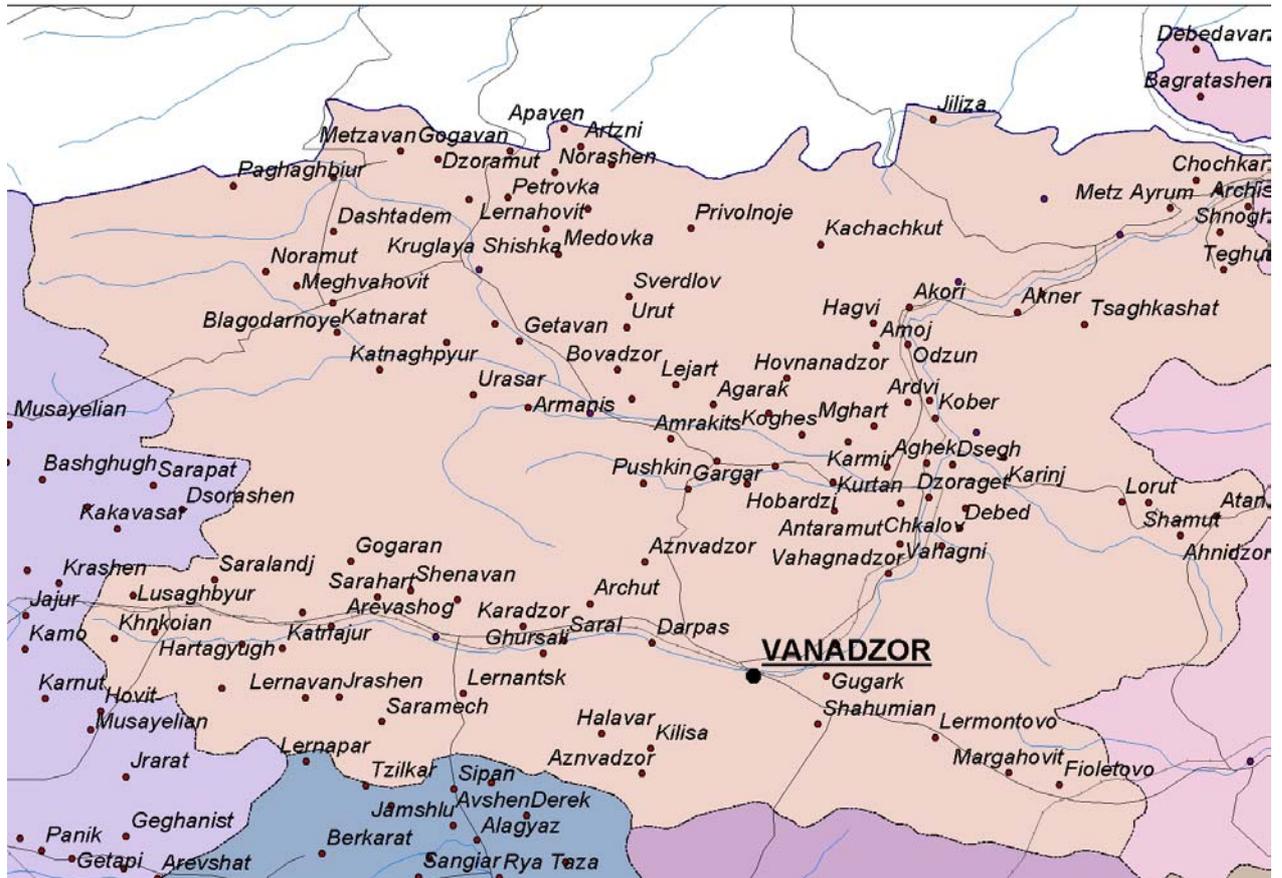


RA Lori Marz



RA LORI MARZ

Marz centre – Vanadzor town



Territory	3789 square km
Agricultural land	192212 ha
<i>including</i> arable land	47823 ha
Urban communities	8
Rural communities	105
Rural settlements	122
Population as of January 1, 2003	285.0 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	168.4 ths. persons
rural	116.6 ths. persons

RA Lori marz is the third largest marz by its territory in the republic (it occupies the 12.7 % of RA territory) and the second by its population number (after Yerevan city). It is situated in the North of the republic and borders with Georgia. RA general railway runs through the central part of the marz.

