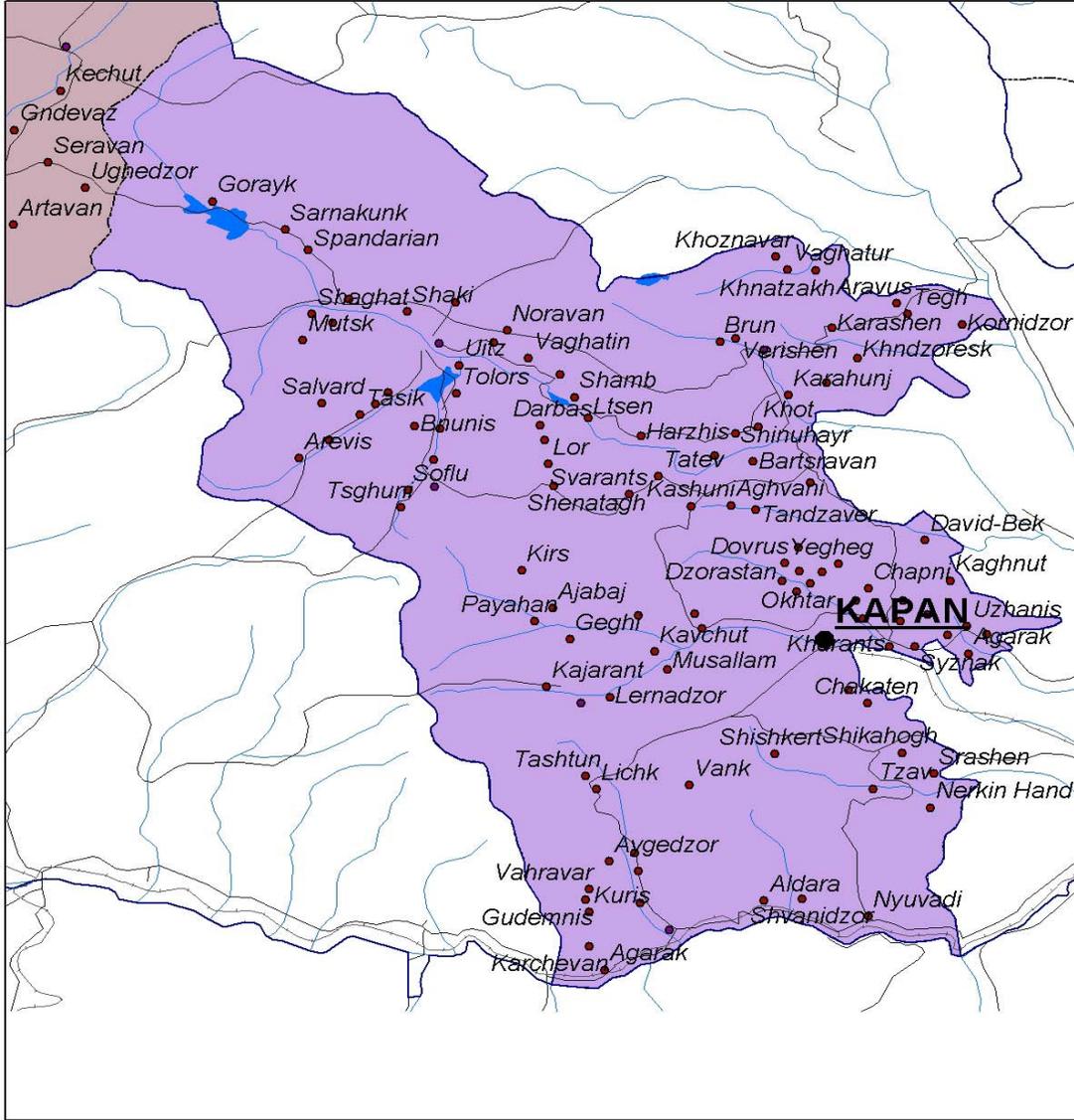


RA SYUNIK MARZ



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Marz centre –Kapan town



Territory	4506 square km
Agricultural land	187792 ha
<i>including</i> arable land	46757 ha
Urban communities	7
Rural communities	105
Rural settlements	127
Population as of January 1, 2003	152.8 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	103.9 ths. persons
rural	48.9 ths. persons

