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Statement of the Problem: Russia's population is rapidly ageing, and the need for thorough analysis of this process increases. Big cities in general, and Moscow and Saint – Petersburg particularly, are at the forefront of demographic changes, their total population being an essential part (about 10%) of Russia's population. One of the driving forces behind population ageing is increase in life expectancy (LE) at older ages. The purpose of this study is to make a comparative analysis of LE at older ages in Moscow and Saint – Petersburg in 1990 – 2014 and to estimate the contribution of older ages (60+) to the LE increase (for male and for female populations).

Data & Methods: The paper is based on data given by Rosstat and HMD. Computations are made in Excel. Decomposition of LE changes to estimate contributions of different age groups is used. Findings: In general, LE at older ages (60, 65, 70, 75 and 80) increase during 1990 – 2014 (relative to the initial year) for Moscow was greater than for Saint – Petersburg, for males - greater than for females. In general, for the whole period, LE values for Moscow exceed those for Saint – Petersburg for all considered ages for males and females, with a very few exceptions. Changes in LE at birth for the last two decades (1996 – 2005 and 2005 –2014) are considered. Essential distinctions in the contribution of older age groups to changes in LE at birth for Moscow and Saint - Petersburg during 1996 – 2005 and during 2005 -2014 (for male and for female populations) have been revealed.

Conclusion: Increasing LE of the elderly makes a significant contribution to the growth of LE. This fact (apart from ethical considerations) is also a strong argument in favor of intensifying efforts to reduce the morbidity and mortality of older people.