

# EFFECT OF URBANIZATION ON POPULATION STRUCTURE IN U. A. R.

*by*

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## INTRODUCTION

Urban areas commonly exert a differential pull on males and females at different age groups. The result is an uneven distribution of the sexes in urban and rural communities. As one might expect, sex ratios vary considerably among individual urban areas due to the nature of the area. For example, where automation and heavy industries exist, one expects more males.

Furthermore, it is usually true that the age composition differs according to the degree of urbanization. Urban areas are usually heavily populated by young and middle-aged adults of working age.

## POPULATION STRUCTURE

Urbanization is considered as a process of growth and development of communities with rural characteristics to communities with urban characteristics. These characteristics include the pattern of economic activities of the population and their occupations, besides their level of education, dwelling, expenditure and living in general. There is more than one criterion for distinguishing urban from rural localities and the U.A.R. uses a straight forward indicator used also by many other countries, viz. the number of people in the locality.

Urban areas always attract large migrations from rural areas for many reasons.

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Urbanization is proceeding at a much faster rate in the developing than in the developed countries.

2 (a) — *Population Distribution* :

Table (1) shows the percentage distribution of rural and urban population in U.A.R. in census years, 1927, 1937, 1947 and 1960.

TABLE 1  
Percentage Distribution of Rural and Urban population  
in U.A.R. for the Census years 1927, 1937, 1947 and 1960

Year	1927	1937	1947	1960
Rural	73	72	66	62
Urban	27	28	34	38

The table shows that the degree of urbanization rises very slowly from 1927 to 1937 and then quickly to 1947 and 1960.

2 (b) — *Age Composition* :

It is usually true that the age composition differs according to the degree of urbanization. Urban areas are usually heavily populated by young and middle-aged adults of working age.

Table (2) shows the age composition in rural and urban areas in UAR in 1960, since it is not available for other census years.

TABLE 2  
Percentage Age Distribution of Rural and Urban population  
in U.A.R. for the Census years 1927, 1937, 1947 and 1960

Age	1927*		Total	1937*		Total	1947*		Total	1960		
	Urb	Rur		Urb	Rur		Urb	Rur		Urb	Rur	Total
—15			38.2			42.2			40.6	43.6	42.3	48.2
15—			45.1			44.2			44.9	41.5	49.9	40.5
44												
45+			16.3			13.6			14.5	14.9	17.9	16.8
Total				28	72		34	66		38	52	

(\*) Urban and Rural age distributions are not available.

It is noticed that there is a higher proportion of working age (15 to 44 years old) in Urban than in Rural areas and a lower percentage of those aged 45 years and over in urban than in rural areas.

It is evident that the age distribution is the result of selective migration in which the pull on young adults is particularly obvious.

It is also clear from Table (3) that both fertility and mortality rates are higher in rural areas than in urban, but the rate of natural increase is higher in urban areas. This table shows the birth rate, death rate and rate of growth for UAR in 1934 and 1959.

Furthermore, the percentage increase is much higher in urban than in rural areas as is shown in Table (4).

TABLE 3  
Birth Rate, Death Rate and Rate of Growth for Urban and Rural areas (U.A.R. in 1937 and 1959)

Year Rate	1934		1959	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Birth	44.4	49.1	44.1	45.2
Death	29.5	36.0	17.8	19.4
Growth	14.9	13.1	26.3	25.8

TABLE 4  
Population in Urban and Rural Areas of U.A.R.  
in 1937, 1947 and 1960 Referred to 1927 as Base

	1927	1937	1947	1960
Rural	100	110.2	121.6	155.5
Urban	100	117.9	167.0	258.9
Total	100	112.3	133.8	183.3

In UAR, it is generally expected that more males live in urban areas to benefit from the available employment opportunities. Most males of working age migrate from rural to urban areas leaving their females behind. Thus, the sex ratio is generally higher for males in areas.

Table (5) gives the sex ratios (number of females per 100 males) in urban and rural areas in census years.

TABLE 5  
Number of Females per 100 Males in Urban  
and Rural areas of UAR in the Census years  
1927, 1937, 1947 and 1960

Year	1927	1937	1947	1960
Rural	104	101	104	100
Urban	94	96	98	97

#### SPECIAL CASE OF FOUR INDUSTRIAL AREAS

We will consider four areas which were industrialized recently. El-Mahalla is a centre for textile industries that grew very quickly after the second world war and where there is a huge industrial plant. Kafr el-Dawar is also a textile centre which grew very rapidly, but being a few miles from Alexandria, this growth does not show clearly since a large proportion of the workers live in Alexandria and commute to Kafr el-Dawar making use of public transport facilities. Helwan grew recently as a centre of steel, motor car and related industries. Aswan work of building the Aswan high dam in the late fifties.