RA Syunik marz occupies 15% of the territory of the Republic of Armenia. The population of the marz comprised 4.8% of RA total population in 2002. It includes 7 towns and 127 rural settlements, the urban population comprised 68.0%. It is a richest marz of the republic with useful minerals. Marz borders with Iran (the length of border is 42 km), Azerbaijan and Nakhijevan Autonomous Republic.

Syunik marz is situated in the south of the Republic of Armenia and covers 6 regions (Baghk, Dzork, Kovsakan, Tsghuk, Haband and Arevik) of one time 12 provinces of the most powerful Syunik (Sisakan) State of historical Mets Hayk. Now that territory is corresponding to Kapan, Goris, Sisian and Meghri regions territory.

Baghaberd and Vorotnaberd, Halidzor castle, Tatev and Vorotna monasteries are famous. Natural monuments are “towers” and grottos of Goris, Khndzoresk, waterfall of Shaki, passes of Vorotan and Voghji, “Satana bridge”.

The biggest world sycamore relict park is situated in the Tsav river pass at the south of Kapan town that occupies 60 ha territory (trees age is numbered by centuries). Some trees’ s diameter of this exceptional park reaches 3 m and the height is 40-45 m.

One of the historical Synik spiritual and cultural centre Vahanavank (X century) is situated in the heart of the forest on the right bank of Voghji river in 4 km distance from the town, and the picturesque Shikahogh state preservation with narrow passes, hearth forests- in 25 km distance.

There are a lot of mineral sources in the Voghji river's pass covered with forest. Baghaberd ancient castle (IV century) remained standing on the pass's bank. The environs of Qajaran town is rich with sweet mineral sources. Meghri river begins from Kapuyt lake situated at the height of 3250 m above sea level and Kaputjugh river – from melt water of Kaputjugh mountain (3905 m) that interlacing with Qajarants river forms Voghji river.

Tatev hydro-electric station, i.e. the firstling of Vorotan hydro-electric stations cascade and Shamb reservoir are situated in the Vorotan pass, from where a water by tunnel with a length of 18 km reaches to turbines of Tatev hydro-electric station. Shaki waterfall, the biggest waterfall (18 m) of Small Caucasus mountains is situated in 6 km distance from Sisian.

Vorotnavanq, one interesting creation of architecture of X-XII centuries is situated in the Vaghatni, and the peculiar crypt monument of XII century – in the Aghitu. Khoshum Dash tomb-hill of Neolithic era that is a dwelling of primitive man is situated in the environs of the Sisian town.

The centre of Syunik prince's sitting in the initial period was Shaghat village-town of Tsg huk province, in IX century – Eghegis village-town of Vayots dzor, Kapan town – from mid of X century.

Israel Ori, the representative of Syunik princely dynasty played a key role in the Armenians liberating struggle against yoke of Persian aggressors in the XVIII century, who presented the country's liberation idea besides all-Armenian circles in European and Russian palaces as well.

Headed by David Bek the "Syunyats world" got freedom from the yoke of Moslem power in 1720 (David Bek's army routed enemy's forces in the Halidzor fight in 1727).

At the end of XIX century provinces situated in the east of Syunyats mountains were included into the Elizavetpol state and on 31 August 1921 Kapan, Goris, Sisian and Meghri provinces formed Zangezour province with Goris centre.

Instead of former provinces 4 administrative districts were formed in 1930 and the region had big economic and cultural progress.

