

**GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN.
ADMINISTRATIVE AND TERRITORIAL DESIGN OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UZBEKISTAN. POPULATION AND CLIMATE**

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ANNOTATION: The article examines the geographical position, administrative and territorial organization, population structure, and climatic conditions of the Republic of Uzbekistan through an analytical and systematic approach. Emphasizing the country's strategic location at the center of Central Asia, the study highlights Uzbekistan's role as a crucial geopolitical and economic corridor connecting major regional markets. The research outlines the nation's administrative framework, which includes the Republic of Karakalpakstan, twelve regions, and the capital city Tashkent, noting its significance in ensuring effective governance and regional development. Furthermore, the article explores demographic trends characterized by a predominantly young population and rapid urbanization, which collectively influence socio-economic transformation. The analysis also addresses the country's sharply continental climate, marked by extreme temperature variations, scarce precipitation, and high solar radiation, and evaluates its implications for agriculture, water management, and environmental sustainability. Overall, the annotation underscores the multifaceted factors that shape Uzbekistan's national development and geographic identity.

Keywords: Uzbekistan; geographical position; administrative-territorial structure; Central Asia; geopolitical significance; population dynamics; demographic structure; urbanization; continental climate; environmental conditions; regional development; governance; natural resources; socio-economic transformation.

Uzbekistan is an independent and sovereign state located in the center of Central Asia. It is a landlocked country with a territory of 448,900 square kilometers. The capital city is Tashkent, which serves as the political, economic, and cultural center of the country. Uzbekistan is known for its ancient cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara,

and Khiva, which played an important role in the historical Silk Road and contributed to global cultural and scientific development. Geographical Position of Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan occupies a strategic central position in the heart of Central Asia. It is one of the world's only two double landlocked countries, meaning it is surrounded entirely by other landlocked states. The country lies between 38° and 45° north latitude and 56° and 73° east longitude. Uzbekistan shares borders with five countries: Kazakhstan to the north and northwest, Kyrgyzstan to the northeast, Tajikistan to the southeast, Afghanistan to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southwest. This central location makes Uzbekistan an important crossroads for regional transportation, trade, and cultural exchange.

The natural landscape of Uzbekistan includes the Kyzylkum Desert, the fertile Fergana Valley, mountain ranges in the east and southeast, and major rivers such as the Amu Darya and Syr Darya. These features shape the country's environment, agriculture, and settlement patterns.

Uzbekistan's geographical position makes it a key transit hub, a vital partner in regional cooperation, and a significant link in historical and modern trade routes across the Eurasian continent.

Administrative and Territorial Design of Uzbekistan: The administrative and territorial design of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a structured, multi-level governance system aimed at ensuring effective public administration, balanced regional development, and coherent socio-economic management across the country.

Uzbekistan consists of 14 major administrative units. These include the Republic of Karakalpakstan, 12 regions (viloyats), and Tashkent City, which holds the status of an independent administrative unit and serves as the nation's capital. The Republic of Karakalpakstan has an autonomous status. It operates under its own constitution and parliament, known as the Jokargy Kenes, and has legislative authority over certain internal matters. This autonomy reflects its unique cultural identity and regional characteristics. The 12 regions of Uzbekistan are: Andijan Region, Bukhara Region, Fergana Region, Jizzakh Region, Kashkadarya Region, Namangan Region, Navoi Region, Samarkand Region, Surkhandarya Region, Syrdarya Region, Tashkent Region, and Khorezm Region. Each region is further divided into districts, towns, urban settlements, and rural communities, forming a comprehensive administrative hierarchy. Each region and district is led by a hokim, who represents the highest executive authority at the local level. Hokims are responsible for implementing national policies, overseeing regional development programs, managing local budgets, and ensuring the provision of public services. Local self-governance in Uzbekistan is carried out through mahalla institutions. Mahallas play an essential role in community-level administration, social assistance, public participation, and the preservation of traditional social values. They serve as an important bridge between the government

and citizens. The administrative–territorial system of Uzbekistan is based on key principles such as centralization with gradual decentralization, territorial integrity, administrative efficiency, and balanced regional development. These principles help maintain political stability and promote sustainable socio-economic progress. In recent years, Uzbekistan has implemented significant reforms to modernize its administrative system. These reforms include strengthening the financial independence of regions, expanding local government responsibilities, improving public accountability, and digitalizing administrative services. Overall, the administrative and territorial design of Uzbekistan represents a dynamic and evolving system that supports effective governance, regional development, and long-term national progress.

