

National reports on the demographic situation in 12 central European Countries*, Cyprus and Malta in 1999

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situation in 12 central European
Countries*, Cyprus and Malta in 1999**

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BULGARIA

Population

At the end of 1999, the population of Bulgaria totalled 8 190 876 inhabitants, of which about 68,1% lived in urban areas.

The gradual ageing of the population is continuing: in the period 1995-1999 alone the percentage of persons aged 65 and over has increased from 15,2% to 16,2%. In the age pyramid the proportion of persons aged 60 or over is slowly increasing and amounted to 21,7% in 1999 compared with 20,4% in 1992. Meanwhile the percentage of young people under 20 has decreased: it dropped to 22,8% in 1999 compared with 23,3% in 1998 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 24,8% in 1999.

The population decrease which started at the beginning of the 1990s continued in 1999. In 1999 the population of Bulgaria decreased by 39495 which comparing with preceding 1998 with decreasing 52829 persons which is a little progress in a plus, if we compare with the corresponding decrease in population - 57736 persons in 1997 compare with decreasing in 1998. 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.

Marriage and divorce

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

The number of marriages has been steadily drooping. This trend has intensified over the last seven year, with only 35540 weddings in 1999 as compared with 59874 in 1990. This resulted in a fall in the crude marriage rate from 6,9‰ in 1990 to 4,3‰ in 1999.

In 1999 there were 9781 divorces in Bulgaria, which means 275 divorces per 1000 marriages or 1,2% divorces per 1000 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 83,4% in 1999.

The mean age at first marriage has increased, reaching 27,1 years for men and 23,8 years for women. In addition, the average age of persons entering into first marriage has increased (for the period 1995-1999: +1,1 years for men and +1,2 for women).

There is a trend of an increasing percentage of divorces from first marriages. On the same time there is a trend of a decreasing percentage of divorces during the first ten years of marriages, contrary to an increasing percentage of divorces with duration of marriage 10 years and over.

Fertility

There were 72291 live births in Bulgaria in 1999, i.e. almost on the level to 1996. The births stayed fairly stable about 65 thousand in the period 1997-1998, but in 1999 they were increased with about 7 thousand children and in the result of this change the crude birth rate was increased as well as from 7,9‰ to 8,8‰.

The substantial increase in the proportion of births outside marriage in the last years has continued in 1999. In 1999, 35,1% of children were born out of wedlock, which is an increase of about 7,0% compared with the year of 1996. The proportion of extramarital births depends considerably on locality and age: in rural areas in 1999 46,6% of children were born outside marriage, and among mothers aged under 20, 69,6% gave births outside marriage.

There was been a considerably decrease in the overall fertility rate (TFR) in the past years, namely from 1,81 children in 1990 to 1,24 in 1996 and 1,09 in 1997. In 1999 TFR return his value of 1,23 in the year 1995, after a little increase of 0,02 in 1998. Thus being far away from ensuring the simple replacement of generations.

A concentration of births was recorded for women aged 20-29 years (around 66,6% of total live births), thus leading to the conclusion that the decrease in the number of live births resulted from the avoidance or postponing of third and higher rank birth. Births order is concentrated primarily on first and second births, which represent approximately 88% of all live births. The change in fertility is reflected in a number of third and higher-order births. In practise, the birth of a fourth, or even a third, child is very rare.

The average age of women giving birth in 1999 was 24,6 years and 23,0 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 1999, the number of inhabitants who died in Bulgaria was 111786, which is the same in 1994, but which is 6404 less than in 1998. The crude death rate per 1000 inhabitants was 13,6. As result of ageing structure of rural areas (extremely elderly age's persons) the death rate among the urban population is considerably lower than of the rural population.

The level of infant mortality has fluctuated in recent years. The 1999 statistics show that the infant mortality rate was 14,6‰, as compared 17,5‰ in 1997 and 14,8‰ in 1990.

Life expectancy at birth is the most comprehensive indicator of changes in mortality. For the period 1997-1999 it is 67,60 years for men and 74,64 years for women.

International migration

There are no official statistics on the number of international migration in 1999.

The negative balance of international 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 1999 mid-year estimate (by “de facto” principle) Croatia has 4 554 000 inhabitants (48,1 % men and 51,9 % women).

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 in the last ten years shows an increase of marriages in the period 1991-1995 from 21 583 to 24 385 and decrease in the period 1996-1999 from 24596 to 23778 marriages. If those data are compared to those for earlier years (1990 and earlier) the number of marriages decreased.

Total first marriage rate was 0,66 for men and 0,69 for women.

The average age of woman at first marriage increased from 23,2 years of age in 1991 to 25,3 in 1999.

In the period 1991-1999, number of divorces went down from 4 877 in 1991 to 3721 in 1999. Similar characteristic were shown in the divorce rates which decreased from 226 divorces per 1000 marriages in 1991 to 156 in 1999. Total divorce rate averages 0,13 in the period 1995-1999.

The proportion of remarriages in total number of marriages was 8,61 % for men, and 8,43 % for women (1999).

Fertility

In 1999, there were 45 179 live births. In the 1999 the live birth rate was 9,9 per 1 000 inhabitants. The total fertility rate in 1999 was 1,38, i.e. well below replacement level. The number of live births in 1999 comprises all children born in territory of the Republic of Croatia whose mothers have resided in the Republic of Croatia for at least one year, regardless the citizenship or place of permanent residence of the mother.

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 1999) 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 27,8 years and shows trend towards even older mothers.

The children in Croatia are mainly born within marriage (91,8 % in 1999).

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 52311 in 1998. In 1999 there were 51 953 deaths, which is the slight fall from the previous year. The mortality rate showed a similar trend and in 1999 it was 11,4 per 1000 inhabitants. The number of deaths in 1999 comprises all deceased persons who were residents of the Republic of Croatia if they were not absent from Croatia longer than a year as well as all deceased persons who were not croatian residents, but have lived there for a year or more.

Death Statistics Survey in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 supplied data on 6930 persons who died in the period 1991 -1997, and who were put into Register of Deaths in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999. This number is not included in total number of deaths for those years, but it should be taken into account when analysing the natural change in the mentioned years.

Infant mortality also decreased from 575 in 1991 to 350 in 1999. The infant mortality rate decreased from 11,1 in 1991 to 7,7 infant deaths per 1 000 live births in 1999.

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

The most common causes of death in the Republic of Croatia are diseases of circulatory system (52,1 % in 1999) and neoplasm (22,3 % in 1999). The same causes of death were also found in preceded years, only with lower rates.

Migration

Migration is the special movement of people for the purpose of establishing a new permanent residence.

A migrant is the person who changed a place of permanent residence (immigrant or emigrant).

In the year 1999, 32 910 persons immigrated in Croatia, which is the decrease of 18 874 persons in comparison with 1998. Number of emigrants in 1999 was 14 285, or 6 693 emigrated persons more than in the previous year.

Migration balance for 1999 was 18 625, which is 25 567 persons less than in 1998.

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 an 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*”, official gazette of the Republic of Croatia 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.

The Law on 2001 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings (“*Narodne Novine*”, official gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 64/2000) regulates acts related to Census, which will be carried out in the period 1-15 April 2001.

CYPRUS

Population

The population of Cyprus is estimated at 754,8 thousand on 1 January 2000, compared with 751,5 thousand in the previous year, having increased by 0,4%.

The population increase is mainly explained by the natural increase of the population, the overall net migration balance is negative but of small magnitude. Furthermore the total population growth conceals 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.

Marriage and Divorce

The number of marriages celebrated in 1999 is estimated at 9568 compared to 8235 in 1998, giving a crude marriage rate of 12,7 per thousand population in 1999 compared to 11,0 the year before.

It should be noted here that an increasing number of foreigners, who married in Cyprus in recent years, are not residents of Cyprus. This affects the crude marriage rate, which is as a result overestimated.

There is a rising trend in the age at first marriage for both men and women. Mean age of men at first marriage increased from 25,7 in the period 1974-1977 to 28,4 in the period 1996-1999. Similarly mean age of women at first marriage increased from 22,9 to 25,8 in the same period.

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 to 73% in the period 1996-1999.

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 1,8 per thousand population in 1999. The total divorce rate, which shows the proportion of marriages that are expected to end up in divorce, increased to 208 from 160 per 1000 in 1998 and 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 9632 in 1999 giving a crude birth rate of 12,8 per thousand population and the total fertility rate was calculated at 1,83 children per woman. The total fertility rate has reached a level below replacement since 1996 and continues declining.

