

National reports on the demographic situation in 12 central European Countries*, Cyprus and Malta in 1998

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situation in 12 central European
Countries*, Cyprus and Malta in 1998**

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(*) Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia

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BULGARIA

Population

Population size and structure

At the end of 1998, the population of Bulgaria totalled 8 230 371 inhabitants, of which about 68.0 % lived in urban areas.

The gradual ageing of the population is continuing : in the period 1994-1998 alone the percentage of persons aged 65 and over has increased from 14.8 % to 15.9 %. In the age pyramid the proportion of persons aged 60 or over is slowly increasing and amounted to 21.7 % in 1998 compared with 20.4 % in 1992. Mean-while the percentage of young people under 20 has decreased : it dropped to 23.3 in 1998 compared with 23.9 % in 1997 and 26.5 % in 1992. The ageing process is much more marked in the countryside, where the percentage of elderly persons (65 and over) is 24.5 % in 1998.

Population change

The population decrease that started at the beginning of the 1990s continued in 1998. In 1998 the population of Bulgaria decreased by 52 829 compared to a decrease of 57 736 in 1997 and a decrease of 43 779 in 1996. The negative rate of natural increase in the last years is due to low level of fertility and to the extremely high level of mortality.

Marriages and divorces

Marriages and divorces evolved under the impact of the changes in society, in the social and economic fields.

The number of marriages has been steadily decreasing. This trend has intensified over the last seven year, with only 35 582 weddings in 1998 as compared with 59 874 in 1990. This resulted in a fall in the crude marriage rate from 6.9‰ in 1990 to 4.3‰ in 1998.

In 1998, there were 10 390 divorces in Bulgaria, which means 292 divorces per 1 000 marriages or 1.3 % divorces per 1 000 inhabitants.

Remarriages are also increasing in number. Whereas first marriages of both parties constituted almost 85% of all marriages in 1993, this proportion decreased gradually to 83% in 1998.

The mean age at first marriage has increased, reaching 26.6 years for men and 23.5 years for women. In addition, the average age of persons entering into first marriage has increased (for the period 1994-1998: +1.0 years as for men and as well for women).

There is a trend of an increasing percentage of divorces from first marriages. At the same time there is a trend of a decreasing percentage of divorces during the first ten years of marriages.

Fertility

There were 65 361 births in Bulgaria in 1998, i.e. almost half as many as in 1980. The number of births were fairly stable at about 65 000 births ; compared to 1996, they show a slight increase of about 1 000 persons, resulting in an increase in the birth rate from 7.7‰ to 7.9‰.

The substantial increase in the proportion of births outside marriage in the last years has continued in 1998. In 1998, 31.5 % of children were born out of wedlock, which represents an increase of 7.0 % compared with 1994. The proportion of extramarital births depends considerably on locality and age: in rural areas in 1998, 43% of children were born outside marriage, and among mothers aged under 20, 65.8 % gave birth outside marriage.

There has been a considerable decrease in the total fertility rate (TFR) in the past years, namely from 1.81 children in 1990 to 1.24 in 1996 and 1.11 in 1998. This rate is far from ensuring the simple replacement of generations.

A concentration of births was recorded for women aged 20-29 years (around 66.9 % of total live births), leading to the conclusion that the decrease in the number of live births resulted from the avoidance or postponing of third and higher rank births. Birth order is concentrated primarily on first and second births, which represent approximately 90% of all live births. The decrease in fertility is reflected in a lower number of third and higher-order births. In practice, the birth of a fourth, and even a third child is very rare. The average age of women giving birth in 1998 was 24.4 years and 22.9 years at the birth of the first child. These two indicators, particularly the latter, seem to remain fairly stable with the passage of time.

Mortality

The mortality in Bulgaria increased during the last decade, under the influence of the changes in the age structure and health of the population.

The mortality of the Bulgarian population continues to be among the worst in Europe. In 1998, the number of deaths in Bulgaria was 118 190, 6 403 more than in 1994, but 3 671 less than in 1997. The crude death rate per 1 000 inhabitants was 14.3. As a result of the ageing structure of rural areas (extremely elderly persons) the death rate among the urban population is considerably lower than that of the rural population.

The level of infant mortality has fluctuated in recent years. The 1998 statistics show that the infant mortality rate was 14.4‰, compared with 17.5‰ in 1997 and 14.8‰ in 1990.

Life expectancy at birth is the most comprehensive indicator of changes in mortality, but there is no calculating preliminary data for 1998 yet.

Migration

There are no official statistics on the number of migrants in 1998. The negative balance of migration reached 46 000 in 1996, of which approximately 89.0 % was due to migration towards other European countries. The main destination countries continued to be Germany, Austria, Italy, Greece and Turkey.

CROATIA

Population

According to the last Population census taken on 31 March 1991 (based on the “de jure” principle), the Republic of Croatia has 4 784 265 inhabitants with average population density of 84,5 inhabitants per km².

According to the 1998 mid-year estimate (by “de facto” principle) Croatia has 4 501 000 inhabitants.

The main characteristic of the population structure according to the age is the decrease of young people (age group 0-15) and increase of the population in the working age and especially in the old age. This is the direct consequence of the fertility decrease on long-term. The part of young people in the whole population was 27,2 % in 1961 and 19,4 % in 1991. Between 1961 and 1991 the number of young people has decreased absolutely, from 1 132 107 to 926 179 inhabitants, which means the decrease of 205 928 inhabitants in comparison to 1961. The part of old people in the whole population increased in the structure of inhabitants from 7,5 % to 13,1 % between 1961 and 1991.

The average increase of the population in the period between two censuses (1981-1991) was 18.3 thousands (0,4 % annually).

Marriages and divorces

The analysis of the number of marriages during the period 1991-1998 shows an increase from 21 583 in 1991 to 24 243 in 1998. If the last data are compared to those for earlier years (1990 and earlier) the number of marriages decreased.

Total first marriage rate was 0,71 for women and 0,68 for men.

The average age of woman at first marriage increased from 23,2 years of age in 1991 to 25,2 in 1998. In the same period, the number of divorces went down from 4 877 in 1991 to 3962 in 1998. Similar characteristic were shown in the divorce rates which decreased from 226 divorces per 1 000 marriages (1991) to 163 in 1998. Total divorce rate increased from 0,12 in 1996 to 0,14 in 1998.

The proportion of remarriages in total number of marriages was 8,4 % for females, and 8,7 % for males (1998).

Fertility

In 1998, there were 47 068 live-born children. In the 1998 the birth rate was 10,5 per 1 000 inhabitants. The total fertility rate in 1998 was 1,45, i.e. well below replacement level. The number of live-births in 1998 comprises all children whose mothers have permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia if they were not absent from Croatia longer than a year, as well as all live-births whose mothers do not have permanent residence in Croatia, but live continually on the territory of Croatia for a year or more.

The average age of woman at the birth of her first child is almost constant and averages 25 years (24,4 years in 1991 and 25,4 in 1998) but it is slightly increasing. At the same time the average age of woman at the birth of her child, regardless of the birth order, is 27,9 years and shows trend towards even older mothers.

The children in Croatia are mainly born within marriage (91,9 % in 1998).

Mortality

The number of deaths in Croatia decreased during the period 1991-1994, from 54 832 in 1991 to 49 482 in 1994. Since 1995 the number of deaths increased from 50 536 in 1995 to 52 311 in 1998. The mortality rate showed a similar trend and in 1998 it was 11,6 deaths per 1000 inhabitants. The number of deaths in 1998 comprises all the deceased who were residents of the Republic of Croatia if they were not absent from Croatia longer than a year as well as all the deceased who were not Croatian residents, but have lived there for a year or more.

By the 1995, 1996 and 1997 statistical surveys, the data on 4 400 dead persons were collected for the period 1991-1995 (1991 – 1 403, 1992 – 992, 1993 – 899, 1994 – 638, 1995 – 468) and are entered into 1995, 1996 and 1997 Register of deaths. Although these data are not presented in the corresponding tables, they should be taken into account when analysing natural growth for the respective years.

Infant mortality also decreased from 575 in 1991 to 388 in 1998. The infant mortality rate decreased from 11,1 in 1991 to 8,2 infant deaths per 1 000 live births in 1998.

Live expectancy at birth (for the year 1991) was 68,6 for men and 76 for women.

The most common causes of death in Croatia are diseases of circulatory system (51,7 % in 1998) and neoplasm (21,9 % in 1998). The same causes of death were also found in preceded years, only with lower rates.

Migration

In the year 1998, 51784 persons immigrated in Croatia, which is the decrease of 559 persons in comparison with 1997. Number of emigrants in 1998 was 7592, or 10939 emigrated persons less than in the previous year.

Migration balance for 1998 was 44192, which is 10380 persons more than in 1997.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

The Law on Maternity Leave (“Narodne Novine”, official gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 24/1996) has equalised mothers that perform independent activity in the right of getting maternity leave with employed mothers that are getting this right according to the Labour Act. On the basis of both laws, the employed mothers and independent employees have the right on the compulsory maternity leave until the 6th month of the child’s birth, that is financed by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute, and on additional maternity leave until the first birthday of the child. Employed mothers that gave birth to twins, to third and every following child, have the right on maternity leave until the third birthday of the child. The maternity leave from 6th month until the first, i.e. third birthday of the child, is financed by the state budget. Besides mentioned beneficiaries, unemployed mothers have also the right on maternity leave. The right for unemployed mothers includes the right on money benefit, which is completely covered by the state budget.

Family Law (“Narodne Novine”, No.162/1998) regulates marriage and legal relations within marriage, relations between parents and children, adoption, guardianship, extra marital unions and actions of authorised bodies regarding marriage and guardianship.

Regulation of content and shape of marriage certificate (“Narodne Novine”, No.53/1999)

This Regulation regulates the shape and content of the certificate on fulfilment of all presumptions for entering into marriage as established by the Family Law, in order to enter into religious marriage. Certificate is issued on a written form published together with this Regulation, and represents its constituent part. On this certificate the shape and content are established.

CYPRUS

Population

The population of Cyprus is estimated at 751,5 thousand on 1 January 1999, compared with 746,1 thousand in the previous year, having increased by 0,7%.

The population increase is mainly explained by the natural increase of the population, the net migration balance is positive but of small magnitude. Furthermore the total population growth conceals pronounced differences between the population growth in the Government controlled area and that of the Turkish Cypriot community in the Turkish occupied area. This difference is exclusively due to migration movements as both fertility and mortality are about the same for the two communities.

Marriages and divorces

The number of marriages celebrated in 1998 is estimated at 8234 compared to 7853 in 1997, giving a crude marriage rate of 11,0 per thousand population in 1998 compared to 10,6 the year before.

The crude marriage rate averaged over the four-year period 1995-1998 to remove the leap year effect is calculated at 10,0 per thousand population, which is high compared to other European countries reflecting the importance of the institution of marriage in Cyprus. There is, however, a rising trend in the age at first marriage for both men and women.

Remarriages are also increasing in number. Whereas first marriages of both parties constituted almost 93% of all marriages in the period 1975-1978, this proportion decreased gradually to 75% in the period 1995-1998.

There is also a rising trend in the number of divorces though their number remains small compared to other European countries. The crude divorce rate is estimated at 1,3 per thousand population in 1998. The total divorce rate, which shows the proportion of marriages that are expected to end up in divorce, was 160 per 1000 in 1998 compared to 42 per 1000 in 1980.

