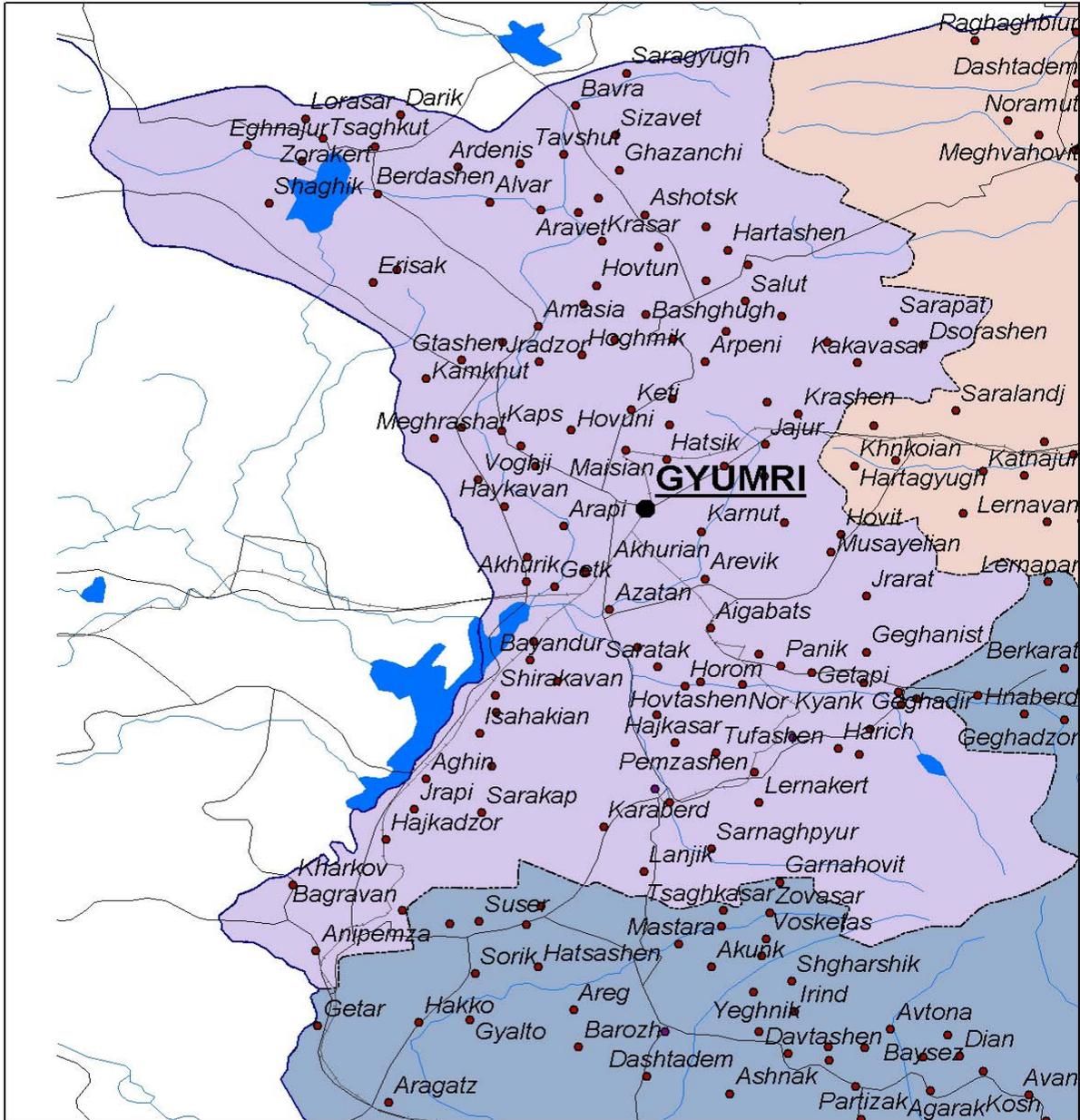


RA SHIRAK MARZ



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Marz centre –Gyumri town



Territory	2681 square km
Agricultural land	165737 ha
including arable land	84530 ha
Urban communities	3
Rural communities	116
Rural settlements	128
Population as of January 1, 2003	282.5 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	173.1 ths. persons
rural	109.4 ths. persons

RA Shirak marz is situated in the north-west of the republic. Borders with Turkey and Georgia. Marz covers Artik, Akhuryan, Ani, Amasia and Ashotsk regions. It includes 3 towns - Gyumri, Artik, Maralik and 128 rural settlements. Marz occupies 9% of RA territory. The population of the marz comprised 8.8% of RA total population in 2002, including 61.3% urban, 86.6% of which only in Gyumri.

