

Demographic Outlook

National reports on the demographic developments in 2006

2007 edition

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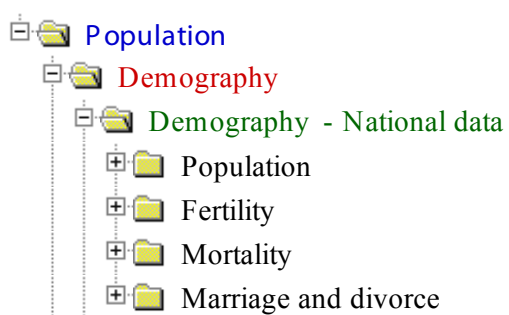
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Foreword

This publication presents the recent demographic developments in European countries as described by the corresponding national statistical authority. These reports are part of a regular demographic data collection carried out every year by Eurostat over 50 countries and territories. The coverage is limited to those countries that have provided a report on demographic developments in 2006 and includes EU Member States and candidate countries as well as other Council of Europe Member States.

The views expressed in this publication are of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Commission.

Data on demography can be found on Eurostat's website on the link described below:





BULGARIA

Population

At the end of 2006, the population of Bulgaria was 7 679 290 of whom 70.6 % lived in urban areas. The population data as of 31.12.2006 were calculated on the basis of the population of the previous year updated with the natural increase of the population in 2006. Over the last year as a result of the significantly greater number of deaths compared to that of births, the number of the population has decreased by 39.5 thousand persons or 0.5%. External migration is not covered by the current demographic statistics yet. The decrease of the population in 2006 is less with about 3 thousand persons than that in 2005, which is entirely due to the higher natality in the last year.

The negative tendencies in the development of the demographic processes in Bulgaria that had been formed during the two last decades led up to significant changes in the age structure of the population. Changes in the age structure include the continuous decrease of the number and share of the population up to 15 years of age and the increase of the share of persons over 65 years. While in 1995 the relative share of young people up to 15 years of age was 17.7% and that of persons over 65 years - 15.2% of the total population, in 2001 these relative shares were 15.0% and 16.9% respectively. In 2006 the relative share of young people was 13.4%, while that of the older population already represents 17.3% of the total population.

Since 1990 the natural increase is negative, as a result the population of Bulgaria has been decreasing. The negative value of the natural increase rate increased from -0.4‰ in 1990 to -5.0‰ in 1995, reaching its highest value in 1997 (-7.0‰). In 2006 the absolute number of the natural increase was -39 460 persons. In comparison with the preceding year the negative value of the natural increase, as a result of the increase of the crude birth rate, has decreased by 0.3 points and it stood at the level of 2000 (-5.1‰).

Fertility

There were 73 978 live births in Bulgaria in 2006. In comparison with the preceding year the number of live-born children was higher by 2 903. The number of live births in 2006 was the biggest for the period 1995 - 2006.

The crude birth rate decreased from 12.1‰ in 1990 to 8.6 ‰ in 1995, reaching its minimal value of 7.7‰ in 1997. After 1998 the crude birth rate began to increase and in 2001 it set in on the level from 1995 (8.6‰). In 2006 this indicator reached 9.6‰.

The substantial increase in the proportion of births outside marriage in recent years continued in 2006. 50.9 % of births in 2006 were conceived outside marriage compared to 49.1 % in 2005. This represents an increase of about 19.3 % compared to 1998. The proportion of births outside marriage reflects the emergence of new family patterns such as consensual unions. This is confirmed indirectly comparing the average age of mother at birth of first child (25.2 years) with the average age of women at first marriage (25.9 years). Thus, the increase of births outside marriage is not necessarily synonymous with children being born outside of some type of family union.

There was a considerable decrease of the total fertility rate in the past years from 1.81 in 1990 to 1.24 in 1996 and 1.09 in 1997. After the little increase of its level in 2000 (1.27), in 2003 the total fertility rate returned to the same level as in 1999 and 1995 - 1.23. 2006 was the peak of 1.38 for this fertility indicator during the last decade. However, this value is far from the rate of 2 children for ensuring even simple family reproduction.

In 2006 a concentration of births was recorded among women aged 20-29 years (around 59.6 % of total live births), The births are concentrated primarily on first and second births, which represent approximately 89.1 % of all live births. In practice, the birth of a fourth, or even a third child is very rare in Bulgaria today.

Tendency towards an increase of the mean age of the mother at first birth has set in. In 2005 the mean age of the mother at birth was 26.2 years, and the age at first birth - 24.8 years. These indicators in 2006 were 26.4 and 25.2 years respectively.

Mortality

Mortality in Bulgaria remains its high level during the last decade, influenced by the changes in the age structure and the population's health.

In 2006 the number of deaths was 113 438 and it was near that of 2005 (113 374). The crude death rate stood at 14.7‰. The mortality rate remains fairly stable over recent years but is still at one of the highest levels in Europe.

After reaching 17.5‰ in 1997, the highest value for the last 20 years, the infant mortality rate has decreased continuously. In 2001 it was 14.4‰ and in 2005 - 10.4‰. In 2006 720 children up to the age of 1 year died in Bulgaria and the infant mortality rate decreased to 9.7‰. This value of the infant mortality rate is the lowest one in general up to date.