Though there are no official statistics on the number of consensual unions, this life style as an alternative to marriage is almost non-existent in Cyprus. On the contrary, there is a growing tendency of young persons living together during the engagement period preceding marriage.

Fertility

The number of births is estimated at 10064 in 1998 giving a crude birth rate of 13,4 per thousand population and the total fertility rate was calculated at 1,92 children per woman. For the first time after the anomalous situation of 1975, fertility dropped to a level below replacement. After a local peak of 20,4 births per thousand population and an average of 2,46 children per woman recorded in the four-year period of 1982-1985 both fertility indicators followed a general slow decline despite small fluctuations, reaching respectively an average of 14,5 and 2,03 in the four-year period 1995-1998.

The pattern of fertility has been changing. In the 1990's the contribution to total fertility of the age-group 25-29 increased compared to the contribution of the age-group 20-24 as shown by the age specific fertility rates which are now highest for the 25-29 age-group. Furthermore there is an increase in the share to total fertility of the 30-34 age-group. This is in line with the general increases in the mean age at birth of first child and the mean age at birth of any child which reached 25,7 and 28,4 years respectively in 1998.

It is interesting to note that the proportion of third order births has also been increasing. This proportion averaged 19,9% in the period 1995-1998 compared to 17,0% eleven years earlier in the period 1982-1985.

The proportion of extra-marital births remains still low in Cyprus constituting only 2,1% of the total in 1998.

Mortality

In 1998 the number of deaths was 6.157 giving a crude death rate of 8,2 per thousand population . The infant mortality rate is estimated at 7,0 per thousand live births in 1998. Life expectancy at birth was 75,0 for males and 80,0 for females according to the most recent life tables of 1996/1997.

Migration

Overall, the net migration balance turned to positive in recent years. In the Government controlled area, as shown by the census results, there has been a massive flow of return migration and a growing number of foreign workers given temporary employment and therefore temporary residence. On the contrary according to statistical evidence and press reports from the Turkish occupied area, there is a continued emigration of Turkish Cypriots who are being replaced by an even larger number of illegal Turkish mainland settlers, who are not considered as part of the de jure population of Cyprus.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

There were no major Government decisions and legislation pertaining to general population policy issues in 1998.

Latest publication on demographic statistics

Demographic indicators are published annually in the *Demographic Report*. The latest issue relates to figures for 1998.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Population

The Czech Republic's population on 31 December 1998 was 10 289 621, of which 5 005 435 men and 5 284 186 women. The total number was by some 10 thousand lower than at the end of 1997. The slight decrease in population, started in 1994, continued. Its cause is a deep fall in natality, which results in changes in the age structure of population. The Population Census in 1991 said the proportion of children aged 0-14 was 21%, whereas on 31 December 1998 it was only 17% and still is on the decrease. For the time being, the proportion of people aged 65+ (13.7% on 31 December 1998) is stagnating due to underpopulated birth cohorts born in the 1930s, but will grow very sharply after the year 2000. The average age of the living population reached 36.4 for men and 39.6 for women at the end of 1998; these figures were 34.6 and 38.0, respectively, in the Population Census 1991.

Nuptuality

Compared with the preceding years, the number of marriages dropped significantly after 1990. There were 55 thous. marriages taking place in 1998, as against 91 thous. in 1990. Approximately 24% of all marriages were entered into by previously divorced persons, 1.3% by the widowed. Young people tend to put off their marriages until later in life. While the average age of those becoming married for the first time in their lives was extremely low in the 1980s, it is on the rise in the 1990s (from 21.4 among women in 1990 to 23.6 in 1998, the average man married at the age of 26.3 in 1998).

Divorce rate in the second half of the 1990s is stagnating at a rather high level, with the number of divorces in 1998 being only negligibly lower than in 1997. In late months of 1998 divorce rate went down substantially, as a result of legislative amendments. This trend continues also in 1999, but is considered to be temporary.

Natality

The number of live births in 1998 – 90.8 thous., i.e. 8.8 per 1 000 inhabitants – remained at the low level that began in 1994. The present natality in the Czech Republic is the lowest one ever recorded in more than 200 years' history of its statistical tracking. Fertility went down to an extremely low level; total fertility rate in 1998 constituted a mere 1.167 and was thus the lowest in the history.

Decreasing fertility became a part of changes in lifestyle after 1990. The postponing of marriage and having children until later in life, as well as the increasing need of making both ends meet when having children, are the most important underlying causes. Spreading youth unemployment and difficult housing situation of young families tighten the pinch sometimes.

Apparent is the shift of fertility to higher age groups of women. The fertility of the youngest women that used to be one of the highest in Europe, is falling steeply (from 50.3 in 1990 to 16.4 in 1998 in age group 15 - 19). The fertility of women aged 25+ stagnates. The average age of the mother when delivering a baby increased from 24.6 in 1991 to 26.2 in 1996. The share of children born out of wedlock continued rising (19% in 1998, which was the highest percentage after 1945). The use of modern contraceptive methods in the Czech Republic became much wider after 1990. Induced abortions, once a quite usual avenue of preventing undesired births, are on the very sharp decline – from 106 thous. in 1991 to 43 thous. in 1996. They are predominantly used by married women already having children.

Mortality

Mortality in the Czech Republic decreases steeply after 1990. There were 109.5 thous. deaths in 1998, which was the lowest number from 1967. Life expectancy at birth is the highest ever recorded – 71.1 for men and

78.1 for women. Number one among killers were diseases of the circulatory system (55.1% of all deaths of men), number two were malignant neoplasms (25.6% of all deaths in 1998). Whereas deaths owing to the diseases of the circulatory system are slightly falling, increasingly more people die of malignant neoplasms. Infant mortality is at the level of western Europe - 5.2 infants die within 1 year of age per 1 000 live births.

International migration

International migration represents no principle problem for population situation in the Czech Republic. 10 729 immigrants from abroad were reported in 1998, and only 1 241 emigrants from the Czech Republic. However, immigration comprises only persons who were granted permits to permanent residence in the country, but most foreigners stay in the Czech Republic on the basis of permits to stay for a long time and they are not considered as immigrants. There were 220.2 thous. foreigners staying in the country on 31 December 1998. Among them were 52.7 thous. Ukrainians, 49.6 thous. Slovaks and 22.9 thous. Vietnamese.

The well-known feature of the Czech Republic's international migration in 1998 were Romanies leaving their country for western Europe. This emigration is not tracked statistically, because Romanies do not inform the Czech authorities about their intent to leave the country. They are looked at as living officially in the Czech Republic and are eligible to receive social benefits also for the time they are outside the country. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of Romanies come back to the Czech Republic before long.

Population projection

The Czech Statistical Office will prepare an updated population projection for the Czech Republic at the end of 1999. So far, the projection of 1997 is used. According to its all three variants, the Czech Republic's population is likely to decrease over a long period of time. Only the high projection variant (expecting an increase in total fertility rate to 1.55 and a swift improvement in life expectancy to the west-European level) suggests a temporary rise in the population to 10 494 thous. in the year 2016 with a subsequent fall. According to the medium variant, the population should drop to 10 183 thous. in 2020; this decrease will be interrupted between the years 2003 and 2011. The low variant supposes that the population will permanently fall to 9 737 thous. up to 2020. All the variants say the Czech Republic's population will be ageing.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Fertility

The number of live births is constantly decreasing in the last ten years. In 1998, there were 29 244 live births, which means 0.8% less than in 1997, and 17.4% less than in 1990.

The crude birth rate was 14.6 in 1998 compared with 16.6 in 1990.

The total number of births outside marriage continued to rise. In 1998 there were 9.5% of the total number of live births, compared with 7.1% in 1990.

Mortality

In the decade of nineties the figure of deaths as well as crude mortality rate show a tendency to increase.

The number of deaths in 1998 was 16 870, which is 15.2% more than in 1990, and 1.7% more than in 1997.

The crude death rate was 8.4 in 1998.

The number of deaths of children aged less than one year (infant deaths) has been reduced to less than half throughout the decade, and the infant mortality rate decreased from 31.6 in 1990 to 16.3 in 1998.

The main causes of death in FYROM in 1998 were circulatory diseases (55.1% of total deaths), neoplasms (17.6%) and not defined symptoms, signs and conditions with 9.5%.

Marriages and divorces

The number of marriages fell from 15 842 in 1990 to 13 993 in 1998 i.e. the number declined for 11.7%. The crude marriage rate was 7.0 per 1000 population.

The number of divorces in 1998 was 1 027, which is 37.1 % more than in 1990. There were 73.4 divorces per 1000 marriages.

The mean age at first marriage in 1998 was 23.23 for women and 26.32 for man.

Migration

In 1998 the net migration was 809 that is 20.1% less than the previous year.

The total number of immigrations in 1998 was 1057 mostly from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (590 or 55.8%), 94 or 8.9% from Croatia, 94 or 8.9% from Albania and 80 or 7.6% from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The total number of emigrations in 1998 was 248 and most of them were citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (181 or 73%).

Last publications published on demographic statistics

Population change in the Republic of Macedonia – 1998

Emmigrated and immigrated persons in the Republic of Macedonia - 1998

ESTONIA

Population

According to the latest calculations, Estonian population in 1 of January 1999 was 1 446 000. 773 000 (53%) of them were females and 673 000 (47%) males. During the previous year the number of population declined by about 8 000 persons, i.e. 0,6%. The decrease was caused mainly by the negative natural increase. In 1998 there were 7 177 births less than deaths. Net migration, which role was the greatest in 1992 (94%), caused the decline only by 14% in 1998.

Changes in the age structure shows ageing. At the beginning of 1999, 18.6 % of the population was younger than 15 years old and the proportion of the people aged over 60 was 18.7%. Ten years ago these percents were 22.3% and 15.6% respectively.

Marriages and divorces

The number of marriages, what reached its highest level in 1987, has decreased fairly quickly at the beginning of 1990s. Compared to the 1970s and 1980s, the number of marriages has been declined about twice for 1998. The decline has slowed down during the previous years (1996-1998). In 1998, 5 430 marriages were registered. The number of remarriages is growing. About 33% of all marriages contracted in 1998, at least one partner who was divorced or widowed. At the beginning of 1970s the corresponding percent was 17. The total first marriage rate with its value of 0.36 was one of the lowest in Europe in 1997. In 1998 it decreased to 0.35. The mean age at first marriage was 26.5 for men and 24.3 for women. The crude marriage rate was 3.75.

Excluding the years 1992 and 1995, when the number of divorces were exceptionally high, caused by the changes in legislation, the number of divorces has decreased fairly slowly since 1983. At the same time, caused on the decreasing number of marriages, the number of divorces per 100 marriages tended to increase until 1995 when it reached its' highest level at 106. In 1998, 83 divorces were registered per 100 marriages. During the 1998, 4491 divorces were registered. It makes about 800 divorces less than in 1997. The crude divorce rate was 3.10 in 1998. The number of divorces by common children under 18 years old has been quite stable. 35% of couples divorced in 1998 did not have common children and 40% of couples had one common child.

