

## **Information on the socio-economic situation in Kotovsk city, the Tambov Oblast**

Kotovsk city is the oblast city. It is located in the central part of the Oka-Don Lowland on the right bank of the Tsna river, 16 kilometers off Tambov, and is a part of the Tsentralno-Chernozemnyi (Central Black Earth) District. The city is in the area of the moderate continental climate, with cold winters and mild warm summer.

Kotovsk city has a favorable geoeconomic location of being in the center of the Oblast and bordering with the Tambov, Rasskazovo and Znamenka districts. Land reserves of Kotovsk city are 3080.91 ha.

The city's transport accessibility is well and does not restrain its development.

Kotovsk city is served by the Tambov branch of the South Eastern railways. From the Tsna station (Tambov city) to the Kotovsk on the north there is a «Tsna-Tambov II» branch line serving several industrial enterprises with rail freight.

The passenger service between Kotovsk and Tambov using railroad transport is renewed. The tariff distance between Tambov and Moscow is 476 km.

To the west of Kotovsk 4 km apart from the north to the south there is the «Tambov-Balashov-Kamyshin» railway line. For travelling the railway line city residents use «17 km» wayside stop.

The city population is 28.2 thousand.

In the ethnic composition Russians living in the city is around 97 %. The number of the active age population is around 15 thousand.

The pattern of age composition is as follows:

- of active age - 53 %,
- younger than active age – 15 %,
- older than active age – 32 %.

Migration plays a significant role in the formation of the city population structure. Recently there is the net migration in Kotovsk.

Kotovsk city is a dynamic industrial city with the main strategic goal of creating conditions for growth of prosperity and social development of the population by using strong economic potential and providing sustainable development of the competitive branches of the city economy.

The presence of the «Tambov powder factory» as the local economic mainstay gave Kotovsk the right for the mono-city status.

The city possesses the status of the priority social and economic development area with 11 legal entities as the «Kotovsk» PDA residents.

Municipal goals of Kotovsk city development are based on the national goals in accordance with the RF President Decree:

- maintenance of population, health and prosperity of residents,
- opportunities for self-fulfilment and fostering talents,
- comfortable and safe living environment,
- decent, effective labor and successful business activities,
- digital transformation.

The competitive advantages of the city are:

- the presence of the mono-city status and PDA;
- the «Kotovsk» industrial park;
- free investment sites available for setting up manufacturing;
- transport availability;
- dense network of hard surface roads;
- railway service.

The socio-economic condition of Kotovsk city may be estimated as stable.

The main branch of the city economy is industry that critically determines the socio-economic situation. The sectoral structure of industrial production in the city is represented with chemical production (FTE «Tambov powder factory»), consumer goods («Iskoz» OJSC, «KZNM» LLC) and food («Kotovskkhleb» JSC) manufacturing, production of electronic and optical equipment («Almaz» OJSC).

There is an active investment activity in the city.

The situation on the labor market is quite favorable. There are no arrears in salaries to the employees. There are no mass layoffs in the city. All main enterprises are working. Among the most demanded professions are operators, engineers, technicians, electricians, etc. Recently the official unemployment level is below 0.5%.

The main indicator specifying living standards is the rate of wages. Accrued average month salary of a employee in large and medium organizations in the city is constantly growing. It is worth noticing that concerning average month salary rate Kotovsk has recently reached the third place among the cities of the Tambov Oblast just behind Tambov and Michurinsk which are larger cities.

The development of the small and medium businesses is one of the leading directions of economic activity because this is the sector that addresses some important issues concerning social stability. There are around 760 small and medium businesses, more than 70% of them are individual entrepreneurs. Besides, more than 700 self-employed persons are registered. The sectoral structure encompasses manufacturing enterprises, wholesale and retail trade, construction. Manufacturing enterprises are represented by ones of porcelain and earthenware industry, juvenile products, all mash, hyper-pressed bricks, etc. The consumer market is developing in both fixed shops and stalls.

There are more than 80 consumer services enterprises and more than 50 public catering businesses. There are developed fair trade and network retailing. Two individual entrepreneurs deliver passenger services within city limits. There are 4 municipal services and 6 inter-municipal services. Taxi services are common.