RA Lori marz includes the regions of Spitak, Stepanavan, Tashir, Tumanyan, Gugark and the towns of Vanadzor, Spitak, Stepanavan, Alaverdi, Tashir, Akhtala, Tumanyan, Shamlugh. The population number of the marz comprised the 8.9 % of total population of the republic as of January 1 2003. Nearly 59.0 % of population is a town dweller.

The territory of Lori marz occupies the half part of eastern Gukark state of historical Armenia (Armenian independent state- the kingdom of Lori existed in this territory in X-XI centuries, a part of the territory of marz once was the estate of Zakaryans dynasty).

Tezh mountain (3101metres high) is the highest peak above sea level in the marz and lower reaches of Debed river is the lowest (about 380 m).

The architectural monuments inherited from different centuries are various. About 3000 monuments are under the State protection. Complexes of Sanahin and Haghpat, monastical complex of Odzun, monastical complex and stronghold of Akhtala, ruins of stronghold of Loriberd and Tashir, cave-dwellings and the Copper Age habitations of Spitak, Vanadzor's monasteries of V century, castle of Tagavoranist (royal residence), remnants of 2 Cyclopean castles, the Copper Age habitations of Kosi choter, St. Grigor Bardzrakash monastery of Dsegh and etc. are especially notable.

Sanahin monastery is (it is interpreted as San-hin "old pitcher" according to H.Acharyan) one of the striking constructions of Armenian medieval architecture and it played a great role in armenian spiritual and cultural life. Cultural and religious famous workers Dioskoros Catholicos, Anania, Hakob and Hovhannes Sanahnetsis, Grigor Tatevordi and magister Grigor Pahlavuni contributed their knowledge to Armenian written language in this monastery having 1000-year history. Great singer-Sayat Nova was one of the alumni of religious school.

Sanahin monastery as well as **Haghpat monastery** situated at a distance of 6 km was founded at the beginning of X century. **Haghpat monastery** is one of the largest and notable monastical complexes of Armenia, where the medieval Armenian architectural features such as picturesqueness, harmonious relations with surroundings, secular thinking and predominance of secular constructions are displayed in more emphasized way. The monument is a rare harmony of nature and human creation. The monastery is famous as one of the most important Armenian medieval cultural and religious centres and a large cloistral landlord's institution.

Since the middle of XII centuries **Haghpat monastery** had been diocesan centre of Kyurikyan kingdom. David Kobayretsi - scientific, literary man, H. Yerznkatsi Tsortsoretsi (Pluz) - writer, the son of D. Alavki – lawyer and others promoted fruitful activity there. The copy of famous Haghpat Gospel was made there (1211). Great singer Sayat Nova served as an ecclesiastic in Haghpat.

The 1998 Earthquake, the epicentre of which was a little bit North from Spitak, covered the large part of the present day territory of the marz. Earthquake measured 9-10 in Spitak town and in Kirovakan –8 on the Richter scale. Shocks lasted 40 seconds razed all constructions of Spitak to the ground, 8000 dwellings tumbled down in Kirovakan, 30 buildings and 2500 houses – in Stepanavan, the regions of Gugark, Tumanyan and Tashir suffered greatly.

The reconstruction works started with the help of financial and physical assistance received from a number of countries of the world and numerous tenderhearted people immediately after the earthquake have being continued by now. During last 15 years, every now and then new dwellings, schools, industrial constructions, cultural centres were built in the marz.

The share of industry of RA Lori marz for 2002 in total volume of industrial production of the republic comprised 4.9%, in the volume of gross agricultural produce -10.5%, in retail turnover - 2.5% and in total volume of services rendered to population- 3.3%.

101 industrial, 16 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 1 fishing and fish farming, 34 construction, 16 transport, 294 units rendering services, 982 retail trade active units functioned in the marz in 2002, of which 290 shops, 655 kiosks, 29 public catering units, 4 markets of agricultural produce, 4 markets of consumer goods. 175 state and 1 non state schools of general education, 24 music and art schools, 15 sports schools, 9 state and 3 non state secondary specialized education establishments, 1 state and 6 non state higher education establishments, 58 state pre-school establishments, 132 libraries, 8 museums, 4 hotels, 49 out-patient polyclinics and 14 hospitals functioned as well.

