

Features of Socio-Economic Development of Modern Single-Industry Towns in the Republic of Bashkortostan



Guzel' R.

BAIMURZINA

Bashkir Branch of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, Russian Federation, 450000, 50-letiya Oktyabrya Street, 20/1

E-mail: guzrim@mail.ru

ORCID: 0000-0002-1844-2689; ResearcherID: G-4824-2017



Elena V.

KABASHOVA

Bashkir Branch of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, Russian Federation, 450000, 50-letiya Oktyabrya Street, 20/1

E-mail: e_kabashova@bk.ru

ORCID: 0000-0002-0948-3518; ResearcherID: G-2840-2018

Abstract. Study and monitoring of the current condition of Russian single-industry towns are among the most relevant issues of the state's socio-economic policy: especially within the implementation of national priority projects and the strategy of the spatial development. The purpose of the article is to define specifics of the socio-economic development of single-industry towns in the Republic of Bashkortostan on the basis of complex analysis of empirical data using sociological set of instruments. To achieve this goal, we conducted the analysis of the current state of social and labor sphere, sociological and statistical indicators of population's living standards. We also studied demographic processes and trends of the Republic's single-industry towns. The research of six single-industry towns (Blagoveshchensk, Uchaly, Neftekamsk, Belebey, Beloretsk, Kumertau) allowed us to define features of each territory and to rank them according to the level of the socio-economic welfare. The results differed from characteristics (categories) given in

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the latest list of Russian single-industry towns provided by the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. According to updated data, only Neftekamsk could be called a town with the stable socio-economic situation. Blagoveshchensk, Uchaly, Belebey are at the risk of the socio-economic situation worsening. Beloretsk and Kumertau are among towns with the most difficult socio-economic conditions. Towns with high business potential were identified (Belebey, Beloretsk, Blagoveshchensk). However, this potential is usually implemented in the informal sector of the economy, which significantly worsens population's social well-being. Business potential of other towns (Uchaly, Neftekamsk, Kumertau) is very low. In Uchaly and Kumertau, there are almost no employment alternatives: it defines citizens' heavy dependence on the town-forming enterprise. At the same time, municipal authorities do not have an opportunity to change the socio-economic situation in towns. Usage of sociological instruments in the course of the research allowed us to reveal internal factors and features of single-industry towns' development, which are manifested in the population's life attitudes and social well-being, but they are not reflected by statistical indicators. Developed methodology might be used for complex studies of other Russian single-industry towns and the search for efficient strategy of their modernization.

Key words: single-industry town, town-forming enterprise, socio-economic development, living standards, employment, demography.

Introduction

The novelty of the research of the socio-economic situation of modern single-industry towns is caused by objective risks of the population's worsening living standards. Within market economy, the state of a town-forming enterprise (or sector) and its capabilities to provide jobs for population become defining factors of town's viability. Besides, many Russian single-industry towns remain large industrial facilities. The transition from the state sector to the private one caused the following processes: significant decrease of town-forming enterprises' budgets and its capabilities to support previous amounts of production, change of owners' interests and priorities, optimization of enterprises' social costs, salaries, and investments.

The federal centralization of budget resources makes municipalities less independent in the process of dealing with financial, investment, and other issues, which, in turn, affects local population's living standards. The

income security of municipalities is extremely low: especially in single-industry areas, where the local economy is represented by one or several industries [1]. Single-industry towns with a low variety of economic activities wound up on the periphery of primary economic and modernization processes [2].

Despite broad state support of single-industry towns (creation of the Fund for the development of single-industry towns, territories of advanced socio-economic development – TASED; development of federal programs, special legal acts, etc., various management seminars for municipal authorities, initiation of joint infrastructure and investment projects, based on public-private partnership), there are no significant structural shifts in the economy of single-industry towns.

Comprehensive program of single-industry towns' development was initiated in 2016 and was ended early on November 1, 2019. The decree of the Government of the Russian

Federation, dated February 13, 2019, approved the Spatial Development Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025¹.

The results of the RF Accounts Chamber's assessment of single-industry towns support efficiency were published in the "Russian Gazette" on July 30, 2019. According to it, "in two years, 18 billion dollars were spent on subsidies within the single-industry towns development program, but the number of able-bodied population decreased by 350 thousand people..., business activity declined..., the number of legal entities decreased by 22.7%"². One of the significant omissions was that "the opportunity to support single-industry towns, depending on their socio-economic and geographical features, was ignored", and "it is possible to spend budget money efficiently, if you take into account the specific situation"³.

Adoption of efficient management decisions is also hindered by the limited capacity of municipal statistics, the incompleteness of dynamic data on the level of enterprises. This situation further highlights the need for comprehensive studies on the socio-economic development of Russian single-industry towns. Currently, there are scientific works on problems of the socio-economic development of single-industry towns situated in the Kemerovo Oblast (V.A. Trifonov, V.A. Shabashev, I.V. Dobrycheva, I.S. Antonova, E.A. Pchelintsev, R.A. Galimova) [2–4], the Irkutsk Oblast (E.A. Vetrova, M.A. Atamanova, T.V. Kulakova, E.I. Nefed'eva, O.V. Taraban) [5, 6], the Vologda Oblast (T.V. Uskova, L.G.

Iogman, S.N. Tkachuk, A.N. Nesterov, N.Yu. Litvinova) [7], the Perm Oblast (A.D. Rizov) [8], the Tyumen Oblast (M.L. Belonozhko, I.S. Samboretiskii, N.V. Gal'tseva) [9, 10], Central Black Earth regions (S.N. Rastvortseva, I.V. Manaeva) [11, 12], etc. Domestic scientists studied and analyzed features of the emergence and the development of Russian and foreign single-industrial towns (C.V. Kulai, M.G. Meerovich, G.V. Kutergina, A.V. Lapin, I.V. Manaeva) [13–15].

The analysis of domestic and foreign scientists' works shows that many countries (Great Britain, USA, Canada, Germany, France, CIS countries, etc.) faced different problems of single-profiled territories [16–19]. In the search for scientifically sound conceptual solutions to the problem of modernizing the economy and improving the quality of population's life in single-industry towns, monographs were published [7, 20, 21], dissertations were defended [see e.g. 10], and analytical reports⁴ were prepared, etc. The basic concept of "recovery" of the single-profiled economy was the diversification strategy through the establishment of special economic zones, support programs, and entrepreneurship development in them [23]. At the same time, experts underline the importance of taking into account local conditions and features; the quality of local management; features of cooperation between a municipality and a town-forming enterprise; the "quality" of

¹ On the approval of the Spatial Development Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025 №207-p, dated 13.02.2019 (ed. on 31.08.2019).

² Gaiva E. Did not think so. *Russian Gazette*, 2019, №165 (7923), July 30, p. 5.

³ Same source.

⁴ Analytical report on managing the development of single-industry towns. Moscow: The Institute for Urban Economics, 2011. Available at: http://www.urbanecomics.ru/sites/default/files/a_monogoroda_iue_2011.pdf (accessed: 20.10.2019); Overview of Russian single-industry towns: Analytical report of the Institute for Integrated Strategic Studies. Moscow: IKSI, 2017. Available at: https://icss.ru/images/pdf/research_pdf/MONOTOWNS.pdf (accessed: 20.10.2019).

population; budget security, the scale of the economy, socio-cultural, geographical, climatic features, etc.