RA Shirak marz inherited its name from the Shirak province of Ayrarat land of historical Armenia. Being at the height of 1500-2000 m above sea level (52 villages of the marz are at the height of 1500-1700 m above sea level and 55 – 2000 m), the marz is the coldest region of Armenia, where the air temperature sometimes reaches -46°C in winter.

The main railway and automobile highway connecting Armenia with Georgia pass through the marz territory. The railway and motor-road networks of Armenia and Turkey are connected here.

The airport is situated in the RA Shirak marz that provides air connection with CIS countries and has a facility to receive any type plane.

On the Akhuryan river frontier with Turkey the Akhuryan reservoir was built **that is the** biggest of the country by its volume of 526 mln.m³.

Harich (south-east from Artik), Marmarashen (north-west from Gyumri) monasteries, Ereruyr (near the Anipemza), Sarnaghbyur Hogevanq (VII century), Artik churches and other

antiquities are situated on the marz territory, the most of them were built in X-XI centuries and present the monuments of great architectural value.

Spitak destructive earthquake of 7 December 1988, besides taking away thousands human victims, has caused big destructions of Shirak marz economy and, particularly, Gyumri town. To earthquake the marz took the second place in the republic by its development level and economic capacity, yielding only to Yerevan city. However, after the earthquake the marz economy endured a deep drop (earthquake consequences were destructive: in seconds powerful factories have been turned into ruins, thousands dwelling houses, schools, hospitals have been destroyed). A big number of cattle was remained under the ruins in villages.

In 1989-1991 by the assistance of almost all soviet republics, many foreign countries and international organizations a big reconstruction work has been conducted with a purpose to liquidate ruins. In the past period the marz economy and industrial capacities are slowly reconstructed.

The share of industry of **RA Shirak marz** in total volume of republican industrial production comprised 3.2% in 2002, in volume of gross agricultural output - 10.0%, in retail turnover – 2.6% and in total volume of services rendered to population -3.6%. The leading branches of industry of RA Shirak marz are production of food, including beverages and production of other non-metal mineral products. Tufa and pumice of Artik and Ani are well-known. The grain farming and cattle-breeding are also developed in the marz.

110 industrial, 11 agriculture, hunting and forestry, 1 fishing and fish farming, 39 construction, 18 transport, 212 rendering services, 686 retail trade units, of which 270 stores, 380 kiosks, 32 public catering units, 2 markets of consumer goods and 2 markets of agricultural products functioned in the marz in 2002.

193 state and 3 non state schools of general education, 23 music and art, 41 sport schools, 56 pre-school establishments, 9 state and non-state secondary specialized, 6 state (of which 5 branches) and 2 non-state higher education establishments, 3 museums, 139 libraries, 6 hotels, cultural and enlightenment centers of marz importance, 37 out-patient polyclinics and 19 hospitals functioned in the marz as well.

Gyumri town (Leninakan in 1924-1990) is situated in 120 km distance from Yerevan, the height above sea level is about 1550 m. It is continued to consider it as a second town of the Republic of Armenia by population number and its importance. The town is situated on the left bank of Akhuryan river. Population number as of January 1, 2003 comprised 149.9 ths. persons.

Until disastrous earthquake Gyumri was a big industrial centre. The food and light industry, engineering industry and metallurgy were developed here. The town as in the past is the important transport junction. Thousands homeless families, ruins, poverty and other not favourable factors necessary for formation of internal investment capacity, remained after the earthquake, so far are obstacles to restore the Gyumri town particular position and significance in the RA economy.

The Spitak earthquake destroyed about 1600 ths .m² dwelling surface in the town. In the post-earthquake period of 1989-2001 it was succeed to reconstruct 998.6 ths.m² dwelling

surface. 20.6 ths.m² were reinforced in 2002. At the same time social and cultural units were also reinforced.

49 industrial, 1 fishing and fish farming, 28 construction, 10 transport, 120 rendering services and 489 retail trade units, of which 183 stores, 279 kiosks, 24 public catering units, 2 consumer goods and 1 agricultural products markets functioned in the town in 2002.

2 theatre and 2 concert organizations, including famous dramatic theatre functioned in Gyumri, rich with historical and cultural traditions in 2002. 4 TV and radio stations implemented broadcastings for town and marz territory. 57 schools for general education, 9 music and art, 31 sport schools, 7 state and 1 non-state secondary specialized and 6 state (including 5 branches) and 2 non-state higher education establishments, 30 pre-school establishments, 15 libraries and 5 hotels, 3 museums, cultural and enlightenment centers of marz importance, 15 out-patient polyclinics and 11 hospitals, etc. functioned in the town as well.

Akuryan region

Arable land	19247 ha
Urban communities	-
Rural communities	33
Rural settlements	36
Population as of January 1, 2003	46.2 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	-
rural	46.2 ths. persons

Akhuryan region is situated in the centre of the marz. The main part of marz irrigated land is distributed here, it is considered as a marz black earth zone, 38.4% of marz total sowing land belongs to Akhuryan region. The multi-branch agriculture, i.e. production of grain, potato and cattle-breeding products, etc, is developed here.