The marz centre is *Vanadzor* town (former Mets Gharakilisa, in 1935-92 -Kirovakan). It is situated in the intermontane concavity of mountain chains of Pambak and Bazum, in the confluence of Tandzut and Pambak rivers, at a height of 1350 m. above sea level. It is 120 km by roadway, and 224 km by railway. Tandzut and Pambak rivers flow along the town.

Owing to the works of archeologists it became clear that Tashir- Dzoraget region and especially the territory of Vanadzor town are rich in large and small archeological monuments (Tagavoranist, Mashtots hill, Kosi choter and etc.). The settlement situated in the territory of Vanadzor was in the structure of Mets Hayk in II century B.C. and in X century A.D it was in the structure of Kyurikyan kingdom. It is supposed that Gharakilisa (Black Church) is a Tatar name and it was given at the beginning of XIII century after the church from the black stone situated on the northern hill of Vanadzor.

In 1801 Lori also together with Georgia joined Russia and Gharakilisa became a border station. In 1849 Gharakilisa was in Yerevan State. In 1870 the construction of Dilijan-Gharakilisa-Alexandrapol road and in 1899 the construction of Tbilisi-Gharakilisa-Alexandrapol railway, station, post-office and inns greatly furthered the formation and development of the village of urban type. In 1935 Gharakilisa renamed Kirovakan and since 1992 the town has been called Vanadzor.

The town formerly considered as a town rich in industrial powers and at the same time as a resort centre, nowadays it doesn't coincide to the characterizations formerly addressed to its name. A great number of former large industrial organizations haven't functioned yet, children's camps and resting places idle their time, surrounding forests of the town are cut.

106.3 ths. people resided in *Vanadzor* as of January 1 2003, which comprised 63.1% of the town dweller population of the marz. 56 industrial organizations functioned in the town in 2002, the volume of produced output of which in 2002 comprised about 24% of marz indicator. 642 retail trade units (134 shops, 492 kiosks, 11 public catering units, 1 market of agricultural produce and 1 market of consumer goods) functioned in the town, the goods turnover through which comprised

70% of marz goods turnover. 23 construction, 8 transport, 152 organizations rendering services, 35 schools of general education, 8 music and art schools, 8 sports schools, 6 pre-school establishments, 5 state and 1 non state secondary specialized education establishments 6 higher education establishments, 25 libraries, 3 museums, 5 hospitals, 12 out-patient polyclinics and 2 hotels functioned in the town.

Spitak region

Arable land	11330 ha
Urban communities	1
Rural communities	20
Rural settlements	20
Population as of January 1, 2003	41.5 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	15.0 ths. persons
rural	26.5 ths. persons

7 industrial, 3 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 3 construction, 1 transport, 20 units rendering services, 89 retail trade active units functioned in the region in 2002, of which 43 shops, 45 kiosks, 1 public catering unit. 30 schools of general education, 2 music and art schools and 2 sports schools, 2 pre-school establishments, 1 secondary specialized education establishment, 6 libraries, 2 hospitals and 5 out-patient polyclinics functioned in the region.

The share of industry of Spitak region in 2002 in total volume of industrial production of Lori marz comprised 1.8 %, in retail turnover – 7 % and in total volume of services - 3.6 %.

Spitak town (15.0 ths. people) is situated on the bank of Pambak river, in a distance of 100 km from Yerevan, and 20 km from marz centre. It occupies the territory of 1400 ha. Settlements had existed in the present territory of the town since III millennium B.C. Cave-dwellings and traces of the Copper Age habitations situated in the southern part of the town preserved by now testified it.

Since 1800 there have been records on Hamamlu settlement situated in the territory of the town, in 1961 the settlement named Spitak. In 1988 it was completely ruined because of the disastrous earthquake. Spitak had been one of the industrial centres of the republic until 1988; the only sugar refinery was situated in Spitak.