Meanwhile, due to the absence of adequate and comparable data on the labor market, living standards, wages, and the lack of unified methodology for assessing social well-being on the municipal level, etc., any conscientious study on the state of single-industry towns contributes to the formation of a more complete and real picture of life in these settlements.

The purpose of this study is to define specifics of socio-economic development of single-industry towns in the Republic of Bashkortostan on the basis of comprehensive analysis of empirical data using sociological instruments.

The scientific novelty of this work is the usage of the author's method for studying single-industry towns on the basis of comprehensive and comparative analysis of official statistics and sociological data. To expand and deepen knowledge on single-industry towns within limited statistics of municipal institutions and corporative sector, we suggest adding sociological indicators to groups of statistical values (entrepreneurial activity, subjective assessment of the financial situation, flexibility and quality of the labor market, migration attitudes, confidence in the future, etc.).

The absence of such studies in the Republic of Bashkortostan underlines practical relevance of this work. We believe that the study will allow developing scientifically sound management decisions on strengthening and diversifying the economy of single-industry towns in the Republic and improving living standards of the population.

Methodology of the research

We examine single-industry towns as complex and specific systems, which require corresponding systemic approach to their analysis. According to this logic, we have identified three groups of indicators: 1) the development, functioning and efficiency of town-forming enterprises; 2) the social and labor sphere and population's living standards; 3) demographic development and migration attractiveness. The feature of the author's technique is the comparison of official statistics with the results of the sociological research that allowed clarification and "revival" of the image of life in single-industry towns, enriching it with information on business potential, the presence, and nature of alternative employment strategies, socio-economic well-being and health, migration installations, and other information. The developed method can be used for a comprehensive study of other Russian single-industry towns, the search for efficient strategies of their modernization, and the development of targeted measures to support their modernization.

Objects of the research are six single-industry towns in the Republic of Bashkortostan included in the list of single-profile municipal institutions of the Russian Federation (single-industry towns), approved by the RF Government decree no. 1398-p, dated July 29, 2014. Empirical basis of the research is municipal statistical data, financial reports of town-forming enterprises, investment plans and strategic planning documents of studied towns, legal acts of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bashkortostan. To represent life in single-industry towns more comprehensively,

Table 1. Main indicators of the socio-economic situation in single-industry towns of the Republic of Bashkortostan

Indicators	Neftekamsk	Blagoveshchensk	Uchaly	Beloretsk	Belebey	Kumertau
Local budget incomes, 2018, thousand rubles per 1 person.	16.74	8.16	4.41	4.86	4.22	19.54
Net profit (loss) of the city-forming enterprise, 2017, thousand rubles.	44	-263 [*] 1886 ^{**}	303	1004	91	-3413
Increase of the number of organizations per 1000 people, 2018 in % to 2010	9.5	2.8	-11.2	-9.7	5.0	7.7
Increase of entrepreneurs per 1000 people, 2018 in % to 2010	-25.7	-11.8	-8.6	-15.8	-17.0	-26.4
Share of those who have a business and plan to start one in the near future, 2015, %	2.1	14.3	9.5	16.8	12.0	2.7
Population growth, 2010–2018, people	16685	403	-2945	-22028	43	-8943
Average age of the population, 2018, years	36.7	36.5	38.28	39.48	39.25	39.55
Share of the able-bodied population in the total population, 2018, %	57.8	55.9	52.5	53.3	56.0	53.9
Average salary of employees, 2017, thousand rubles per month	31.3	35.8	34.9	27.7	25.7	28.0
Level of subjective poverty, 2015, %	16.6	29.6	40.4	32.0	36.2	34.9
[*] JSC “BAZ”. ^{**} JSC “Polief”. Source: own compilation on the basis of official statistics data and sociological studies (specific sources are listed in the analysis and explanation of results section below).						

we used database of the sociological research “Strategy of social and economic development of the Republic of Bashkortostan until 2030” (RB Strategy – 2030)⁵. We chose this study as an empirical basis, because we had to conduct the analysis on the municipal level, which required a large sample size. A study of such scale was last conducted in 2015 as part of the development of the “Strategy of social and economic development of the Republic of Bashkortostan until 2030”.

⁵ Organizers of the research: The Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Bashkortostan, the Bashkir Branch of the ISRAS, Institute of socio-political and legal studies of the Republic of Bashkortostan. Object of the research – RB population aged from 18 to 75. The sample is zoned by socio-economic zones of the RB, stratified, with gender and age quotas at the household selection stage. Sample size – 6300 people. The research method is self-filling of a sociological survey (questionnaire) blank. Field work dates: July–October 2015.

Results of the research

The comprehensive study of single-industry towns allowed: 1) ranking towns according to the level of socio-economic welfare; 2) revealing specifics of their development, relevant issues and risks, potential; 3) defining the role of local authorities and town-forming enterprises in single-industry towns. These results are reflected in images of single-industry towns, given later according to the increase of ill-being risks. Primary socio-economic indicators are given in *Table 1*.

Neftekamsk is placed second according to the level of local budget income per 1 person. Financial indicators of the town-forming enterprise have positive trends, the number of organizations in the town grows, but the number of employees in organizations decreases.

Salaries of employees are higher than national average numbers. The working population mostly has indefinite employment contracts. At the same time, the population notes a lack of employment opportunities in case of the loss of the main job. The entrepreneurial potential⁶ is low. The city has the lowest level of subjective poverty. The town's population is the youngest, and the share of the able-bodied population is the highest. This is the only single-industry town in the Republic, where the population grows due to natural and migration processes.

Blagoveshchensk has two functioning oil town-forming enterprises. Therefore, it has the highest salaries among single-industry towns. However, local budget incomes per 1 person are quite low. The town is characterized by the highest entrepreneurship activity and a low growth of the number of organizations. It shows the growth of informal employment, which is quite contradictory. On the one hand, it increases the flexibility of the local labor market and employment opportunities. On the other hand, it contributes to the growth of socio-economic differentiation among population, the reduction of average salaries and employment quality. The population has a lot of loans. The share of the poor population is not as high as in other single-industry towns, but it is significant. The population number has not changed much in 2010–2018. Blagoveshchensk is the youngest town according to age composition of the population. It, probably, explains the desire of many people to leave it, because young people do not see any opportunities for themselves in this town.

⁶ The entrepreneurial potential in this article was evaluated on the basis of sociological data on the availability and / or desire to have own business (SP, private enterprise, farm, etc.).

