

Shusha Demographic Data

Qarabag.com presents Shusha's demographic data from 1823 till 1989. 25 official and academic sources were used in the preparation of this reference material.

1823: The number of families – 1462

[\[Report of P.I. Mogilevskiy and P.N. Ermolov A.P. To Ermolov on the revenues of the Karabakh Province, 02.05.1823\]](#)

[\[Annexation of Eastern Armenia to Russia \(collection of documents\) v. II \(1814-1830\). Academy of Sciences of the Armenia SSR, Yerevan 1978. P. 122\]](#)

1864: Population – 20.297

[\[The Caucasian calendar for 1865 published at the Central Office of the Governor of the Caucasus. Tiflis, 1864. P. 125\]](#)

1874: Population – 30.000. Tatars – 16.000; armenians – 14.000.

[\[The Caucasian calendar for 1886 issued by order of the Head of the Civic Unit in the Caucasus under the Caucasus Statistical Committee. Tiflis, 1885. P. 125\]](#)

1882: Population – 24.552

[\[The Caucasian calendar for 1883 issued by order of the Head of the Civic Unit in the Caucasus under the Caucasus Statistical Committee. Tiflis, 1882. S. 1, P. 252\]](#)

1886: Population –26.806 (men– 15.786, women – 11.020)..

Armenians – 15.188

Turks (tatars) – 11.595 (7045 – men, 4550 – women)

Russians – 22

Jewish – 2

[\[The Caucasian calendar for 1891 issued by order of the Head of the Civic Unit in the Caucasus under the Caucasus Statistical Committee. Tiflis, 1890. The Appendix "Data on the space and population of the Caucasus", pp. 10;](#)

[Caucasian calendar for 1895 issued by order of the Head of the Civic Unit in the Caucasus under the Caucasus Statistical Committee. Tiflis, 1894. Section 5, pp.- 54-55;](#)

[the Caucasian calendar for 1902 issued by order of the Head of the Civic Unit in the Caucasus under the Caucasus Statistical Committee. Tiflis, 1901. Section 3, p. 29\]](#)

1891: Population – 26.780.

Armenian Gregorians – 15.160; Catholic Armenians – 2
Shias – 11.595 (7,045 men, 4,550 women); Sunnis – 0
Orthodox – 22
Jewish – 2

[\[The Caucasian calendar for 1897 issued by order of the Head of the Civic Unit in the Caucasus under the Caucasus Statistical Committee. Tiflis, 1896. Section 5, pp. 44-45\]](#)

1897: Population – 25.881

Ethno-religious composition

- Armenians– 14.240
- Armenian Gregorians – 14.335;
- Muslim armenians – 12,
- Catholic armenians – 9,
- Armenian Orthodox-6,
- Armenians of other denominations and atheists – 57
- Turks – 10.787

Of these, Tatars (Azerbaijanis) – 10,778 (Muslims – 10,777, 1 of Armenian-Gregorian Church)

- Russians – 396
- Polish – 133
- Georgians – 37
- Germans– 12
- Jewish – 4
- Baltic people – 2

By social status

- Bourgeois (middle class) – 15.755
- Peasants – 4.833
- Nobles (nobility) – 2.272
- Merchants – 593
- Clergy (all denominations) – 270

Natives of other states (not the Russian Empire)

- 330 (266 – men, 64 – women)
- 293 of them are natives of Persia

Population literacy

- Illiterate – 17.825
- Literate – 4.994
- High education – 36

[\[The Caucasian calendar for 1907 issued by order of the Head of the Civic Unit in the Caucasus under the Caucasus Statistical Committee. Tiflis, 1906. Appendix 3 "Distribution of the population of the Transcaucasian region by religion and native language according to the Census of 1897, p. 106;](#)

[The First Comprehensive Census of the Russian Empire in 1897 Publication of the Central Statistical Committee of the Ministry of the Interior, 1904. Elisabethpol Governorate, pp. 2-181\]](#)

1904: Population – 33.187

- Armenians – 17.982 (54%)
- Turks and other Muslim peoples – 14.548 (43.8%)
- Russians – 539

[\[The Caucasian calendar for 1907. Tiflis, 1906. // Information about the population of cities and towns of the Transcaucasia, pp. 322-323\]](#)

1910: Population – 42.016 (data of the Shusha Uyezd Administration).

