

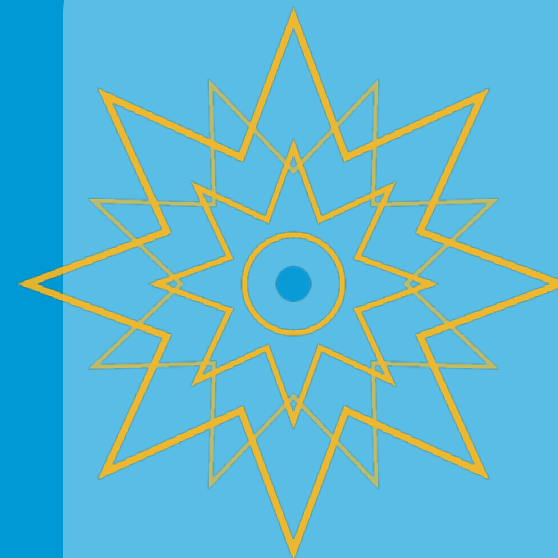
● DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY 2026

# Statistical study of different population groups

*Marriage, fertility, migration and age structure*

Republic of Uzbekistan 1990–2026

Sources: Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ([stat.uz](http://stat.uz), [siat.stat.uz](http://siat.stat.uz))



# ★ Introduction: demographic portrait of the country

Uzbekistan as of January 1, 2026

**38,2** million

Number of permanent population

**29,3** years

Average age of the population

**+743** thousand

Population growth per year

**-3,7** %

Change in the number of births in 2024

Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia and one of the youngest in the post-Soviet space. For three decades, the population has grown almost continuously, but this overall growth conceals a complex picture: the size of individual age groups fluctuates according to historical demographic waves, and social indicators—marriages, births, and migration—respond to these fluctuations..

**1**

**Fertility and marriage rates**

Depends on the size of the fertile age cohorts

**2**

**Age structure**

Reflects the "echo" of past demographic waves

**3**

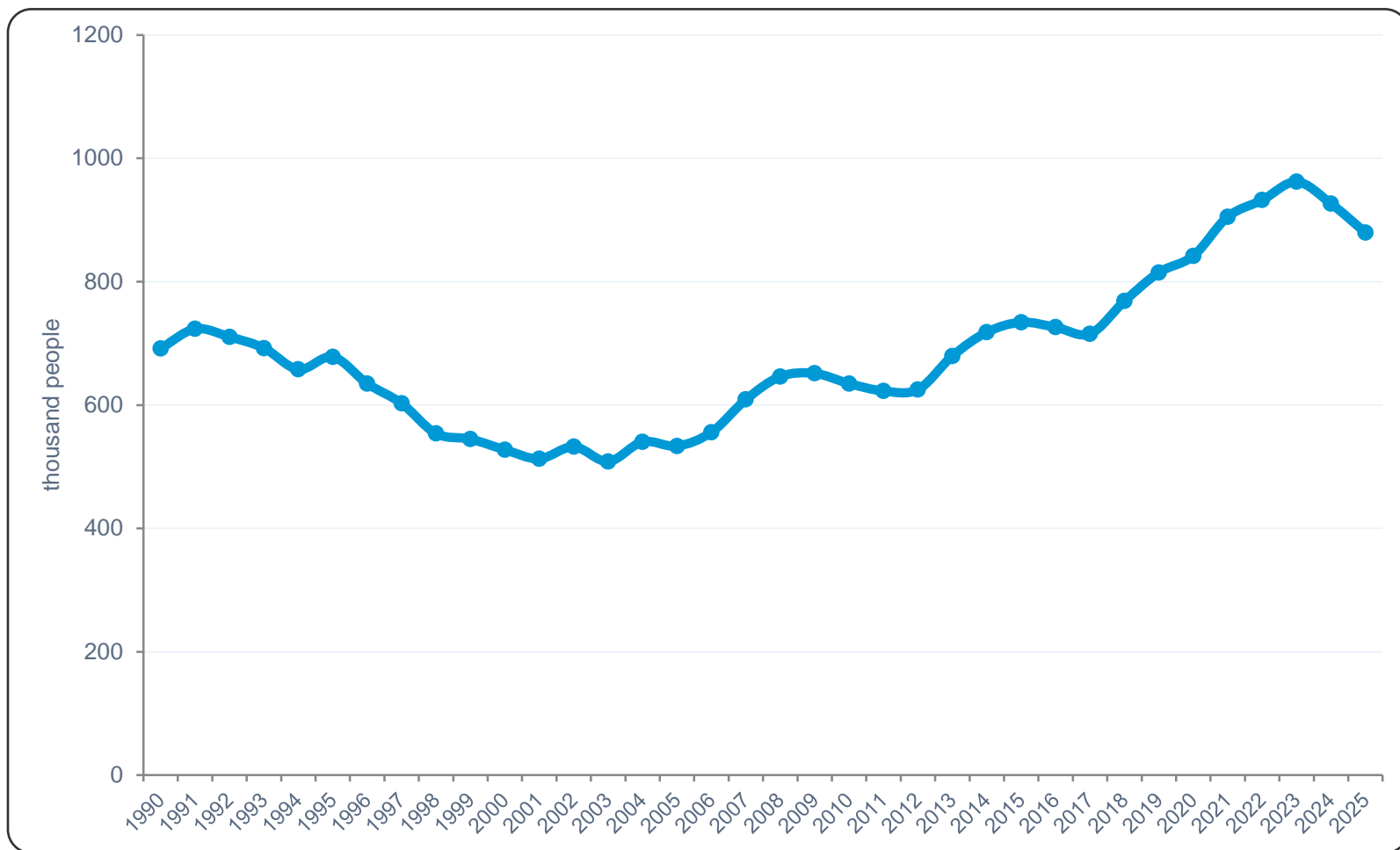
**Internal migration**

Young people are concentrated in Tashkent and large cities



# ★ Fertility: 35 years of fluctuation

Number of births in the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1990–2025