In Uchaly, there is the highest level of concentration of able-bodied population at the town-forming enterprise, which implies heavy dependence of the socio-economic status of its residents on the state of the primary employer. Employees of the town's organizations receive a fairly high salary (above the national average). However, the financial position of the town-forming enterprise worsens, although it is still characterized as profitable. Let us note that the growth rate of the sector itself, i.e. mining, has significantly decreased in recent years. This town is characterized by the lowest local budget revenues per person. The number of organizations decreases; the level of business activity remains low. A third part of the surveyed population thinks that they could lose their jobs, but the possibility of finding a new job is very low. With the highest level of subjective poverty, the population has a lot of loans. The share of able-bodied population is the lowest. The rate of natural population growth rapidly decreases, and there is a trend of increasing migration outflow. However, in 2015, the majority of respondents had no desire to leave the town. When asked about confidence in the future, a significant number of Uchaly's residents could not give a definite answer. In our opinion, a single-industry town is at risk of the socio-economic situation deterioration.

Beloretsk has low local budget incomes per one person. The town-forming enterprise provides jobs for almost a third part of all organizations' employees. The enterprise is profitable, but the level of salaries in the town is lower than average numbers in the Republic. The decline of the growth rate of nominal salaries began in 2014. In our opinion, it happened because of the reduction of the

number of employees in the town, the growth of flexible working regimes, informal employment, and self-employment. More than a quarter of respondents said (the highest rate among single-industry towns) that they would easily find a new job in case of losing a current one. Almost 30% of the town's residents considered themselves poor, and two thirds of respondents do not have loans. The town's population is relatively old, and there is a stable natural and migration decline. Despite all difficulties, the population is quite optimistic about the future.

Belebey is a town with low local budget incomes per one resident and the lowest salaries among all Republic's single-industry towns. At the same time, there is a small increase in the number of organizations (and the reduction of the number of employees in them) and a fairly high business potential. It is mostly implemented in the informal sector of the economy and self-employment. Responses confirm this statement: it is relatively easier for local residents to find another job than for residents of other single-industry towns. The population of Belebey is not young. There is a high level of subjective poverty among people. They are very cautious about loans. Belebey is the only town in the Republic where the net profit of the town-forming enterprise, over the past three years, has increased in more than 2 times and, since 2017, the city has faced a migration increase. However, the natural decline (as a consequence of the population aging) is still preserved.

Kumertau has the highest local budget incomes per one person, which is related to low salaries in towns' organizations. The share of wealthy population here, according to sociological polls, is the lowest among all single-industry towns of the Republic. It

indirectly shows a high social stratification. The population has a lot of loans. The city-forming enterprise provides jobs for a third part of organizations' employees. The company is unprofitable, fixed assets are worn out by 60%. The number of employees in organizations decreases. The town has the least flexible work regimes, there are basically no employment alternatives, and entrepreneurship is badly developed. TASED education attracted 12 residents into the city in 2015, but its socio-economic impact is not noticeable. However, growth rate of local budget incomes significantly increased. There are the highest population loses in the city, the main reason of which is the migration flow. At the same time, the natural decline of the population increases.

Analysis and explanation of gained results

1. The state of town-forming enterprises and the economy of single-industry towns in the Republic of Bashkortostan. Town-forming enterprises play a key role in the economic development of single-industry towns. The situation on the labor market, budget filling, and the state of urban infrastructure largely depend on them. Most of the town-forming enterprises of the Republic's single-industry territories specialize in processing industry: production of vehicles, machinery and equipment, finished metal products, production of plastic products, etc. The exception is Uchaly, where the town-forming enterprise belongs to the extractive industry. In general, industrial production indices show positive dynamics. However, in comparison with 2010 level, their growth rate has significantly decreased: especially, in the extractive industry. Emerging signs of post-crisis recovery let us hope for certain stability

Table 2. Characteristics of main town-forming enterprises of single-industry towns in the Republic of Bashkortostan

Town-forming enterprises (name, year of foundation)	Sector of specialization	The share of the enterprise's employees in the total number of employees in town's organizations, %	The share of the enterprise's employees in the total number of town's able-bodied population, %
JSC Belebeevsky zavod "Avtonormal" (JSC "BelZAN", 1971)	Manufacture of fasteners and springs for the automotive industry	20.0	7.6
OOO Belebeevskii zavod "Avtokomplekt" (OOO "BZAK", 1998)	Manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment for motor vehicles	2.7	1.0
OOO Belebeevskoe predpriyatie "Avtodetal" (OOO "Belavtodetal", 1945)		1.8	0.7
PJSC "Kumertauskoe aviatsionnoe proizvodstvennoe predpriyatie" (JSC "KumAPP")	Manufacture of helicopters, planes, and other aircraft	31.3	10.6
PJSC "Beloretskii metallurgicheskii kombinat" (JSC "BMK", 1762)	Manufacture of wire by cold drawing	31.6	16.1
PAO "Neftekamskii avtozavod" (PAO "NEFAZ", 1972)	Manufacture of bodies for motor vehicles; production of trailers and semi-trailers	19.5	7.5
PJSC "Blagoveshchenskii armaturnyi zavod" (JSC "BAZ", 1756)	Manufacture of other cranes and valves	18.6	8.6
JSC "Polief" (1985)	Manufacture of plastics and synthetic resins in primary forms	12.5	5.8
PJSC "Uchalinskii gorno-obogatitel'nyi kombinat" (JSC "UGOK", 1961)	Mining and processing of copper ore	52.9	31.0

Sources: compiled and calculated according to the following data: 1) Socio-economic situation in municipal districts and urban districts of the Republic of Bashkortostan: stat. coll. Bashkortostan. Ufa, 2018; 2) Official websites of town-forming enterprises.

and opportunities to improve the situation in single-industry towns, provided that a well-thought-out management strategy is selected and implemented.

Main activities and key characteristics of the town-forming enterprises in single-industry towns of the Republic are given in the *table 2*.

Indicators of financial and economic activity of the Republic's town-forming enterprises show its insufficient efficiency (*Tab. 3*). In 2015–2017, among all the enterprises, net profit amounts grew up only in JSC "BelZAN" (more than 2 times) and PAO "NEFAZ". Incomes of JSC "BMK" and JSC "UGOK" heavily decreased. JSC "KumAPP" and JSC "BAZ" became unprofitable. Despite the positive balance of accounts payable and receivable of JSC "KumAPP", the positions of

it and JSC "BAZ" are the least stable. In terms of revenue and turnover, the largest enterprises are JSC "UGOK" and JSC "BMK", and this is reflected in the number of their employees.

