

## URBAN MIGRATION: CASE OF GEORGIA

TAMAR MERMANISHVILI, PhD student  
*Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University*  
*1 Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi 0179, Georgia*  
*Tak.mermanishvili@gmail.com*

Social, economic, cultural, political and educational factors are general motifs for migration. People are constantly looking for better opportunities of employment, better health care, and improved conditions of lives. Approximately, between 1.6 and 3 million people are moving from rural areas to the metropolis every week, that makes cities much more desirable place to live. The rapid urbanization process is accelerated in the recent years. While in 1950, 70% of the world's population was rurally settled, in 2014 54% of the population has become urban and it still continues to grow.

In modern life, urbanization and urban growth is one of the most notable facts. In this case Georgia is not an exception. People from rural and mountain areas of Georgia are constantly seeking for better life conditions and the main reasons for migration remains the same as it is in the world. The population of the city is growing due to rural migrants, in the capital city the population is more than 1 million people, while the total population is 3.717 million [1].

Georgia's population constitutes 3,729,600 people as of the data of the National Statistics Office of Georgia in 2018. Georgia's rural area is less settled than urban (Table). The country consists of small urban settlements and one capital city, Tbilisi, which is the most popular urban migration destination. The capital city has been continuously growing. According an official statistics, 41.7 % (1,554,800 people) of total population are living in rural areas, and 58.3% (2,174,800 people) of the total population lives in the urban areas.

Table 1 – Population of Georgia (million)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	3847.6	3829.0	3799.8	3773.6	3739.3	3718.4	3716.9	3721.9	3728.6	3726.4	3729.6
Urban	2175.3	2163.6	2145.3	2130.2	2129.3	2118.7	2121.2	2135.6	2151.5	2161.9	2174.8
Rural	1672.3	1665.4	1654.5	1643.4	1610.0	1599.7	1595.7	1586.3	1577.1	1564.5	1554.8

In Georgia like in a developing country, urbanization affects both rural and urban regions. One big urban agglomeration around the capital is dominating in the country while there are just two the city-municipalities (Kutaisi and Batumi), with more than 100 thousand inhabitants. Population by the regions reflects the uneven distribution of population across the country entailing different economic profiles and level of infrastructural development. Thus, economic development perspectives will stay unclear for secondary cities and little urban settlements unless the economic and social systems are improved to attract population and business to support local growth.

## References:

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