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 25,8 and 28,6 years respectively in 1999.

It is interesting to note that the proportion of third order births remains sizeable. This proportion averaged 19,6% in the period 1996-1999 compared to 17,0% in the period 1982-1985.

The proportion of extra-marital births remains still low in Cyprus constituting only 2,2% of the total in 1999.

Mortality

In 1999 the number of deaths was 5742 giving a crude death rate of 7,6 per thousand population . The infant mortality rate is estimated at 6,0 per thousand live births in 1999. Life expectancy at birth was 75,3 for males and 80,4 for females according to the most recent life tables of 1998/1999.

Migration

Overall, the net migration balance is negative but of small magnitude. In the Government controlled it is small but positive, while in the Turkish occupied area Turkish Cypriots continue to emigrate.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

In 1999 a National Committee on Population was set up, according to the Decision of the Council of Ministers, to examine population policy issues.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Population

The Czech Republic had 10 278 000 inhabitants at the end of 1999, i.e. 12 000 less than at the end of 1998 and 55 000 less than at the beginning of 1994, which is the year when the number of inhabitants began to decrease. The net migration is positive every year but cannot compensate the natural decrease. Fertility is so low that the number of deaths is considerably higher than the number of births; in 1999 the difference was 20 thousand. The decrease in the population is slow so far, but its more serious consequence is the acceleration of population ageing. The share of the children 0-14 years old, which had been steadily higher than 20% till 1992, was only 16.6% at the end of 1999, which is the lowest number in history up to now. The ratio of the age group 65 years and over increased to 13.8% and the increase is expected to accelerate. It is noteworthy that the population decrease was found mostly in towns. The number of inhabitants decreased also in the capital Prague and nearly in all the other rather large cities.

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages has been decreasing for long time. In 1999 there were 53.5 thousand marriages, which is the lowest number from 1918 at least. The reason for the number of marriages decrease is their postponement but also less the preference of the traditional partnership model. The number of marriages of the youngest couples has radically decreased. Of 1000 20-years-old women, 180 got married in 1990 and only 44 in 1999.

After its long-term increase, the divorce rate considerably decreased in 1999. It was due to the last amendments of the Family Code No 94/1963 Coll. more protecting interests of children and consequently suppressing divorces of the couples with children. In 1999, the total number of divorces was 9 thousand (i.e. 27.0 %) less than in 1998, the crude divorce rate decreased from 3.14 to 2.30. This decrease is considered to be temporary: in 2000 already the previous high level is expected to restore. A result of the decreasing number of marriages and the long lasting high number of divorces is a decrease in the number of married couples. At the end of 1999 there were 2 445 thousand married couples in the Czech Republic, i.e. the lowest number since 1945.

Fertility

In 1999 the number of births firstly decreased below 90 thousand. So small number of births has not been noticed yet; an uninterrupted time series of birth statistics has been carried out from 1785. The crude birth rate (8.7), total fertility rate (1.13) and net reproduction rate (0.547) also reached historically the lowest levels. Thus with its level of fertility, the Czech Republic is placed at the end of the order in Europe and in the world, too. Besides that, the deep decrease in fertility occurs in the situation when there is an extremely big amount of the young people among population that were born in the baby-boom in the seventies so that they are in a parental age. The reason of low fertility is the postponement of parenthood but also a certain shift of the parenthood in a value preference list of the young people. Fertility of the women aged 24 or under, extremely high in the Czech Republic in the past, has radically decreased. Fertility of older women has not changed, remaining lower than in the most of other European countries.

Together with the number of births, the number of induced abortions, the lowest in 1999 since 1958 when the possibility of induced abortion was established, has been decreasing. While there were 111 thousand induced abortions in the Czech Republic in 1990, in 1999 it was only 39 thousand. A reason of the decrease is probably the gradual expansion of hormonal contraception not easily available before.

Mortality

The absolute number of deaths has been decreasing for a long time despite of the Czech population ageing. In 1999, the total number of deaths and the gross mortality rate slightly increased compared with 1998, but has remained at its lowest level since 1967. In the nineties the life expectancy at birth prolonged. In 1999, it reached the most favourable values up to now – 71.4 years for men (which is 3.9 years more than in 1990) and 78.1 for women (2.1 years more than in 1990). The life expectancy at birth in the Czech Republic still has not reached the Western European countries standard but is visibly approaching it. The infant mortality rate has been developing very positively; in 1999 it reached historically the lowest level, i.e. 4.6 deaths within 1 year of age per 1000 live births.

Migration

As for international migration, the balance of the Czech Republic has been steadily slightly positive, in 1999 the net migration was 8.8 thousand persons. However the statistical data concern only the change in permanent residence so that they do not include all the persons that move abroad without giving notice about the intention to live abroad permanently and do not include all foreigners that arrive to work or study in the Czech Republic. 229 thousand foreigners, most of them citizens of Ukraine, Slovakia and Vietnam, lived permanently or for a long time period in the Czech Republic at the end of 1999.

Demographic projections

In 1999 the Czech Statistical Office worked out some demographic projections with the horizon of the year 2030. The projections were processed by the component method using the database of 1998 and including migration in all three output variants. According to all the variants an increase in fertility and prolongation of life expectancy at birth are expected. In spite of that the number of inhabitants will decrease by the year 2030 down to: 9 136 thousand (low variant), 9 691 thousand (medium variant), 10 212 thousand (high variant). The population ageing will show itself extremely. According to the medium variant, 30.6% of inhabitants will fall in the age group 60 years and over and 24.1% of them 65 years and over. The population ageing is the most crucial population problem of the Czech Republic.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages fell from 15 688 in 1990 to 14 172 in 1999, i.e. the number declined by 9.7 %.

The number of divorces in 1999 was 1 045, 39.5 % more than in 1990.

There were 73.7 divorces per 1 000 marriages.

The mean age at first marriage in 1999 was 23.29 for females and 26.45 for males.

Fertility

The number of live births has constantly decreased in the last ten years. In 1999 there were 27 309 live births, 6.6 % less than in 1998, and 22.9 % less than in 1990.

The total number of births out of wedlock continued to rise. In 1999, 9.8 % of the total live births were born out of wedlock, compared to 7.1 % in 1990.

Mortality

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

The number of deaths in 1999 was 16 789, 0.5 % less than in 1998.

The number of deaths of children aged less than one year (infant deaths) has been reduced by more than half through the decade, and the infant mortality rate decreased from 31.6 in 1990 to 14.9 in 1999.

The main causes of death in 1999 were circulatory diseases (55.3 %), neoplasms (17.2 %) and not defined symptoms, signs and conditions with 9.3 %.

Migration

In 1999, there were 1 118 immigrants and 141 emigrants. Net migration was 977, i.e. 100 more than the previous year.

The majority of immigrants were from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (673). The second highest number of immigrants came from Albania (96), and Croatia (the same number as Albania).

Emigration in 1999 was mostly to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

ESTONIA

Population

The estimated population of Estonia at the beginning of 2000 was 1,439,000. The population number decreased by about 0.4% compared with the previous year, however, the decrease was slightly smaller compared with 1998.

In 1999, same as in 1991–1998, the number of deaths exceeded the number of births. The difference between the number of births and deaths was almost 6,000. In 1998 there were over 7,000 more deaths than births.

The decline in the population number in 1999 was mainly caused by the negative natural increase that formed 90% of the total population change. A year earlier it was 86%. The proportion of migration in the total population change of 1999 was insignificant due to a small number of registered emigration events. The share of vital events in the population change has increased starting from the mid-nineties.

Changes in the age structure of the population showed continuously an ageing trend. According to the 1989 Population Census, 22.3% of the population were younger than 15 years and 15.6% older than 60 years. In 1998 the proportion of those age groups was almost equal and at the beginning of 2000 there were about 1% fewer people younger than 15 years than those who were over 60 years old.

Of hundred inhabitants of Estonia, 47 persons were men and 53 were women. This proportion has been almost the same for many years, however, further calculations show an increase in the proportion of women.

Fertility

In 1999, for the first time after eleven years, the number of births was slightly larger than in the previous year. Also the total fertility rate increased by about three hundredths, up to the level of 1997 — 1.24 children per women. TFR has been below the reproduction level since 1990.

In 1999 the age-specific fertility rate was lower than a year earlier only for women aged 15–19 years. However, the increase was remarkable in the age groups over 30 years.

