

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF CAMEROON'S DEVELOPMENT**

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Cameroon is a presidential Republic, independent since 1960. Cameroon is a country in Central Africa on the Gulf of Guinea. The land has a total area of 475,440 km<sup>2</sup> and a total coastline of 402 km. This area is approximately 229% of the area of Belarus. The country has about 10 islands. There are direct national borders with the 6 neighboring countries Central Africa: Nigeria, Chad, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea. The distance between Minsk and the Capital Yaoundé is about 8,459 km.

In Cameroon, as in all equatorial countries, there is a tropical climate. Unlike in Belarus, there is almost no difference between the seasons. The daylight hours vary little, and the temperature differences between summer and winter are lesser. Depending on the season, the average daytime temperatures range between 28 and 34 degrees. In some parts of the country, the temperature raises up to 42°C. In the colder months and depending in the region, the temperature lowers down to 19°C in a month's average.

Due to the critical financial situation, Cameroon is one of the heavily indebted poor countries. Most important cities in Cameroon are Yaoundé (capital) – 2 440 000 residents, Doula (Littoral region) – 2 447 000, Garoua (North Province) – 437 000, Koussén (Far North) – 436 000, Bamenda (North-West Province) – 394 000, Maroua (Far North) – 320 000.

As of December 2019 year the population of Cameroon was 25 216 000 habitants. Population per km<sup>2</sup> – 53,04. Life expectancy males – 57,2 years. Life expectancy females – 59,8 years. Birthrate – 35,9‰. Deathrate – 9,5‰. The ratio of male to female population is 50,1%:49,9%. The division of the population into religions is as follows: Christ – 40%, Native religions – 40%, Muslims – 20% [1].

Since 1990 year, Cameroon's rural population has increased from 7 069 280 to 10 766100 in 2018 year (+3 696 820 people) and urban population has increased from 4 645 940 to 13 912 130 in 2018 (+9 266 190 people). It can be seen that the urban population of Cameroon has increased at a faster rate (152% to 299%). In 2018 year the population structure was 56,4% urban population and 43,6% rural population.

Since our research is related to the production and consumption of vegetables in Cameroon, we consider it necessary to provide data on hunger and food insecurity. For the period 2016-2018 years, this figure was 2,4 million inhabitants. This figure is below the 1999-2001 level of 2,3 million, but above the 2013-2015 years lowest level of 0,8 million inhabitants. Prevalence of undernourishment from 1999-2001 years to 2016-2018 years decreased from 30% to 9,9%. Number of severely food insecure people from 2014-2016 years to 2016-2018 increased from 8,1 million (35,6%) to 10,6 million (44,2%).

Average protein supply (g/capita/day) from 1999-2001 years to 2011-2013 years increased from 55 g to 68,7 g. Average supply of protein of animal origin (g/capita/day) from 1999-2001 years to 2011-2013 years was 11 g. Only in the period from 2001 to 2011 this figure was 12 g. Average dietary energy supply adequacy for the period from 1999 to 2018 increased by 26%. As for the average value of food production (constant I\$ per person) it is in the period from 1999 to 2016 increased from 166\$ to 244\$. For the period 2015-2017, this figure was 163\$ [2].

Land use in Cameroon: 1% urban areas (3 680 km<sup>2</sup>), 21% agricultural areas (97 520 km<sup>2</sup>), 40% forest (188 139 km<sup>2</sup>), 1% water areas (2 730 km<sup>2</sup>), 39% others (183 371 km<sup>2</sup>) [1]. In 1960 agricultural land in Cameroon was 7 510 000 ha. In 2017 the area of agricultural land expanded to 9 750 000 ha, accounting for 56% of all land. Area arable land and land under permanent crops from 1961 to 2017 increased slightly: from 5 000 000 ha to 6 200 000 ha (arable land), from 510 000 ha to 1 550 000 (permanent crops). Area land under permanent meadows and pastures remained at the same level – 2 000 000 ha.

The area harvested cereals in Cameroon was 2 439 549 ha as of 2017. Over the past 56 years (since 1961) this indicator reached a maximum value. The growth of this indicator began in 2003, when it was equal to 979 727 ha. The value for Cereal production (metric tons) in Cameroon was 4 061 556 as of 2017 (over the past 56 years this a maximum value). The value for Cereal yield (kg per hectare) in Cameroon was 16,649 as of 2017. Over the past 56 years this indicator reached a maximum value of 18,933 in 1999 and a minimum value of 7,575 in 1962.

Thus, this small analysis of the socio-economic indicators of Cameroon shows the promising directions of growth of the country's economy.

#### LITERATURE

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## **PREFERENCES OF BUYERS ON THE SUWAŁKI MARKET OF THE REAL ESTATE**

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The real estate market is a very specific place. Despite the rapid pace of development, which is noticeable in every town in the current years, the transactions are still burdened with a very high risk. Their most important function is to satisfy the needs of buyers. Transactions are activities between the seller and the buyer that seek to exchange goods or services. Their final effect is a sales agreement. The exchange of goods should be understood as the purchase or sale of land and residential real estate. The exchange of services, on the other hand, means employing a housing agent or property appraiser. Hitting the tastes of customers is the only way to gain a competitive advantage on the market, and thus generate high profits. Potential buyers analyse in detail the available offers to buy or sell, because by choosing one of them, they invest the accumulated funds or take a loan.

The main objective of the research was to examine consumer preferences in the Suwałki real estate market. The evaluation of this issue was based on a direct interview with potential buyers, in which a questionnaire was used as a research tool. It does not require direct contact between the researcher and the respondents, which is a significant facilitation in the collection of data. After receiving answers to the questions, the preferences in this market were verified. The current place of residence of the buyers was also assessed.

Suwałki – the city located at an altitude of about 170-190 m n. p. m., above sea level, mostly on the sandwich of the Augustów Plain. The city has about 70 thousand inhabitants, and next to Poles live here, among others, Lithuanians, Roma, Russians. Occupy an area of 65.5 km<sup>2</sup>, of which over 70% are green areas, including two forest complexes. Research on the preferences of buyers of the Suwałki real estate market was carried out in a group of 50 people, in which 52% were women and 48% men. The survey consisted of 20 questions, six of which were metric questions, on the basis