4 industrial, 3 construction, 1 transport, 17 units rendering services, 30 retail trade active units functioned in the town in 2002, of which 1 public catering unit.

9 schools of general education, 2 music and art schools and 2 sports schools, 2 pre-school establishments, 6 libraries, 1 hospital and 2 out-patient polyclinics functioned in the town in 2002 as well.

Construction and reconstruction works passed in full speed in 2002 in Spitak.

Stepanavan region

Arable land	10152 ha
Urban communities	1
Rural communities	18
Rural settlements	19
Population as of January 1, 2003	33.4 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	16.2 ths. persons
rural	17.2 ths. persons

13 industrial, 4 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 5 construction, 2 transport, 26 units rendering services, 64 retail trade active units functioned in the region in 2002, of which 55 shops, 7 kiosks, 1 public catering unit and 1 market of agricultural produce.

26 schools general education, 2 music and art schools and 1 sports schools, 7 pre-school establishments, 1 higher education establishment, 2 museums and 17 libraries, 1 hospitals and 10 out-patient polyclinics functioned in the region.

The share of industry of Stepanavan region in 2002 in total volume of industrial production of Lori marz comprised 2 %, in retail turnover – 8 % and in total volume of services - 10.3 %.

Circumference of ***Stepanavan*** town (16.6 ths. inhabitants) comprised 26.5 km, it occupies the territory of 1666 ha and situated at a height of 1375 m above sea level. Since early Bronze Age the territory of the town has continually been a settlement, the evidence of which are from early Bronze Age till late Bronze Age settlements and sepulchres of “Lori Berd” territory and the territory of Armanis village. The settlement was called Jalaloghli in XVI-XVIII centuries and in 1930 the town was renamed Stepanavan.

11 industrial, 5 construction, 2 transport, 26units rendering services, 8 retail trade active units functioned in the town in 2002, of which 1market of agricultural produce.

8 schools of general education, 2 music and art schools, sports schools, 4 pre-school establishments, 1 higher and 1state secondary specialized education establishments, 1museum, 2 libraries, 2 out-patient polyclinics and 1 hospital functioned in the town in 2002 as well.

Tashir region

Arable land	12436 ha
Urban communities	1
Rural communities	19
Rural settlements	23
Population as of January 1, 2003	27.6 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	9.4 ths. persons
rural	18.2 ths. persons

8 industrial, 4 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 1 fishing and fish farming, 1 transport, 13 organizations rendering services, 27 retail trade organizations functioned in the region in 2002, of which 9 shops, 16 kiosks, 1 public catering unit and 1 market of agricultural produce. 23 schools of general education and 1 sports school, 4 pre-school establishments, 1 secondary specialized education establishment, 21 libraries, 2 hospitals and 3 out-patient polyclinics functioned in the region as well.

The share of industry of Tashir region in 2002 in total volume of industrial production of Lori marz comprised 2.2 %, in retail turnover – 6 % and in total volume of services - 1.5 %.

Armenian settlements had existed in the present territory of **Tashir town** (9.4 ths. inhabitants) since III millennium B.C.. Numerous settlements are preserved especially on the left bank of Dzoraget river. The stronghold of Tashir is notable and was built at the end of II millennium B.C.. Stronghold-town had been the centre of Tashir state of Gugarats principdom. Lord Vren Tashiretsi of Tashir is famous in the history, which took part in Avarair Battle (451).

The present day Tashir town was founded in 1834, as a Russian exile and was named Voprontsovka, where Russians mainly lived. In 1937 it renamed Kalinino and was situated in Stepanavan region. In 1961 it was separated as a settlement of urban type and in 1983 as a town of republican subordination. It renamed Tashir in 1991.

6 industrial (manufacture of food, especially of cheese), 1 transport, 12 units rendering services, 20 retail trade active units functioned in the town in 2002, of which 1 public catering unit and 1 market of agricultural produce. 3 schools of general education and 1 sports school, 4 pre-school establishments, 2 libraries, 2 out-patient polyclinics and 1 hospital functioned in the town as well.