## Key points

1991

**723 thousand**

Historical maximum

2003

**508 thousand**

Deep minimum of the 1990s – 2000s

2023

**962 thousand**

A new historical peak

2025

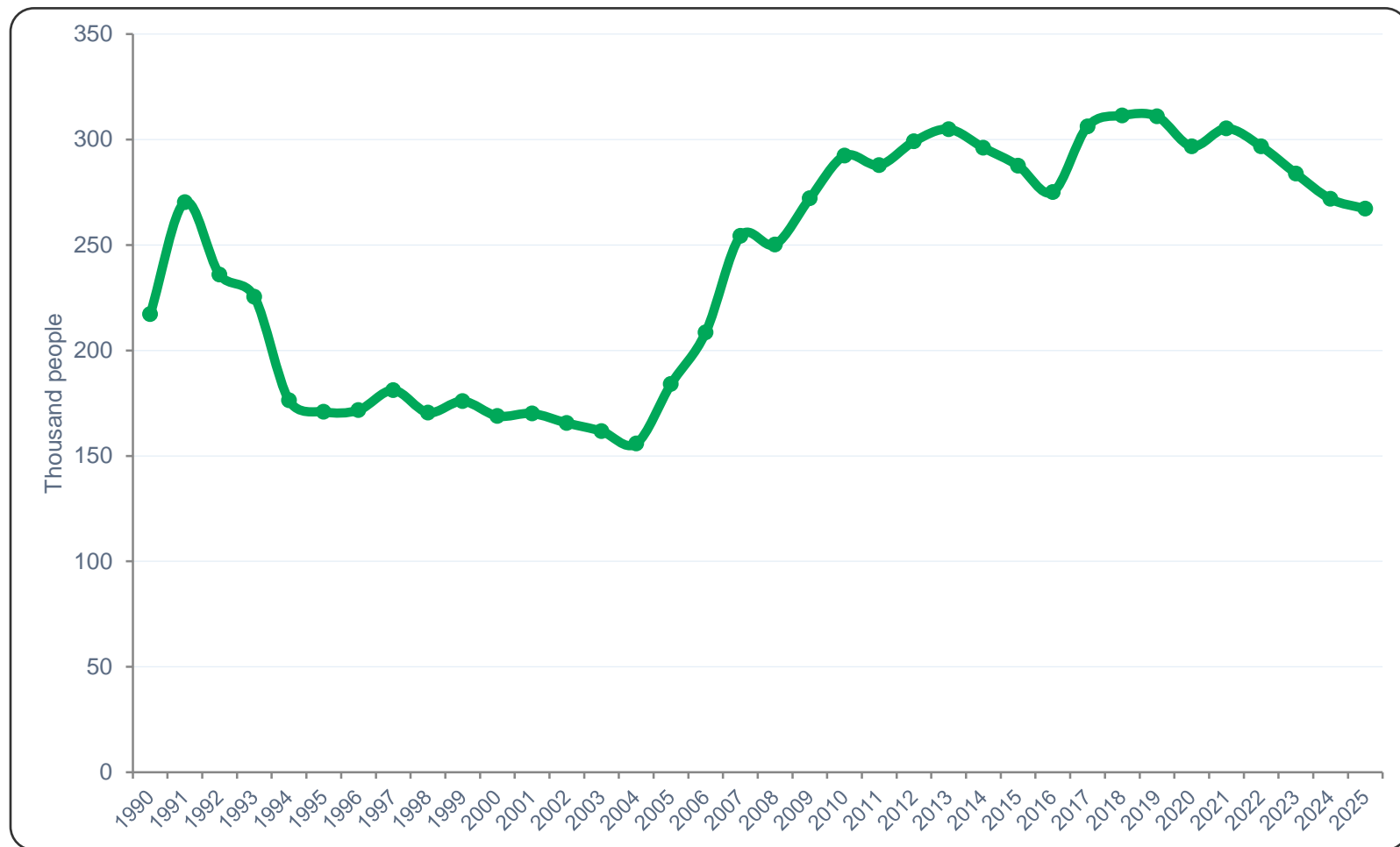
**880 thousand**

A decrease of 82.4 thousand (-8.5%)



# ★ Marriages: Three-year decline for the first time in a decade

Number of registered marriages, 1990–2025



## What has happened?

Peak 2019: **311 thousand marriages**

Registered in 2025

**267.1 thousand marriages**

- minimum for 10 years.

The downward trend began in 2022 and has continued for four consecutive years

# Population pyramid, 2026

Structure of permanent population as of January 1 (thousand people)



## Analysis

A noticeable "trough" in the 20-24 age groups

Women 20–24: **1,244 thousand**

Women 30–34 : **1,571 thousand**

Today's 20-24 year-olds were born in 2001-2005.