Fertility

The number of births continued to decrease in previous year. In 1998, 12 269 children were born i.e. about 350 less than in previous year. The crude birth rate was 8.5, what is about twice lower in comparison 1970s and 1980s. TFR, what has been below the reproduction level since 1991, declined to 1.21 in 1998. The percentage of children born out of wedlock is increasing. At the beginning of 1990s about 85% of children were born to married couples. In 1998 the corresponding value was 48%. The age structure of mothers has also changed. The mean age of mother what has been decreasing till the beginning of 1990s increased to 26.4 in 1998. The mean age of mother at the birth of first child was 23.6 in 1998. Since 1993, it has been 0.5-0.7 years lower than the mean age of women at first marriage.

The share of birth order has changed for 1990s. The share of second born children has declined at the beginning of the 1990s. Since 1992 it is about 31%. During the former decades the share was between 35-40%. The share of third and more born children has increased proportionally. At the same time the share of first child has stayed around the same level 49-50%.

Mortality

Compared to the previous year, the number of deaths increased by 4.7%, partly caused by the ageing of population. The number of deaths was 19 446. The crude death rate — 13.4, was bigger than in last two years. For male it was 14.6 and for female 12.4

At the same time the number of infant death was the lowest ever recorded in Estonia — 114. It makes 9.3 infant deaths per 1 000 live births. The number of stillbirths was declined also. In 1998, 92 stillbirths were registered what is about 50% less than ten years ago, in 1989.

Life expectancy at birth declined slightly relative to the previous year. The life expectancy of males at births was 64.4 years and that of females 75.5 years.

Migration

In 1998, Estonia received 1 414 immigrants that is 10% less than during the previous year. The number of emigrants was 2 545, which is 1 500 less compared to the 1997. The net immigration figure was -1 131. About 65% of emigrants were Russian citizens or foreigners with not determined citizenship. The decline of emigration was mainly due to the decrease of registered emigration of those people.

Demographic projections

Scenarios of the population development use the cohort component method (one-year age groups). On the base of 1996 year four scenarios were outlined. One was based on traditional assumption that the initial data used in the model will remain unchanged for the whole period under observation and migration will not be considered. The second differed from the first one by the fact that migration had been taken into account (only to the next few years). The third was scenario according to which the fertility continues to decrease and then becomes stable. The mortality temporary has a slight increase. From 2004 the level of the 1996 year had been retained again for mortality. The fourth scenario was more optimistic — the fertility increases and the mortality decreases in the next few years, the stabilisation follow. On the base of data of 1997 year one of the variants was made on the assumption that the life expectancy will increase continuously and will reach 75.3 for men and 80.8 for women in 2029 and a moderate fall in fertility will take place in the nearest future. TFR is expected to grow slowly starting from 2002 until 1.56 in 2029 year. It is quite probable in the present demographic situation. In that case the population of Estonia in 2030 will reach about 1.25 million. The proportion of over 65 years, that today is at 13.3%, will increase to 21% in 2030. The proportion of children (under 15) will be in that case only 13% (18,6% at present). This is despite of the expected increase of number of birth within nearest future due to the more numerous generation of young women, who will reach fertility age.

HUNGARY

Population

The development of the Hungarian population in recent decades can be divided into two, easily separated periods: a time that lasted until 1980 when the population was growing at a moderate pace and a time of a steady population decrease which started in 1981 and has continued to the present. The number of inhabitants reached its maximum of 10 709 000 persons in 1980. Between 1980 and 1989 it decreased by 3.1 per cent, and between 1990 and 1998 by further 2.7 per cent, losing altogether more than 600 000 persons. In the recent years the extent of the natural decrease accelerated and in 1998 it was equal to 4.3 per thousand. As a result, on 1 January 1999 the population of the country was estimated to be 10 092 000 persons which is 43 500 less than one year earlier.

Smaller and smaller generations are born, mostly that is why the proportion of elderly people is growing and since 1993 it has been higher than the proportion of children. Natural decrease is a concomitant of an ageing population: the relative weight of the 60 year and older people was 19.6 per cent, while that of the children under 15 years was 17.3 per cent at the beginning of 1999.

The low fertility, high mortality and unfavourable age-structure determine the future development of the population for a long period. According to the last projection the number of population will continue to fall, consequently the population will become older.

Marriages and divorces

The number of marriages has been falling since the mid-1970s and this phenomenon has become more pronounced in the last few years. In 1998 44.9 thousand couples married, 2000 fewer than one year earlier. The number of marriages is by 21 500 less than in 1990 and it is equal to 43 percent of the 1975 figure. In Hungary in the 20th century fewer weddings were only during the First World War. Consequently the rate of marriages is also low: in 1998 it was 4.4 per thousand.

The propensity to marry declined considerably, and the younger is the age the greater is the decrease. The mean age at first marriage has increased parallel with this. In the 1990s the mean age at female first marriage grew by more than two years and in 1998 it almost attained 24.0 years. According to the present first marriage rates, 54 per cent of all single women would remain unmarried at the age 50 years.

The increasing tendency towards informal cohabiting is also related to the falling number of marriages. This also shows up in the marked rise in the number and proportion of births outside marriage.

The number of divorces has been falling - with some fluctuations - from the second half of the 1980s. In the first half of the 1990s its frequency varied between 2.1 and 2.4 per thousand. In 1998 25 800 marriages ended with divorce, 3 per cent more than one year earlier. Compared to the very high number of divorces in 1987 it fell by 14 per cent. In 1998 the divorce rate was 2.5 per thousand. The total divorce rate indicates that, at present, more than one third of marriages would lead to divorce. Among both males and females, the age groups most affected are those of 20-29 years old.

Fertility

In the 1990s the pace of the decline in fertility accelerated. Between 1990 and 1998 the level of general fertility fell by 23 per cent, the TFR by 28 per cent. The birth number of 1998 equal to 97 300 was lower by 3 thousand (3 per cent) than one year earlier and this meant 9.6 live births per thousand population. Fertility decreased in all age groups of females, but to a various extent. The regress was greatest in the case of females under 30 years, particularly in the age group of females that is most significant in respect of general fertility, in case of the 20-24 year-old women the frequency of births declined by 8 per cent during one year. In 1998 the fertility level of females under 20 years was lower by 34 per cent, that of the 20-24 year-old by 48 per cent and that of the 25-29 year-old by 19 per cent than in 1990. Despite this decrease the fertility level of women over 30 years is still somewhat higher than eight years earlier. The decrease in fertility is parallel

with the “ageing” of the mothers. In the 1990s the mean age at child birth grew by 1.3 years and attained 26.9 years. In 1998 the mean age at birth of first child was equal to 24.5 years which is a growth by 1.4 years compared to 1990.

The number of births in 1998 represents a historical minimum in all respects. At such a fertility level a female would give birth to 1.33 children on the average during her fertile age which is by 36 per cent less than the level necessary to ensure the reproduction of the population. The slow decrease in the ratio of premature children continued, in 1998 the proportion of infants born with a weight less than 2500 grams was 8.3 per cent which was nearly by 11 per cent lower than in 1990.

Despite the significant decrease in the total number of births, the number of those outside marriage continued to grow. While in 1998 the total number of births was by 28 400 lower than in 1990, in particular the number of those outside marriage was by 9 400 higher. This means a 57 per cent growth in the examined period. In 1998 26.6 per cent of total births derived from non-married females, while in 1990 their proportion was 13.1 per cent. 82 per cent of the births outside marriage derived from single and 16 per cent from divorced females.

After the Foetal Life Protection Act LXXIX of 1992 the number of induced abortions fell significantly, nearly by 14 per cent within one year. In 1994 the pace of the decline became much slower and in 1995 the trend changed over to an increase. The 1996 data showed that the number of legal abortions did not continue to grow. In the past two years the decreasing trend was characteristic again. In 1998 the number of abortions equal to 69 000 is by 8 per cent lower than it was in the previous year. Parallel with the number of births also the number of abortions falls, which indicates a more responsible contraception. In 1998 the number of induced abortions per 100 live births decreased to 71, from 74, the value of 1997.

Mortality

The death rates were increasing for about three decades, but between 1994 and 1997 a slight improvement could be observed in mortality. In 1998 the mortality conditions worsened again. In Europe only the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union have a worse mortality rate than Hungary.

In Hungary in 1998 the average life expectancy at birth was 70.5 years which is a very low value on an international scale too. In particular, males at birth can expect to live 66.14 years and females 75.18 years. Life expectancy at birth both for males and females was longer than it was in 1990, yet it is much shorter than the characteristic level of the industrial countries.

From the 1960s on, the mortality of infants and children improved significantly and at the same time life expectancy of the adult population shortened. The increase in mortality of 35-64 year old people played a significant role in this.

In 1998 140 870 people died, by 1 per cent more than in 1997. There were 13.9 deaths per thousand of population. There are rather big differences in mortality by regions which reflect mainly the diverse social situation: the death rate of adult males is much higher in rural than in urban areas. In case of females the geographic differences in mortality are not so marked.

The infant mortality rate in 1998 was 9.7 per thousand live births, less by 0.2 than in 1997. The relatively high infant mortality can be mostly attributed to the problem of premature birth.

Migration

According to preliminary data, about 200 000 foreigners arrived in the country between 1988 and 1998. The highest number, 37 000 arrived in 1990.

According to provisional data, at the beginning of 1998 148 000 foreign citizens lived in Hungary for more than one year (or with long term residence permits).

The openness of the frontiers permits a greater temporary migration too. Businessmen, students and temporary workers arriving in a growing number leave the country after a shorter or longer stay. Also among those requesting a permission to reside, there are persons who return home or travel to a third country.

Data are not available on the number of Hungarian citizens leaving the country or returning.

Demographic projections

In Hungary population projections are made regularly. These provide information on the population by age and sex up to 2050. In addition, the population is also projected by marital status, household positions and households by type, as well as by categories of economic activity and inactivity. Usually each five years a regional population projection and a projection by level of education are added to the projection set.

In the latest population projection on national level TFR is assumed to decrease to the level of 1.3 by the year of 2001 and then to increase slowly to 1.6. Life expectancy at birth is assumed to increase from 66.0 to 75.1 till 2050 for males and from 75.0 to 81.8 for females. International migration is included into the projection: net migration is assumed to be +5000 yearly. These assumptions concern the baseline variant, in the old and the young variants fertility, mortality and net migration are assumed to have lower or higher levels.

The main results of the baseline projection variant show a further and significant population decline, a new wave of ageing on longer run and changing size of given age groups, as a consequence of fluctuations in the yearly number of birth in the past. The size of population can be estimated at 8 000 000 by the year of 2050. It is not impossible that the proportion of those aged 65 and over will exceed 30 per cent till the middle of the next century.

LATVIA

Population

The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia estimates that the resident population of the Republic of Latvia was 2 439 445 persons at the beginning of 1999.

During the previous years, since 1991 the population growth in Latvia has shown a negative trend, so the population decreased by 228 400, or by 8.6 %, (19 000 in 1998).

The natural increase of population has been negative since 1991, and the economic crisis and the continuing stagnation in the economy caused a radical fall in the marriage and fertility rates as well as an increase in mortality that persisted till 1994. Last three years (1994-1997) showed a small decrease in the crude death rate that was 13.6 in 1997 compared with 16.4 per 1000 average population in 1994. Death rate increased again to 14.0 in 1998.