RA Syunik marz occupying strategic and geographic-political important position, having rich resources of natural raw materials, industrial big capacity and being one of the biggest administrative and economic regions of the republic, at the same time is remained as a one of not enough inhabited and economically developed marzes.

Characteristic for the republic social and economic, demographic and other problems are showed in the marz by more underlined sharpness that are related to some particular factors: a big distance from the capital, lack of alternative modes of transport communication, frontier, mountainous, inhabited by refugees, a big number of not crowded and land-starved settlements (102 settlements or 75.5% of settlements), suffered economic damage as a result of Gharabagh conflict in 1991-1994, etc.

The share of marz industry in total volume of republican industrial production comprised 8.6% in 2002, in volume of gross agricultural produce – 9.2%, in retail turnover – 1.0% and in total volume of services rendered to population – 1.6%.

The main branches of marz industry are mining industry and production of electric energy. Marz is rich with mineral rocks. From those the most important are non-ferrous metals

(copper, molybdenum, zinc, lead) and the precious metals (gold, silver), as well as a number of non-metal useful minerals (construction and lining stones, basalt raw materials, limestone and burnt shale marble, granite resources).

The prevailing part of electrical energy produced in the marz belongs to Vorotan hydro-electric station cascade.

56 industrial, 12 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 17 construction, 10 transport, 122 rendering services and 510 retail trade units, of which 208 stores, 275 kiosks, 21 public catering units, 3 agricultural products and 3 consumer goods markets functioned in the marz in 2002. 126 schools of general education, 16 music and art, 10 sport schools, 55 pre-school establishments, 8 state secondary specialized and 3 non-state education establishments, 2 branches of state higher education establishments, 3 museums, 152 libraries and 5 hotels, 33 out-patient polyclinics and 9 hospitals, cultural and enlightenment centers, etc. functioned in the marz as well.

Kapan region

Arable land	5040 ha
Urban communities	2
Rural communities	38
Rural settlements	53
Population as of January 1, 2003	62.5 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	54.0 ths. persons
rural	8.5 ths. persons

The share of Kapan region in total volume of industrial production of Syunik marz comprised 79.8% in 2002, in retail turnover – 56.9% and in volume of services rendered to population – 44.4%.

21 industrial, 5 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 10 construction, 3 transport, 42 rendering services and 190 retail trade units, of which 91 stores, 91 kiosks, 6 public catering units, 1 consumer goods and 1 agricultural produce markets functioned in the region in 2002. 46 schools of general education, 6 music and art and 4 sport schools, 3 secondary specialized and 1 higher education establishments, 25 pre-school establishments, 1 museum, 67 libraries and 4 hotels, 12 out-patient polyclinics and 5 hospitals, cultural and enlightenment centers of marz importance, etc. functioned in the region as well.

Kapan town (45.6 ths. inhabitants) is situated at the foot of Khustup mountain (3201 m) and one of big industrial towns of the republic. The leading trend of economy is mining industry. Kapan's cooper mines were famous so far in mid centuries. Since 1846 to soviet system cooper mines were exploited by private owners (French industrial and metallurgy companies).

18 industrial, 3 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 6 construction, 2 transport, 36 rendering services and 77 retail trade units, of which 66 stores, 6 public catering units, 1 consumer goods and 1 agricultural produce markets functioned in the town in 2002.

15 schools of general education, 5 music and art, 3 sport schools, 3 secondary specialized and 1 higher education establishments, 12 pre-school establishments, 1 **museum, 17 libraries, 2**

hotels, cultural and enlightenment centers of marz importance, etc. functioned in the town as well.

Qajaran town (8.4 ths. inhabitants), centre of the republican non-ferrous metallurgy was formed in 1958, based on the exploitation of rare mine that is a powerful mine basis of cooper and molybdenum.

3 industrial, 1 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 3 construction, 5 rendering services to population and 10 retail trade units, stores functioned in the town in 2002. 5 schools of general education and 1 art, 1 sport schools, 4 pre-school establishments, 6 libraries, 1 hotel, cultural and enlightenment centers of marz importance, etc. functioned in the town as well.