*years of minimum birth rate.*

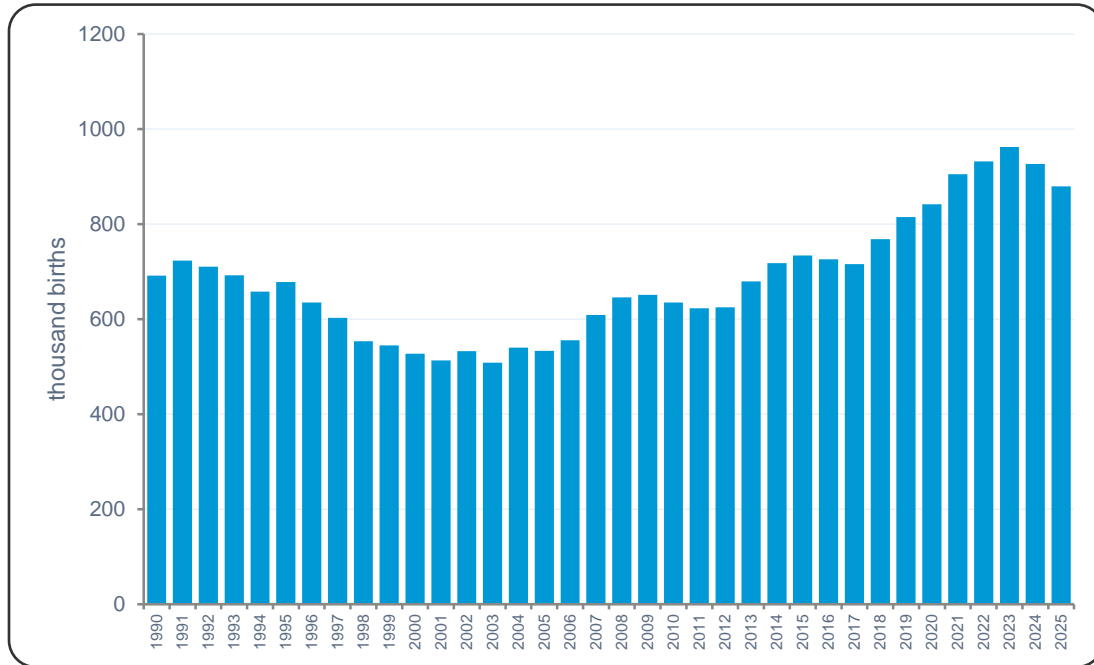
This "trough" is the main demographic feature of the current moment.

# ★ Echoes of the demographic decline of 1996–2003

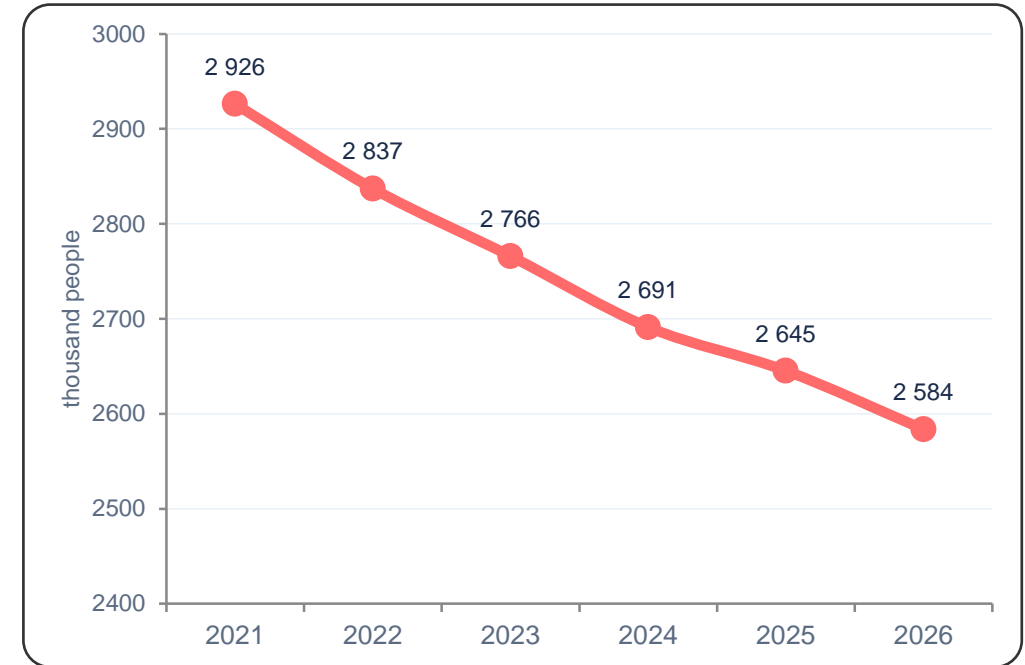
*The past shapes the present: how those born 20 years ago influence today's marriages*

Between 1996 and 2003, 508,000 and 635,000 children were born annually in the country—an average of 25% fewer than in the early 1990s. Girls born during these years are now aged 22–29—the core of marriageable and fertile age. Their numbers are smaller than those of older cohorts, which directly reduces the absolute numbers of marriages and births.