The age composition of the population at the beginning of 1999 includes 18.5 % of the younger generation 0-14 years and 22.5 % of people at their post-productive age which is 60 or over for males and 57 or over for females. The share of working age population is now 59.0 %, compared with 57.9 % at the beginning of 1998. Since 1996, the pension age for women has been increased by two years, including one year during the year 1998. This decision explains increase of the per cent of the working age population.

The male and female proportions gradually become even. At the end of 1998, the male proportion was assessed at 46.3 %. For each age group up to 33 years, there is a higher proportion of men, but in the following age groups women predominate. A large disproportion among the male and female population prevails at the age of 70 and over.

Statistical data show a small positive change in the ethnic composition of the population over the past years. Since the latest Population Census in 1989 the percentage of ethnic Latvians has risen from 52.0 % to 55.7 % at the beginning of 1999. In Riga, the capital city, the percent of ethnic Latvians is lower - 38.8 % only.

Population density comprises now 37.8 inhabitants per square kilometre.

Marriages and divorces

In 1998, only 9641 marriages were contracted in Latvia that shows a decrease of 0.4 %, compared with 1997. Between 1987 and 1998, the marriage rate decreased from 9.7 in 1987 to 3.9 in 1998, i.e., more than 2,4 times.

The average age at the first marriage is currently 24.0 years for women and 26.0 years for men. Both figures are slightly higher than in 1997. About 36 % of all the marriages in 1998 were contracted between people of different ethnic nationalities.

A total of 6211 divorces were granted in 1998, that is more by 108 or 1.7 % than in 1997. The level of divorces in 1998 was 644 per 1000 marriages and the crude divorce rate was 2.5 .

Similarly as in other European countries, cohabitation without formal marriage registration at the Registry Offices or in the Church has become widespread in Latvia over the recent years.

Fertility

The number of live births was 18 410 in 1998 (42 135 in 1987), showing a total fertility rate of 1.09 . The figure showing the number of live births has fallen in 1998 in comparison with 1987, its highest level, by 56 % due to unfavourable situation in the national economy. The number of the first live births now amounts only to 50.3 %, the second - 31.2 % of live births, the third live birth - to 11.0 %, and the fourth and higher - to 7.5 %.

Mortality

The number of deaths in 1998 equalled to 34 200 (33 533 in 1997). Crude death rate decreased from 16.4 ‰ in 1994 to 13.6 ‰ in 1997. The year 1998 gave an increase of this rate to 14.0 in 1998.

In 1998, according to the calculations of the CSB, life expectancy at birth was 64.1 years for men and 75.5 years for women. The infant mortality rate was 14.9 per thousand of births in 1998, a slight but continuous decrease compared to 15.2 in the preceding year.

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was introduced in Latvia in 1996. 55.5 % of all deaths in Latvia in 1998 were caused by the diseases of the circulatory system. This is very disturbing, since disease trends here represent a radical difference from those observed in the developed European countries. Mortality due to neoplasms is the next cause of death, accounting for 17.0 % of all deaths in 1998. The death rate from unnatural causes (12.0 %, i.e., third cause of death) is also higher in Latvia than in the majority of the European states.

Migration

Since 1989, the difference between the number of arrivals and departures of long-term migrants has been negative.

The level of emigration and repatriation reached its peak in 1992 when net emigration amounted to 47 000 people. In 1993, the net migration rate decreased by almost a half, and net emigration reached nearly 28 000, in 1994 - 18 800, in 1995 - 10 500 persons, in 1996 -7 300 persons, in 1997 - 6700 persons and in 1998 - 3168. Net emigration to Western countries increased from near zero at the beginning of 1990, to 1467 in 1998. The majority of emigrants travelling to the West go to Germany, the USA and Israel. The majority of emigrants to the East go to the Russian Federation (3 189 persons in 1998), Belarus (488) and the Ukraine (355). The long-term migration flows between Latvia and its neighbouring countries - Lithuania and Estonia are quite low (63 immigrants from Lithuania and 49 from Estonia in 1998, 133 and 34 emigrants, correspondingly).

Emigration is age selective, comprising the younger and early middle-age groups. Their level of education is higher than average. At the same time there is a lower proportion of family members among the long-term emigrants and a higher proportion of single persons compared with the data on the total population.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

The Parliament of Latvia has passed a new Law on State Statistics and it came into force on 9 December 1997. This law determines that statistics shall be produced according to the requirements and recommendations of international organisations.

The Government of Latvia adopted a decision about the organisation of the next Population and Housing Census on 31 March 2000. The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia was appointed as the main governmental agency responsible for carrying out this important and tremendous statistical task. The draft of the Population and Housing Census Act has been passed to the Parliament of Latvia for adoption.

Demographic projections

In compliance with the requests of ministries and other governmental agencies, work has been finished recently on developing a new set of demographic projections for a period of time - up to the year 2020. The Department of Demography at the University of Latvia in co-operation with the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia carried out the latest projections of the demographic development in Latvia.

LITHUANIA

Population

At the beginning of 1999 the population of Lithuania was 3 700 800. During the previous year, the population fell by 3 162, the natural decrease being the main reason for this population decline. The biggest increase of the population in the post-war period occurred during the 1960s, when the average growth rate was 1.2-1.3 % per year. At the beginning of the 1970s the growth rate stabilised at 0.8-0.9 % per year. Since 1990 the rate of population growth has changed noticeably : it was 0.76 % in 1990. In 1992, a decrease in the Lithuanian population was observed. The fall in the population reached its peak (0.33 %) in 1993; later the decrease rates slowed. It was 0.09 % in 1998.

The age structure of population is rather old. At the beginning of 1999, 13.1 % of the population were 65 years or older, the proportion of children (0-14 years) was 20.4 %. Since 1970, the proportion of children decreased by 6.8 percentage points while the share of population aged 65 years and over increased by 3.1 percentage points.

Marriages and divorces

The number of marriages has increased steadily over time with a peak of 36 310 marriages registered in 1990. During recent years the number of marriages has fallen, especially in 1993 (21%). In 1998, 18 486 couples married, i.e. 310 less than in 1997. This gives a rate of 5.0 ‰, which is the lowest marriage rate ever observed in Lithuania.

Early marriage is widespread as demonstrated by the average age at first marriage, which has been 22.7 years for women and 24.7 years for men. The overall divorce rate is stable with slight fluctuations, remaining at 3.1-3.3 ‰ average population during the 1980s. However, since 1990 the number of divorces has begun to rise. In 1991 it reached a peak of 4.1 ‰ average population. This phenomenon could be affected by the change in ownership forms, especially by the privatisation of flats. In 1992, in contrast, the number of divorces fell down. Since 1996, the number of divorces has been rather constant at about 11 500. The total period divorce rate was 40% in 1998.

Fertility

The highest and rather constant birth rates were observed during the 1950 to 1960 period, i.e. 23 births per 1000 of the population. Later, the birth rates decreased steadily for two decades and at the end of the 1970s fell to 15.3 ‰ average population. From 1983 an acceleration of the birth rate was observed due to a change in maternity leave, for employed or studying mothers, which was extended until the child reached 1.5 years of age. This trend of increasing birth rate lasted for only a few years and in 1989 the birth rate reverted to the previous level. Since 1990 the birth rate has been constantly decreasing. There were 37 019 live births in 1998 compared to 56 868 in 1990. The total fertility rate fell to 1.36 in 1998 and the crude birth rate was the lowest: 10.0 ‰ average population.

The average age of women at childbirth in 1998 was 26.06. The proportion of births outside marriage is increasing, i.e. from 7% in 1990 to 18.0 % in 1998.

Mortality

The lowest mortality rate during the post-war period was in the 1960s. Then it began increasing and in 1985 there were 11.1 deaths per 1 000 average population.

In the mid-1980s, attempts to reduce alcohol consumption led to a temporary fall in the mortality rate, but it soon started to rise again. Between 1989 and 1994, mortality rose by 21.4 %, with the sharpest surge (11%) in 1993. Since 1994, the number of deaths has shown a declining tendency. The number of deaths in 1998 was 40 757, with a crude mortality rate of 11 (same as in 1991).

In 1998 the life expectancy of males was 66.5 years and that of females 76.9 years. During the last four years, an increase in life expectancy has been observed : 3.8 years for males and 2 years for females. The difference in life expectancy between men and women is narrowing and is now 10.4 years.

The predominant causes of death in 1998 were cardiovascular diseases (44.4 % of men and 65.8 % of women) and malignant diseases (20.1 % of men and 17.0 % of women). The greatest concern to society is mortality due to accidents, injuries and poisoning (19.8 % of men and 6.0 % of women).

Migration

During the 1960s-1980s the development of international migration in Lithuania, though very intensive, was rather stable. It was characterised by weak contacts with Western countries and a constant increase in the population due to the migration from the republics of the former USSR. Migration balance with the former USSR republics each year constituted 6-7 thousand persons per year. Since 1990, the situation has changed and net migration has become negative for the first time during post-war years. The level of emigration from Lithuania reached a peak in 1992, when emigration to the CIS countries amounted to 27 000 people. Most of the emigrants left for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, i.e. republics that accounted for the major part of the net immigration in the past. Recently the number of emigrating people for the CIS countries has become stable, at about 1 500 persons per year.

MALTA

Demographic developments in Malta during the past two decades

At the end of 1998, the Maltese resident population stood at 378,518 and consisted of 187,689 males and 190,829 females. Since the last census taken in 1995, the population went up by nearly 2 per cent. During the past twenty years, the population experienced positive yearly increases.

Population changes are the result of two main factors: the difference between births and deaths and the migration balance. The two movements may not necessarily be in the same direction and are influenced by social and political developments. In the case of Malta, both the natural and the migration balances have been positive during the past twenty years.

The provisionally estimated Maltese population as at end June 1999 is 379,116.

MALTESE POPULATION ESTIMATES: 1978- 1998			
(End Year)			
Year	Males	Females	Total
1978	154910	163410	318320
1979	157328	165207	322535
1980	159180	166541	325721
1981	160740	167635	328375
1982	162756	169103	331859
1983	164576	170593	335169
1984	166385	171891	338276
1985	167875	173032	340907
1986	169196	174138	343334
1987	170369	175267	345636
1988	172142	176872	349014
1989	173895	178535	352430
1990	175782	180128	355910
1991	177685	181858	359543
1992	179427	183550	362977
1993	181232	185199	366431
1994	182838	186613	369451
1995	183875	187298	371173
1996	185319	188639	373958
1997	186664	189849	376513
1998	187689	190829	378518

MALTESE POPULATION BY GENDER AND AGE-GROUPS, 31ST DECEMBER 1998

Based on the November 1995 Census

Ages	Males	Females	Total	Ages	Males	Females	Total
All Ages	187689	190829	378518				
0 - 4	12311	11444	23755	50 - 54	14677	15032	29709
5 - 9	14028	13346	27374	55 - 59	8073	8848	16921
10 - 14	14311	13341	27652	60 - 64	8181	9321	17502
15 - 19	14917	14169	29086	65 - 69	6529	8507	15036
20 - 24	14796	13631	28427	70 - 74	5413	7064	12477
25 - 29	12531	11839	24370	75 - 79	3911	5381	9292
30 - 34	11854	11418	23272	80 - 84	1837	2891	4728
35 - 39	14174	13807	27981	85 - 89	915	1735	2650
40 - 44	14671	14235	28906	90+	312	791	1103
45 - 49	14248	14029	28277				

Natural Increase

In 1988, there was a natural increase of 2,825 in the Maltese population. This represented 84 per cent of the total population growth during the year. Ten years after, the natural increase declined to 1,444 or 49 per cent. This drop was mainly the result of lower fertility since mortality rates did not register any notable fluctuations and migration flows were relatively low throughout the period.