It is worth mentioning that the mono-city status contributes to its development because there are opportunities to use some supporting measures. For example, VEB.RF products for mono-cities provide credits to the investment project proposer:

- at the rate 1% in the amount from 5 to 1000 mln RUR on the security of the bank guarantee,
- and at the rate 5% in the amount from 250 to 1000 mln RUR on standart security (guarantee) for a period of 15 years.

Apart from that, it is possible to use grants transferred to the regional budget for the following purposes:

- construction of engineering and transport infrastructure (for new investment projects) – up to 95% from the cost of infrastructure,
- social infrastructure objects (up to 50% from the cost of an infrastructure object).

The «Kotovsk» industrial park is the main and most advanced investment site (142 ha) the anchor residents are planning to venture into. One of them is «Wildberries». The infrastructure is under construction.

«KLLKZ» OJSC territory (58.2 ha) is a comfortable investment site due to the presence of the engineering and utility infrastructure. The enterprise has private railway 7.5 km long, private water service, a moderate pressure gas pipeline, a private boiler plant. The enterprise is in bankruptcy (bankruptcy proceeding since 2011). But there are 2 ways to solve the problem:

- 1) the purchase of the enterprise by a major investor,
- 2) placement of new enterprises to create a chemical production cluster.

Apart from that, there are 5 investment sites on the city territory suitable to launch new manufacturing.

The city has advanced social services.

In the city there are 13 municipal educational institutions and 2 regional ones: the Kotovsk industrial technical school and the boarding school.

There are pre-school educational institutions: 7 kindergartens and 2 branches.

The pre-school enrolment is more than 90%, no wait lists. Each kindergarten has its own specialization.

The educational schools are represented by 2 institutions located in buildings. The educational process is designed as a «school-stage». On 01 September 2021 the new top-equipped «ECO-TECH» school was opened as part of the «Education» national project. Two schools has «POINT OF GROWTH»,

«IT-CUBE» is also opened.

In the city the «SCHOOL-BOARDING SCHOOL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL-UNIVERSITY» network cooperation is organized. Moreover, the «SCHOOL-COLLEGE-ENTERPRISE» project is executed. Cooperation with the G.R.Derzhavin Tambov State University is maintained in 2 schools. The educational institutions are fully staffed with teaching personnel.

In order to attract young specialists to the educational institutions the city administration makes efforts to conclude contracts on employer-sponsored education. There is the working partnership with the G.R.Derzhavin Tambov State University concerning this issue.

The city has facilities for children's recovery and leisure. Since 1963 the «Kostyor» municipal country recovery camp is functioning. Its physical facilities and infrastructure is constantly improving. The camp holds thematic and profile schools. Their programs are aimed at the development of cognitive and creative activities, healthy lifestyle, life safety fundamentals.

The Children's Activity Center is working successfully, with 1.4 thousand children involved in 6 educational programs — physical training and sports, art, tourism and local studies, humanities and social sciences, natural science, technology.

Kotovsk city is a city of sports, with its own traditions and top records. The sports movement in the city is represented by 3 sports schools, with more than 1300 children involved in 10 training programs. Trainees of artistic gymnastics and ski race programs are constant members of the Tambov Oblast teams. Annually more than 200 sports and mass participation events on municipal, regional and inter-regional levels are held in the city.

The sports infrastructure has been improved recently: a football ground, a school stadium, GTO sites, a ski-roller run, a skatepark, a pool etc. The pool was opened in 2023 and is of high demand among city dwellers; there is a swimming training program. The indoor track holds city and regional competitions all year round. There is the annual growth of people who are engaged in physical training and sports activities on a regular basis.

The city has more than 5 thousand young people aged 14-35. There is the City Youth Council. The Patriotic Education and Family Support Program is functioning. The «Affordable housing for youth» program is offered.

There is an active growth of voluntary movement in the city. On the basis of «Doverie/Trust» service there is the «We belong together» voluntary team. There are 13 active voluntary teams, also the searching group named after the Hero of the Soviet Union A.R. Poskonkin and the VITA children's organization. The resource center for promoting volunteering is created.

The realm of culture is represented with 4 municipal cultural institutions — the Kotovsk children's art school, the Palace of culture, the Centralized library system and the Museum historical and educational outreach complex.

There are 6 training programs with 18 specializations in the art school. There are focused efforts to save the number of students. Currently the school meets all modern demands. The school closely cooperates with the Gnesins Russian Academy of Music and the S.V. Rakhmaninov Tambov State Musical and Pedagogical Institute.