- Men – 42.180
- Women – 17.836

[\[The Caucasian calendar for 1912. Tiflis, 1911 // Section 4 \(Statistical Department\), p. 237\]](#)

1913-1914: Population – 42.568 (according to the data of the Shusha Uyezd Administration as of 01.01.1914)

- Armenians – 22.416 (52.6%)
- Muslims – 18.890 (44.4%)
- Russians – 1188

[\[The Caucasian calendar for 1915. Tiflis, 1914. Statistical Department, pp. 218-219, 230-233\]](#)

1915: Population – 43.900

- Armenians –23.400 (53%)
- Turks – 19.100 (43.5%)
- Russians – 1.200

[\[Nagorno-Karabakh during the years of Soviet power \(short statistical collection\). Stepanakert, 1969. P. 9\]](#)

1919: According to the data of the “Bakinskiy Rabochiy” newspaper (21.12.1922), in 1919 there were almost equal numbers of Armenian and Muslim population in the city of Shusha.

[\[The history of the formation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of the Azerbaijan SSR \(documents and materials\). Baku, 1989. P. 136\]](#)

1921-1927: As a result of the hostilities of 1918-1920, the population decreased to 9,223 in 1921 (from 42,568 in 1914).

After the Decision of 1921 to establish the Armenian Autonomous Region of Nagorny Karabakh, the migration from Shushi intensified. The decision to relocate the administrative center from Shusha to Khankenda gave further impetus to the migration flow in 1923. This can be seen from the following trends of the population of Shushi:

- 1921 – 9.223

[\[Kocharan G. Nagorno-Karabakh, Baku, 1925. Page 8\]](#)

- 1923 – 6.976

[\[Kocharan G. Nagorno-Karabakh, Baku, 1925. Page 46\]](#)

- 1926 – 5.104 (men – 2487, women – 2617)

[\[Population of the Transcaucasia. National Census of 1926. Tiflis, 1928. P. 6\]](#)

The absolute predominance of Azerbaijanis among the population of Shushi in 1922 is reflected in the Census of educational institutions of Azerbaijan dated 31 January 1922. There were 11 urban schools in Shusha. The language of instruction in 10 was exclusively Turkic, and only one was taught in two languages – Turkic and Armenian.

[\[Census of Educational Institutions of Azerbaijan on 31 January 1922 – lists of educational](#)

[institutions. 1st edition – educational institutions. Baku, 1922. P. 100\]](#)

In 1926, 96% of the population were Azerbaijanis.

[\[Niftaliyev I. The Azerbaijani SSR in expansionist plans of the Armenians \(20s of 20th century\). Baku, 2010. P. 130\]](#)

In the “Report of the Government of the Azerbaijan SSR for 1925-1926”, it was noted that the city of Shusha is populated “by Turks in particular”.

[The history of the formation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of the Azerbaijan SSR of 1918 – 1925 (documents and materials). Baku, 1989. Pp. 319-320]

In a guidebook published in Moscow in 1927, it was reported that Shusha is inhabited by “exclusively Muslims”.

[\[Guidebook of the Transcaucasus. Caucasus. Moscow, 1927. P. 362\]](#)

1931: Population – 5.285

- Men – 2.915
- Women – 2.370
- Turks – 5.096 (96.4%)

The number of literate – 2.703

- Men – 1899
- Women – 804

[\[Census of Azerbaijan in 1931. Baku, 1932. Pp. 114-115\]](#)

1939: Population – 5.424

[\[Results of National Census in 1939 – Azerbaijan SSR. Moscow, 1963. P. 15\]](#)

1959: Population – 6.117

[\[Results of National Census in 1959 – Azerbaijan SSR. Moscow, 1963. P. 15\]](#)

1988: According to the city authorities, in mid-1988, the population of Shusha was about 14,000 people.

[\[“Bakinskiy Rabochiy” newspaper 07.1988, pp.3\]](#)

During 1988, the population of the city grew as a result of the resettlement of Azerbaijani refugees from Armenia. According to official information, at the beginning of 1989 their number in Shusha was more than 2000 people.

[\[“Bakinskiy Rabochiy” newspaper 09.02.1989, pp. 1\]](#)

1989: According to the Census of 1989, 17,000 people lived in Shusha, 98 per cent were Azerbaijanis.

29.05.1989: The First Secretary of the Shusha District Committee of the Communist Party (de jure Chief Executive of the district), Vagif Jafarov stated at the Congress of People's Deputies of the Soviet Union that more than 90 per cent of the population of the Shusha district were Azerbaijanis. "Azerbaijanis live in almost all 220 settlements (Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous) region, and they are an overwhelming majority in 53," Jafarov said.

[\["Izvestia" newspaper 01.06.1989, p. 4\]](#)