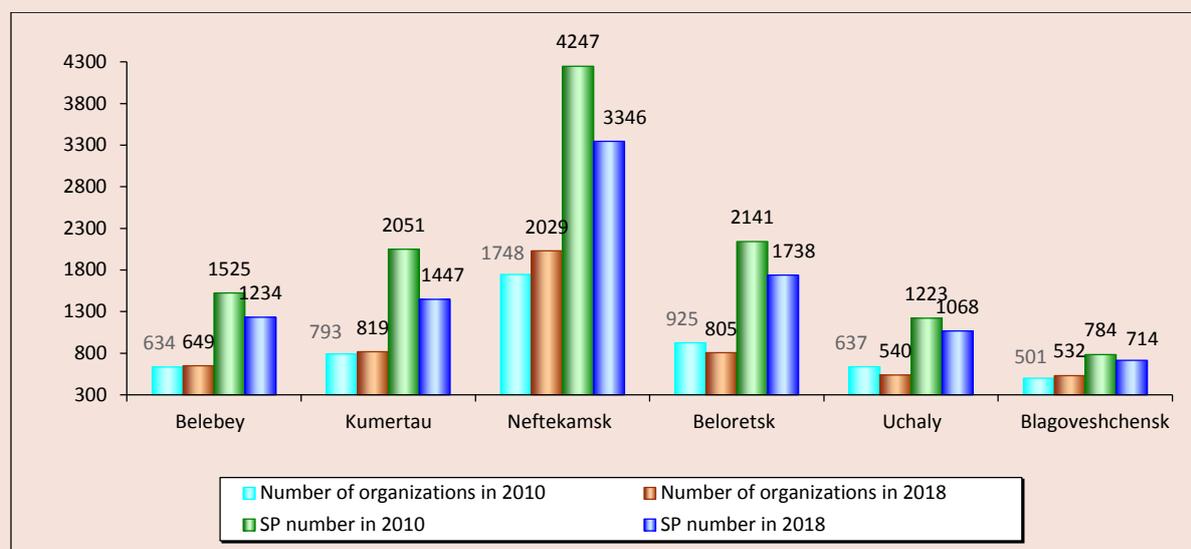
The strengthening of the socio-economic position of single-industry towns is impossible without diversification of economic activity types, the growth of organizations, and enterprises' business activity. In 2010–2018, the growing number of organizations was noticed in Neftekamsk (16.1%), Blagoveshchensk (6.2%), Belebey (2.4%), and Kumertau (3.3%). Creation of TASED in Belebey and Kumertau in 2016 did not lead to the significant increase of organizations in them. In Uchaly, the number of organizations decreased by 97 units, in Beloretsk – by 120 units (*Fig. 1*).

Table 3. Indicators of financial and economic activity of town-forming enterprises of the Republic of Bashkortostan

Years	JSC "BelZAN"	JSC "KumAPP"	JSC "BMK"	PAO "NEFAZ"	JSC "BAZ"	JSC "UGOK"
<i>Net profit (loss), thousand rubles</i>						
2015	45688	...	2096550	-393000	47585	3300720
2016	36028	...	315524	37041	-278602	3018990
2017	91385	-3412520	1003970	44356	-262687	302812
<i>Revenue, thousand rubles</i>						
2015	4178250	...	23466700	8661430	2832180	24151900
2016	4421470	...	22889400	12246600	2701930	21749100
2017	4811400	7656410	23932300	13139400	2540990	20486400
<i>Accounts receivable, thousand rubles</i>						
2015	766283	...	3168060	1573700	531629	1398210
2016	672860	...	4154530	2644270	422157	5474920
2017	481335	3616340	6273560	2047250	401525	3087100
<i>Accounts payable, thousand rubles</i>						
2015	427278	...	3672580	1889160	328774	2420560
2016	539868	...	3565010	3180300	250981	1988620
2017	401553	5861310	3310870	2620870	389265	3229150

Source: Accounting reports of town-forming enterprises: https://www.audit-it.ru/buh_otchet/

Figure 1. Dynamics of the number of organizations and individual entrepreneurs in single-industry towns of the Republic of Bashkortostan, units



Sources: 1) *Socio-economic situation in municipal districts and urban districts of the Republic of Bashkortostan: stat. coll.* Bashkortostan. Ufa, 2011; 2) Same source. Ufa, 2018.

In this period, there was a decrease of the number of sole proprietorships in all single-industry towns. The highest number of closed SP was registered in Neftekamsk: where were 900 entrepreneurs more in 2010 than in 2018. In relative terms (per 1.000 people), the largest reduction of the number of sole proprietorships was observed in Kumertau – by 26.4%. The main reasons are the increase of taxes for entrepreneurs and the decrease of the

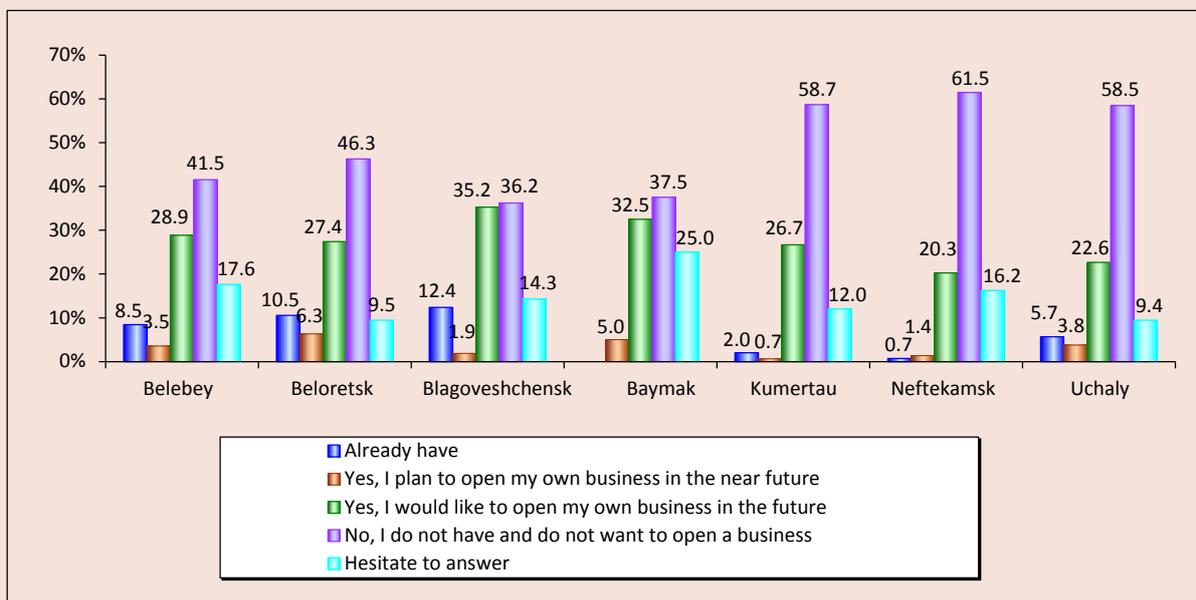
population’s purchasing power. Sociological data from 2015 show a higher entrepreneurial potential in Blagoveshchensk, Beloretsk, and Belebey: the situation is different in other single-industry towns (Fig. 2).

In order to diversify, modernize, and improve the socio-economic situation of single-industry towns, TOSEDs are created. Currently,

they operate in five of six single-industry towns of the Republic (Tab. 4).

Socio-economic situation of a single-industry town and its potential heavily depend on budgetary security. Income of a municipality is also an indicator of the efficiency of local self-government bodies and their interaction with economic entities.

Figure 2. Distribution of answers to the question: “Would You like to have your own business? (SP, private enterprise, farm, etc.)?”



Source: data of the sociological study “RB Strategy – 2030”.