The mean age of women at childbirth continues to grow after the decline at the beginning of 1990s. In 1999 it was on an average two tenths of years higher than in 1998. In 1999 mean age at childbirth was 26.6 years for all women and 23.8 years for women at first birth. Since 1993 the mean age at birth of the first child has been 0.2–0.7 years below the mean age of women at first marriage, in 1999 it was already 0.9 years lower.

In the nineties a fundamental change occurred in the distribution of births by legitimacy. At the beginning of 1990s about 70% of children born to married couples. In 1997 for the first time the number of children born to non-married couples or single mother exceeded that to married couples. In 1999 this difference increased even more. Only 46% of children were born to married parents, that was 2% less than a year earlier. The share of children born to single mothers also has increased. In 1999 it was 15% against 12% in 1992.

Mortality

Compared to 1998, the number of deaths decreased almost by a thousand events in 1999. This number was lower than ever since 1988. Crude death rate decreased from 13.41 in 1998 to 12.79 in 1999 and life expectancy at birth increased from 69.9 in 1998 to 70.8 in 1999. The standardised death rate for women was lower than ever since 1970 and for men it was lower than the level of 1999 only in 1989. Accordingly, the mortality that had increased drastically in the mid-nineties started to decline. That trend primarily resulted from changes in the number of persons who died from trauma or poisoning as well as diseases of the circulatory system. At the same time, mortality due to malignant neoplasm has been relatively stable.

Although the infant mortality decreased in the nineties, it again showed an increase in 1999. The number of under 1-year-old children who died was by 5 more than in 1998. There were 9.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live-born children in 1999. Early neonatal mortality (at the age of 0–6 days) increased. At the same time the number of stillbirths decreased.

Marriages and divorces

There was a considerable decrease of the number of marriages at the beginning of 1990s. The decline stopped at the mid-nineties. In 1999 the number of marriages and marriage rate increased slightly but it still constituted less than a half of the level of 1990. Total first marriage rate for women was 0.37 and for men 0.35 in 1999. The mean age at first marriage increased to 27.1 years for men and 24.7 years for women. Remarriages constituted about one third of all marriages and almost 20% of couples married in 1999 had common children before.

In 1999 there were 82 divorces per 100 marriages. This indicator has decreased still mid-nineties when there were more divorces than marriages per year. The share of divorced couples with under 18-year-old children remained around 65%–66% during the second half of the nineties.

Migration

The registration of emigration at local governments has decreased year by year. In 1999 about 20% and in 1998 about 40% fewer emigrations were registered than a year earlier. Still, the reason of the decline may not necessarily be the decreased emigration but registration of events. The immigration number remained at the same level as a year earlier; however, in comparison with the mid-nineties it was about 10% smaller. In 1999 the registered emigration was by 616 persons larger than the registered immigration. The share of the negative value of net migration in the population change decreased rapidly starting from the mid-nineties, when it was the main component of the population change.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

A number of decisions have been taken by Estonian Government in 1999 regulating communication and relations between the state and inhabitants both nationals and foreigners that enable realise their rights and responsibilities, regulating implementation of existing laws. The most important changes in legislation concern to the benefits to families with children. In 1999 the Law on Refugees was complemented that also legalised the creation of the system of the registration of refugees.

Demographic projections

Scenarios of the population development use the cohort component method (one-year age groups). On the base of data of 1996, 1997 and 1998 scenarios were outlined with the different combination of assumptions. The most presumable demographic situation was assumed with slowly growing fertility till 1.56 in 2029 and the continuously increasing life expectancy (75.7 for men and 80.8 for women in 2029).

The scenarios based on 1998 data shows the population of Estonia will reach about 1.25 million in 2030. The proportion of people over 65 years old will increase from 13% to 21% in 2030 and the proportion of children (under 15) will decrease from 19% to 13%. This is despite of the expected increase the number of births in the nearest future due to the more numerous generations of young women, who will reach fertility age. Though, the 2000 Population Census results will presumably led to the need of the revision of assumptions and initial age distribution for the population projection.

Two variants based on 1998 data were calculated on the 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 difference was that one of the variants was a sum of two scenarios separately calculated for ethnic Estonians and other ethnic groups, taking thus into account the difference in fertility and mortality. It was remarkable that the difference between the results of those two variants was very small and they did not differ considerably from the corresponding variant made a year earlier.

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 1999 by further 3.2 per cent, losing altogether more than 660 000 persons. In the recent years the extent of the natural decrease accelerated and in 1999 it was equal to 4.8 per thousand. As a result, on 1 January 2000. the population of the country was estimated at 10 043 000 persons which is by 48 500 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 17.1 per cent at the beginning of 2000.

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 became more pronounced in the 1990s. In 1999 45.5 thousand couples married, only by 550 more than one year earlier. This number of marriages is by 21 000 less than in 1990 and it is equal to 44 percent of the 1975 figure. In Hungary in the 20th century fewer weddings were only during World War I. Consequently the rate of marriages is also low: in 1999 it was 4.5 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 parallelly with this. In the 1990s the mean age at female first marriage grew by 2.7 years and in 1999 it attained 24.2 years. According to the present first marriage rates, almost 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 1999 25 600 marriages ended with divorce, barely 0.6 per cent less than one year earlier. Compared to the very high number of divorces in 1987 it fell by 14 per cent. In 1999 the divorce rate was 2.5 per thousand. The total divorce rate indicates that, at present, nearly 40 from 100 marriages would lead to divorce. Among both males and females, the age groups most affected are those of 20-29 years.

Fertility

In the 1990s the pace of the decline in fertility accelerated. Between 1990 and 1999 the level of general fertility fell by 25 per cent, the TFR by 28 per cent. The birth number of 1999 equal to 94 600 was lower by 2.6 thousand (2.7 per cent) than one year earlier and this meant 9.4 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 1998 the fertility level of females under 20 years was lower by 40 per cent, that of the 20-24 year-old by 50 per cent and that of the 25-29 year-old by 22 per cent than in 1990. Despite this decrease the fertility level of women over 30 years is still somewhat higher than nine 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 1.1 years and attained 26.7 years. In 1999 the mean age at birth of first child was equal to 24.7 years which is a growth by 1.7 years compared to 1990.

The number of births in 1999 represents a historical minimum in all respects. At such a fertility level a female would give birth to 1.29 children on the average during her fertile age which is by 38 per cent less than the level necessary to ensure the reproduction of the population. The slow decrease in the ratio of premature children stopped, in 1999 the proportion of infants born with a weight less than 2500 grams was 8.5 per cent, which is by 0.2 per cent higher than one year earlier but nearly by 9 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 1999 the total number of births was by 31 000 lower than in 1990, in particular the number of those outside marriage was by 10 000 higher. This means a 60 per cent growth in the examined period. In 1999 28.0 per cent of total births derived from non-married females, while in 1990 their proportion was 13.1 per cent. 83 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 three years the decreasing trend was characteristic again. In 1999 the number of abortions equal to 66 000 is by 4.5 per cent lower than it was in the previous year. Parallely with the number of births also the number of abortions falls, which indicates a more responsible contraception. In 1999 the number of induced abortions per 100 live births decreased to 69, from 71, the value of 1998.

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 and 1999 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 1999 the average life expectancy at birth was 70.7 years which is a very low value on an international scale too. In particular, males at birth can expect to live 66.3 years and females 75.1 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 males played a significant role in this.

In 1999 143 200 people died, by 1.7 per cent more than in 1998. There were 14.2 deaths per thousand 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 1999 was 8.4 per thousand live births, less by 13 per cent than in 1998. The relatively high infant mortality can be mostly attributed to the problem of premature birth.

Migration

According to preliminary data, about 218 000 foreigners arrived in the country between 1988 and 1999. The highest number, 37 000 arrived in 1990.

According to provisional data, at the beginning of 1999 153 000 foreign citizens lived in Hungary for more than one year (with long term residence permits or immigration 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 births 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 2424150 persons at the beginning of 2000. Data on the number of population and change factors thereof are preliminary and will be revised on the basis of the results of the 2000 Population Census.

During the previous years, since 1991 the population growth in Latvia has shown a negative trend, so the population decreased by 243700, or by 9.1 %, (15300 in 1999).

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 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 and decreased to 13.5 in 1999.

The age composition of the population at the beginning of 2000 includes 17.8 % of the younger generation 0-14 years and 22.8 % 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 59.4 %, compared with 59.0 % at the beginning of 1999.

The male and female proportions gradually become even. At the end of 1999, the male proportion was assessed at 46.3 %. For each age group up to 34 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 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 55.8 % at the beginning of 2000. In Riga, the capital city, the percent of ethnic Latvians is lower - 38.9 % only.