Migratory Movements

Most Mediterranean countries have had a long history of migration. Malta was no exception. The Maltese migratory movement was particularly evident in the 1950's and the 1960's when, due to lack of jobs and difficult social conditions, thousands of Maltese left the Islands to settle abroad. Migration was then considered as a 'safety valve' to ease population pressures.

Since the mid-1970's, Malta has received back thousands of former emigrants. The present situation is that the migration dimension in Maltese demography is gradually being phased out.

MIGRANTS YEARLY FROM 1978 - 1998

Emigrants						Year	Returning Emigrants					
Country of future permanent residence							Country of last permanent residence					
Australia	Canada	U.K.	U.S.A.	Other	Total		Australia	Canada	U.K.	U.S.A.	Other	Total
959	269	100	246	3	1577	1978	935	279	394	63	7	1678
765	248	82	205	3	1303	1979	1177	347	598	158	9	2289
981	213	48	129	3	1374	1980	886	178	622	61	6	1753
1548	271	30	106	11	1966	1981	745	203	591	92	13	1644
636	135	46	104	17	938	1982	497	94	509	88	5	1193
403	66	49	103	20	641	1983	439	98	447	69	-1	1052
356	91	65	86	31	629	1984	231	112	253	56	2	654
493	64	47	99	28	731	1985	247	120	271	59	3	700
525	88	26	72	26	737	1986	263	165	149	43	2	622
475	70	43	49	24	670	1987	153	78	100	27	7	365
339	108	43	41	30	561	1988	506	103	195	105	27	936
217	74	43	43	22	399	1989	430	97	121	60	14	722
81	27	10	27	15	160	1990	410	98	201	104	45	858
78	23	9	20	10	140	1991	525	130	259	160	50	1124
83	24	12	23	11	153	1992	396	97	188	85	54	820
31	8	10	12	5	66	1993	346	106	249	66	70	837
54	3	9	35	3	104	1994	262	108	233	78	80	761
55	3	10	36	3	107	1995	191	81	204	61	84	621
51	...	43	...	...	94	1996	127	52	124	44	52	399
10	...	63	...	...	73	1997	144	46	140	53	70	453
34	...	87	...	...	121	1998	96	33	100	73	47	349

Resident foreign population

During the past twenty years, the incidence of foreigners within the Maltese population has always been of minor importance. The 1985 Census returned a total of 4,798 residents who had settled in Malta. At the last census held in 1995, the number of foreign residents was 7,213, of whom 3,555 or 49 per cent were British.

Fertility

All European countries have experienced a decrease in fertility although a few are still at the end of their transition period. The onset and the speed of this process has not been uniform in all countries. In the North, the downward trend in fertility was initiated much earlier, whereas in some of the Southern countries, the drop in fertility was noticeable much later. The case of Malta is a notable example. Twenty years ago, the crude birth rate was 15.8; by 1998 it had come down to 11.89 and may be expected to decline further in future. In 1998, Malta registered the lowest number of live births during the past two decades.

LIVE BIRTHS: 1978 - 1998				
Year	Maltese Islands			
	Number			Crude Birth Rates*
	Total	Males	Females	
1978	5641	2914	2727	17.70
1979	5823	3045	2778	18.00
1980	5602	2932	2670	17.20
1981	5592	2924	2668	17.00
1982	5912	3014	2898	17.80
1983	5651	2907	2744	16.90
1984	5571	2901	2670	16.50
1985	5430	2818	2612	15.90
1986	5245	2778	2467	15.30
1987	5314	2720	2594	15.40
1988	5533	2817	2716	15.80
1989	5584	2813	2771	15.92
1990	5368	2786	2582	15.16
1991	5302	2704	2598	14.82
1992	5474	2804	2670	15.15
1993	5147	2679	2468	14.11
1994	4826	2479	2347	13.12
1995	4613	2403	2210	12.44
1996	4944	2555	2389	13.25
1997	4835	2547	2288	12.89
1998	4488	2308	2180	11.89

* Number of live births per 1000 persons in mid-year population

Marriages

Within the changing social context being observed in Malta, there has also been a modest change in values and attitudes towards marriage and its various forms. Although there has not been any change in the yearly number of marriages, there has been an increase in the number of extramarital births which in 1998 represented 8.2 per cent of life births. Moreover, the number of civil marriages has been on the increase. In 1988, there were 148 civil marriages. This number reached 409 in 1998.

Mortality

There has been a notable improvement in life expectancy during the past twenty years. In 1978, life expectancy stood at 68.08 years for men and 72.08 years for women. In 1998 life expectancy increased to 74.40 years for men and 80.07 years for women. The marked improvement in infant mortality has caused a noticeable drop in infant mortality rate, which from 7.9 in 1978 stood at 5.33 in 1998.

NUMBER AND RATE OF DEATHS: 1978 - 1998

Year	Number			Crude Death Rate
	Persons	Males	Females	
1978	3263	1644	1619	10.2
1979	2968	1520	1448	9.20
1980	3215	1663	1552	9.90
1981	3062	1597	1465	9.30
1982	3050	1549	1501	9.20
1983	3137	1564	1573	9.40
1984	2903	1498	1405	8.60
1985	2837	1453	1384	8.30
1986	2824	1454	1370	8.20
1987	2908	1498	1410	8.40
1988	2708	1391	1317	7.80
1989	2610	1313	1297	7.44
1990	2745	1401	1344	7.75
1991	2875	1459	1416	8.04
1992	2900	1483	1417	8.03
1993	2692	1414	1278	7.38
1994	2698	1375	1323	7.33
1995	2708	1367	1341	7.30
1996	2765	1450	1315	7.41
1997	2888	1532	1356	7.70
1998	3044	1581	1463	8.06

Summary

During the past two decades, the Maltese population increased by an average rate of 0.9 per cent per annum. In most cases, this was the result to a natural increase accompanied by a positive migration balance. Another marginal factor which merits some consideration is the number of child-adoptions of foreign origin, which during the past four years totalled 116.

Demographic Indicators 1998

Maltese Population	Malta	349,338
	Gozo	29,180
Maltese Population	Males	187,689
	Females	190,829
Population Density (persons per square Km)	Malta	1,420
	Gozo	435
	Maltese Islands	1,198
Sex Ratio (Males per 1000 females)	Malta	984
	Gozo	973
	Maltese Islands	984
Births (Number)	Malta	4,125
	Gozo	363
	Maltese Islands	4,488
Births outside Marriage		367
Crude Birth Rate (Live births per 1000 mid-year population)	Maltese Islands	11.89
Total Fertility Rate		1.81
Gross Reproduction Rate		0.9
Number of Marriages	Maltese Islands	2376
	Malta	2205
	Gozo	171
Number of Civil Marriages		409
Crude Marriage Rate (Mar. per 1000 mid-year population)	Maltese Islands	6.29
	Malta	6.33
	Gozo	5.89
Median Age at first marriage(in years)	Brides	24.36
	Bridegrooms	24.66
Literacy Ratio(1)	Males	88.0
	Females	88.0\
Dependency Ratio (2)		48.8
Ageing Ratio(3)		57
Very Elderly Ratio(4)		39
Life Expectancy(in years)	Males	74.40
	Females	80.07
Crude Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 mid-year population)		8.06
Crude Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births)		5.3
Mean household size (number of persons)	Maltese Islands	3.25
	Malta	3.25
	Gozo	3.15
Mean Household Size (number of persons)	Maltese h/hold	3.26
	Foreign h/hold	2.45

Provisional Indicators for January – June 1999

Maltese Population	Males	188,016
	Females	191,100
	Total	379,116
Births	Males	1,006
	Females	975
	Total	1,981
Deaths	Males	845
	Females	846
	Total	1,691
Number of Marriages	Maltese Islands	1,078

POLAND

Population

At the end of 1998 the population of Poland was 38 667 000 inhabitants, about 62% of which lived in urban areas. The most recent Polish population projections indicate that this share should increase slightly in the future. Current estimates of population, as well as the population projections are based on permanent residents of Poland, whether they are in the country or abroad. All figures therefore include persons living abroad for a temporary stay, but who may never return to Poland.

In 1998 the population of Poland increased by about 7 034, the lowest real increase during the whole post-war period. The rate of annual population change decreased to slightly above 0.0 % and there are still no indications that it may change significantly further in the forthcoming years. By comparison, in the 1980s this rate was 0.66 % (an annual increase of the order of 240 000 persons) and in the early 1990s about 0.26 %.

The population of Poland is still at the stage of natural development resulting from a positive natural increase, but the numbers of births and deaths are alarmingly close to each other. That difference has now decreased to 20 265. The natural increase rate amounted to only 0.8 % in 1998. At the beginning of the 1980s there were over 300 000 more births than deaths.

The possibility of change from the state of natural increase to one of natural reduction of the population is still rather distant for Poland, but the urban areas of the country where the number of live births is lower than the number of deaths and others where the surplus of live births over deaths is very small, increase every year.

Marriages and divorces

In 1998, 209 430 marriages were contracted, slightly more than in the previous year. The number of contracted marriages per 1000 population has remained nearly constant for some last years. This rate is now 5.4 per 1000 population, while at the beginning of the 1980s it was 9.0%.

About 87% of all marriages contracted in 1998 were first marriages. The total first marriage rate reached 0.63 for females below the age of 50 in 1998. The majority of women contracting a first marriage are in the 18-24 age group and men in the 20-29 group. The mean age of the Polish women at their first marriage did not change significantly : last year, it was 23.4 years. An increase in the number of first marriages is expected in the forthcoming years.

Since 1993 the number of divorces has systematically increased to about 45 230 in 1998. It is still less than in 1984, which was the record year in this respect in the whole post-war period in Poland (nearly 53 000 divorces). The divorce rate per 1000 population has been running at around 1.1-1.2 for many years, including last year when there were about 5 divorces per 1000 existing marriages.

The above statistics refers exclusively to the dissolution of marriages legally contracted. The total number of dissolved marriages is considerably higher in Poland. The high mortality of married people (especially men) dissolves about 175 000 marriages each year, i.e. 19 per 1000 existing marriages. Moreover, other types of family forms, such as consensual unions, are enumerated through census data or other special surveys nationally.

Fertility

Since the beginning of 1990 in Poland, there has been a steep demographic depression, larger than the one experienced during the second half of the 1960s. Women born in the period of 1969-78 are reaching the age of effective procreation (20-29 years). The larger younger generation of women aged 20-24 will decide on procreation now, while the total number of births continues to fall. In 1998 only 395 619 children were born in Poland, the lowest figure in the whole post-war period. Nearly 88% of live births were legitimate. The crude live birth rate reached 10.2 ‰. Birth order was concentrated primarily on the first and second births,

which represent approximately 75% of all live births. In previous years a larger number of higher order births were recorded.

The average age of women at birth of their first child was about 23.9 years in 1998 and showed only slight change in comparison to the previous year, similar to the mean age of women at the birth of any child (26.9). Childbearing for most women is now more spread in time than at the beginning of the 1980s.