BIRTH BY YEAR

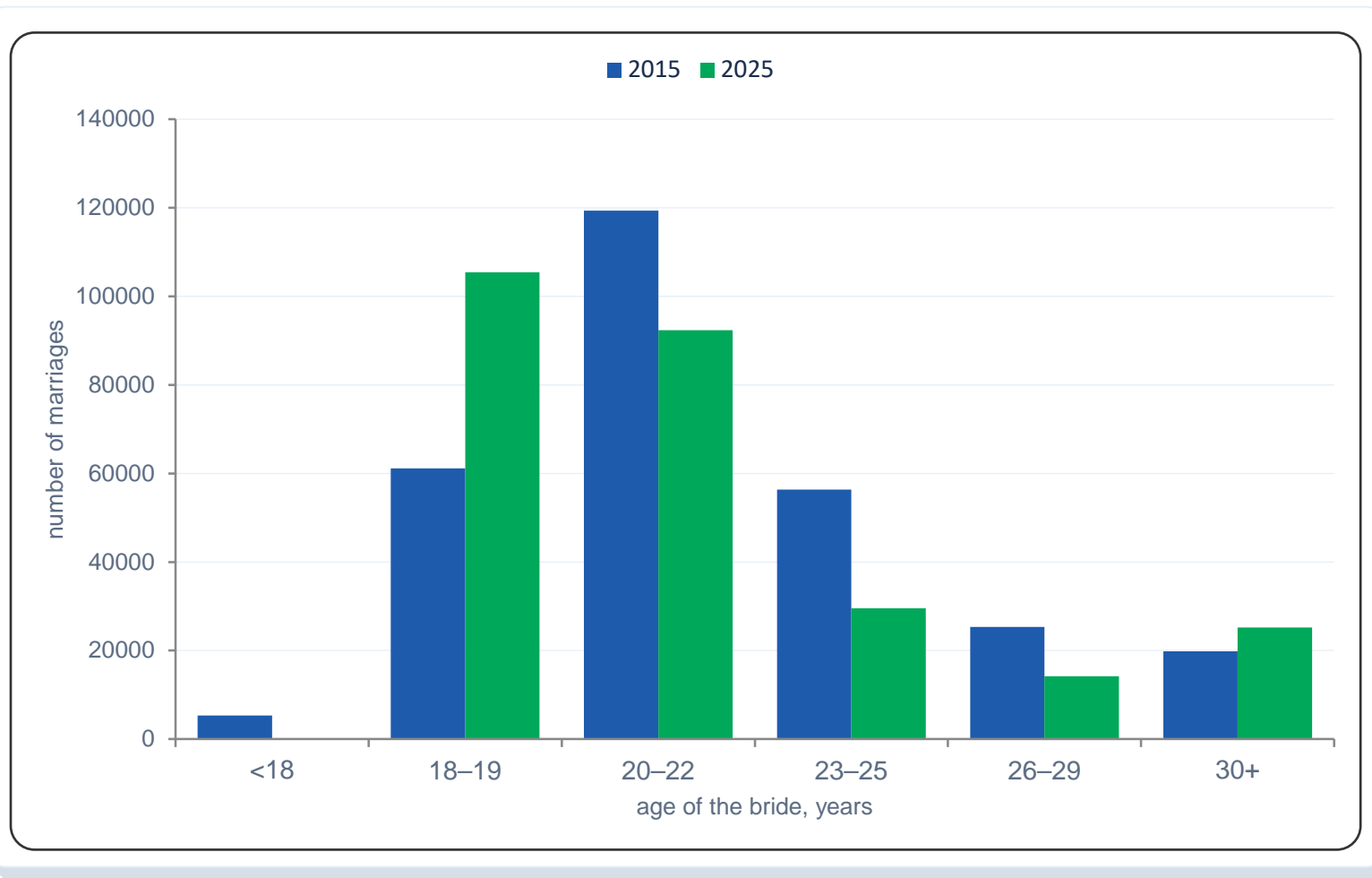


WOMEN 20–29 YEARS OLD



# ★ Marriages by bride's age: 2015 → 2025

Comparison of the age structure of registered marriages



Complete annual registry office data. Total marriages: 2015 — 287.6 thousand, 2025 — 267.1 thousand.

## Structural shift

There are almost no girls under 18 left.

*Early marriages have disappeared.*

**Group 18-19 has grown up**

and has become the most widespread—young women are still marrying very early.

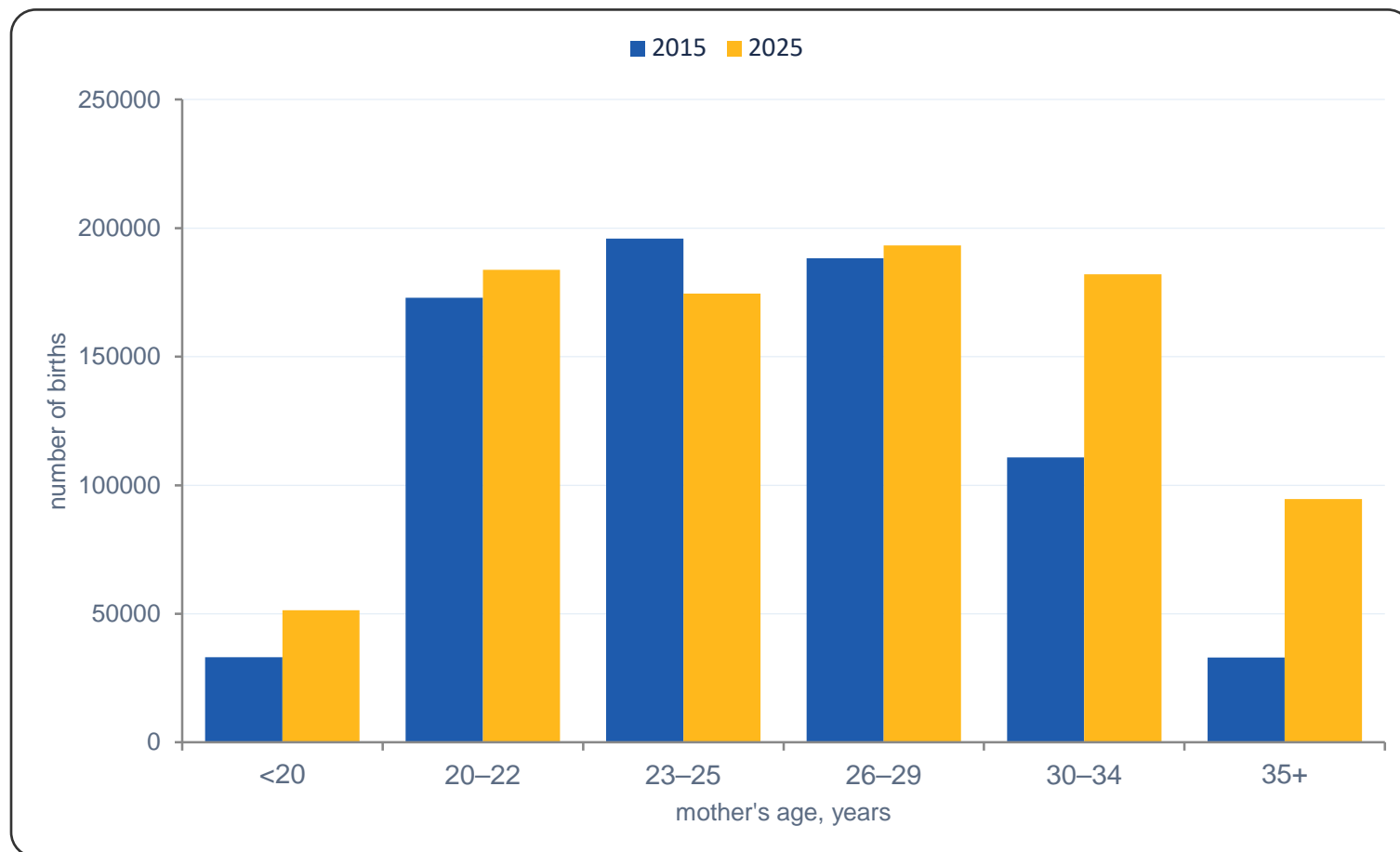
**Group 20-22 has decreased**

Despite its traditional significance, *this is a result of the small size of the cohorts born in the 2000s.*