Population density comprises now 37.5 inhabitants per square kilometre.

Marriage and divorce

In 1999, only 9399 marriages were contracted in Latvia that shows a decrease of 2.5 %, compared with 1998. Between 1987 and 1999, the crude marriage rate decreased from 9.7 to 3.9, i.e., more than 2.4 times.

The average age at the first marriage is currently 24.2 years for women and 26.2 years for men. Both figures are slightly higher than in 1998. About 36.5 % of all the marriages in 1999 were contracted between people of different ethnic nationalities.

A total of 6010 divorces were granted in 1999, that is by 200 or 3.2 % less than in 1998. The level of divorces in 1999 was 639 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 19396 in 1999 (42135 in 1987), showing a total fertility rate of 1.15 . The figure shows that the number of live births had fallen to 1.09 in 1998 in comparison with 2.15 in 1987, its highest level, and it slightly increased again in 1999. The share of the first child among all live births now amounts only to 50.0 %, the second - 31.8 %, the third - to 11.1 %, and the fourth and higher birth parity - to 7.1 %.

Mortality

The number of deaths in 1999 equalled to 32844 (34200 in 1998). 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 , but the year 1999 showed the change of this trend to decrease of crude death rate to 13.5 .

In 1999, according to the calculations of the CSB, life expectancy at birth was 64.9 years for men and 76.2 years for women (1998 - 64.1 years for males and 75.5 for females). The infant mortality rate was 11.4 per thousand of births in 1999, a noticeable and continuous decrease compared to 14.9 in the preceding year.

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was introduced in Latvia in 1996. 55.2 % of all deaths in Latvia in 1999 were caused by the diseases of the circulatory system. This is very disturbing, since disease trends here represent a rather essential difference from those observed in the developed European countries. Mortality due to neoplasms is the next cause of death, accounting for 17.6 % of all deaths in 1999. 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 47000 people. In 1995, the net migration rate decreased by almost five times, and net emigration reached 10500 persons, in 1996 - 7300 persons, in 1997 - 6700 persons, in 1998 - 3200 and in 1999 - 1800 persons. Net migration to Western countries increased from near zero at the beginning of 1990, to 1150 in 1999 (in 1998 - 1470 persons). The majority of emigrants changing their place of residence to the Western countries go to Germany, the USA and Israel. The majority of emigrants to the East go to the Russian Federation (1500 persons in 1999), Belarus (260) and the Ukraine (230). The long-term migration flows between Latvia and its neighbouring countries - Lithuania and Estonia are quite low (62 immigrants from Lithuania and 37 from Estonia in 1999, 109 and 38 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.

The stock of foreigners equals now about 4.4 per cent of all population of the country. This figure includes 3.35 % persons that legally are citizens of the former USSR with no other citizenship granted.

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 has to be produced according to the requirements and recommendations of international organisations, the summary statistical information has to be disseminated and made available to the state and local government institutions and to the public on the whole.

The Parliament of Latvia adopted on 16 December 1999 the Population Census Act. On this basis the Government of Latvia has taken a decision about the organisation of the 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 first preliminary results of the 2000 Census will become available at the end of this year.

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 up to the year 2020. This set of demographic projections comprises the figures for the whole country and for the 7 biggest cities under the state jurisdiction and for 26 rural districts.

The latest projections of the demographic development in Latvia were carried out by the Department of Demography at the University of Latvia in co-operation with the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia.

LITHUANIA

Population

At the beginning of 2000 the population of Lithuania was 3 985 500. During the previous year, the population fell by about 2 300, 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 0.06 % in 1999.

The age structure of population is rather old. At the beginning of 2000, 18.5 % of the population were 60 years or older, the proportion of children (0-14 years) was 19.8 %. Since 1990, the proportion of children decreased by 2.8 percentage points while the share of population aged 60 years and over increased by 2.5 percentage points.

Marriage and divorce

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 1999, 17 868 couples married, i.e. 618 less than in 1998. This gives a rate of 4.8 ‰, which is the lowest marriage rate ever observed in Lithuania.

The average age at first marriage is slightly increasing: from 22.2 years in 1993 to 23.3 years in 1999 for women and from 24.1 years to 25.3 years for men during the same period.

The overall divorce rate is stable with slight fluctuations, remaining at 3.1-3.3 ‰ during the 1980s. However, since 1990 the number of divorces has begun to rise. In 1991 it reached a peak of 4.1 ‰. This phenomenon could be affected by the change in ownership forms.

Since 1994, the number of divorces and its rate has been rather constant at about 11 500. The total period divorce rate was 39 % in 1999. The number of divorces with dependent children under 18 years old has been quite stable: 31 % of couples divorced in 1999 did not have common children, 43 % had one child, 22 % two children.

Fertility

Starting with 1991 fertility has been constantly decreasing. There were 36 415 live births in 1999, i.e. about 600 less than in the previous year and 20 500 less than in 1990. The total fertility rate fell from 2.02 to 1.35 during that period. The most significant decline was observed in the age group of 20-24 years: their fertility level has fallen by 43 %. The mean age of mothers at the birth of their first child was 23.8 in 1999, 0.7 years higher than in 1992. The percentage of children born out of wedlock is increasing: from 7 % in 1990 to 19.8

% in 1999. The number of the first and second live births is still decreasing and now amounts to 81.3 % (84.1 % in 1990) of all live births. Therefore, the share of fourth and higher order children has been increasing since 1997 and now amounts to 7 % (5.1 % in 1990).

Mortality

Since 1989, essential changes in mortality have been observed. 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 1999 was 40 003, by 6 483 less than in 1994. The mortality rate decreased from 12.5 ‰ to 10.8 ‰ during that period.

In 1999 the life expectancy of males was 67.07 and that of females 77.41 years. During the last five years, an increase in life expectancy has been observed: 4.3 years for males and 2.5 years for females. The difference in life expectancy between men and women is narrowing and is now 10.3 years.

In 1999 45.5 % of men and 64.9 % of women deaths were attributed to diseases of the circulatory system. Mortality due to malignant neoplasms is the next cause of death, accounting for 19.4 % of all deaths. The greatest concern to society is mortality due to external causes of death by which 19.5 % men and 6.2 % of women died in 1999.

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. Since 1990, the situation has changed. 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. In recent years a tendency to emigration decrease was observed. In 1999 only 763 persons left for the CIS for permanent residence; net migration with the CIS countries became positive again in 1997-1999. In 1999, 606 persons emigrated for permanent residence to other foreign countries, while the number of immigrants amounted to about 500 persons.

Demographic projections

In 1998, the Lithuanian Institute of Philosophy and Sociology in co-operation with the Department of Statistics carried out the population projections for the years 2000-2020. Due to the assumptions used concerning the fertility compensation effect, fertility would increase in the next 5-10 years and later slow down. In that case, after several years the population would stop decreasing and even begin to increase, although later it would again decrease. Only by fulfilling the optimistic assumptions (with an increase in fertility and a decrease in mortality) would the Lithuanian population somewhat stabilise during the next 20 years. In the other cases, population would continually decrease.

MALTA

Population

At the end of 1999, the Maltese population was estimated at 380 201 made up of 188 589 males and 191 612 females. The total population, including work and resident permit holders and foreigners residing in Malta, was 388 296, consisting of 191 857 males and 196 439 females. These estimates are made on the last Census of Population and Housing held in November 1995. The density of population stands at 1 229 person per km².

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages during 1999 recorded a marginal drop of 33 over 1998 and stood at 2 409. The crude rate remains nearly the same, i.e. 6.36. Divorce is not legal in Malta.

Fertility

The number of live births recorded during the year was 4 308, which showed another drop, that of 180. The downward trend in the number of births has been constant over the past ten years; in fact the number of births for the year 1990 was 5 368. The crude birth rate is 11.36; the total fertility rate was 1.81.

Mortality

The number of deaths for 1999 was 3 097, with a crude mortality rate of 8.16, slightly higher than the 8.06 recorded for 1998. The infant mortality rate stood at 7.2 which is higher than that recorded for 1998; actually there were 31 deaths under one year compared with 24 that occurred during the previous year.

Male life expectancy stands at 75.06, while that for females is 79.27. These retain the same levels for the past five years.

Heart diseases continued to predominate as the main causes of deaths; other risk factors remain cancers and accidents. The incidence of diabetes remains the highest amongst other Mediterranean countries.

Migration

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-70'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.