Table 4. Main features of territories of advanced socio-economic development in the Republic of Bashkortostan (TASED)

Town	Year of TASED creation	Number of residents	Project implementation area	Expected results
Belebey	2016	12	Manufacture of equipment for the oil industry, mineral fertilizers, reinforced concrete products, metal structures; food industry	More than 2.9 billion rubles of investments, more than 2 thousand new work places
Kumertau	2016	12		
Neftekamsk	2019	2	Light and food industry, construction	More than 3.3 billion rubles of investments; more than 1 thousand new work places
Beloretsk	2019	1		
Blagoveshchensk	2019	1		
Uchaly	Work to create TASED is underway			

Sources: 1) TADs in Russian single-industry towns attracted billion rubles of investments. URL: <https://economy.bashkortostan.ru/press-sentr/news/tor-v-monogorodakh-rossii-privlekli-22-mlrd-rubley-investitsiy/> (accessed: 10.10.2019); 2) The first residents of the Bashkir TASEDs “Beloretsk” and “Blagoveshchensk” are included in the register of TASED residents of the Ministry of economic development of Russia. URL: <https://realnoevremya.ru/news/153416-pervye-rezidenty-bashkirskih-toser-beloreck-i-blagoveschensk-vklyucheny-v-reestr-rezidentov-toser-minekonomrazvitiya-rossii> (accessed: 10.10.2019).

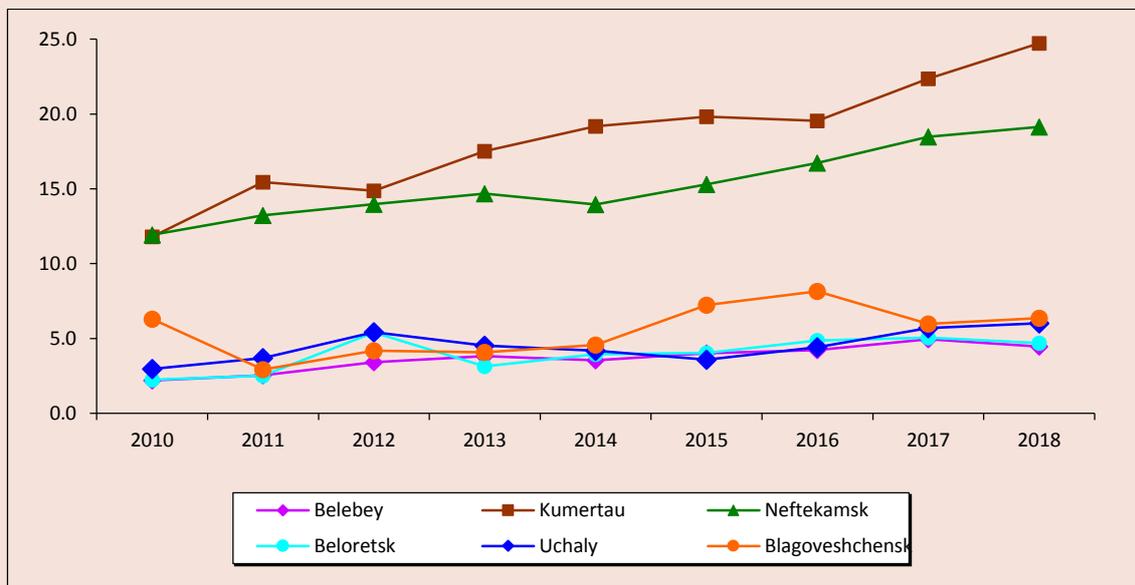
Budget revenues of such towns significantly differ in per resident calculation. Kumertau (24.7 thousand rubles per capita) and Neftekamsk (19.1 thousand rubles) were more successful in this regard. In other towns, this indicator is in the range of 4.7–6.3 thousand rubles per capita (Fig. 3).

Interesting results were shown by the sociological assessment of the efficiency of authorities' actions and management on regional and local levels⁷. People think that municipal power is better informed about citizens' needs than regional authorities, but it is less concerned about using this knowledge in the work: on the municipal level, the distance between awareness of problems and their usage in the work is longer than on the regional level. It shows the lack of real opportunities (legal, organizational, financial) for local authorities to solve local problems on their own. These data

indicate that local and regional authorities do not take into account the needs of the town's population.

2. Employment, living standards, and social well-being of the population of single-industry towns. The town-forming enterprises of studied towns include a significant share of able-bodied population. However, the share of employees in these enterprises differs in the total number of employees in organizations. JSC "UGOK" is the employer to 52.9% of workers of all town's organizations, JSC "BMK" – to 31.6%, JSC "KumAPP" – to 31.1%. There are two large functioning enterprises in Blagoveshchensk (JSC "BAZ" and JSC "Polief"), which include 31.1% of the towns' employees in organizations. In Belebey, almost 25% of employees work in three enterprises which produce equipment and products for motor transport industry. In PJSC "NEFAZ" – 20% of town's employees (Tab. 2).

Figure 3. Dynamics of local budgets income indicators of single-industry towns in the Republic of Bashkortostan, thousand rubles per capita



Source: Unified Interdepartmental Statistical Information System (UISIS).

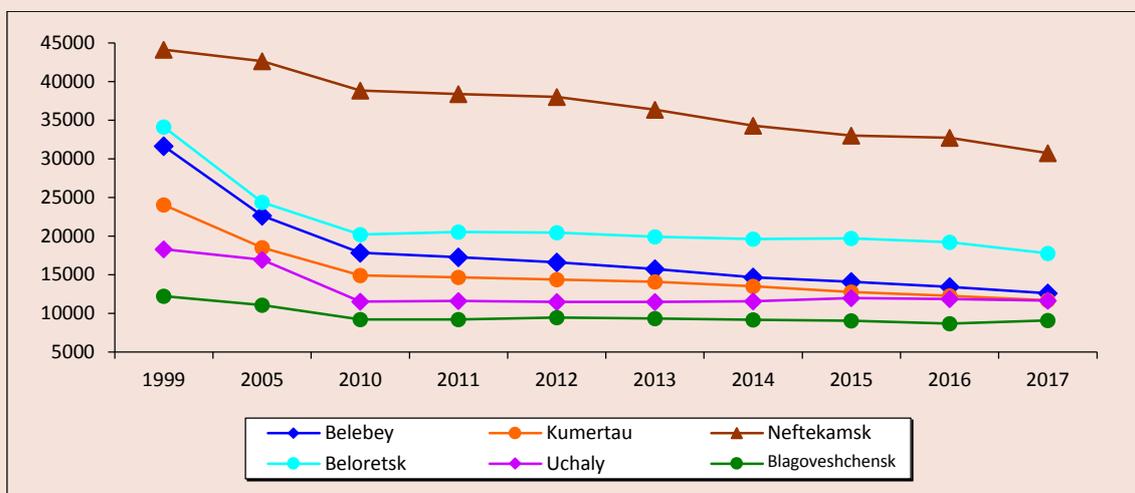
⁷ Results of the same study "RB Strategy – 2030", 2015.

The number of employees in single-industry towns' organizations had noticeably decreased by 2010. In the following years, the situation has relatively stabilized, but the decline continued in Neftekamsk (-8100 people in 2010–2017), Belebey (-5266 people), Kumertau (-3217 people), Beloretsk (-2466 people). In Uchaly and Blagoveshchensk,

which are “economically stable” towns, the number of employees in organizations has not changed (Fig. 4).