# ★ Births by mother's age: mothers' age is increasing

Comparison of the age structure of births from 2015 to 2025



Complete annual data. Total births: 2015 – 734.1 thousand, 2025 – 879.6 thousand.

## Shift to older mothers

### Age 20–22

remains widespread, but its share of the total number of births is declining.

### Group 30–34

has become one of the largest in terms of number of births.

### Group 35+

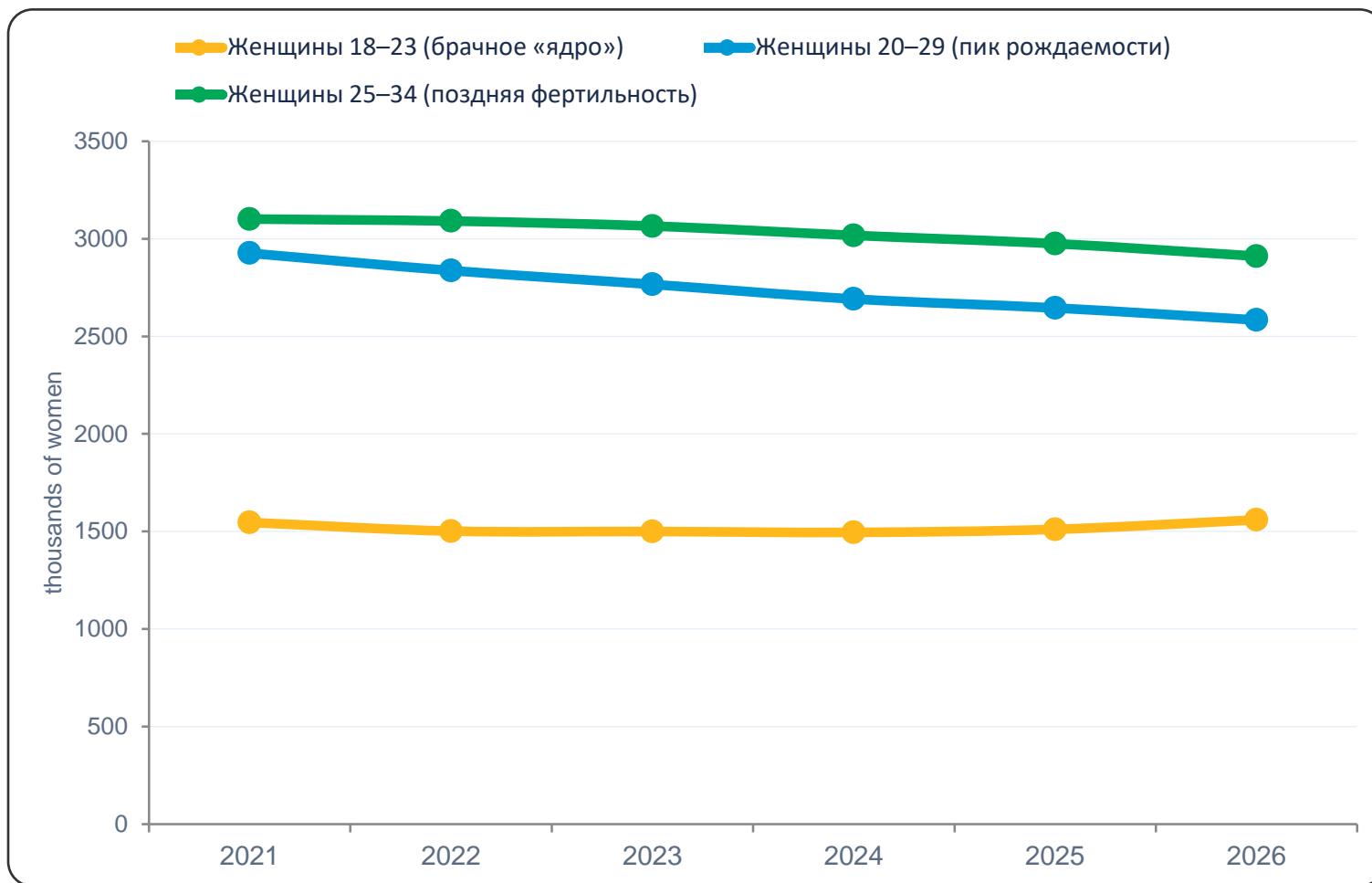
has grown **several times** compared to 2015.