17 industrial, 9 agricultural, 4 construction, 3 transport, 24 rendering services and 66 retail trade units, of which 25 stores, 38 kiosks, 3 public catering units functioned in the region in 2002. 36 schools of general education, 3 music and art, 2 sport schools, 7 pre-school establishments, 33 libraries, 7 out-patient polyclinics and 1 hospital, cultural and enlightenment centers of marz importance functioned as well.

Artik region

Arable land	13149 ha
Urban communities	1
Rural communities	23
Rural settlements	23
Population as of January 1, 2003	48.9 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	

urban	17.5 ths. persons
rural	31.4 ths. persons

Artik region is situated in the south-east of marz. The territory is rich with tufa mines, the production of non-metal mineral products and multi-branch agriculture are developed here.

37 industrial, 5 construction, 2 transport, 36 rendering services and 35 retail trade units, of which 18 stores, 15 kiosks, 1 public catering unit and 1 agricultural produce market functioned in the region in 2002. 33 schools of general education, 7 music and art, 5 sport schools, 9 pre-school establishments, 2 secondary specialized establishments, 27 libraries, 1 hotel, 6 out-patient polyclinics and 3 hospitals, cultural and enlightenment centres of marz importance, etc. functioned in the region as well.

Artik town (17.5 ths. inhabitants) is situated on the north-west breast of Aragats massif, the height above sea level is 1760 m. Maralik-Gyumri railway and Aparan-Gyumri highway pass through the town. Supports of Artik industrial produce capacity are mill, glass moulds production and 9 small and large organizations, producing tufa.

22 industrial (manufacturing industry), 1 construction, 3 transport, 30 organizations rendering services to population and 17 retail trade organizations, of which 9 stores, 2 public catering units and 1 agricultural produce market functioned in the town in 2002. 8 schools of general education, 2 music and art, 4 sport schools, 1 state and 1 non-state secondary specialized education establishments, 4 pre-school establishments, 1 library and 1 hotel, cultural and enlightenment centres of marz importance, etc. functioned in the town as well.

Ani region

Arable land	14824 ha
Urban communities	1
Rural communities	17
Rural settlements	20
Population as of January 1, 2003	20.4 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	5.7 ths. persons
rural	14.7 ths. persons

Ani region is situated in the south-west of marz and is considered as a frontier zone. Ani region is known even from IX century as a Bagratunyats kingdom residence. Developed branches of the economy in the region are mining of non-metal mineral materials (pumice) and multi-branch agriculture.

5 industrial, 1 agricultural, 2 construction, 2 transport, 13 rendering services and 64 retail trade units, of which 35 stores, 29 kiosks functioned in the region in 2002. 19 schools of general education, 2 music and art, 2 sport schools, 1 secondary specialized education establishment, 12

pre-school establishments, 19 libraries, 4 out-patient polyclinics and 2 hospitals, cultural and enlightenment centres of marz importance, etc. functioned in the town as well.

Maralik town (5.8 ths. inhabitants) is situated on the western breast of Aragats massif, the height above sea level is 1920 m. Gyumri-Talin-Yerevan highway passes here. The textile industry and mining of building materials and agriculture are developed in the town.

3 industrial (manufacturing industry), 1 construction, 2 transport, 10 rendering services and 15 stores functioned in the town in 2002. 2 schools of general education, 2 music and art, 2 sport schools, 1 secondary specialized education establishment, 2 pre-school establishments, 1 library, cultural and enlightenment centres of marz importance, etc. functioned in the town as well.

Ashotsk region

Arable land	9891 ha
Urban communities	-
Rural communities	25
Rural settlements	25
Population as of January 1, 2003	10.0 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	-
rural	10.0 ths. persons

Ashotsk region is situated in the north-east of marz and is considered as a coldest region of the marz, as well as of the republic, situated at the height of 2000-2200 m above sea level. Being a high mountainous zone, cattle-breeding is mainly developed here and rich with natural meadow land. Armenia-Georgia connecting motor-car highway passes through region.

1 industrial, 1 agricultural, 1 transport, 10 rendering services and 23 retail trade units, of which 8 stores, 11 kiosks and 4 public catering units functioned in the region in 2002. 20 schools of general education and 1 music school, 3 pre-school establishments, 25 libraries, 4 out-patient polyclinics and 1 hospital, cultural and enlightenment centres, etc. functioned in the region as well.

Amasia region

Arable land	14675 ha
Urban communities	-
Rural communities	19
Rural settlements	26
Population as of January 1, 2003	7.1 ths. persons
<i>including</i>	
urban	-
rural	7.1 ths. persons

Amasia region is situated in the north-east of the marz, it borders with Turkey and Georgia, climate conditions allow population mainly to deal with cattle-breeding. Arpi lake is situated here, where Akhuryan river starts.