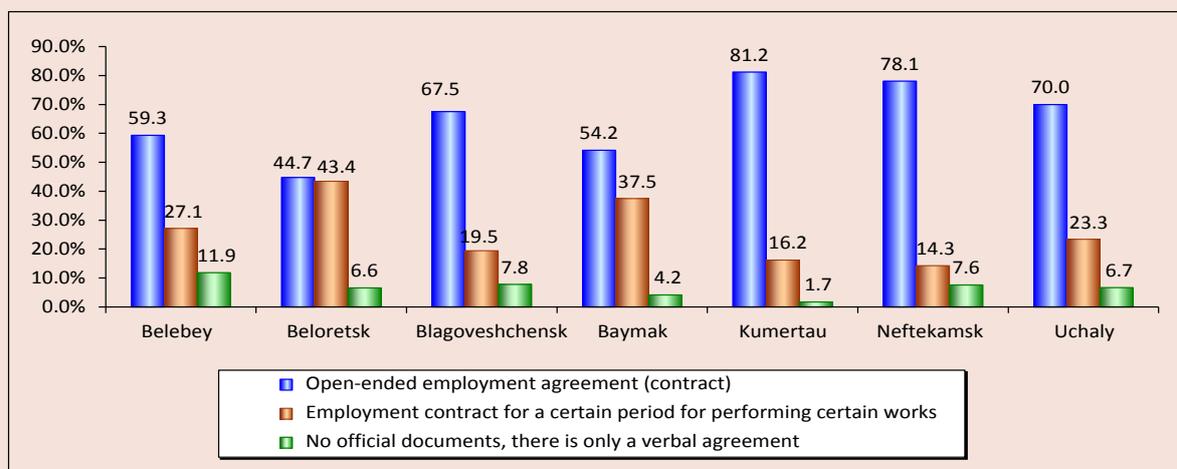
In single-industry towns, less flexible work regimes are maintained. Uchaly, Kumertau, and Neftekamsk are particularly noticeable: 70–80% of the working population there has indefinite employment contracts (Fig. 5).

Figure 4. Average number of employees in all organizations of RB single-industry towns for 1999–2017, people



Sources: 1) *Socio-economic situation in municipal districts and urban districts of the Republic of Bashkortostan: stat. coll.* Bashkortostan. Ufa, 2011; 2) Same source. Ufa, 2018.

Figure 5. Distribution of answers to the question “Are Your relations with an employer at the primary job officially registered or not?”



Source: data of the sociological study “RB Strategy – 2030”.

At the same time, according to sociological data, about a third of the employees of these towns think that they could lose their jobs. If it happens, it will be very difficult for them to find another job, especially in Kumertau and Uchaly. In Neftekamsk (a large town with institutions of higher education), there are more chances to find another job, but it is still a difficult task there too.

There are more opportunities for employment in places where more flexible working regimes are practiced. In our situation – in Belebey, Beloretsk, and Blagoveshchensk. The highest share of respondents, who answered “I can easily find another job”, is in Beloretsk (28%) and Belebey (24%); for comparison: in Kumertau – 6%, Uchaly – 10%, Neftekamsk – 13%. At the same time, these towns have lower salaries and, apparently, higher level of informal employment.

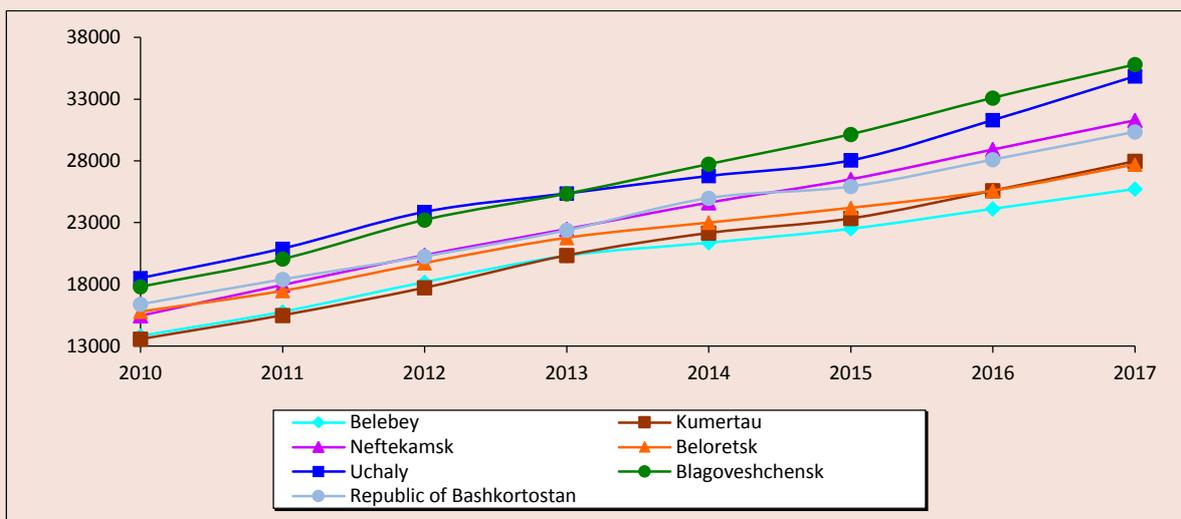
The highest salaries are in Blagoveshchensk, Uchaly, and Neftekamsk (Fig. 6).

Average monthly salaries of organizations’ employees in these towns exceed average salaries’ numbers in the Republic. Beloretsk, Kumertau, and Belebey lag behind according to this indicator, and salaries’ in them are below average numbers in the Republic. Neftekamsk “broke away” from its neighbor in the category “with risks of the socio-economic deterioration” since 2014, when the growth rate of salaries in Beloretsk slowed down.

Most of the single-industry towns’ population, as well as the Republic’s population, do not speak highly of their financial situation (“there is enough money for clothes and food, but it is difficult to purchase household appliances and furniture”) (Fig. 7).

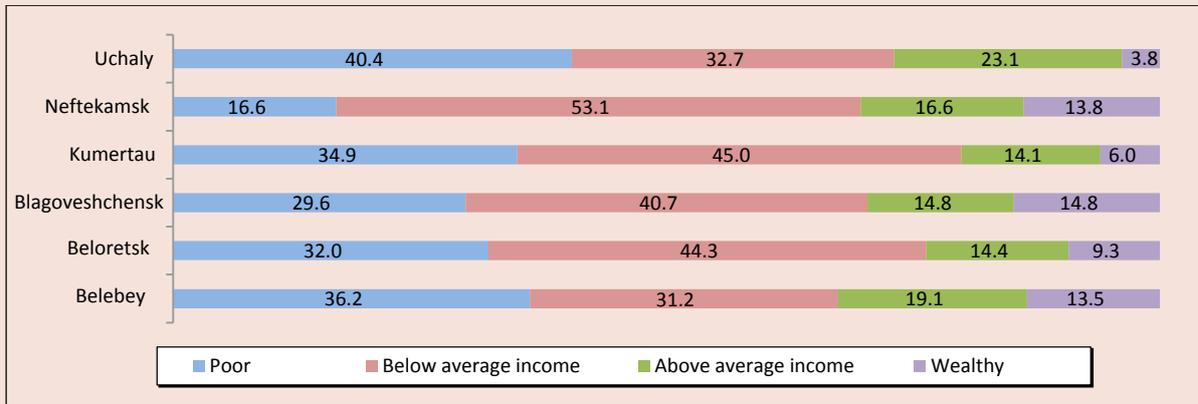
This is also relevant for relatively prosperous single-industry towns of Neftekamsk and Blagoveshchensk. At the same time, Neftekamsk has the lowest level of poverty – 16.6%. In other single-industry towns, the share of poor people is 30–40%. In the districts