Tumanyan region

Arable land	7903 ha
Urban communities	4
Rural communities	27
Rural settlements	34
Population as of January 1, 2003	48.8 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	21.5 ths. persons
rural	27.3 ths. persons

13 industrial, 2 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 3 transport, 65 units rendering services, 98 retail trade active units functioned in the region in 2002, of which 19 shops, 76 kiosks, 2 public catering units, 1 market of agricultural produce. 43 schools of general education, 10 music and art schools, 2 sports schools, 36 pre-school establishments, 1 secondary specialized and 1 higher education establishments, 3 museums, 42 libraries, 2 hotels, 14 out-patient polyclinics and 4 hospitals functioned in the region as well.

The share of industry of Tumanyan region in 2002 in total volume of industrial production of Lori marz comprised 67%, in retail turnover – 6 % and in total volume of services - 10 %.

Alaverdi town (17.1 ths. inhabitants) is situated on the bank of Debed river (at a distance of 167 km from Yerevan). The mines of copper of Alaverdi have been used since the Copper Age. At the end of XVIII century French people constructed the first copper-melting factory here. The town was formed after the construction of the factory. The copper-melting factory has functioned today as well, the output of which comprised prevailing part of Lori marz indicator.

9 industrial, 2 transport, 50 organizations rendering services, 79 retail trade organizations functioned in the town in 2002. 11 schools of general education and 1 sports school, 13 pre-school establishments, 1 state and 2 non state secondary specialized and 1 higher education establishments, 2 museums, 10 libraries, 1 hospitals, 1 out-patient polyclinics and 2 hotels functioned in Alaverdi town as well.

Akhtala town (2.4 ths. inhabitants) is situated on the left bank of Debed river (at a distance of 185 km from Yerevan), on the steep of the mountain. Settlements had existed in the present day territory of the town since the very ancient times. The famous archeologist Jak De Morgan was the first who excavated the sepulchres of late Bronze Age in XIX century. Chapels and monasteries had been built since IV century; many of them are preserved. Reconstructing famous monastery of Akhtala is an adornment of the monumental complex, which was built in the place of the old monastery after X century. The entrance of fortress at a distance of 50 m from the railway is preserved as well.

1 industrial organization (manufacture of copper concentrate), 4 organizations rendering services functioned in the town in 2002. 2 schools of general education, 3 pre-school establishments and 1 library functioned in the town as well.

Tumanyan town (1.9 ths. inhabitants) is situated on the right bank of Debed river (at a distance of 152 km from Yerevan). Numerous chapels and monasteries give evidence that the territory of the town had been populated since the ancient times. The monastical complex of Kobayr constructed in VIII century is especially famous.

In post-war period a factory of refractory brick was built on the base of refractory raw clay, round which present day Tumanyan town was formed.

2 industrial, 4 organizations rendering services, 1 school of general education and 1 sports school, 1 preschool establishment, 1 museum, 1 library and 1 out-patient polyclinics functioned in the town in 2002.

Shamlugh town (0.7 ths. inhabitants) is situated on the left bank of Debed river (at a distance of 203 km from Yerevan). The monuments of the territory give the evidence about the early settlement of the territory. It is famous for its mines of copper and silver. After XVI century it became one of the most important mining exploitation centres in Southern Caucasus. 2 organizations rendering services, 1 school of general education, 1 preschool establishment and 1 library functioned in the town in 2002.

Gugark region

Arable land	4201 ha
Urban communities	-
Rural communities	21
Rural settlements	26
Population as of January 1, 2003	27.4 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	-
rural	27.4 ths. persons

4 industrial, 3 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 3 construction, 1 transport, 18 units rendering services, 62 retail trade active units functioned in the region in 2002, of which 30 shops, 19 kiosks, 13 public catering units.

19 schools of general education, 2 music and art schools and 1 sports school, 3 pre-school establishments, 21 libraries, 5 out-patient polyclinics functioned in the region. Socio-economic situation of the region is mostly stipulated by the fact that it is situated near Vanadzor.

The share of industry of Gugark region for 2002 in total volume of industrial production of Lori marz comprised 3 %, in retail turnover -3 % and in total volume of services -5.7 %.