1 industrial, 9 rendering services and 9 retail trade units functioned in the region in 2002. 20 schools of general education, 1 sport and 1 art schools, 19 libraries, 1 out-patient polyclinic and 1 hospital, cultural and enlightenment centres, etc. functioned in the region as well.



“Qarvansara” architectural complex



Church in Bardzrashen village

URBAN COMMUNITIES

Community Name	Settlement Name
Gyumri	Gyumri town
Artik	Artik town
Maralik	Maralik town

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Community Name	Settlement Name
Azatan	Azatan
Alvar	Alvar
	Aravet
Akhuryan	Akhuryan
Akhurik	Akhurik
Aghin	Aghin
	Aghin kayarani
Aghvorik	Aghvorik
Amasia	Amasia
Aygebats	Aygebats
Ani kayarani	Ani kayarani
Anipemza	Anipemza
Anushavan	Anushavan
Ashotsk	Ashotsk
Arapi	Arapi
Ardenis	Ardenis
Areznadem	Areznadem
Arpeni	Arpeni
Arevik	Arevik
Arevshat	Arevshat
Bagravan	Bagravan
	Kharkov
Bayandur	Bayandur
Bandivan	Bandivan
Bashgyugh	Bashgyugh
Bavra	Bavra
Beniamin	Beniamin
Berdashen	Berdashen
	Paghkn
Garnarich	Garnarich
	Eghnajur
Geghanist	Geghanist
Getap	Getap
Getk	Getk
Gyullibulagh	Gyullibulagh
Goghovit	Goghovit
Gtashen	Gtashen
	Kamkhut
Gusanagyugh	Gusanagyugh
Erazgavors	Erazgavors
Zarishat	Zarishat
	Erizak

Community Name	Settlement Name
Zorakert	Zorakert
	Darik
Zuygaghbyur	Zuygaghbyur
Tavshut	Tavshut
Torosgyugh	Torosgyugh
Isahakyan	Isahakyan
	Bardzrashen
Lanjik	Lanjik
Lernagyugh	Lernagyugh
Lernakert	Lernakert
Lernut	Lernut
Lusakert	Lusakert
Lusaghbyur	Lusaghbyur
Tsaghkut	Tsaghkut
	Lorasar
Kamo	Kamo
Kaps	Kaps
Karnut	Karnut
Karmravan	Karmravan
Karmraqar	Karmraqar
Kaqavasar	Kaqavasar
Krashen	Krashen
Krasar	Krasar
Haykadzor	Haykadzor
Haykasar	Haykasar
Haykavan	Haykavan
Hayrenyats	Hayrenyats
Harich	Harich
Hartashen	Hartashen
Hatsik	Hatsik
	Mayisyan kayarani
Hoghmik	Hoghmik
Horom	Horom
Hovit	Hovit
Tovtashen	Tovtashen
Hovtun	Hovtun
Hovuni	Hovuni
Dzithanqov	Dzithanqov
Dzorakap	Dzorakap
Dzorashen	Dzorashen
Ghazanchi	Ghazanchi
Gharibjanyan	Gharibjanyan
	Akhuryan kayarani
Mayisyan	Mayisyan
Marmarashen	Marmarashen
Mets Mantash	Mets Mantash
Mets Sarian	Mets Mantash
Mets Sepasar	Mets Sepasar
Meghrashat	Meghrashat
Meghrashen	Meghrashen
Musayelyan (Akhuryan region)	Musayelyan
Musayelyan (Ashotk region)	Musayelyan
Nahapetakan	Nahapetakan
Nor kyank	Nor kyank
Shaghik	Shaghik

Community Name	Settlement Name
Shirak	Shirak
Shirakavan	Shirakavan
Voghji	Voghji
Voskehask	Voskehask
Pemzashen	Pemzashen
Jajur	Jajur
Jajur kayaran	Jajur kayaran
Jradzor	Jradzor
Jrarat	Jrarat
Jrapi	Jrapi
Salut	Salut
Sarnaghbyur	Sarnaghbyur
Saragyugh	Saragyugh
Saralanj	Saralanj
Sarakap	Sarakap
Sarapat	Sarapat
Saratak	Saratak
Sizavet	Sizavet
Spandaryan	Spandaryan
Vahramaberd	Vahramaberd
Vardaghbyur	Vardaghbyur
Vardaqaar	Vardaqaar
Tufashen	Tufashen
Tsogh marg	Tsogh marg
Panik	Panik
Poqrashen	Poqrashen
Poqr Mantash	Poqr Mantash
Poqr Sarian	Poqr Sarian
Poqr Sepasar	Poqr Sepasar
Qaraberd	Qaraberd
Qeti	Qeti