Population of Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan has a population of approximately 38million people (2025 estimate), making it the most populous country in Central Asia. The demographic structure is predominantly young, with about 30% of the population under the age of 14. This youthful population provides a dynamic labor force for the country's economic development. The population is ethnically diverse. About 83% are Uzbeks, while Tajiks (5%), Kazakhs (3%), Russians (2%), Karakalpaks (2%), Tatars (1%), and other ethnic groups make up the remainder. This diversity is reflected in the country's rich cultural heritage, multiple languages, and various religious practices, predominantly Islam. Population distribution is uneven. Major urban centers such as Tashkent (2.6 million), Samarkand (540,000), Bukhara (280,000), and Namangan (550,000) have high population densities. Rural areas, particularly in the deserts and mountainous regions, are sparsely populated. Uzbekistan has experienced rapid urbanization, with increasing migration from rural to urban areas for better employment, education, and living standards. The country has a moderate population growth rate of about 1.2% per year, supported by improvements in healthcare, education, and living conditions. Life expectancy is approximately 76 years, and the fertility rate is around 2.5 children per woman.

Climate of Uzbekistan :Uzbekistan has a continental climate, characterized by hot, dry summers and cold winters, typical of Central Asia. The climate is mostly arid or semi-arid, with significant seasonal and daily temperature fluctuations. Summers are extremely hot, with temperatures in lowland regions often exceeding 40°C. For example, the Kyzylkum Desert and the Fergana Valley experience average July temperatures of 35–38°C. Winters are cold, with temperatures in northern and mountainous areas dropping to –10°C or lower, while southern lowlands experience milder conditions around 0–5°C.

Annual rainfall is low: Desert areas: 100–150 mm per year. Valleys: 200–300 mm per year. Mountains: up to 500 mm per year. Most precipitation falls during spring and winter, while summers are generally dry. Uzbekistan receives about 2800–3200 hours of sunshine per year, contributing to high evaporation rates and arid conditions,

especially in desert regions. This climate affects agriculture, water resources, and ecosystems.

Implications of the Climate: The continental and arid climate impacts:

Agriculture: Irrigation is essential for cotton, wheat, fruits, and vegetables.

Water management: Efficient use of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers is critical.

Population distribution: People mainly live in fertile river valleys and oases.

Environmental challenges: Desertification and the Aral Sea ecological crisis are major concerns.

In summary, the Republic of Uzbekistan's demographic structure and climatic characteristics represent foundational elements that shape the nation's socio-economic development, environmental resilience, and long-term strategic planning. The population, currently exceeding 38 million, is characterized by its youthful age profile, rapid urbanization, and remarkable ethnic diversity, including Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kazakhs, Karakalpaks, Russians, and other minority groups. This heterogeneous demographic composition not only enriches the country's cultural and social landscape but also provides a substantial reservoir of human capital, essential for sustaining labor-intensive sectors, driving technological innovation, and fostering economic diversification. Concurrently, Uzbekistan's continental and predominantly arid climate exerts a profound influence on agriculture, water resource management, and human settlement patterns. Hot, dry summers coupled with cold winters, limited precipitation, and high solar radiation necessitate sophisticated irrigation systems, strategic land use planning, and sustainable environmental management. The climatic conditions, particularly the aridity of the Kyzylkum Desert and the ecological degradation of the Aral Sea region, underscore the urgency of implementing integrated environmental policies to mitigate desertification, preserve biodiversity, and ensure long-term water security. The interplay between Uzbekistan's dynamic population and its challenging climatic conditions highlights the need for comprehensive, forward-looking strategies. Policymakers must align demographic potential with sustainable resource utilization, urban development, and agricultural productivity. By capitalizing on the strengths of its youthful workforce, promoting regional equity, and addressing environmental vulnerabilities, Uzbekistan can consolidate socio-economic growth, strengthen national resilience, and reinforce its strategic position in Central Asia. In essence, understanding the intrinsic relationship between population dynamics and climate is indispensable for charting a sustainable developmental trajectory, enhancing human well-being, and securing the ecological and socio-economic stability of Uzbekistan for future generations.

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