Table (6) gives details of age distribution, sex ratios and rates of increase for the census years 1927, 1937, 1947 and 1960.

As regards the rate of growth, the four areas show high rates of increase. These rates vary with the degree of industrialization. For example, steel and motor car industries were established at Helwan in the late fifties and the rate of population growth went up to 688.8 relative to 1927 as 100.

TABLE 6

Age Distribution, Sex Ratios and Population Increase  
(Relative to 1927) For Four Industrial Areas in  
the Census years 1927, 1937, 1947 and 1960

	ASWAN				HELWAN				KAFR EL-DAWAR				EL-MEHALLA			
	1927	1937	1947	1960	1927	1937	1947	1960	1927	1937	1947	1960	1927	1937	1947	1960
Population	1927	1937	1947	1960	1927	1937	1947	1960	1927	1937	1947	1960	1927	1937	1947	1960
Under 15																
years	31.6	35.7	36.7	39.8	36.4	38.7	37.7	43.7	—	42.2	40.8	47.1	40.4	38.7	38.1	47.4
15—44 yrs.	48.5	46.7	46.0	45.3	47.3	47.6	46.7	45.5	—	44.1	45.1	40.3	43.3	47.2	48.9	39.5
45 yrs. and over	19.9	17.6	17.3	15.0	16.2	14.2	15.8	10.8	—	13.7	14.0	12.7	16.3	14.1	13.1	13.1
Sex Ratios	90.9	88.8	85.7	87.7	100.2	101.8	100.9	91.4	103.9	104.5	104.9	102.7	102.9	91.0	89.9	96.3
Population increase (base 1927)	100.0	134.8	160.1	294.0	100.0	104.8	175.4	688.8	100.0	101.1	135.1	196.2	100.0	138.7	253.6	390.6



As regards sex ratios, in Aswan and Mahalla the ratios are smaller than expected, indicating an excess of males over females. In Kafr el-Dawar the ratios show a slight excess of females over males ; however, decreasing in 1960. The reason for this is that the area is very near to Alexandria and many male workers live there and commute to work.

In Helwan, there has been a slight excess of females up to 1947 which could be attributed to the nature of industries at Helwan up to that time. However, since the steel and car industries were established a male excess would be expected and this is shown to be the case for 1960.

As to the age distribution, it is clearly seen that the percentage of population aged 45 and over decreases rapidly with the degree of industrialization. For example in Helwan, when industrialization proceeded rapidly in the period 1947 to 1960 the population increased from 175.3% to 688.79% and the percentage aged 45 years and over decreased from 15.77% to 10.77%.

The percentages aged 15—44 in the four areas are generally high as one would expect.

#### REFERENCES

The Census data for 1927, 1937, 1947 and 1960 of U.A.R. Publications of the Department of Statistics and the Central Organization of Mobilization and Statistics.

Effet de l'urbanisation sur la structure de la population dans la R. A. U.

*Cette communication fait état des données suivantes :*

5. Le pourcentage de la population urbaine et celui de la population rurale dans la R.A.U. selon les quatre derniers recensements complets à savoir ceux de 1927, 1937, 1947 et 1960. Ce rapport indique que l'urbanisation s'accomplissait très lentement entre 1927 et 1937 et ensuite beaucoup plus rapidement entre 1937 et 1947 et de 1947 à 1960.
2. La composition de la population par âge montre que la population active (15—44 ans) est plus élevée pour les villes que dans la campagne.
3. Des indicateurs de fécondité et de mortalité démontrent que le taux de chacune est plus élevé les régions rurales que dans régions urbaines.



- . La rapport de masculinité en général, est plus élevé dans les villes que dans la campagne.
- . Les caractéristiques démographiques de quatre régions industrielles dans les années du recensement, prises comme exemple indiquent :
  - (a) un rapport positif entre l'urbanisation et le taux d'accroissement de la population.
  - (b) un rapport positif entre le rapport de masculinité et la proximité de grandes villes.
  - (c) un rapport négatif entre le pourcentage de la population âgé de 45 ans ou plus et le degré de l'industrialisation.