Figure 6. Average monthly salary of organizations’ employees, rubles



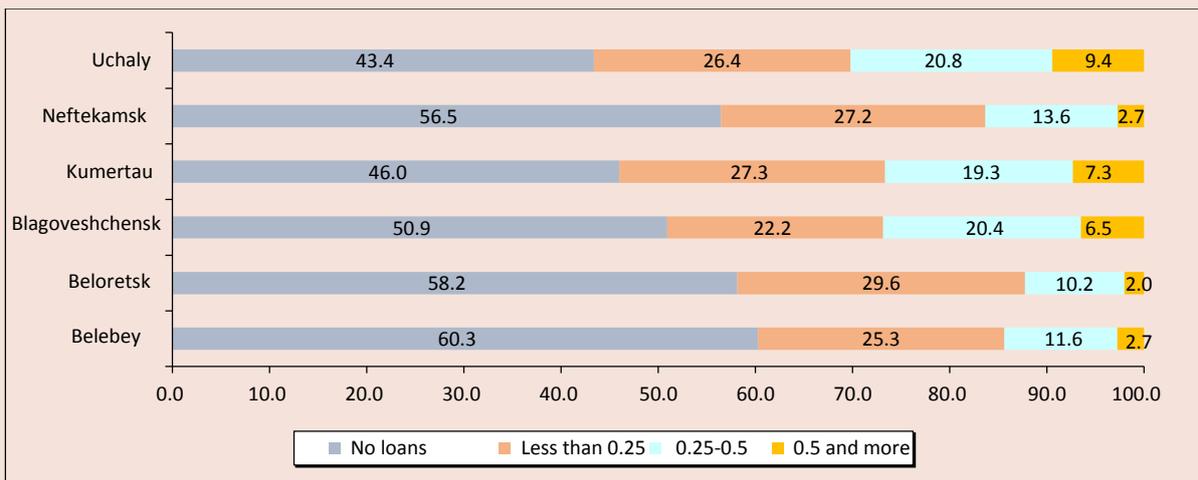
Sources: 1) *Socio-economic situation in municipal districts and urban districts of the Republic of Bashkortostan: stat. coll.* Bashkortostan. Ufa, 2011; 2) Same source. Ufa, 2018.

Figure 7. Structure of the population of single-industry towns according to financial status



Source: data of the sociological study “RB Strategy – 2030”.

Figure 8. Distribution of answers to the question “Do you have loans (mortgages, car loans, consumer loans, etc.) and, if so, how much of Your family budget You spend on these loans?”



Source: data of the sociological study “RB Strategy – 2030”.

where the highest level of salaries is observed, there is a fairly strong stratification: the highest share of the poor population with a high share of the population with incomes above the average level. Strong income differentiation is also observed in Belebey, mainly due to the growth of informal employment.

Uchaly, with the highest level of poverty, is also characterized by its high level of huge debt

load: approximately one person out of ten has a loan on which he spends 50% of the family budget. Every fifth person spends 25–50% of family budget on loan payments. The population of Kumertau (the town with a low number of wealthy population), as well as people in Blagoveshchensk (with fairly high salaries), have lesser, but still significant, debt loads (Fig. 8).

3. Demography and migration attractiveness of territories. Population change (natural, mechanical, qualitative, and structural) is one of the most striking indicators of the social well-being. The population of single-industry towns of the Republic, as of 01.01.2019, was 400.980 people (10% of the total population). In 2000–2018, this figure decreased by 4% (or 16.8 thousand people). The number barely changed in Belebey and Blagoveshchensk, and it decreased in Beloretsk by 22 thousand people, in Kumertau – by 8.9 thousand people, in Uchaly – by 2.9 thousand people. Neftekamsk was the only town with positive dynamics of the population number, the growth of population in which was 113.6% (16.7 thousand people).

The assessment of the contribution of natural and migration growth to the population dynamics of single-industry towns in recent years shows that they lost 1.246 people due to migration outflow in 2015–2018 and gained 1.108 people due to natural growth. In general, natural growth was observed in towns with younger population: in Neftekamsk (the highest), in Uchaly and Blagoveshchensk (more modest results). In Kumertau, the main

reason of the population decline was migration decline, in Beloretsk – natural decline, as the result of population aging. Since 2017, there has been a migration increase in Belebey (as a result of investments in the town's development). However, in order to reduce the natural loss, a significant rejuvenation of the town's population is required (*Tab. 5*).

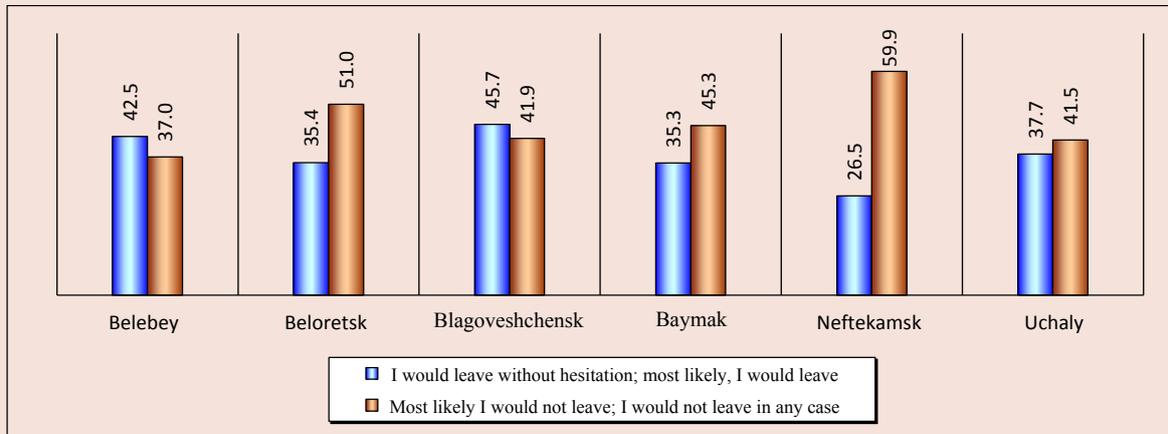
In the absence of employment alternatives (and career/personal growth prospects for young people), single-industry towns cannot retain the population. Sociological studies show a high migration potential in these towns. In general, in 2015, the share of people, who wanted to leave their single-industry towns, was 32%, the share of those, who did not want, was 48%, and the share of those, who could not decide, was 20%. The share of people, who wanted to leave their towns, was below national average numbers only in Neftekamsk. In relatively prosperous Blagoveshchensk, the share of potential migrants even exceeded the share of those who did not want to leave the town. This could be partially explained by the population's youth. The same unfavorable ratio was observed in Belebey (*Fig. 9*).