Goris region

Arable land	16160 ha
Urban communities	1
Rural communities	24
Rural settlements	27
Population as of January 1, 2003	44.2 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	23.2 ths. persons
rural	21.0 ths. persons

The share of Goris region in total volume of industrial production of Syunik marz comprised 9.8% in 2002, in retail turnover – 22.7% and in total volume of services – 23.1%.

17 industrial, 1 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 3 construction, 2 transport, 32 rendering services and 71 retail trade units, of which 34 stores, 30 kiosks, 5 public catering units, 1 consumer goods and 1 agricultural produce markets functioned in the region in 2002.

31 schools of general education, 5 music and art, 2 sport schools, 3 secondary specialized and 1 higher state and 2 non state higher education establishments, 12 pre-school establishments, 1 museum, 26 libraries, 1 hotel, 9 out-patient polyclinics and 1 hospital, cultural and enlightenment centers of marz importance, etc. functioned in the region as well.

Goris town (23.2 ths. inhabitants) was founded in 1870 as a centre of Zangezour province of Elizavetpol state. Varakn river is a “border” of old and new towns. The town covered with trees and shrubs is on the right bank of river, on the left bank – labyrinth of stone pyramids and volcanic rocks pillars. 900 years ago a university was founded in Tatev monastery, where astrology, mathematics, philosophy and foreign languages had been studied.

Manufacturing industry, in particular, production of food and beverages, textile and sewing produce, machines and equipment, electric energy production and distribution comprised considerable part in the Goris town economy. The footwear production was re-started (different types of sport and active rest footwear is produced).

16 industrial, 3 construction, 2 transport, 26 rendering services and 71 retail trade units, of which 34 store, 5 public catering units, 1 consumer goods and 1 agricultural produce markets functioned in the town in 2002. 7 schools of general education, 3 music and art, 2 sport schools, 3 secondary specialized and 1 higher state education establishments, and 2 non- state higher

education establishments, 7 pre-school establishments, 1 museum, 9 libraries, 1 hotel, cultural and enlightenment centers, etc. functioned in the town as well.

Sisian region

Arable land	24410 ha
Urban communities	2
Rural communities	32
Rural settlements	34
Population as of January 1, 2003	33.9 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	17.1 ths. persons
rural	16.8 ths. persons

The region is rich with sky blue basalt, granite, perlite and diatomites. The share of region in total volume of industrial production of Syunik marz comprised 0.7% in 2002, in retail turnover -15.7% and in volume of services rendered to population – 22.8%.

14 industrial, 3 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 2 construction, 3 transport, 23 rendering services and 176 retail trade units, of which 69 stores, 97 kiosks, 10 public catering units functioned in the region in 2002. 38 schools of general education, 3 music and art, 3 sport schools, 10 pre-school establishments, 2 secondary specialized education establishments, and 1 non-state higher education establishment, 1 museum, 39 libraries, 1 hospital, 9 out-patient polyclinics functioned in the region as well.

Sisian town (16.8 ths. inhabitants) economy is mainly specialized in mining industry, in particular, non metal mineral other produce production and manufacturing industry, of which food and beverages, textile and sewing produce productions.

12 industrial, 2 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 1 construction, 3 transport, 23 rendering services and 35 retail trade units, of which 28 stores, 5 public catering units functioned in the town in 2002. 7 schools of general education, 3 music and art, 2 sport schools, 4 pre-school establishments, 2 secondary specialized education establishments and 1 non-state higher education establishment, 1 museum, 4 libraries, 9 out-patient polyclinics and 1 hospital functioned in the town as well.

2 retail trade units (stores), 1 school of general education, 1 pre-school establishment and 1 library functioned in Dastakert town (0.3 ths. inhabitants) in 2002.