During 1999, 67 persons left the Island to settle abroad, whilst 339 returned to Malta. Also during the year there were 200 persons that were naturalized/registered as Maltese citizens; this figure included 71 cases of child-adoptions from abroad, mainly Romania.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

The National Commission on Welfare was set up — this is to suggest amendments and make proposals for a new social security scheme.

Demographic projections

Malta's population is still young by European standards. The 0-14 age group represents 20.4 % of the total population, whereas that for 65+ age group stands at 12.1 %. The population of the Maltese Islands is ageing at a fast rate like the rest of Europe. The number of potential workers for each pensioner gives the same results shown in last year's projections, i. e. 4:1 declining to 2.5:1 in the year 2025.

Census of Population and Housing

During 1995 the Central Office of Statistics conducted a Census on Population and Housing. The results have been published in six volumes, selected data can be accessed on our web page <http://www.magnet.mt/home/cos>.

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.

Marriage and divorce

In 1998, 209 430 marriages were contracted, slightly more than in the previous year. The number of contracted marriages per 1 000 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 1 000 population has been running at around 1.1-1.2 for many years, including last year when there were about 5 divorces per 1 000 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 1 000 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 unfavorable 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 favorable 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 1 000 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 comes 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

The 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's 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 million in 1995 to 8.8 million in 2020. At the same time the number of households with 5 and more persons will decrease from 2.1 million to 1.3 million and their share will drop from 17 % to 8 %.

ROMANIA

Population

The changes that took place since 1989 within political system, economy, social life and people mentality have influenced the population demographic behaviour.

The negative natural increase and the negative balance of external migration have determined the decrease of the population absolute number during the whole 1990-1999 period. The change of couples demographic behaviour regarding their own reproduction, higher mortality as well as higher external migration, have determined a decrease of the total population by 723 thousand in the last nine years.

The age structure of the population reflects a slow but continuous process of demographic ageing, being mainly determined by lower fertility, resulting an absolute and relative decrease of younger population (aged 0-14) and higher share of elderly population aged 60 and over.

The effects of ageing process over economic and social life as well as over future demographic evolutions will be noticed in time, resulting disturbances at the level of various sub-populations (school, fertile, active).

On January 1st, 2000, the number of Romania's population was 22455.5 thousand of which 11.0 million men (48.9%) and 11.5 million women (51.10%).

This century, excepting years of the two world wars, the total population has been increasing. Starting with 1990, the population has decreased, with an average rate of 0.15%. Only in last eight years, the reduction was by 355 thousand, representing 1.4% of the population registered at the last census of January 1992.

Fertility

During 1995-1998, fertility recorded the lowest values of the last decades. Since 1997 it was noticed a slow trend of fertility recovery. Unfortunately abortion is still the main method to control and reduce family size, although the abortion rate has significantly decreased each year. In the last years, it was noticed a higher proportion of live births born outside marriage (24.1% in 1999).

Since 1997, crude birth rate, main component of the population natural increase, has registered a slight fall. Nevertheless, during 1995-1999 period, crude birth rate recorded the lowest level of this century.

In 1999, 234.6 thousand children were born, by almost one fourth children less than in 1990. The liberty of couples to decide on the number of children, high economic and social costs supported by the population during transition period, the crisis of dwellings and the very high prices for the possibilities of youth wanting to establish a family, social instability and unemployment are some of the main reasons determining the fall of live-births number each year.

By areas, the existent difference between urban and rural is kept. The decrease of crude birth rate was more obvious in urban (from 12.9‰ in 1990 to 8.9‰ in 1999) than in rural area (from 14.3‰ to 12.3‰).

As a result of the changes in the society, younger generations started to postpone not only establishing a family, but also their decision to become parents.

As against 1990, it was noticed a slight increase of mothers mean age at their first birth by 1.1 years, reaching 23.5 years in 1999. Since 1993 (24.3 years), mean age at childbearing is following the same trend, reaching 25.3 years in 1999.

During 1990-1996 period, fertility pointed out a downward trend (from 56.2‰ in 1990 to 39.9‰ in 1996). Since 1997, a slight growth was noticed, fertility rate reaching 40.2‰. The fertility evolution was influenced by some changes of number and structure of population segment from fertile age groups, besides factors of demographic behaviour acting to reduce women participation in the reproduction process. Although the share of women in fertile ages (aged 15-49) in total female population had a growing trend (from 47.6% in 1990 to 50.7% in 1999) as well as the share of those from most fertile groups, respectively aged 20-29, it was not registered a corresponding growth of the crude birth rate.

Mortality

The difficult economic and social evolution of Romania during the transition period has strongly influenced the level of demographic indicators, especially population health. In the last years there were preoccupations to solve the population health issues. Nevertheless, the actual population health and the quality of medical services confirm the existence of not very encouraging situations. The insufficient budgetary resources as well as the enlargement of the poverty for a part of the population are correlated with a weak preoccupation at public and individual level for practising a healthy life, reasonable nutrition and diminishing the factors causing illness.

The crude death rate has increased during 1990-1998 especially in rural area and more evident for men. Persons aged 0-4 years and over 50 years are mostly dying, the highest values being registered for elderly population. The mean and median age at death increased in 1999 as against 1990.

During 1990-1999 period life expectancy at birth has recorded a slight increase for both sexes, constituting a change as compared to the obvious downward trend of the last years. For the period 1997-1999 life expectancy reached 66.05 years for men and 73.67 years for women.

The main causes of death are still those due to circulatory system and tumours.

Especially since 1993 it was noticed a constant growth of morbidity due to syphilis, measles and tuberculosis. Persons employed and self employed, as well as those with a low educational level are mainly dying.

The growth in mortality level in the last 10 years places Romania among countries with a high crude death rate. In 1999, 265.2 thousand persons died, by 4 thousand less than previous year, the crude death rate reducing from 12.0 to 11.8 deaths per 1000 inhabitants.

Even since 1997, the crude death rate slightly decreased both per total and at rural and urban level, unfortunately the actual values are comparable with those of the fifties.

In 1999 the already existing gap between areas has been accentuated, the rural recorded values exceeding those from urban by over 1.6 times.

Male specific crude death rates are still higher than female ones for all age groups. For age groups between 20-64 years old, male crude death rates, especially since 1990, was over twice higher than female crude death rates, pointing out an accentuated process of male adult overmortality.

In the last ten years mortality was mostly determined by deaths due to cardiovascular system diseases and tumours, which, since 1993, held three fourths of total number of deaths (in 1999 their share being 77.4%).

This trend was determined both by the increase in the number of death due to chronic diseases and by the demographic ageing process of the population.

As in the previous years, the increase in the mortality phenomena was mainly determined by deaths due to diseases of circulatory system - around three fifths from the total. At the same time, during 1990-1998 period, a significant contribution had also the high number of deaths due to tumours, digestive system diseases, infectious and parasitic diseases.

Higher consumption of alcohol, food and water quality, food habits, stress, lower real incomes, are only few factors resulting in this not very encouraging situation.

It was significantly reduced the mortality level due to respiratory system diseases and to a certain extent due to accidents, poisonings and other consequences of external nature.

Men, in comparison with women, have a higher mortality because of tuberculosis, traumatic injuries and poisonings, mental and behaviour diseases, nervous and digestive system. Endocrine, nutrition and metabolism diseases as well as cardiovascular ones affected especially women. A high level of mortality due to infectious and parasitic diseases, especially for children, as well as due to tuberculosis and mental diseases, mostly for men, should constitute signals for policy makers from sanitary field.

Mortality level, which is very high in the first year and also at male adult ages, is reflected in the life expectancy values. Higher mortality since 1991, especially at adult ages, determined a continuously lower life expectancy at birth during 1990-1996.

The infant mortality level was reduced during 1990-1999 period, in 1999 being by about 1.7 times lower than ten years ago.

In 1999 the level of infant mortality, although registered the lowest value of this century, representing 18.6 deaths per 1000 live-births, it was still very high as compared to other countries.

Higher rate of infant mortality was especially determined by the higher proportion of deaths aged 1-11 months, rate of postneonatal mortality remaining the highest one in Europe.

During 1990-1999 period, the main causes of death are still diseases of respiratory system and affections from perinatal period. In 1999, they represented 64% of total infant deaths, pneumonia generating most of them. Also, as against 1995, deaths due to congenital malformations, chromosome deformation and anomalies registered a growth from 3.8‰ to 4.2‰. Concerning this cause of death, heart congenital anomalies and cardiovascular diseases are very often met (about 40%).

Infant mortality rates determined by infectious and parasitic diseases, digestive diseases and traumatic injuries, poisoning and other consequences of external causes pointed out an obvious decrease.

