

2. A Glimpse of Social and Economic Situation in Marzes.

Before the enactment of the Law of Armenia “On Administrative and Territorial Division of the Republic of Armenia” (December 11 1995), the republican territory was divided into 37 regions and 4 cities (Yerevan, Leninakan, Kirovakan and Dilijan). Since January 1 1996 the country is divided into 11 marzes, including Yerevan with the status of a marz. Armenia has 930 communities, including 47 urban, 871 rural and 12 district communities. There are 48 cities (including Yerevan) and 952 rural settlements, 8 of which belong in city communities with the remaining 944 villages comprise constituents of rural communities.

The city of Yerevan (having a status of marz) – the territory is 227 square kilometers, with 8315 hectares of agricultural lands, including 2139 hectares of arable lands. District communities are 12 in number, and total population¹ (as of January 1 2000) is 1248,2 thousand people (32.8% of population of Armenia). The share of Yerevan in total republican industrial production is 46.3%, 1.3% of gross agricultural output, 79.2% of retail turnover, and 79.4% of services.

Aragatsotn marz (center is Ashtarak) – the territory is 2753 square kilometers (9,3% of republic), with 136667 hectares of agricultural lands, including 56205 hectares of arable lands. It has 3 urban communities, 111 rural communities, 116 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 167,5 thousand people (4.4% of total population), including 47,0 thousand urban and 120,5 thousand rural. The share of Aragatsotn marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 1.3%, that in gross agricultural produce is 9.0%, 0.8% is the share in retail turnover, and 0.9% is its share in total services.

Ararat marz (center is Artashat) – the territory is 2096 square kilometers (7.0% of republic), with 99067 hectares of agricultural lands, including 29961 hectares of arable lands. It has 4 urban communities, 93 rural communities, 94 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 310,8 thousand people (8.2% of total population), including 98,9 thousand urban and 211,9 thousand rural. The share of Ararat marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 5.6%, that in gross agricultural produce is 14.1%, 1.7% is the share in retail turnover, and 2.7% is its share in total services.

Armavir marz (center is Armavir) – the territory is 1242 square kilometers (4,2% of republic), with 80709 hectares of agricultural lands, including 40361 hectares of arable lands. It has 3 urban communities, 94 rural communities, 95 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 322,3 thousand people (8.5% of total population), including 123,0 thousand urban and 199,3 thousand rural. The share of Armavir marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 9.6%, that in gross agricultural produce is 18.0%, 2.5% is the share in retail turnover, and 2.3% is its share in total services.

Gegharkunik marz (center is Gavar) – the territory² is 5348 square kilometers (18% of republic), with 240033 hectares of agricultural lands, including 95238 hectares of arable lands. It has 5 urban communities, 87 rural communities, 93 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 278,6 thousand people (7.3% of total population), including 102,2 thousand urban and 175,4 thousand rural. The share of Gegharkunik marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 2.5%, that in gross agricultural produce is 13.5%, 1.4% is the share in retail turnover, and 2.0% is its share in total services.

¹ Hereinafter number of permanent residents

² Including the Lake Sevan

Lori marz (center is Vanadzor) – the territory is 3789 square kilometers (12,7% of republic), with 192215 hectares of agricultural lands, including 48425 hectares of arable lands. It has 8 urban communities, 105 rural communities, 122 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 394,4 thousand people (10,4% of total population), including 265,1 thousand urban and 129,3 thousand rural. The share of Lori marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 5.4%, that in gross agricultural produce is 10.1%, 2.7% is the share in retail turnover, and 3.0% is its share in total services.

Kotayk marz (center is Hrazdan) – the territory is 2089 square kilometers (7% of republic), with 99779 hectares of agricultural lands, including 40507 hectares of arable lands. It has 7 urban communities, 60 rural communities, 62 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 329,4 thousand people (8.7% of total population), including 201,1 thousand urban and 128,3 thousand rural. The share of Kotayk marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 17.1%, that in gross agricultural produce is 7.8%, 5.2% is the share in retail turnover, and 3.3% is its share in total services.

Shirak marz (center is Giumri) – the territory is 2681 square kilometers (9% of republic), with 165737 hectares of agricultural lands, including 84540 hectares of arable lands. It has 3 urban communities, 116 rural communities, 128 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 362,3 thousand people (9,5% of total population), including 243,6 thousand urban and 118,7 thousand rural. The share of Shirak marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 3.1%, that in gross agricultural produce is 11.0%, 3.5% is the share in retail turnover, and 3.1% is its share in total services.

Siunik marz (center is Kapan) – the territory is 4506 square kilometers (15,1% of republic), with 194339 hectares of agricultural lands, including 48356 hectares of arable lands. It has 7 urban communities, 106 rural communities, 115,2 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 163,9 thousand people (4,3% of total population), including 115,2 thousand urban and 48,7 thousand rural. The share of Siunik marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 7.2%, that in gross agricultural produce is 6.8%, 1.2% is the share in retail turnover, and 1.5% is its share in total services.

Vayots Dzor marz (center is Yeghegnadzor) – the territory is 2308 square kilometers (7,8% of republic), with 75944 hectares of agricultural lands, including 20611 hectares of arable lands. It has 3 urban communities, 41 rural communities, 52 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 69,2 thousand people (1,8% of total population), including 28,4 thousand urban and 40,8 thousand rural. The share of Vayots Dzor marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 0.9%, that in gross agricultural produce is 3.0%, 0.2% is the share in retail turnover, and 0.6% is its share in total services.

Tavoush marz (center is Ijevan) – the territory is 2704 square kilometers (9,1% of republic), with 98572 hectares of agricultural lands, including 27775 hectares of arable lands. It has 4 urban communities, 58 rural communities, 61 village settlements. Total population of the marz is 156,8 thousand people (4,1% of total population), including 63,0 thousand urban and 93,8 thousand rural. The share of Tavoush marz in total volume of republican industrial production in 2000 is 1.0%, that in gross agricultural produce is 5.4%, 1.6% is the share in retail turnover, and 1.2% is its share in total services.