Meghri region

Arable land	1147 ha
Urban communities	2
Rural communities	11
Rural settlements	13
Population as of January 1, 2003	12.2 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	9.6 ths. persons
rural	2.6 ths. persons

Meghri is the most south region of Armenia. Meghri mountain pass (2483 m) is the highest mountain pass of RA.

The share of Meghri region in total volume of industrial production of Syunik marz comprised 9.7% in 2002, in retail turnover – 4.7%, in total volume of services rendered to population – 9.7%.

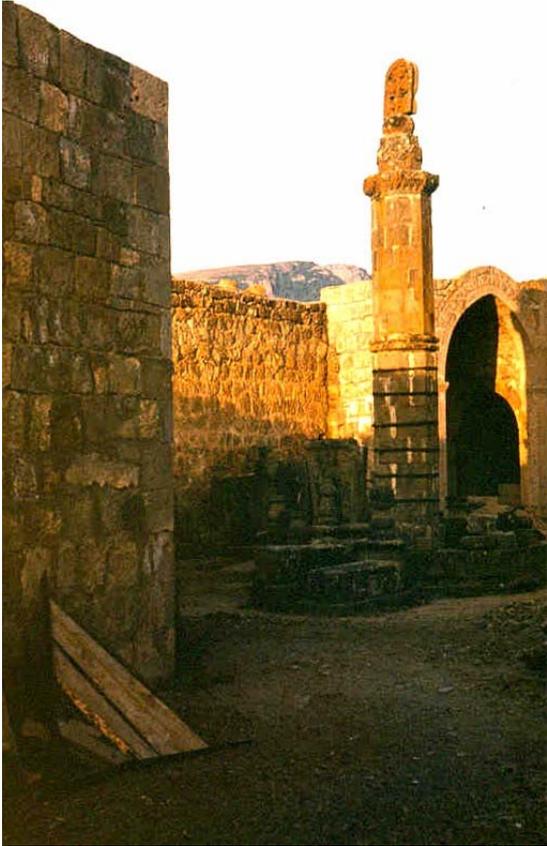
4 industrial, 3 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 2 construction, 2 transport, 25 rendering services and 73 retail trade units, of which 14 stores, 57 kiosks, 1 agricultural products and 1 consumer goods markets functioned in the region in 2002. 11 schools of general education and 2 art, 2 sport schools, 8 pre-school establishments, 1 secondary specialized education establishment, 20 libraries, 3 out-patient polyclinics and 2 hospitals, etc. functioned in the region as well.

Meghri town (4.8 ths. inhabitants) is original “lively” museum, town’s districts “climb up” by stone breasts. The first mention about Meghri castle is related to 1083. Churches built in XVII century are preserved in the town.

The prevailing trend of town’s economy was manufacturing (food and beverages production organizations operate) in 2002. 3 industrial, 2 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 2 construction, 2 transport, 19 rendering services and 8 retail trade units (stores) functioned in Meghri town in 2002.

2 schools of general education and 1 art, 1 sport schools, 1 pre-school establishment, 1 secondary specialized education establishment, 8 libraries, etc. functioned in the town as well.

Agarak town (4.8 ths. inhabitants) economy’s development is connected to cooper and molybdenum production. Armenia-Iran border post, customs-house and cross-border market are situated in Agarak. 1 industrial, 1 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 4 rendering services and 5 retail trade units, of which 3 stores, 1 public catering unit, 1 agricultural produce market functioned in the town in 2002. 1 school of general education, 1 art and 1 sport schools, 1 pre-school establishment, 3 libraries, etc. functioned in the town in 2002 as well.