Marriages

During 1990-1999 period, as a direct result of major changes that took place in the Romanian society, nuptiality phenomenon involved significant mutations.

Before 1989, there were two characteristics defining the attitude of the population towards marriage in Romania: relatively lower mean age at first marriage and higher percentage of persons married at least once during their lifetime (over 90%).

Transition to market economy, changes in the living conditions, growing requirements for a higher qualification and education adequate to assure a stable job, disappearance of certain specific advantages to stimulate the formation of new families as well as no restrictions imposed in living together are only a few reasons determining youth to postpone marriage very often.

In 1999, mean age at first marriage increased by 1.5 years for men and by 1.3 years for women in comparison with 1990. At the same time, the weight of the population married at least once during lifetime decreased for both sexes under 70% (as against 95% for men and 92% for women in 1990).

During 1990-1999 period, marriage rates registered a downward trend, however being kept at a very high level in comparison with that registered in other European countries. Although cohabitation or consensus unions started to become more frequent, it doesn't hold yet a significant weight as type of population living style. Tradition and powerful social values are in favour of legal marriage.

In 1999 the number of marriages was by one fourth lower than in 1990. Accordingly, the crude marriage rate increased from 8.3 to 6.2‰. It should be noticed that the number of marriages celebrated in a year, as compared to the number of inhabitants, registered in 1999 the lowest value in the last half of the XXth century.

The total first marriage rate decreased yearly and mostly for men. If in 1990 men had theoretically a 95% probability to get married at least once, while women 92%, in 1999 probabilities decreased to about 66% for both sexes, meaning that one third of total never married people has no chance to conclude a legal marriage.

Most of persons are getting married for the first time before the age of 30, although probability of their first marriage started to decrease systematically, more obviously after 1992. Lower proportion of the marriages at younger ages pointed out that the increase in the intensity of this phenomenon was followed by the concentration of marriages at older ages.

In the last years there were noticed significant changes in the number and share of the never married persons marriages.

During 1990-1999 period the highest crude marriage rates were registered for the age group 20-24 (both for men and women), although their values have significantly reduced.

In 1999 66.0% of women and 52.9% of men who get married belonged to the age group 20-24.

Mean age at marriage, increased during 1990-1999 period, more obviously for men than for women. It determined the wider of the gap by sex, reaching 3.5 years in 1999. Higher mean age at marriage resulted in lower crude marriage rates by ages, especially for younger people up to 25 years old.

In 1999 the men mean age at first marriage was 26.5 years (by 1.5 years more than in 1990), while for women 23.3 years (by 1.3 years more than in 1990).

In rural area, both men and women got married at a mean age lower than in urban.

The difference between the age of spouses at marriage was higher in communes in comparison with municipalities and towns.

Divorces

Divorces have suffered no important changes during 1990-1999 period, registering values considered relatively low in European context.

In comparison with 1990, both for male and for female, divorces of younger people up to 20 years have been amplified. Most of divorces came after less than 5 years of marriage. Average duration of marriage dissolved by a divorce registered an upward trend. Excepting 1993, marriages dissolved in case of couples having minor children represented over half of total divorces.

Although, in comparison with 1990, crude divorce rate increased, it has a relatively lower level in European context.

During 1990-1999 divorces had an oscillating evolution, being however kept at a relatively lower level in European context, confirming family stability within Romanian society. Thus, crude divorce rate was situated between 1.3 (1992) and 1.5 divorces per 1000 inhabitants (1999).

In order to appreciate the divorces level of this period, it should be mentioned the influence of certain legislative changes regarding marriages dissolution, adopted at end of 1993.

Thus, in 1994 the higher crude divorce rate was partly determined by removing the restrictive character of legal formalities on marriage dissolution. Only in 1998 crude divorce rate registered a higher level as compared to previous years.

The analysis of divorces by sex and by age group pointed out the actual trend of younger generations to get divorced faster.

Since 1990, the intensity of divorces for younger people, under 20 years old increased constantly. At the same time, differences in the crude divorce rates by sex and by age group are still kept.

For younger population, up to 25 years old, the values are higher for women. After 25 years old, partly due to age differences between spouses, the highest rates occurred for men.

One third of total divorces registered in 1999 were recorded after less than 5 years since marriage and over one fourth after a period between 5-9 years. These proportions are close to those recorded in the previous years.

Mean age at divorce oscillated each year, without recording significant changes during 1990-1999 period. In 1999, mean age at divorce was 37 years for men (by 0.3 years less than in 1990) and 33.6 years for women (by 0.2 years less than in 1990). Urban values were higher than rural ones both for men and for women.

External migration

Deep changes that took place since 1989 in political and social system of Romania have determined the apparition of certain regulations in favour of free circulation of persons. At the beginning of this decade, they have caused a higher level of international migration, firstly of emigration, political motivation being replaced by economic one. Beginning with 1992, number of Romanian nationality emigrants exceeded that of another nationality emigrants for the first time in the last ten years. In the last years, external migration was also characterized by a growing number of foreign citizens who, from various reasons, entered the country for periods longer than 6 months.

Number of asylum seekers and of those who legally received the refugee status, is very low. But it was noticed a growing trend of foreign citizens illegally entering the country or whose temporary residence visas are expired. Negative balance of external migration has directly contributed to the population lower number since 1989. But it should be noticed that beginning with 1994, negative balance of natural increase has exceeded in intensity that of external migration. In the last years, structure of emigration from Romania had different characteristics.

Concerning the structure of emigrants by destination country, although Germany has remained the main emigration country, however the share of emigrants towards Germany has fallen from 65.0% of total in 1992 to only 22.0% in 1998. Instead, number of legal emigrants towards USA and Canada increased from 11.8% in 1992 to 27.5% in 1998. Persons who definitive emigrated from Romania came especially from urban area, the highest share being held by women.

Negative balance of external migration, which is lower for both sexes since 1993 become higher for female population (0.3‰ in 1999) than for male population (0,2‰ same year). In 1999, over one third of emigrants were under 18 years old, while over half between 18-60 years old, elderly share being less than 1/10.

Most of legal emigrants in the working age groups had a higher educational and qualification level. In the next years, it is expected a tempo in the intensity of external migration, especially of emigration and limited illegal immigration, according to international conventions where Romania has adhered to. External migration will influence to a small extent the evolution, respectively the fall of population number in the future.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Population

Process of economic and social transformation in the Slovak Republic (SR) is reflected also in population growth. Changes of living conditions mainly in younger generation allow not only greater independence in the choice of the lifestyle or the way of life but at the same time they create certain pressure compelling to a different way of demographic behaviour as in the past. Some current changes have more general character and correspond with the approximation to the situation of the population – sooner changed – in the Western European countries (delay of weddings and birth-givings), some are more of temporary character (e.g. mortality rate).

In the year 1999 the growth of Slovak population slowed down further development, when the mortality rate could not compensate for decrease in birth rate. Mentioned situation have had as a result the further decline of natural population increase which in every the year approaching more and more to zero value.

From further demographic processes the decrease of number of contracted marriages and the increase of divorces occurred in comparison with the year 1998. It is possible to assess positively the continuous decrease of abortions, infant and post-neonatal mortality. In the year 1999 the SR was migration-profitable country, when the balance of foreign migration reached as much as 1,5 thousand persons.

Demographic processes the above mentioned resulted in further deterioration of reproduction rates and the structure of age of population. Ageing of population continues, the portion of children constituent decreases and the portion of population in post-productive age increases. Due to this fact both the average age of population and the ageing index increased. In the year 1999 the average age at males reached 34,1 and at females 37,2. It means an increase by 0,3 years at both sexes in comparison with the year 1998. The ageing index calculated for both sexes deteriorated in contrast with the year 1998 by 2,1 points and reached value 57,5. It means that per 100 inhabitants up to 15 years of age there are 57,5 persons older than 65 years of age.

As of 1 January 2000 the Slovak Republic had 5 398,7 thousand inhabitants, 2 625,1 thousand males (48,6%) and 2 773,6 thousand females (51,4%). Per 1000 females there are 946 males. In comparison with the year 1998 5,3 thousand inhabitants accrued.

Marriages and divorces

Under the processes which do have effect on the demographic reproduction belong marriage and marital dissolution.

27,3 thousands new marriages were contracted in the year 1999, it means by 154 less than in the year 1998. Since the year 1993 the gross marriage rate is under the 6 per-mil limit and since the year 1995 it has stabilised at a level of 5,1 per-mil.