*This softens the decline in the birth rate: older women compensate for the shortage of young women.*



# ★ Fewer women aged 20–29 means fewer marriages and births

Key demographic cohort population sizes, 2021–2026



## Link to declining marriages and births

**-11.7%**

Change in the number of women aged 20–29 years for 2021–2026

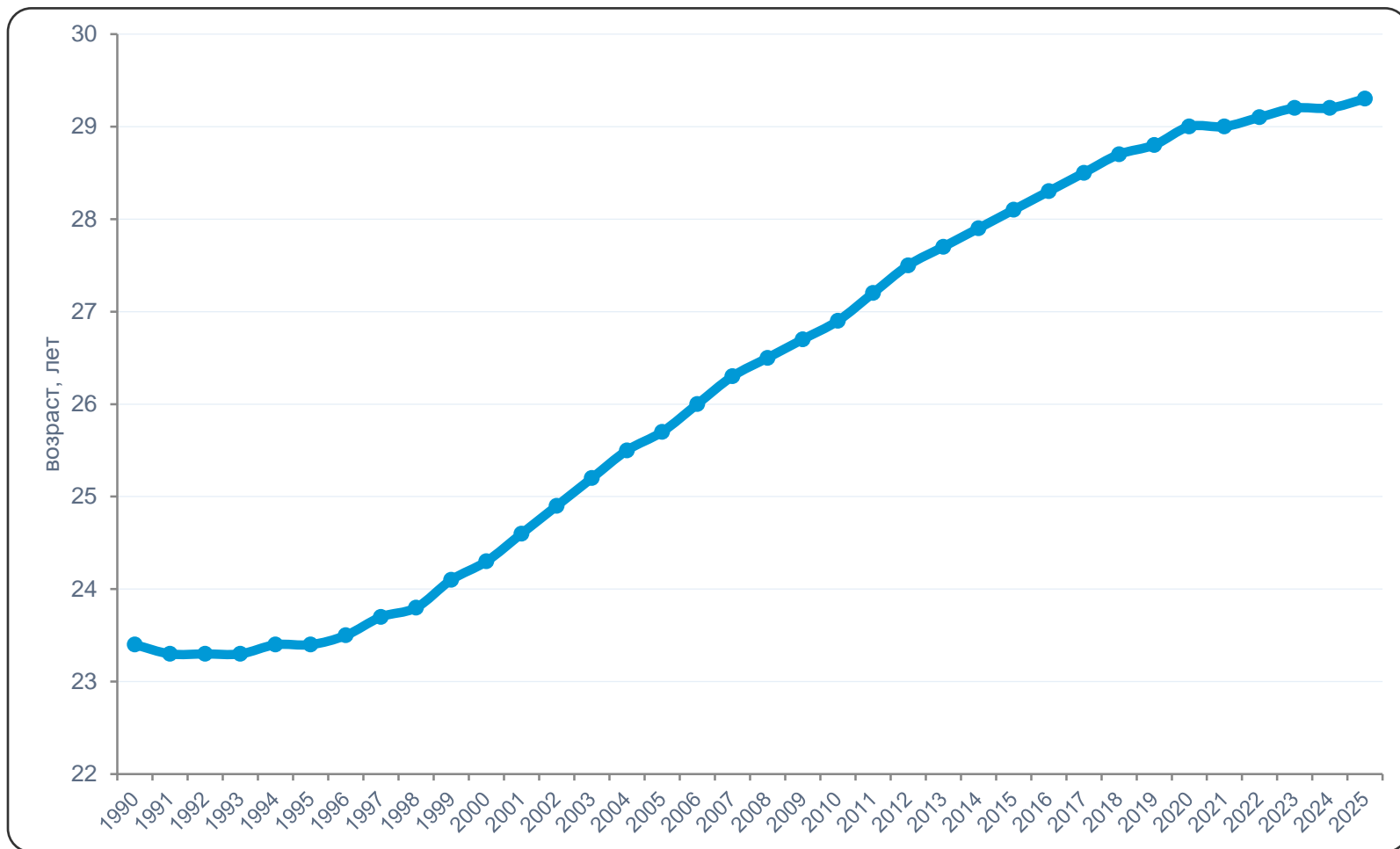
**-6.1%**

Change in the number of women aged 25–34 years — the main fertile group

*The 20-29 age cohort is shrinking, while the 25-34 age cohort is still growing. When the 1996-2003 "bottom" reaches 25-34, the decline will intensify.*

# ★ The average age of the population has been growing for almost 35 years in a row

Average age of residents of Uzbekistan, 1990–2025



## Demographic aging

1990: **23.4 years**

2025: **29.3 years**

**+5.9 years**

for 35 years

Uzbekistan remains one of the region's youngest countries, but the rate of aging has accelerated since 2000.

# ✦ Internal migration: the big picture in 2025

Who is moving where within Uzbekistan?

**252,8** thousand

Arrived (internal migration)

**261,8** thousand

Departed (internal migration)

**56%** women

The proportion of women among migrants

**74%** to cities

The share of arrivals in cities

## Gender and spatial patterns



**Women are more mobile**

Among the migrants, 141,595 are women versus 111,197 men. This is largely due to marriage—the bride moves in with her husband's family.



**The city is the main magnet**

Of all those who arrived, 187,500 people moved to cities. Rural areas are losing their young people.