Since 1989 the population of Poland reached the stage of development defined in demographic terms as a limited replacement level. In practice, this means that the current demographic development does not guarantee the replacement of generations ; the total fertility rate is 1.43 and the net reproduction rate of about 0.68. The present fertility forecast assumes that it could be possible to return to the replacement level during the next several years. The next demographic boom can be expected in Poland after 2005.

The changes taking place in Poland in the field of fertility are similar to those seen in most European countries, but in the case of Poland the speed of the changes is quicker and the level of total fertility is higher. Poland still belongs to the group of European countries with higher fertility level such as : Ireland, France and some of the Scandinavian countries.

Mortality

There were 375 354 deaths in Poland in 1998, slightly fewer than in 1997. The crude death rate reached 9.7‰. As in recent years, in the near future the number of deaths and the crude death rate are likely to decline. An unfavourable phenomenon is still observed: the excess mortality among men compared to women, especially in the younger age groups of men at working age.

It is estimated that in 1998 a full of 50% of deaths was caused by cardiovascular diseases, about 20% by malignant or other neoplasms and about 8% by accidents, injuries or poisonings. This means that almost 78% of deaths in Poland were due to civilisation diseases. Poland still has a high level of mortality, similar to that of Hungary, Romania and certain countries of the former Soviet Union.

The favourable phenomenon in the field of mortality is the continually decreasing number of infant deaths. Almost 3 776 children aged under one year died in 1998 and the infant mortality rate decreased to 9.5 per 1000 live births. Poland still has one of the worst infant mortality rates in Europe.

An increase in life expectancy could be observed over the past seven years. In 1998 male life expectancy at birth averaged 68.9 years, and female life expectancy was 77.3, i.e. two years longer for females and nearly three years longer for males, compared to 1991. This is still about 5-8 years less than in France, Switzerland and some Scandinavian countries, which have the longest life expectancy in Europe. The main factors affecting the high level of mortality in Poland are : alcoholism, smoking, the bad nutrition, or simply lack of preventive treatment. The high pollution of the environment may also be the reason for a large number of diseases and deaths, but there is no empirical data to support this.

Migration

Permanent emigration does not have a significant effect on natural growth in Poland. In 1998 only 22 200 Poles emigrated abroad on permanent stay. On the other hand, immigration stood at 8 900, rapidly increasing in recent years.

The data is based on migratory movements declared as a permanent change of residence by Poles or foreigners and recorded in Polish statistics. However, there is a different group of migrants on which little data is available : persons going abroad as tourists or to visit their families, who decide to stay abroad even for several years, thus effectively becoming emigrants. Polish statistics do not have precise information on the extent of this type of emigration. A new system of surveys is being elaborated to investigate different categories of Polish emigrants, as well as foreigners and aliens (non-nationals) immigrants, who stay in Poland for a long time.

In 1995 about 900 000 of Polish citizens stayed abroad temporarily: more than two months as indicated by the results of the representative population census (micro census). The last micro census did not provide reliable information on the number of foreigners living in Poland at the moment of the national survey.

The age and sex structure of emigrants may have a considerable influence on future demographic processes, especially for areas of the country with long-term population outflows. In recent years, the destination countries for Polish emigrants, either for permanent or temporary stay were: Germany, United States, Canada, Austria, Sweden and France. Among immigrants taking up permanent residence in Poland, the largest number come from: Germany, United States, Ukraine, other countries of the former Soviet Union and Asia.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

The Central Statistical Office currently provides all government institutions with statistical information. Publications containing demographic data, such as the Demographic Yearbook, are regularly issued. The Polish Government Council prepares an annual Report on the demographic situation in Poland. This report presents a detailed analysis of socio-demographic phenomena and processes ; its recommendations are submitted to government and parliamentary commissions.

In recent years the focus of activities of governmental institutions and non-governmental organisations were concentrated on social problems concerning specific population sub-groups. The activities have focused on social fields concerning population-related policy, in particular : social protection, social insurance, health care programme, family allowances and educational programmes. In 1998 Poland implemented two new laws, i.e. the first on health insurance for all and the second on social insurance system, which deal with some aspects of family formation.

Demographic projections

Last projection of Poland's population for the years 1996-2020 was made in 1996 on the basis of the population on 31 December 1995. The projections are made assuming that the level of women fertility will increase gradually to 190 children per 100 women (i.e. still below the replacement level) and life expectancy will increase to 72 years for men and 78.5 years for women in the year 2020. As regards internal migration a gradual growth in population mobility is foreseen after the year 2000, whereas a constant net migration is assumed for international migration throughout the projection period. With these assumptions, the natural increase in the period from 1996 to 2020 would be positive and would result in an increase in population of, on average 0.8 million every ten years. The forecast indicates that in the year 2020, the population of Poland will reach 40.7 million persons.

Considerable changes will take place in the structure of population by age. The rapid drop of births observed in the 1990s will result in a declining size of the group of children and youth up to 17 years of age, and its percentage share in the total population will fall from 27.6 % in the baseline year to 23.6 % in 2020.

In the working ages, the high increases in the numbers will correspond, first of all, to the older people in this group (belonging to, so called, immobile working age), i.e. men aged 45 -64 and women aged 45-59. According to the projection, the oldest of the age groups considered will grow the most dynamically. In 1995, the share of the sub-population of age entitling to draw pensions was 13.7 %, till 2010 the proportion will increase to 15%, and in the last forecast year it can reach even about 19%.

Household projection 1996-2020

On the basis of population projections 1995-2020, a household projection was compiled in 1997. According to the assumptions of the projection, the household structure in Poland will follow changes similar to those experienced in most developed countries, i.e. the growing proportion of small households and decreasing average household size. The projection is based upon association rates calculated from the micro census of 1995, changing gradually up to the year 2020 so as to converge to the rates observed recently in the central region of Poland.

Projection reveals future major increase in the number of households in Poland. Until 2010 it will grow by almost one million each five years, next increments will be one third of that. By 2020 the number of households will increase up to 16 million (12.5 million in 1995) and the average household size will decrease to almost 2.5 persons (3.1 in 1995). The increase in the number of households will be observed mainly in one- and two-person households, namely from 5.3 millions in 1995 to 8.8 millions in 2020. At the same time the number of households with 5 and more persons will decrease from 2.1 millions to 1.3 million and their share will drop from 17% to 8%.

ROMANIA

On January 1st, 1999, the Romanian population was 22 488.6 thousand persons, by 37.5 thousands less than on January 1st, 1998. The fall was more obvious for male population than for female population.

Both components of population increase were negative, this year the value of natural increase also exceeding that of net migration: 85.1% of total fall of the population was determined by natural increase and only 14.9% by net migration.

The total population is still characterized by a slight prevail in number of female population, both per total and for the ages over 40 years old. At country level, the sex ratio was 96 male per 100 female persons on January 1st, 1999.

The most significant mutations, with economic and social consequences that will be felt in time, are noticed in the population structure by ages, reflecting a slow but continuous process of demographic aging: population aged 0-14 years, representing 19% of total population decreased by 74.1 thousands as against 1998, while population aged 65 years and over (12.8%) increased by 46.7 thousands.

On January 1st, 1999, the mean age of the population was 36.8 years, by 2.5 years more for female population as compared to male population.

Rural population was 38.6 years old, by 3.3 years more than urban population, especially due to female population, whose mean age was 40.1 years old in rural area (by 3.2 years more than the mean age of rural male population).

Mariages and divorces

Continuous fall in the marriages number, that started since 1991, has carried on in 1998 as well.

143 530 marriages have been recorded in 1998, by 1.8 thousands less than in previous year.

As in 1997, most of marriages have been concluded by the population aged 20-24 years (44.8% of total married women in 1998 and 39.7% of men).

Although the mean age at marriage increased for both sexes, being 28.4 years for men and 24.9 years for women, the difference between ages has remained constant.

Although the number of single persons decreased for the population under 24, a growth of marriages was not also registered for this ages. This fall was determined by including in these ages the generations born into a period with low birth rate.

Total first marriage rate has carried on falling for both sexes. In 1998, it had the value of 0.67 for women, indicating that almost 4 women of 10 will remain single up to 50 years old, if actual intensity of concluded the marriages by ages is kept.

Like previous years, the weight of remarriages for divorced persons has carried on growing, having higher values for men. In urban area, the weights are almost double as compared with those from rural area. At the same time, the intensity of remarriage phenomenon for widowed persons was over 4.4 times higher for men as against women.

In 1998, the number of divorces was 40 thousands, by 5.2 thousand cases more than in 1997, reverting 1.78 divorces per 1000 inhabitants. However, the values of the last years do not indicate an obvious change in this phenomenon evolution.

Most of divorces were registered for the age group 25-29 years, the peak, as compared to previous years, moving from the age group 20-24 years. The mean age for the marriage dissolution was 36.8 years for men and 33.4 years for women, showing an upward trend as against 1997.

It is worth mentioning that most of divorces were registered in case of close age spouses, the number of divorces gradually falling in so far as the age difference between spouses is growing.

The average duration of a marriage ended by a divorce was 11.4 years in 1998, having higher values in urban area (11.7 years as against 10.7 years in rural area).

The divorces of spouses having underage children represented over half of total divorces, the number of underage children affected by the dissolution of their parents marriage being 30.3 thousands, increasing as against 1997.

Fertility

The slight growth of live-births for 1997 has also carried on in 1998. The number of live-births was 237.3 thousands in 1998, by 0.4 thousands more than in previous year, but the crude birth rate remained 10.5 live-births per 1000 inhabitants.

Limiting the number of children, especially using the abortion, has reduced the fertility below the simple replacement of generations. The total fertility rate was still 1.3 children per woman, having even lower values in urban area (1.0 children per woman).

The specific fertility by age groups, decreasing since 1989, especially for younger ages, was mostly influenced by the wish of couples to limit their number of children in their family .

As well as previous years, female fertility for the highest fertility group (20-24) was decreasing (from 100.7‰ in 1997 to 96.9‰ in 1998), while for age group 25-29 it was slightly increasing (from 72.6‰ in 1997 to 77.6‰ in 1998).

It was noticed a slight recovery of births after 30 years, and especially up to 35 years, the contribution of women between 30-35 years old to get final progeny increasing from 14% in 1997 to 14.3% in 1998.

The mean age of mother at birth was 25.1 years, higher than last year. Mothers from rural area have born at younger ages (24.4 years old) in comparison with those from urban area (25.9 years).

In case of women at first birth, the average age was 23.3 years, being kept the difference between urban and rural area (24.4 years, respectively 22.1 years).

In 1998, of total live-births, over 3/4 came from mothers at first marriage and over half were born in the first two years of marriage. The orientation of family couples, especially younger ones, towards a family with lower number of children is also pointed out by the high weight of first (53.1%) and second rank (29.2%). At the same time, the weight of women up to 30 years old having more than one child has decreased, only in the last year, from 45.7% to 44.9%.

Mortality

Mortality, the second main component of natural increase, has negatively influenced the population number and structure.

In 1998, 269.2 thousand deaths were registered, by 10.1 thousands less than previous year, the crude deaths rate being reduced from 12.4 to 12.0 deaths per 1000 inhabitants.

The mortality by age group 0-4 years, although slightly falling, is still affected by high values of children deaths under one year old, by 20.5 deaths per 1000 live-births.

An over-mortality of male population still exist, having significant differences for adult ages (between 40-60 years old).