From the point of view of marriages by age of engaged couples there were no considerable changes. Even in the year 1999 males in the age groups 20 to 24 (41,3%) and 25 to 29 (33,0%) contracted marriages most frequently. However, in comparison with the year 1998 the share of marriages of grooms aged 20 to 24 decreased by 3,4%.

Also in females the number of contracted marriages reached the highest level in the age group 20 to 24 (51,3%), the second most numerous group was brides at the age from 25 to 29 (20,4%). Share of marriages in the youngest age groups of females from 18 to 19 years has a declining trend, it means the marriage contracting moves from this age into older age groups. In all the female groups of 30 and more years of age an increase from number of marriages was registered.

Based on the above mentioned facts the age of entry into first marriage gets higher also in Slovakia in the recent period. In females it reached 23,1 and in males 25,6 years of age in the year 1999. The average age of the bride has increased to 24,8 and of the groom to 27,7 years. In comparison with the average age of entry into marriage in the EU countries this is in average by 3 - 4 years lower.

Divorce rate has mainly rising trend from the long-term point of view. In the year 1999 the absolute number of divorces and divorce rate reached its highest values considering the post-war period. Respective courts divorced 9,7 thousand marriages, what was by 352 more than in the year 1998. Gross divorce rate increased to 1,79 per-mil. For 100 contracted marriages there were 35,3 divorces, it means by 1,4 more than in the year 1998 and by 8,8 more than in year 1993.

From the permitted divorces 6,8 thousand i.e. 70,7% were families with under-age children, of which 3,8 thousand had one and 2,4 thousand two children. There were 566 divorces of families with three and more children. The average number of children in marriages divorced were 1,5. Number of childless marriages slightly increased in comparison with the year 1998 and reached 29,3% (2 828 divorces).

Divorces in lower age groups shift into older age and the duration of marriages divorced is getting slightly longer. The average duration of divorced marriages slightly increased in comparison with the year 1998 and reached 12,3 years.

Other forms of cohabitation such as common-law couples or coexistence in so called factual marriages are not statistically surveyed.

Fertility

In Slovakia the natality and fertility development has a decreasing tendency since the year 1976. From the point of view of long-term development the year 1999 is the one with the lowest natality so far in this year 56,2 thousand living children were born, i.e. by 1,4 thousands fewer than in the year 1998. Natality rate of 10,4 children per 1000 inhabitants was by 0,3 points lower in comparison with year 1998.

Decrease of reproduction rates continues. Gross reproduction rate dropped to 0,652 and net reproduction rate to 0,642. Total fertility also sank from 1,378 in the year 1998 to 1,313 in the year 1999. Maximum fertility falls to 20 to 29 year-old females.

The average age of mothers giving births to all children in the Slovak Republic has reached 26 years and to their first child 23,6 years. Although in last years the maternal age has escalated, the Slovak Republic occupies lower parts of European charts.

Number and ratio of non-marital children increases too. 9,6 thousand non-marital children were born in the year 1999, that was 16,9% of the total number of born children. There is an analogous trend in the number of liveborn non-marital children. Whereas 7,7 thousand i.e. 10,6% of liveborn children were in the year 1993 non-marital, in the year 1998 the number was 15,3% and in the year 1999 this share increased almost by 17% from the total of liveborn children.

Mortality

Gross mortality rate keeps under the value of 10 per-mil although of a greater explicit growth was expected. However, one of the reasons for the indicated trend is not the improvement of health of the population but the change in the age structure of population because the age of 75 and more is reached by a small number of less numerous age groups born in years 1915 - 1925.

52,4 thousand persons died in the year 1999, by 754 fewer than in year 1998. Gross mortality rate dropped in comparison with the year 1998 by 0,2 points to 9,7 per-mil. 28,1 thousand males (53,6%) and 24,3 thousand females (46,4%) died in Slovakia in the year 1999. Per 1000 dead females there were 1156 dead males, that was by 11 fewer in comparison with the year 1998.

The development of infant and post-neonatal mortality might be evaluated. 467 children up to 1 year of age died in the year 1999, which was by 39 fewer than in the year 1998 and by 312 fewer than in the year 1993. Infant mortality rate decreased by 0,5 point over the year 1998 and by 2,3 points over year 1993 to 8,3 per-mil in year 1999. 28 children died up to 28 days that was by 21 fewer as than in the year 1998 and post-neonatal mortality decreased by 0,3 point to 5,1 per-mil.

Decrease in total mortality rate, especially in infant and post-neonatal mortality is reflected in the prolonging of life expectancy. Hope for survival at birth reached 68,95 years in males (by 0,33 higher) and 77,03 years in females (increase by 0,32 year) in the year 1999. Despite the prolonged life expectancy, from European countries only the former USSR countries and Turkey and Hungary have shorter life expectancy than Slovakia.

Migration

After the year 1989 a change of intensity and character in internal and also in foreign migration occurred in the Slovak Republic.

As a result of dissolution of the ČSFR in the year 1993 a mutual exchange of population between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic happened. It was reflected also in the volume of foreign migration for the given year. It reached 16,5 thousand a year later it was only 5,1 thousand persons and in the year 1999 only 2,7 thousand.

618 persons emigrated from and 2,1 thousand immigrated to Slovakia in the year 1999, mostly from Ukraine (180 persons), Yugoslavia (110), Germany (100) and Russia (86). From Slovakia the most people emigrated into Germany (127 persons), Austria (67) and Switzerland (26). In relation to other foreign countries the migration turnover was negligible.

Demographic projections

In the year 1996 the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic made a new projection of population development in the Slovak Republic up to the year 2015 in two variants (A-low, B-high) which differ in the scenario of the expected reproduction indicators development.

Population projection was calculated with the help of the component method based on the principle of shifting the age groups, their shrinking due to mortality and replacement with newly born children according to supposed fertility intensity. Hence the population projection is a model of the expected population development. It comes out of the knowledge of the number of inhabitants and their age and sex proportion in

the source year of projection and from the estimation of basic reproduction factors and migration in the target period.

Since the demographic development in the Slovak Republic in the years 1996 through 1999 did not differ much from the projection results according to A-low variant we present the expected development of basic demographic indicators according to given variant.

Prognosis of number of live-born, deceased and population in the Slovak Republic up to the year 2015

Year	Number of liveborn		Number of deceased		Estimated number of inhabitants in thousand till 31.12
	Projection A - Variant	per 1 000 inhabitants	Projection A - Variant	per 1 000 inhabitants	
2000	57 805	10,7	53 908	10,0	5 408,7
2001	57 561	10,6	54 180	10,0	5 413,9
2002	57 027	10,5	54 956	10,1	5 417,9
2003	56 320	10,4	55 732	10,3	5 420,4
2004	55407	10,2	56 528	10,4	5 421,2
2005	54 507	10,1	57 332	10,6	5 420,2
2010	52 703	9,8	61 388	11,4	5 399,0
2015	48 914	9,2	65 097	12,2	5 342,9

SLOVENIA

In the 20th century the number of population on the present-day territory of Slovenia grew by only 57%. At the end of 1999 there were almost 1,988,000 people living in Slovenia, which is 97 per square kilometre.

Although we could say that in 1999 the demographic development in Slovenia followed the established direction of previous years, it needs to be mentioned that compared to 1998 both the number of marriages and the number of divorces increased. Considerable changes happened in migration, which, however, is also the result of changes in the methodology. Bigger number of immigrants (and emigrants) is namely the result of changed methodology, since in 1999 we started to count as migration all registration of temporary emigration abroad and registration of return home after temporary emigration. This way we drew closer to internationally recommended definitions of migration statistics and population statistics.

Population

Besides the total number of resident population, the Statistical Office of Slovenia publishes data on four other subcategories: citizens of Slovenia, foreigners with permanent residence, foreigners with temporary residence and refugees.

As of 31 December 1999, the total resident population of Slovenia numbered 1,987,755 persons, which is 9,421 or 0.48% more than at the end of 1998. Since 1990, when the decrease of the total population started, the drop in the number of total resident population was the most important in 1998. We registered increase in the number of population in all four quarters of 1999. This increase was, however, not the result of the natural increase of population but of:

- adoption of the decree on determining persons whom Slovenia offered temporary protection due to the situation in Kosovo,
- increased immigration of foreigners (mostly economic migrants Slovenia needs as unskilled labour in construction),
- adoption of the law on regulating the status of citizens of other former Yugoslav republics in the Republic of Slovenia, which enabled a lot of former illegal immigrants to start arranging their status of a foreigner.