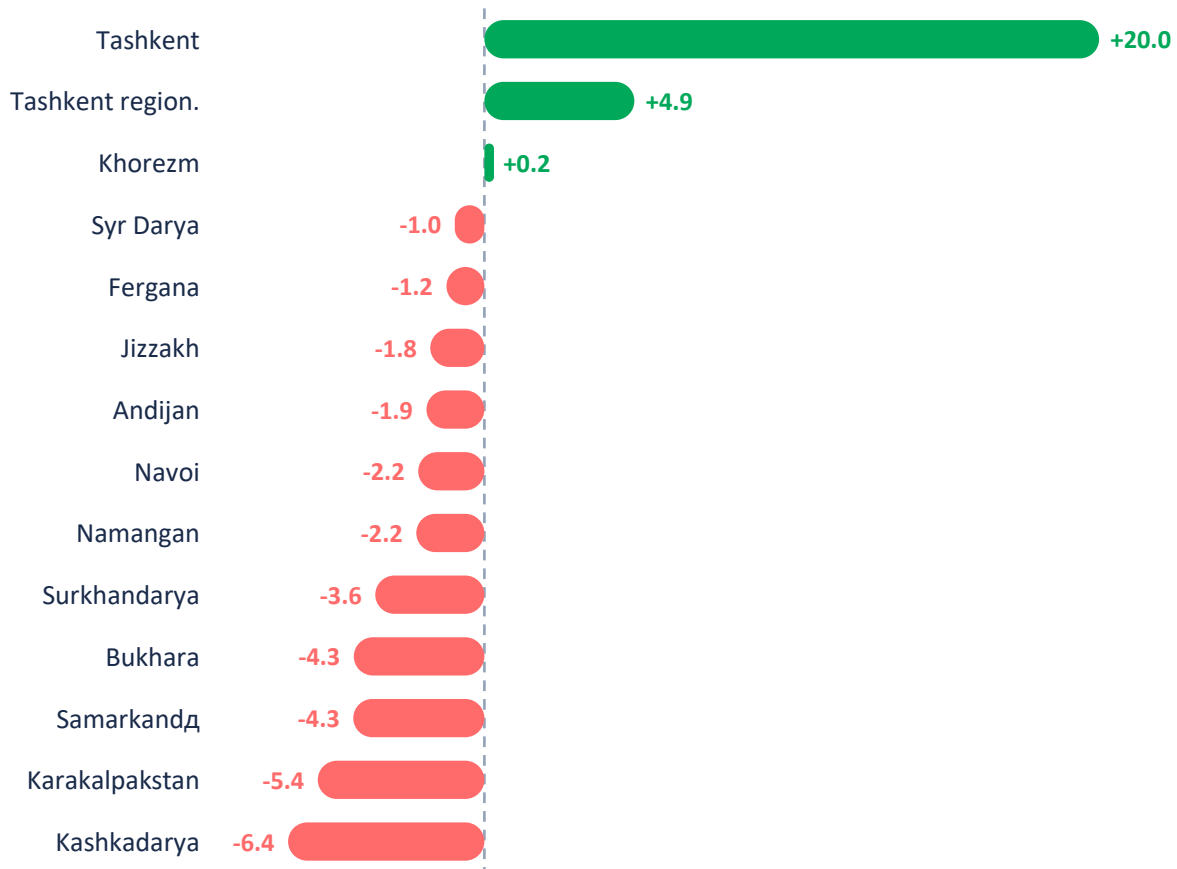
**Tashkent is the center of attraction**

Of all 14 regions, only the capital and Tashkent region have a positive balance. The remaining regions are losing population.

# Who's losing and who's gaining: the net migration

Net internal migration by region, 2025 (thousand people)

Net internal migration, thousand people (2025)



## Only two regions

show a positive balance

### ↑ Attraction magnets

Tashkent +20.0 thousand.

Tashkent region +4.9 thousand

### ↓ Regions of outflow (top 3)

Kashkadarya - 6.4 thousand

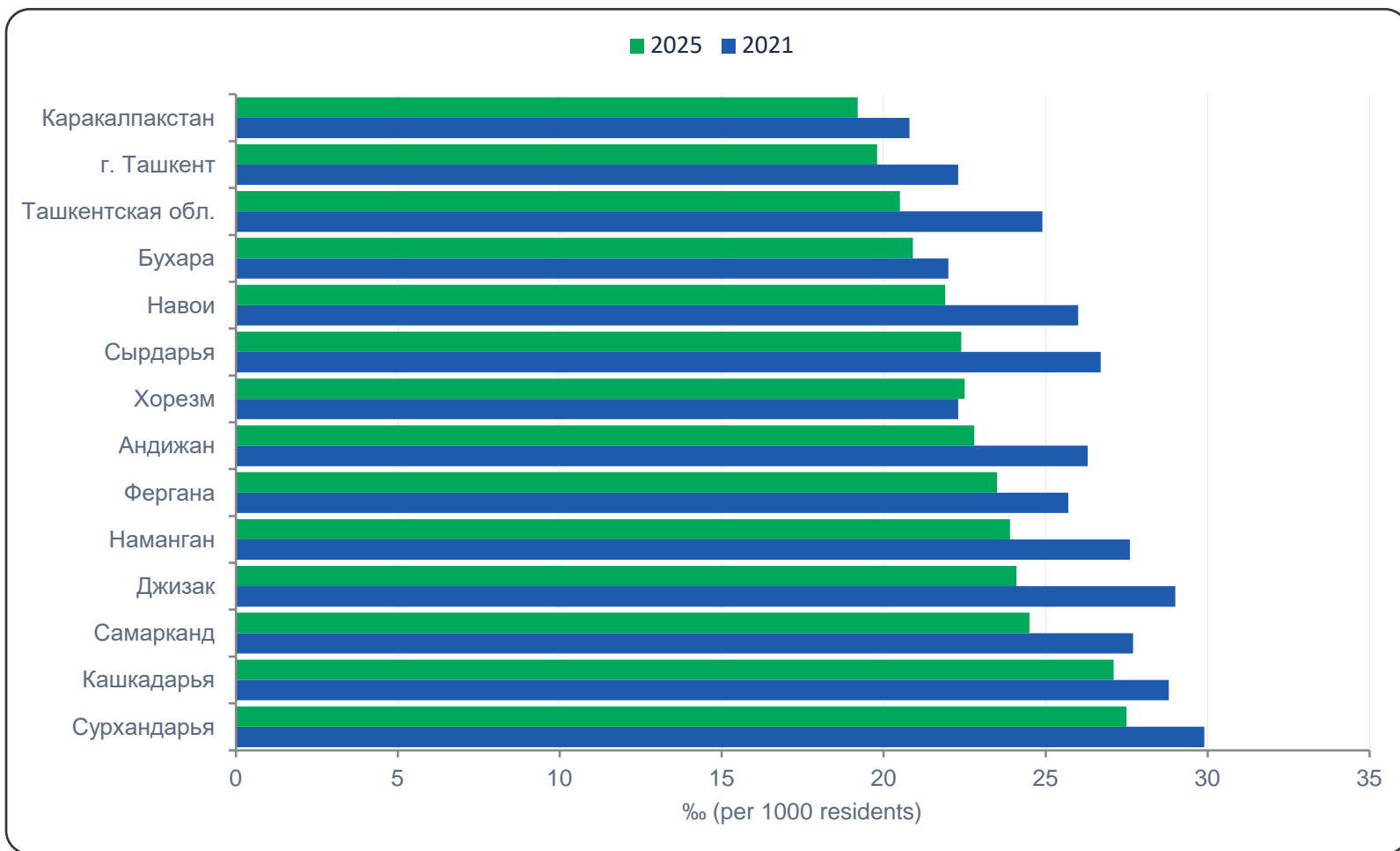
Karakalpakstan -5.4 thousand

Samarkand -4.3 thousand

*Tashkent attracts migrants from all over the country, primarily young and able-bodied.*