The main death causes have remained those due to cardiovascular diseases and neoplasm and respiratory system diseases, with differences by sex.

Male over-mortality has especially appeared due to tuberculosis, accidents, poisonings and other consequences of external nature, infectious and parasitically diseases, mental and behavior disorder, gastrointestinal diseases, respiratory system.

In case of female population, most of deaths have happened owing to endocrine, gastrointestinal and metabolism diseases and cardiovascular diseases.

The growth of mortality since 1991, especially for adult ages, has determined the continuous fall of life expectancy at birth.

However, for 1998, life expectancy has registered a slight growth from 68.95 years (1995-1997) to 69.24 years (1996-1998), representing a change as against the downward trend of the last years. Although life expectancy has increased for populations, the difference between sexes has become deeper reaching 7.9 years. In urban area, the population still has a life duration expectancy of 2 more years than in rural area.

Migration

In 1998, 17.5 thousand persons left the country (by 2.4 thousands less than previous year), the external migratory balance being over twice lower.

Almost half of persons who left the country in 1998 were between 20-44 years, of whom one quarter graduated an university and over 3/4 graduated at least lyceum. Especially engineers, architects, teachers, economists and doctors have decided to leave the country.

The main destination countries for Romanian emigrants were Germany, USA, Italy and Hungary, but excepting Italy, the flows were much under 1997 values.

3/4 of those 11.9 thousand immigrants entering the country in 1998 came from Republic of Moldova.

Demographic projections

The last version of population projection up to 2020 represents a continuation of National Commission of Statistics preoccupation's for prospecting, in the perspective of the 21st century beginning, of population evolution and structure in the transition economic, social and legislative context.

The starting point of the projection is constituted by the population of Romania on July 1st, 1996 and the evolution of the main demographic phenomena especially recorded after 1989.

In order to carry out this projection, it was used the program RUP - Rural Urban Projections (developed by USA Census Office), based on the method of components. The projection was built up in 3 variants: constant, optimistic and pessimistic.

The first variant supposes that, both for fertility and for mortality, the average of values in the last years by age groups, will be constant up to 2020. In the optimistic variant, fertility will gradually grow (1.33 in 2000, 1.50 in 2010), in 2020 reaching the level of the simple replacement of generation. Life expectancy will gradually grow reaching 69.20 years for men and 77.10 years for women in 2020.

In the pessimistic variant TFR will continue to fall (1.25 in 2000) up to 2010 (1.20), when it reaches a relatively stable level which is to be maintained up to 2020. Life expectancy will fall reaching 63.1 years for men and 70 years for women in 2020.

Being directly dependent both on internal and external factors, future evolution of external migration (almost totally emigration) has a higher degree of uncertainty. That is why in all variants, the intensity of migration for 1996 (by gender and by age groups) will be kept constant up to 2020.

No matter of the projection variant, the population of Romania will fall, but with different intensities. At the horizon of 2020, the population of Romania could be situated between 19 183.5 thousand inhabitants (pessimistic variant) and 19 681.8 thousands (constant variant). Young population (aged 0-14 years) will fall under the conditions of constant growth of elderly (aged 65 years and over) number and weight.

It will be significant the continuous process of aging for the working age groups. After 2005, this segment of the population will include less numerous generations born since 1990, while generations born since 1966 (due to the Decree of abortions interdiction) will be 50 years old.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Population development in the Slovak Republic (SR) in year 1998 confirmed trends of previous years i.e. deceleration of population reproduction. Transformation of the demographic behaviour in new economic and social conditions continues, one gradually abandons the previous marriage and female fertility and natality pattern. Furthermore, the natality and fertility of women has declined and mortality of population has increased. Such development has caused the continuous cut back of population increase.

From other demographic phenomenons in contrast to year 1997 the decline of marriages contracted and marriage rate took place, again the number of divorces and divorce rate increased. One can positively value the continuous decrease of abortions number and abortion rate.

In the course of a long-term decrease of live births number and changes with population mortality the **age structure breakdown** changes. Gradually, the number and share of child population in age up to 15 years decreases, and number of persons older 60, however slowly raises.

In contrast to year 1997 the ageing index got deteriorated by 2 points, so per 100 inhabitants in age up to 15 years there is 55,4 persons older than 65 years.

As of 31 December 1998 the SR got 5 393 382 inhabitants according to the preliminary statistical balance, 51,4% of which were women.

Decrease of **marriage rate** lasting since year 1977 have continued in year 1998 too, whilst marriage rate decreased slightly in contrast to year 1997. Until year 1989 the marriage rate kept itself above 7 per-mil level, since year 1993 it is under 6 per-mil one.

Nearly 27,5 thousand new marriages were contracted in year 1998, by 461 less than in year 1997. Since year 1993 the number of marriages contracted dropped by 3,3 thousands and gross marriage rate by 0,7 point. The highest number of marriages in post-war period were contracted in year 1977 (44,5 thousands) and the highest marriage rate was in year 1950 (11,3 per-mil).

Age of admittance into the first marriage raises gradually, at females it shuttles between 22,5 - 23 years, at males between 25,5 - 26 years. The average age of bride has risen to 24,5 years, groom's to 27,5 years.

Divorce rate in the SR does have rising tendency from long-term point of view.

In year 1998 the absolute number of divorces and divorce rate got the highest values in post-war period. Relevant courts divorced 9,3 thousands marriages, that was by 174 more than in year 1997 and gross divorce rate got increased to 1,73 per-mil. There were 33,9 divorces per 100 matrimonies, by 1,2 more than in year 1997 and by 7,4 more than in year 1993.

From a community point of view the problem is mainly divorces of marriages with under-age children. In year 1998 from permitted divorces there were 6,8 thousands i.e. 72,5% with under-age children, of which 3,2 thousands with 1 child and 2,3 thousands with two children. 571 matrimonies with three and more children were divorced. The average number of children in matrimonies divorced was 1,7. Share of less-child matrimonies slightly increased in contrast to year 1997 and got 16,1% (1 500 divorces).

In year 1998 the long-term decline of **natality** and female realised **fertility** continued, however in years 1995 through 1998 the decline trend got slowed as gross natality rate were decreasing in year-to-year upon 0,2 - 0,3 point. From long-term development's point of view the natality level in year 1998 was the lowest since year 1918.

57,6 thousands live children were born in year 1998, by 1,5 thousand less than year 1997 and by 15,7 thousands less than in year 1993. 10,7 per-mil natality was lower by 0,3 point in comparison with year 1997 and by 3,1 points with year 1993, respectively.

From point of view of the number and age of females the 20 - 29 years interspace is the period of high fertility, such that magnitude of this age group influences the height of fertility. In year 1998 the number of 20 - 29 years old females got 423,1 thousands, by 5,9 thousands more as in year 1997 and by 41,4 thousands more as in year 1993. Growth of number of females in age of the highest fertility (20 - 24 years, i.e. one in

which females become mother of first child the most frequently) got strengthened too. The average age of mothers at birth of all children was 25,8 years, at birth of first child it was 23,3 years.

Negative feature of natality is the development of number of dead-born children and hanging together mortality. 281 death children were born in year 1998, that is by 36 children more in comparison with year 1997, however by 46 less than in year 1993. Counting from 1 000 born children 4,9 ones were born dead, in year 1997 it was 4,1 children and in year 1993 4,4 death children.

Furthermore, the reproduction rates continue to decline. Gross reproduction rate dropped to 0,671. Net reproduction rate decreased to 0,661. It means that with retaining of recent females fertility and mortality level 33,9% of potential mothers would disappear (in year 1997 it was 31,5%).

Decrease of total fertility level has continued. Total female fertility decreased from 1,92 in year 1993 to 1,38 in year 1998. Maximal fertility focuses to 21 - 26 year female's age interspace, the highest is at age of 23 and 24 years old females.

Share of live-born children out of matrimony increases. While in year 1993 children born out of matrimony represented 10,6%, until year 1998 this share increased to 15,3% from the total live-born children. which represented 8,8 thousands live-born children.

Live-born structure by order in contrast to year 1997 changes in following way: number of children born as first and second in order rose whilst the share of third and additional in order children cut back. This reality approves too, that the model of two-children family has got naturalized in Slovakia, as share of first and second children represents almost 77% from the total number of children born in matrimony, having upward trend in last 3 years in row.

Abortion rate is the only demographic indicator which got unambiguous positive development trend in 1990s in Slovakia.

Since year 1993 the number of abortions until year 1998 cut back by 41,5% and since year 1988, when it got the highest values (59,4 thousand and 11,3 per-mils), by more than half (55,1%).

The positive development continued in year 1998 too, when 26,7 thousand pregnancies ended off with abortion, by 1,1 thousand (by 4,1%) less than in year 1997 and by 18,9 thousand (by 41,5%) less than in year 1993. Gross abortion rate has got under 5,0 per-mil value for the first time. Number of abortions per 100 born decreased over year 1997 by 0,7 point and in contrast to year 1993 by 15,8 points.

As in previous years the abortion rate affects mainly females which has got child already, respectively children and which use the abortion as a way of solution at rejecting further maternity.

From specific abortions rate's point of view in all female age groups a reduction have continued with exception of 45 - 49 year old females, however, having their reproduction activity terminated.

On the total abortion number the age groups of 20 - 24 year (25,4%) and 25 - 29 year old females (24,3%), respectively are participating most. 30 - 34 year old females age group stays next in rank. The absolute highest number of abortions were at 24 year old females in year 1998. It is positive that the abortion rate is declining in the youngest age group of 15 - 19 old. While in year 1993 there were 18,5 abortions per 1 000 females in age of 15 - 19 years, in year 1998 there were just 11,5 abortions per 1 000.

In the SR 14,7 thousands artificial termination of pregnancies were carried out in year 1998, that was by 1,1 thousands cases less than in year 1997. Theirs share on the total number got decreased by 1,1 point. Decline of abortion number and simultaneous decline of born (live- or still-) contributes to the decrease of total number of terminated pregnancies which in year 1998 was the lowest (84,5 thousands) for the whole period of abortion statistical survey. Towards year 1997 the number of pregnancies terminated declined by 2,6 thousands i.e. by 3% and in contrast to year 1993 by as much as 34,6 thousands i.e. by 29,1%. From 100 pregnancies 68 ended with birth and 32 with abortion. In contrast with year 1997 it is a mild grow in births and decline in abortions.

Since year 1993 **gross mortality rate** development keeps itself under 10 per-mil value. In year 1998 it rose to 0,2 points over year 1997 to value of 9,9 per-mil.

In the SR 53,2 thousands person died in year 1998, by 1 thousand more as in year 1997 and by 449 persons less than in year 1993.

Mortality level is influenced mainly by age structure of population and by mortality according to sex and age combined with death cause.

28,6 thousands (53,9%) males and 24,5 thousands (46,1%) females died in Slovakia in year 1998. There were 1 167 dead males per 1 000 females, that was 25 males more in comparison with year 1997.

Mortality level from sexual point of view in counting per 100 000 inhabitants was in year 1998 higher at male part of the population in all age quinquennial-groups. Mainly in mid-age (35 - 54 years) it is long-term high in comparison with females of the same age group when 2,6 - 3,1 times more males die in age indicated.

In contrast with year 1997 the male mortality rose mainly in 55 - 69 years and 75 and older age groups and in mid-age in 40 - 49 years groups, respectively. Age group of 10 - 19 old boys and age groups of 35 - 39, 50 - 54 and 70 - 74 witnessed the decrease of mortality.

