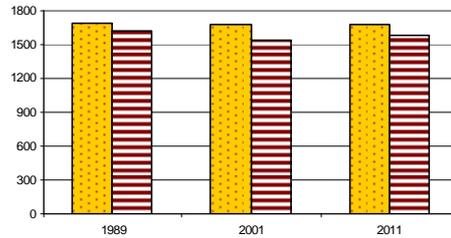
VII. Annex

Population by sex in CIS countries

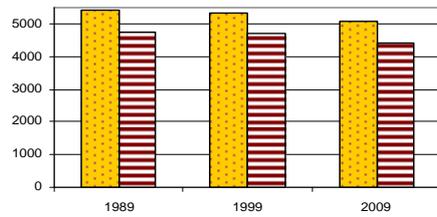
Azerbaijan
(in thousands)



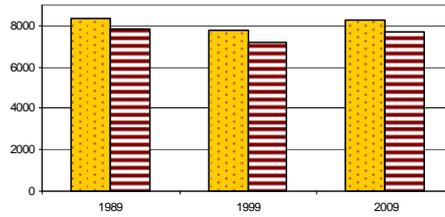
Armenia
(in thousands)



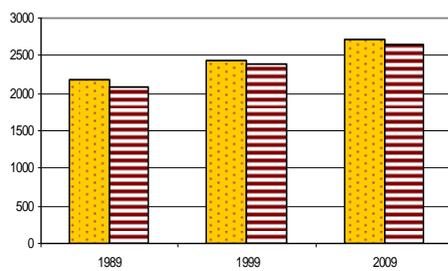
Belarus
(in thousands)



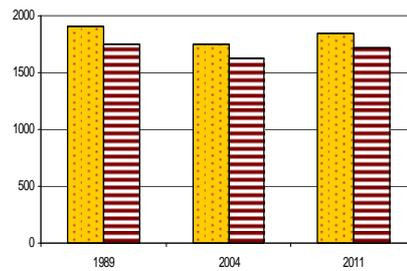
Kazakhstan
(in thousands)



Kyrgyzstan
(in thousands)

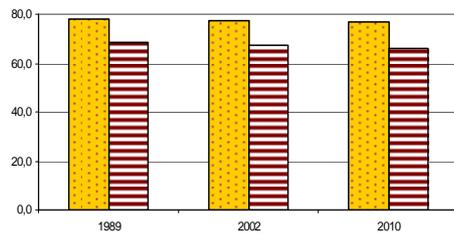


Republic of Moldova
(in thousands)



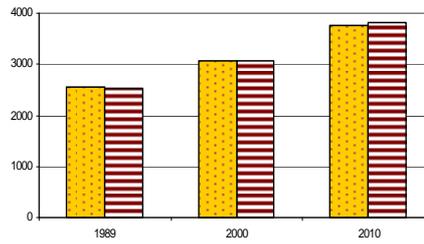
Russian Federation

(in millions)



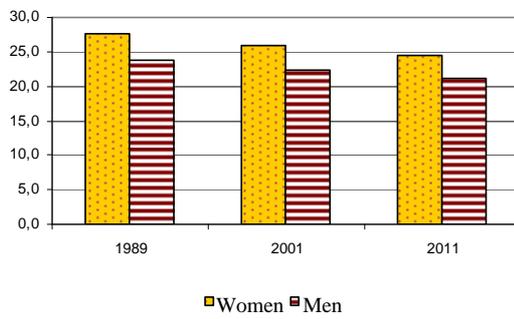
Tajikistan

(in thousands)



Ukraine

(in millions)



Sources: 1990, 2000 and 2010 rounds of national censuses; figures for Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine from current reports as of 1 January 2011.