Monument from Tatev monastery



“Satani” bridge

URBAN COMMUNITIES

Community name	Settlement name
Kapan	Kapan town
Agarak	Agarak town
Goris	Goris town
Dastakert	Dastakert town
Meghri	Meghri town
Sisian	Sisian town
Qajaran	Qajaran town

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Community name	Settlement name
Agarak	Agarak
Aldara	Aldara
Akhlatyan	Akhlatyan
Aghitu	Aghitu
Aghvani	Aghvani
Angeghakot	Angeghakot
Antarashat	Antarashat
Ashotavan	Ashotavan
Arajadzor	Arajadzor
Aravus	Aravus
Artsvanik	Artsvanik
Arevis	Arevis
Balak	Balak
Bardzravan	Bardzravan
Bnunis	Bnunis
Brnakot	Brnakot
Brun	Brun
Geghanush	Geghanush
	Gomaran
Geghi	Geghi
	Geghavank
	Kard
Getatagh	Getatagh
Gorayk	Gorayk
Gudemnis	Gudemnis
David Bek	David Bek
Darbas	Darbas
	Shamb
Dovrus	Dovrus
Egheg	Egheg
Eghvard	Eghvard
Tanahat	Tanahat
Tasik	Tasik
Lehvaz	Lehvaz
Lernadzor	Lernadzor
	Kavchut
	Musallam
Lichk	Lichk
Ltsen	Ltsen
Lor	Lor
Khalaj	Khalaj
Khdrants	Khdrants
Khntsakh	Khntsakh
Khndzoresk	Khndzoresk
Khoznavar	Khoznavar
Khot	Khot
Tsav	Tsav
	Shishkert
Tsg huk	Tsg huk
Kaghnut	Kaghnut
Karchevan	Karchevan
Kornidzor	Kornidzor

Community name	Settlement name
Kuris	Kuris
Halidzor	Halidzor
Hartashen	Hartashen
Harjis	Harjis
Hatsavan	Hatsavan
Dzorastan	Dzorastan
Ghljugh	Ghljugh
Chakaten	Chakaten
Mutsk	Mutsk
Nerqin Khndzoresk	Nerqin Khndzoresk
Nerqin Khotanan	Nerqin Khotanan
Nerqin Hand	Nerqin Hand
Nrnadzor	Nrnadzor
Norashenik	Norashenik
Noravan	Noravan
Shaghat	Shaghat
Shaki	Shaki
Shenatagh	Shenatagh
Shikahogh	Shikahogh
Shinuhayr	Shinuhayr
Shvanidzor	Shvanidzor
Shrvenantz	Shrvenantz
Shurnukh	Shurnukh
	Aghbulagh
	Ghurdulagh
	Paytamshakman gortsaranin kits
Vorotan (Goris region)	Vorotan
Vorotan (Sisian region)	Vorotan
Chapni	Chapni
Salvard	Salvard
Sarnaunk	Sarnaunk
Syunik	Syunik
	Arznak
	Ditsmayri
	Khordzor
	Nerqin Glodaqlu
Soflu	Soflu
	Tsghuni
Spandaryan	Spandaryan
Svarants	Svarants
Srashen	Srashen
Sevaqar	Sevaqar
Vahravar	Vahravar
Vaghatin	Vaghatin
Vaghatur	Vaghatur
Vanek	Vanek
Vardanidzor	Vardanidzor
	Aygedzor
	Maralzami
Verin Giratagh	Verin Giratagh
Verin Gyodaqlu	Verin Gyodaqlu
Verin Khotanan	Verin Khotanan
Verishen	Verishen
Tatev	Tatev
Tandzaver	Tandzaver
Tandzatap	Tandzatap
Tashtun	Tashtun
Tegh	Tegh
Tolors	Tolors
Torunik	Torunik
Ujanis	Ujanis
Uyts	Uyts
Payahan	Payahan
	Aghabaj
	Hajatin

Community name	Settlement name
	Chalqend
Pirlu	Pirlu
Qashuni	Qashuni
Qajaran	Qajaran
Qarahunj	Qarahunj
Qarashen	Qarashen
Qyurut	Qyurut
	Qirs
Okhtar	Okhtar