From the viewpoint of females in counting per 100 000 persons the mortality rose in comparison with year 1997 in 25 - 34 and 75 years and over females age groups. Decrease occurred at 15 - 24 years and in 35 - 74 years old females groups with exception of 40 - 44 and 60 - 64 years old females.

Development of infant and post-neonatal mortality in period of years 1993 - 1998 on can value positively. In year 1998 506 children up to one year died, by 8 less than in year 1997 and by 273 less than in year 1993. Infant mortality rate of 8,8 per-mil rose by 0,1 point over year 1997, however in contrast with year 1993 it was lower by 1,8 point.

310 children died up to 28 days, by 11 ones less than in year 1997, the post-neonatal mortality remained on the same level of 5,4 per-mil over year 1997, in comparison with year 1993 it declined by 2,1 points.

The basic synthetical indicator showing the living condition level of the population and mortality backgrounds is the *life expectancy* i.e. hope for survival. After year 1990 the decline of total mortality mostly at infant and post-neonatal ones manifested itself in prolongation of life expectancy at birth for period of years 1993 - 1997. Hope for survival at birth for males got 68,6 years in year 1998, with females 76,7. In comparison with year 1997 in connection with infant mortality growth the life expectancy at birth got slightly downed at both sexes, more with males than with females. Life expectancy decline took place with 15 and 60 years males and 60 years females. At 15 years old girls the average age of survival slightly got prolonged.

With **foreign migration** the SR obtained 1,3 thousand persons in year 1998, as 2 thousands persons immigrated to Slovakia and 746 persons emigrated from. Over year 1997 the foreign migration balance was lower by 425 persons.

Natural increase as a result population reproduction does have a long-term declining trend. Slovakia got 4,4 thousands inhabitants by natural population movement in year 1998 which was by 2,6 thousands less than in year 1997 and by 16,1 thousands less than in year 1993. Natural increase rate of 0,8 per-mil was by 0,5 point lower than in year 1997 and by 3,1 points lower than in year 1993. Share of females on the natural increase is from long-term point of view higher and in year 1998 it got as much as 79,4%. It was due to high male mortality neither higher number of live-born boys can affect it.

Total increase as a result of natural and migration population movement got level of 5,7 thousands in year 1998 and was by 3 thousands persons lower than in year 1997. Total increase rate got declined by 0,5 point to value of 1,1 per-mil. Over year 1993 the total increase got down by 74,3% and total increase rate was lower by 3,1 points.

Since the Census from 3 March 1991 the number of the population of the SR heightened by 119 thousands, i.e. 2,3%. Number of females heightened by 69,4 thousands, number of males by 49,6 thousands, respectively. Females made 58,3% share on the total increase. In year 1998 the number of SR's population heightened by 5,7 thousands, i.e. by 0,11%. There were 947 males per 1 000 females.

As of 31 December 1998 the SR had 2 878 communes including 4 military verges, of which were 136 cities. There were 1 877 inhabitants per 1 commune, in contrast with year 1997 the average number of inhabitants did not change. 3 064,0 thousands inhabitants, i.e. 56,8% of all the population lived in cities in year 1998. There were 110 inhabitants per 1 square kilometre.

SLOVENIA

Demographic developments in 1998 were mostly in line with previous years. No important changes have been observed, except international migration. Total population, fertility, nuptiality and mortality kept decreasing, while divorcibility has been increasing. Net migration changed from positive to negative.

Population

As of 31. December 1998 the total resident population of Slovenia was 1,978,334, that is 6,598 or 0.33% less than at the end of 1997. Since 1990, when the decrease of the total population has started, the drop in the number of total resident population was the most important in 1998.

Besides the total number of resident population, the Statistical Office of Slovenia publishes data on four subcategories as well: citizens of Slovenia, foreigners with permanent residence, foreigners with temporary residence and refugees. While the number of Slovene citizens and foreigners with permanent residence increased in 1998, it decreased by 23% for foreigners with temporary residence and refugees.

The increase of the number of Slovene citizens was due to the increase in the number of new accessions to Slovene citizenship acquired by persons who have already been living in Slovenia (about 3,300) and modest, but positive net migration. Natural increase was negative for the second consecutive year. For the first time the number of deaths exceeded the number of live-births by more than 1,000.

The population decrease in 1998 was age, sex and status specific. The number of population decreased in all ages from 0 to 45 years, and increased in older ages. Besides, the decrease mainly affected men. Sex ratio of the total population therefore decreased from 949 at the end of 1997 to 937 men per 1000 women at the end of 1998. Almost the same values go for Slovene citizens, but not for foreigners. Among foreigners the number of men is more than twice the number of women. They prevail over women in all age groups.

Population of Slovenia is getting old. All dependency ratios indicate the progress in the ageing process. Dependency ratio between old (65+) and young (0-15) increased from 77.4 to 81.7 in one year. The mean age of populations was already higher than 38 years at the end of 1998.

Marriages and divorces

The number of marriages as well as crude marriage rates have been decreasing. The number of marriages was the highest in the years 1972-1978, when the post war generations were marrying. It exceeded 15,000 marriages yearly. The decrease which followed was sharp up to 1991, then it slowed down. The number of marriages diminished by 50% in less than 20 years. In the same period the proportion of first marriages has remained unchanged, around 90% for both sexes. But the mean age at first marriage has been increasing for almost 20 years. In 1998 the mean age of women at first marriage was 26 years. Since 1990 the mean age at first marriage is higher than the mean age at the birth of the first child. It seems that consensual unions are preceding the majority of marriages.

The most recent figures for consensual unions date from the 1991 census. At that time there were 453,000 couples living together, of whom 4% were living in consensual unions. Since then the number of cohabiting couples has been unknown, because cohabitation is not registered. But the data collected by sample surveys (FFS, LFS) and the increasing percentage of illegitimate births (33.6% in 1998) indicate that cohabitation became widespread especially among young generations.

In the last 30 years the number of divorces reached the lowest values at the beginning of the 1990s. Since then it has been increasing gradually. In 1998 the total divorce rate reached the highest level ever observed in Slovenia, 0.19. Every year about 2000 dependant children are affected by the divorce of their parents. After divorce these children are mainly assigned to mothers (in 1998 - 88%).

Fertility

The number of births as well as the TFR kept decreasing in 1998. During the past 20 years (1979-1998) the number of live-births has decreased by 42%, reaching only 17,856 live-births in 1998, i.e. 9 per 1000 population.

Total fertility exceeded 2.1 live births per woman until 1980, when it started to decline steeply. After having decreased by 22% in only 6 years (1980-1986), the stagnation was observed for three years, than a new decrease began. In very recent years the decrease slowed down. Total fertility for 1998 was 1.23. As the proportion of first and second births among all births is very high (85-87% after 1990), total fertility has been decreasing at the same rate as births of first and second order. In 1998 almost a half of live-births (48.5%) were first births.

The reasons for the rapid decrease of period fertility is the postponement of childbirths to mother's older ages. This process started at the beginning of the 1980s, but accelerated after 1990. The mean age at birth of any child rose from 25.9 in 1990 to 28.8 in 1998, and the mean age at birth of the first child rose from 23.7 to 25.8 years of age. General fertility rates at ages 15–24 have been decreasing, while fertility rates for women in their 30s have been increasing but not enough to counteract the declines in lower ages. In 1998 the net reproduction rate was lower than 0.6 for the first time.

Completed fertility is decreasing as well. The generation born in 1944 was the last to give birth to more than 2 children on average. Completed fertility for generations born after 1960 is lower than 1.9.

Despite of the easy access to contraception - contraceptives are available and mostly free of charge - induced abortions are still quite frequent. The number and the rate (legal abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-49) of induced abortions have been decreasing in all age groups, including teenagers since 1983. In 1998 the induced abortion rate was 17.6, or 0.51 induced abortions per one live-birth.

Mortality

In 1998 the number of deaths and the crude death rate were rather the same as in the previous year: 19,000 and 9.6‰. Infant mortality, obtained by dividing the number of deaths under one year of age by live births of the same calendar year multiplied by 1000, was the same as in the previous year as well, 5.2‰. In 1998, 34% of infant deaths occurred in the first 24 hours after birth.

Life expectancy at birth improved. After stagnation of life expectancies at birth from 1989/1990 to 1995/1996, the increase resumed. For the two-year period, 1997/1998 life expectancy at birth was 78.7 years for women and 71.1 for men. Probabilities of deaths decreased in all age groups except for young (15-24 years) and older persons (65-74 years).

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was introduced in 1997. According to it, 40% of deaths were caused by diseases of the circulatory system, 26% by neoplasm's, 8% by external causes and 26% by other causes. In 1998 the proportion of deaths caused by circulatory diseases increased slightly, but did not change for the other two major causes of deaths.

Migration

Since the 1960s Slovenia was a country of immigration. The only exception were the years 1991 and 1992 when negative net migration was caused by political changes. But in 1998 the number of emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants by more than 2,000 persons. This datum does not include refugees. Their number reduced by 27% in 1998. At the end of 1998 the number of refugees amounted to 3,300.

In 1997 net immigration for Slovenia was 2,000 persons, while in 1998 it turned to net emigration of the same value. In 1998 net migration became negative because the number of immigrants decreased by 40% from the previous year, while the number of emigrants increased by 23%. Migrants are mostly foreigners. In 1998 international migration of Slovene citizens represented only 16.8% of all international migrations.

Since 1995, when data on international migration became available separately for Slovene citizens and for foreigners, net migration for Slovene citizens has been positive. Slovene citizens immigrate to Slovenia mainly from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia and Germany. They represented 70% of immigrants of Slovene citizenship in 1998. The main destination countries of Slovene citizens are Croatia, Austria and Germany (57%).

In 1998 net migration of foreigners became negative. As data on country of previous/next residence are not collected for migrants of foreign citizenship, only estimations on main directions of migrant flows are possible. Based on data on the citizenship it is assumed that immigrants mainly come from successor states of Former Yugoslavia (76% in 1998) and former Soviet Union (3.2%). Among non-European countries, China has the leading position. Main countries of emigration from Slovenia are rather the same as for immigration only that the proportion of Yugoslav citizens among them is much higher, 55% in 1998.

Among non-Slovene citizens who immigrated to Slovenia in 1998 63% were men, among emigrants their proportion was 79%. So, net migration was negative for men, but positive for women. Consecutively the proportion of women among foreigners in Slovenia increased from 31.5% to 32.6% in 1998. In the same year the proportion of foreigners in the total population of Slovenia decreased by 20%, due to emigration and to acquisition of Slovene citizenship. At the end of 1998 there were 33,454 foreigners living in Slovenia or 1.7% of the total population.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

There were some major government decisions or legislation pertaining to population policy issues during 1998. National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted two important laws: the Law on Asylum and the Law on Foreigners, which define the conditions under which foreigners can enter the country and live in Slovenia, and the Resolution on Immigration Policy, which is more of principle nature.

Publications on demographic statistics

We annually publish demographic data in our fundamental publication Statistical Yearbook. The most important demographic statistics issue is Results of Surveys No. 730, Population of Slovenia 1997 from July 1999. With this bilingual publication in almost 500 pages we offer to our users methodological explanations, long time series of demographic data and detailed demographic data for 1997.