Thus in 1999 the number of foreigners grew most (by 8,046 or 26.7%), while the number of citizens of the Republic of Slovenia living in Slovenia grew the least (by only 351). The number of persons under temporary protection in Slovenia rose by 1,024.

The population of Slovenia is still ageing. All dependency ratios indicate the progress in the ageing process. The dependency ratio between old (65+) and young (0-15) increased from 81.7 to 86.0 in one year. The mean age of the population was already more than 38 years (38.6) at the end of 1999. On average, women are much older than men are. Their average age exceeds 40 years, while the average age of men is still below 40. The ageing index for women has been growing since 31 September 1997, when it was over 100 for the first time. At the end of last year it was 112. The ageing index for men is a lot lower. At the end of 1999 it was 61.

Foreign population

In 1999 the total number of foreigners was up by over a quarter. The 42,524 foreigners at the end of 1999 represented 2.1% of total population. There are three reasons for the increase:

- due to the crisis in Kosovo, Slovenia accepted almost 4,000 refugees from this area, but they are not shown in migration data,
- net migration of foreigners was again positive,
- due to the law on regulating the status of citizens of other former Yugoslav republics in the Republic of Slovenia, many foreigners living in Slovenia for a number of years finally legalised their status, which was why they were not considered migrants.

The structure of foreigners by citizenship remained unchanged. Almost 39,000 of them (92%) are citizens of former Yugoslav republics (47.3% Bosnia and Herzegovina, 20.0% Yugoslavia, 15.8% Croatia and 8.4% Macedonia). The percentage of individual countries did not change much. At the end of December 1999, citizens of 101 countries from all continents lived in Slovenia. 1,207 (2.8%) of them were EU citizens (most from Italy - 388 and Germany - 362) and 1,375 (3.2%) were citizens of other European countries (most from Ukraine - 430 and Russia - 300). Among citizens of non-European countries the Chinese and the Americans prevail with 188 and 110 respectively.

Marriages and divorces

In Slovenia 7,716 marriages were registered in 1999. This is 2.5% more than in the previous year and 2.9% more than in 1997. Although the number of marriages has been increasing in the last two years, it still represents only half of marriages registered in 1972. While in that year the crude marriage rate was 9, it was only 3.9 per 1000 population in 1999.

In 1999 the mean age of women at first marriage was 26.23 while the mean age of men was 29.06. In the last 20 years the mean age of bride and groom has been increasing constantly. Women married for the first time in 1999 were 3.7 years older than those married for the first time in 1979, while men were 3.3 years older.

In 1999 the total female first marriage rate (below age 50) was 0.48. Compared to 1998 a slight increase was observed.

Data on divorces are provisional. In spite of that, it is clear that the number of divorces as well as the crude divorce rate increased from the previous year. In 1999 there were 2,110 divorces and the crude divorce rate was 1.1.

Fertility

In the 20th century the number of liveborn children mostly exceeded the number of deaths in individual years, except in a few years between the First and the Second World War and, of course, several years in the last decade. In the 21st century the trend will probably continue, since due to a drop in the number of births the natural increase has turned into a decrease.

As regards births, nothing new happened in Slovenia that would break the unfavourable trends of the past. The number of births and the total fertility rate are decreasing, while the average age of mothers at childbirth and the share of children born out of wedlock are increasing.

In the last 20 years (1980-1999) the number of liveborn children fell by 41.3%. In 1999 only 8.8 children per 1000 population were born. For the last time the total fertility rate was over 2.1 liveborn children per woman in 1980. After 1980 it started to decrease and in 1999 it reached the lowest level ever (1.21). Slovenia thus ranks among countries with the lowest fertility in Europe. The other countries are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy and Lithuania.

In 1999 the number of liveborn children was the lowest ever - 17,533 (9,049 or 51.6% boys and 8,484 or 48.4% girls), which is 323 less than a year before. This is less than during the Second World War and only half as many as in 1950. As many as 86% of all liveborn children were firstborn and secondborn and almost a half (49.5%) were firstborn. In the last ten years about 100 children were stillborn every year. In 1999 the number was 87.

Postponing birth of the first child contributes to the rise of average age of mother at birth of any child (28.1) and at birth of the first child (26.4). In the last ten years the average age of mothers at childbirth increased by 2.2 years (in 1988 it was 25.8) and the average age at birth of the first child grew by 2.9 years (in 1988 it was 23.5).

Women aged 25-29 have the highest fertility rate, although it has been decreasing. Fertility rate of women over 30 has been increasing but not enough to compensate for the decrease of fertility rate in the age group 15-24.

In 1976 matrimony and cohabitation became legally equal. Since then the number of children born out of wedlock has increased from 10.5% to over a third (35.4%).

Mortality

In the last 50 years the average number of deaths per year was between 14,000 and 20,000. If we neglect smaller changes - which are mostly the result of relations between generations because some generations suffered big loss during the Second World War - the number of deaths has been slowly increasing. 18,885 persons residing in Slovenia died in 1999. Among them 79 were infants. Men still die more frequently than women do. In 1999, 9,671 men and 9,214 women died. The crude death rate remained the same as in the previous five years, i.e. 9.5, while the infant mortality rate decreased, reaching the lowest value ever observed in Slovenia (4.3).

Life expectancy at birth continued to increase. In 1998/1999 it was 78.75 years for women and 71.34 for men. Since 1994/1995, when the period of stagnating life expectancies terminated, life expectancy at birth has increased by 1.4 years for women and 1.7 years for men. The difference between female and male mortality is getting smaller.

Main causes of death in 1999 were the same as in previous years: cardiovascular diseases, neoplasms and accidents. 40.8% of all deceased persons died of cardiovascular diseases, 25.8% of neoplasms and 7.8% of accidents, poisonings and violence. While the proportion of those who died of accidents, poisonings and violence decreased compared to the previous year, the proportion of those who died of cardiovascular diseases and neoplasms increased.

Migration

Until the beginning of the 1960s the net migration was negative but since then it has been constantly positive, which had a big influence on the population increase in Slovenia. The two exceptions were 1991 and 1992. In the future the population number will depend on the net migration.

Population of Slovenia grew fastest in the 1970s - on average by 0.9% a year. 70% of that growth was the result of the natural increase and only 30% of the net migration. The lowest average annual growth was recorded in the 1990s, when the natural increase contributed only 35% and the net migration 65%.

International migration

In 1999, 4,941 persons immigrated to Slovenia, which is 7% more than in 1998. 1,362 or 25% of them were citizens of the Republic of Slovenia, which means that compared to 1998 the number of citizens returning home grew by 60%. Bigger number of immigrants (and emigrants) is also the result of changed methodology, since in 1999 we started to count as migration all registration of temporary emigration abroad and registration of return home after temporary emigration. This way we drew closer to internationally recommended definitions of migration statistics and population statistics. Slovene citizens mostly returned from former Yugoslav republics (768 or 56%). The share of persons returning from EU member-states increased a lot (404 or 30%), mostly from Germany (222) and Austria (91). There are many migrant workers from Slovenia in EU member-states, but they are not returning in big numbers. As regards immigrants, men prevail over women. Most Slovene citizens returning home are 25-39 years old, so that the average age of 35.4 is at the level of the past years.

The number of citizens of the Republic of Slovenia emigrating abroad (963) grew by a third over 1998. Most citizens emigrated to the same EU member-states from which most citizens returned (545 or 56%). Emigration to former Yugoslav republics is on the decrease. Here Croatia prevails with 116 people. Due to the mentioned differences in the direction of immigration and emigration, Slovenia registers a big positive net migration only with former Yugoslav republics and a negative net migration with EU member-states, which is especially true for women. Net migration is negative only in the age group 25-29, which is the result of leaving Slovenia to study abroad. A relatively big positive net migration registered in the age group 54-69 is the result of citizens of the Republic of Slovenia returning home after working abroad (retirement).

Immigration of foreigners shows signs of calming down. Only 3,579 foreigners immigrated to Slovenia, which is 5% less than in 1998. We only have the data on their citizenship and not on the country of previous residence. 86% of them are citizens of former Yugoslav republics, almost a half of them of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1999 immigration from Macedonia increased most. This is a typical economic migration of mostly male population aged 20-34 that mostly work in construction. Citizens of EU member-states represent only 2% of immigration and the share of citizens of non-European countries is even lower. The only countries that stick out as regards the structure of immigrants are Russia, Ukraine, Romania and the Czech Republic with 197 immigrants, of those 141 or 72% women, mostly aged 18-29.