

## **The Modern Tendencies of Fertility in Tbilisi – Rustavi Agglomeration**

**Giorgi Meladze**  
**Nodar Elizbarashvili**

Department of Geography, TSU, 3 ave. I.Chanchavadze II.

Tbilisi – Rustavi agglomeration mainly is spreading along the river Mtkvari, is located at the spot where several historical and ethnographic regions meet. Agglomeration's role in the entire system of Georgian settlement is mainly based on its location on the cross-point of the basic country settlement axis, as well as the regional and transnational one.

Tbilisi-Rustavi agglomeration consists of four municipal territories and cities (Tbilisi, Rustavi, Mtskheta, Gardabani).

The crude birth rate for abovementioned cities has been declining rapidly since the 1990's. By 1995 in the capital crude birth rate dropped to historically low levels (10.3‰).

It should be noted that the absolute number of newborns in 1990-2014 fell by 11.2 percent in Tbilisi. The same phenomenon in Rustavi reached more larger scale (30.3 percent).

In 2014 a higher crude birth rate in Rustavi was determined by the fact that in the analyzed period (1990-2015) the population of Tbilisi and Rustavi has decreased by 12.9 and 22.6 percent respectively. In calculating the coefficients, this fact makes some changes.

At the beginning of the 1990s crude birth rates in Gardabani and Mtskheta provides extended reproduction of population. Worsening socio-economic conditions in 1990's were reflected in the processes of fertility of these two cities.

In the 1990-1994 years in Gardabani and Mtskheta sharply reduced the size of the crude birth rates (by 10.1 and 8.1 points respectively). Since 1995 to 2003 birth coefficients provided the reproduction of the population in Gardabani. Fixed in 1995-2009 and 2011, crude birth rates in Mtskheta, demand an explanation. The same applies to the data of Gardabani for 2004-2009.

In the mentioned period, calculated by authors - on the basis of the official data - the crude birth rates looks unreal in the analyzed cities. For example, in Mtskheta the marked rate in 1995 made up 53.3‰ and 70.1‰ in Gardabani (2004). That is clearly far from reality. The reason of this fact can be explained by incomplete statistical account of demographic phenomenon.

Using the method of interpolation by the authors was estimated fertility rates, which are more realistically characterize the situation.

In recent years, in Gardabani and Mtskheta observed the process of increasing and decreasing of birth rates. According to the latest data (2014), the coefficients in Gardabani and Mtskheta made up 15.2 and 13.4‰ respectively, which were lower than coefficients fixed in Tbilisi and Rustavi.