# Regional differences in fertility

Total fertility rate (per 1,000 residents), 2021 and 2025



## The South gives birth, the capital does not

Leaders (south and east):

Surkhandarya - 27.5%

Kashkadarya - 27.1%

Outsiders (north and center):

Karakalpakstan - 19.2%

Tashkent city - 19.8%

The decline is widespread:

The birth rate

fell from 25.9% in 2021

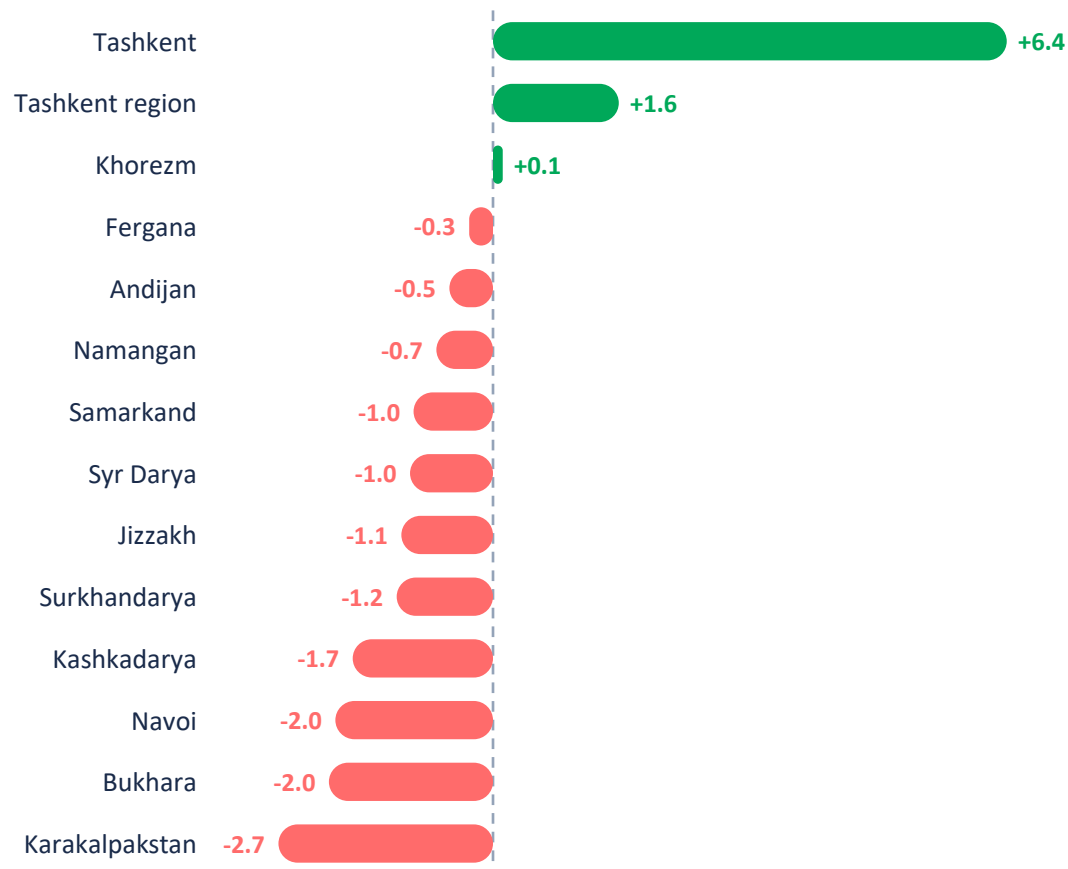
to 23.2% in 2025.



# ★ Where are young people migrating – and why?

Concentration in Tashkent and comparison with other regions

Net migration rate, ‰ (per 1000 residents, 2024)



## WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE GO TO TASHKENT?

### 01 Education

The country's leading universities are concentrated in Tashkent

### 02 Work

Salaries in the capital are 1.5–2 times higher than in the regions

### 03 Marriage

Migrant women predominate: 56% are brides moving to join their husbands

### 04 Services sector

Retail, IT, and government services are jobs for those aged 20–35

→ Tashkent: +6.4‰ — the only region with a noticeable influx

# Conclusions and observations

*What we saw in the data for different population groups*

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## **1** The decline in marriages and births is linked to population structure

The decline in the number of marriages (-4.6 thousand in 2025, minimum for 10 years) and births (-82.4 thousand, -8.5%) is largely explained by the fact that only a few cohorts born in 1996–2003 entered marriage and childbearing age.

## **2** The age of mothers and brides is increasing

The proportion of births to mothers over 30 has doubled, and the number of married women aged 18–19 has increased, compared to a decline in those aged 20–22. These are behavioral changes that are not fully explained by the "echo" phenomenon.

## **3** Internal migration is concentrating young people in Tashkent

Only Tashkent (+20,000) and Tashkent region (+5,000) have a positive population balance. All the other 12 regions are losing population, primarily young people.

## **4** Regional polarization of fertility

The south (Surkhandarya 27.5‰, Kashkadarya 27.1‰) has a fertility rate almost 1.5 times higher than the north (Karakalpakstan 19.2‰) or the capital (19.8‰). These differences will determine regional growth over the next 20 years.