Cross stone of Haghpat monastery



View of Haghpat monastery

Urban Communities

Community name	Settlement name
Vanadsor	t. Vanadsor
Alaverdi	t. Alaverdi
	v. Akner
Akhtala	t. Akhtala
	v. Aroghjaranin kits
Tumanyan	t. Tumanyan
	v. Kober kayarani
Shamlugh	t. Shamlugh
	v. Akhtala
	v. Bendik
Spitak	t. Spitak
Stepanavan	t. Stepanavan
	v. Armanis
Tashir	t. Tashir

Rural Communities

Community name	Settlement name
Agarak	Agarak
Aznvadzor	Aznvadzor
Atan	Atan
Ahnidzor	Ahnidzor
Amrakits	Amrakits
Aygehat	Aygehat
Antaramut	Antaramut
Antarashen	Antarashen
Apaven	Apaven
Ardvi	Ardvi
Artsni	Artsni
Arjut	Arjut
	Arjut kayaranin kits
Arevatsag	Arevatsag
Arevashogh	Arevashogh
Akori	Akori
Bazum	Bazum
Blagodarnoye	Blagodarnoye
Bovadzor	Bovadzor
Gargar	Gargar
Geghasar	Geghasar
Gyulagarak	Gyulagarak

Community name	Settlement name
Gogaran	Gogaran
Gugark	Gugark
Dashtadem	Dashtadem
Darpas	Darpas
Debet	Debet
Dsegh	Dsegh
Yeghegnut	Yeghegnut
Teghut	Teghut
Lejan	Lejan
Lernahovit	Lernahovit
Lernantsk	Lernantsk
Lernapat	Lernapat
Lernavan	Lernavan
Lermontov	Lermontov
Lori berd	Lori berd
Lorut	Lorut
Lusaghbyur	Lusaghbyur
Khnkoyan	Khnkoyan
Tsater	Tsater
Tsaghkaber	Tsaghkaber
Tsaghkashat	Tsaghkashat
Katnaghbyur	Katnaghbyur
Katnajur	Katnajur
Katnarat	Katnarat
Kajajkut	Kajajkut
Karmir Agheg	Karmir Agheg
Koghes	Koghes
Kurtan	Kurtan
Hagvi	Hagvi
Halavar	Halavar
	Gyulludara
	Haydarli
	Kilisa
Haghpat	Haghpat
Hartagyugh	Hartagyugh
Hobards	Hobards
Hovnanadzor	Hovnanadzor
Dsyunashogh	Dsyunashogh
Dsoraget	Dsoraget
Dsoragyugh	Dsoragyugh
Dsoramut	Dsoramut
	Gogavan
Ghursal	Ghursal
Jojkan	Jojkan
Margahovit	Margahovit
Marts	Marts
Medovka	Medovka

Community name	Settlement name
Mets Ayrum	Mets Ayrum
Metsavan	Metsavan
Mets Parni	Mets Parni
Meghvahovit	Meghvahovit
	Noramut
Mikhayelovka	Mikhayelovka
Mghart	Mghart
Yaghdan	Yaghdan
Neghots	Neghots
Novoseltsovo	Novoseltsovo
Norashen	Norashen
Nor Khachakap	Nor Khachakap
Shahumyan	Shahumyan
Shamut	Shamut
Shenavan	Shenavan
Shirakamut	Shirakamut
Shnogh	Shnogh
Chkalov	Chkalov
Paghaghbyur	Paghaghbyur
Petrovka	Petrovka
Privolnoye	Privolnoye
Pushkino	Pushkino
Jiliza	Jiliza
Jrashen	Jrashen
Saralanj	Saralanj
Sarahart	Sarahart
Saramej	Saramej
Saratovka	Saratovka
	Getavan
Sarchapet	Sarchapet
Sverdlov	Sverdlov
Vahagnadzor	Vahagnadzor
Vahagni	Vahagni
Vardablur	Vardablur
Urut	Urut
Urasar	Urasar
Pambak	Pambak
	Pambak kayaranin kits
Karaberd	Karaberd
Karadzor	Karadzor
Karinj	Karinj
Karkop	Karkop
Odzun	Odzun
	Amoj
Fioletovo	Fioletovo