The Palace of culture is the main entertainment center of the city. There are more than 600 seats in the big hall of the Palace.

The number of dwellers who visit cultural and mass participation events is constantly growing. Regional and inter-regional events are held in Kotovsk.

The V.V. Mayakovsky central city library provides library services for the city dwellers. Library holdings estimate 97.5 thousand units. Working with the electronic catalogue and databases of the library is in progress. Library users has an access to the information resources of the B.N. Yeltsin Presidential Library. Combination of information and social functions of the library is put into practice in the Public

legal information center.

The Museum complex is a tourist site of the city. Tourist routes are designed to attract tourists to the city. The most in-demand ones are excursions on the enterprises «Kotovskie nevalyashki» («Kotovsk tumblers») and «Dobr-Bobr» («Good beaver»). The children's tourism rapidly develops.

The patriotic education is the priority: in cooperation with the G.R.Derzhavin Tambov State University the «Immortal Regiment» was developed, the «Kotovsk-Soldier» was created (everyone can add information about his relatives). This resource is highly acclaimed and is a virtual extension of the monument installed in the Military Glory park.

The Kotovsk city healthcare system is represented by the single medical institution, the Kotovsk city clinical hospital which has its branches. There is the in-patient care facility per 197 beds (159 beds on a round-the-clock basis and 38 beds on daily basis). The hospital is the main clinical site for the Department of surgery and traumatology of the Medical Institute of the G.R.Derzhavin Tambov State University. The institution is engaged in scientific research.

One of the national goals our city pursues is the comfortable and safe living environment. And Kotovsk city plans its activities in the housing and utilities sector in accordance with the prescribed federal priorities.

The city road network is represented by roads of local significance 57.47 km long, among them 39.77 km with hard surface and 17.70 km of soil roads, including roads in the “Novyi Kotovsk” (“New Kotovsk”) microdistrict.

The housing and utilities sector is represented by the following objects:

- water supply wells – 12 pcs,
- treatment plants – 4 pcs,
- biological treatment plants – 1 pcs
- boiler plant (incl. block-modular) - 11 pcs,
- cold water supply networks – 62 km,
- water disposal networks – 44 km,
- electric power networks – 110 km,
- heat supply and hot water supply networks – 71 km.

The city housing and utilities sector consists of:

- «Kompulink Infrastructura TO» LLC – the unified heating supply company of the city;
- the branch of «Tambov distribution company» JSC provides utilities of water supply, water disposal, recovery of municipal solid waste;
- the branch of the «Gazprom mezhregiongaz Tambov» LLC – utilities of gas supply to the population and institutions of the city;
- «Tambov regional retail company» OJSC – the supplier of electricity services to the population and enterprises of the city, also collects payments for utility services and payments for current and capital repair and housing maintenance;
- MBI «City services» performs works on street cleaning, greening and urban improvement;
- property management companies «Hosing services» LLC, «Kotovsk housing company» LLC, «Chariot» LLC, «Iskoz» OJSC; home unit companies; housing construction co-operatives; homeowners who chose direct housing management – make current repair and maintenance of apartment buildings, perform works on maintenance and improvement of curtilages.

There is an active work for relocation of citizens from the unfit hosing facilities.

The capital repair of apartment buildings is performed on the permanent basis.

The city takes an active part in the implementation of national projects such that a new school and a pool were built; the art school underwent the capital repair; roads in the “Novyi Kotovsk” (“New Kotovsk”) microdistrict were built; improvement of cartilages and public spaces is performed; relocation of citizens from the unfit hosing facilities is provided; improvement of a garden square near the Children's Activity

Center was made; multimedia equipment was purchased; there are also other significant events on the wide range of dwellers' interests.

As of year-end 2022 Kotovsk made into the TOP-20 of Russian cities with population from 20 to 50 thousand people on the quality of living environment index. Among 246 small cities on the quality of living environment index (average points 194) Kotovsk scored 227 points.

Therefore, the important priority for the city administration is to maintain this leading position. To be equal among the best, with the best is a major accomplishment and a permanent goal.

That is why the motto of Kotovsk and its main strategic objective is: "Kotovsk is a city of equal conditions for infinite possibilities".