Table 5. Contribution of natural and migration growth to the population number dynamics of single-industry towns in 2015–2018

Single-industry town	Migration increase (loss), people				Natural increase (loss), people				Overall for 2015–2018		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	Migration increase (loss), people	Natural increase (loss), people	Overall increase, people
Belebey	-225	-83	292	153	-1	2	-240	-191	137	-430	-293
Kumertau	-529	-420	-492	-238	-70	-97	-216	-209	-1679	-592	-2271
Neftekamsk	-44	24	377	845	904	698	572	396	1202	2570	3772
Beloretsk	-225	-187	-48	-85	-188	-183	-276	-338	-545	-985	-1530
Uchaly	-127	126	185	-240	163	73	33	17	-56	286	230
Blagoveshchensk	-53	-184	-14	-54	77	102	67	13	-305	259	-46

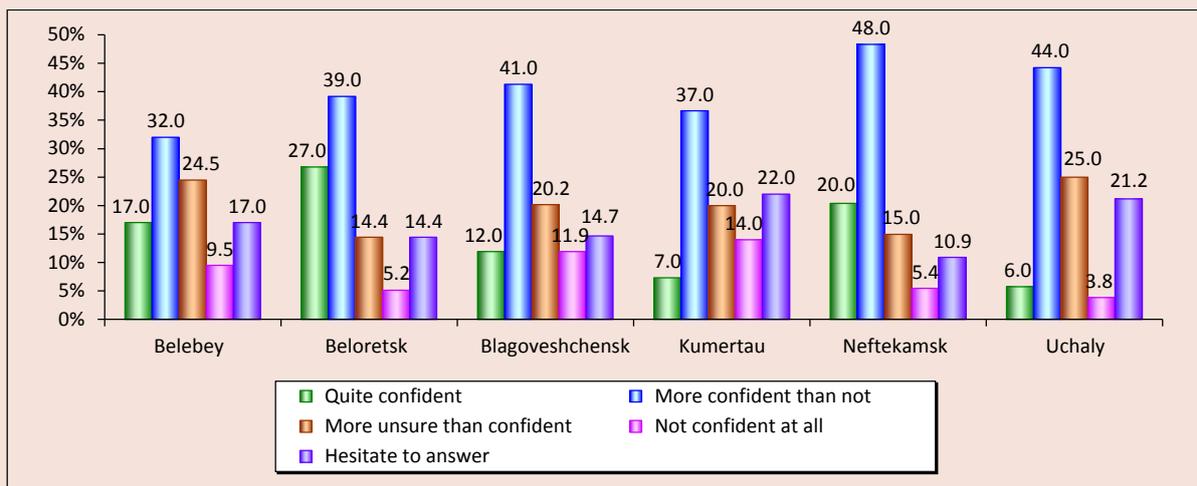
Sources: 1) *Socio-economic situation in municipal districts and urban districts of the Republic of Bashkortostan: stat. coll.* Bashkortostan. Ufa, 2011; 2) Same source. Ufa, 2018.

Figure 9. Distribution of answers to the question “If You had the opportunity to leave Your city for another place of residence, what would You do?”



Source: data of the sociological study “RB Strategy – 2030”.

Figure 10. Population’s confidence in the future



Source: data of the sociological study “RB Strategy – 2030”.

Nevertheless, despite the difficulties, most residents of single-industry towns are optimistic about the future. The largest share of people, confident in their future, lives in Neftekamsk (20.4% are absolutely sure, 48% are more confident than not) and Beloretsk (27% are quite sure, 39% are more confident). The largest share of “pessimists” was recorded in

Belebey, Kumertau, and Blagoveshchensk: 20–25% of respondents are more uncertain than confident, including 9–14% of those who are completely unsure about their future. Uchaly and Kumertau have a high percentage of those who found it difficult to answer this question (from 17 to 22%), which, in our opinion, cannot be evaluated positively (Fig. 10).

Conclusions

At the end of the research, we would like to start a discussion on the following topics.

In accordance with criteria of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, single-industry towns of the Republic of Bashkortostan are divided into three categories: 1) with the most difficult socio-economic situation (Belebey, Kumertau); 2) with risks of the socio-economic deterioration (Neftekamsk, Beloretsk); 3) with stable socio-economic situation (Uchaly, Blagoveshchensk). However, according to the obtained results, only Neftekamsk may be considered a town with a stable current socio-economic situation; Blagoveshchensk, Uchaly, Belebey are towns with risks of the socio-economic deterioration; Beloretsk and Kumertau are towns with the most difficult socio-economic situation. The category of single-industry towns does not contain significant information, and it is not related to the support system of single-industry towns or the creation of TASED. The decision to allocate the necessary support funds is always made in a targeted manner.

According to studies, including foreign ones, the most efficient way to strengthen the position of single-industry territories is to diversify their economy and to develop small and medium-sized businesses. The creation of TASED is aimed at attracting investments in the amount of, at least, 5 million rubles and creating, at least, 10 job places in the first year of the project. This requirement is unaffordable for most start-up entrepreneurs and does not encourage the development of honest entrepreneurship and small businesses. This study showed that, in several towns with high entrepreneurial potential, there is a

“spontaneous” diversification of the economy and the growth of informal employment, which are difficult to control and take into account. Despite the decrease of dependence on a city-forming enterprise, such development leads to the decrease of the employment quality, deterioration of the material and legal status of employees, and, ultimately, negatively affects the viability of the city. If the creation of TASED is aimed at attracting investment and developing industries with an export orientation, the development of small businesses should stimulate domestic demand and economic activity of the population. At the same time, municipal authorities do not have the opportunity to significantly influence the socio-economic development of a town due to limited budgetary and organizational resources. Consideration of the specifics of single-industry towns, which is achieved by usage of sociological data, allows developing more efficient targeted measures of their modernization.

As noted at the beginning of the article, along with available and relatively new statistical materials, we used empirical data collected at the end of 2015. For a comprehensive assessment of progress, a new and more focused sociological study, which would include an in-depth, qualitative analysis of opinions and assessments from the expert community, is required. It will allow giving more complete answers to new challenges and issues, faced during the development of single-industry towns, assessing the efficiency of management measures and decisions on their socio-economic and demographic development.

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Information about the Authors

Guzel' Rimovna Baimurzina – Candidate of Sciences (Economics), Senior Researcher, Bashkir Branch of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (20/1, 50-letiya Oktyabrya Street, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, 450000, Russian Federation; e-mail: guzrim@mail.ru)

Elena Vladimirovna Kabashova – Candidate of Sciences (Economics), Senior Researcher, Bashkir Branch of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (20/1, 50-letiya Oktyabrya Street, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, 450000, Russian Federation; e-mail: e_kabashova@bk.ru)

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