For the period 2000-2006 life expectancy at birth for men increased by 0.9 years and for women - by 1 year. In 2006 the life expectancy at birth for men was 69.07 years, while for women it was approximately 7.3 years longer - 76.32 years.

Migration

There are no official statistics on international migration during the years between censuses (1992-2001). The Bulgarian population decreased by some 558 400 during this period. This decrease is due to the natural movement of the population and external migration. The natural decrease for the period was 336 500. The net migration of the population for the same period could be estimated at 221 900 or 2.7% of the population. According to the census data during the same period 18 450 returned or entered the country. Thus the emigration flow could be estimated at 240 300 or the country has lost some 30 000 people each year during the period between the two last censuses.

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages has dropped steadily, but this trend has become more intensive in the period 1990-2002 with a total decrease of about 30 000 or 50%, from 59 874 to 29 218. This development has led to a fall of the crude marriage rate from 6.9 ‰ in 1990 to 3.7 ‰ in 2002. During the next three years a slight increase can be observed and in 2005 there were 33 501, or 4.3 per 1 000. In 2006 the total registered number of marriages was 32 773, or 728 less than in the preceding year and the marriage rate stood at the same level (4.3‰).

First marriages of both men and women constituted almost 84 % of all marriages in 1998 and this proportion decreased gradually to 81 % in 2006.

The mean age at first marriage has increased in 2006 to 29.3 years for men and 25.9 years for women, compared to 26.6 and 23.5 years in 1998 respectively.

In 2006 there were 14 828 divorces which represent about 452 divorces per 1 000 marriages or 1.9 divorces per 1000 inhabitants.

The average duration of marriage was 14 years in 2006 and, compared to previous years, shows a tendency towards an increase - 12.8 years in 2002 and 11.1 years in 1998. The trend for the duration of marriage shows a decrease of 16 % in the relative share of divorces during the first ten years of marriage in 2006 compared to 1998 - respectively from 53 % to 37 %.



CZECH REPUBLIC

Kryštof Zeman

Increase in the number of live births to 105.8 thousands along with the decrease in number of deaths to 104.4 thousands led to the natural increase of population by 1.4 thousands. Including external migration (34.7 ths.) the total increase of population of the Czech Republic in 2006 was 36.1 thousands. The total fertility rate rose to 1.33 children per woman in childbearing age. Also the number of marriages (52.9 ths.) slightly increased, while the numbers of divorces (31.4 ths.) and abortions (40.0 ths.) stagnated.

Population

According to the results of the preliminary statistical balance the population of the Czech Republic (CR) stood at 10,287,189 as of 31 December 2006. The natural increase was 1.4 thousands; before, the natural increase was positive last time in 1993. The net migration amounted to 34.7 thousands. The number of inhabitants of the CR has been continuously rising for four years, although until 2005 it was only due to foreign immigration. The total increase of population in 2006 of 36.1 thousands was the highest one since establishment of independent Czech Republic in 1993.

Fertility

The number of live births in 2006 was 105.8 thousands, 3.6 thousands more than in previous year and the highest number since 1995, when the number of live births fell under 100 thousands for the first time. Total fertility rate increased to 1.33, breaking the “lowest-low” level of 1.3. Most rapid increase was scored by first order fertility rate, to 0,66 first births per woman. However, fertility level remains low, unable to maintain the reproduction of population in long-term view – net reproduction rate, representing the number of girls per woman, surviving until the age of the mother, stood at 0,64. Continuing postponement of motherhood towards older ages is documented by the increase in mean age of mothers by 0.3 years, to 28.9 years in total and to 26.9 years at first birth. Outside marriage was born 33.3% of live births (in 2005 the proportion was 31.7%); among first births the figure was even 41.6%. On the contrary, the proportion of premarital conceptions is decreasing: 30.0% of marital first children were born 8 months after marriage in 2006.

Abortions

After 17 years the continuous drop of number of abortions stopped – the total number in 2006 of 40.0 thousands was the same as in 2005. At the same time the structure of abortions is changing; while the number of spontaneous abortions increased by 1.1 thousands to 13.3 thousands, the number of induced abortions decreased by 1.1 thousands to 25.4 thousands (77% of them by means of vacuum aspiration technique). Besides, 1.3 thousands of ectopic pregnancies were terminated. The total abortion rate in 2006 was 0.53, the total induced abortion rate was 0.34.

Mortality

There were 104.4 thousands deaths registered in 2006, i.e. 3.5 thousands less than in the previous year. The main causes of death are diseases of the circulatory system and neoplasms, which account for 74% of deaths. The number of infant deaths was 352, the infant mortality rate continued to decrease to 3.3 deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.

Improvement of mortality conditions mirrored into the increase in life expectancy at birth by more than half a year compared to 2005, to 73.4 years among men and 79.7 among women. Similarly, life expectancy at age 60 rose to 18.2 years for men and 22.3 years for women. Between 1990 and 2006 the life expectancy at birth increased by 5.8 years among men and by 4.3 years among female, which is comparable with the improvement in the previous forty years.

Migration

Registered external migration added 34.7 inhabitants to the population of CR. The number of immigrants increased by 7.9 thousands to 68.2 thousands and the number of emigrants also increased, from 9.4 thousands to 33.5 thousands. The net migration thus decreased by 1.5 thousands, compared to 2005. The structure of foreigners by citizenship, who mainly contribute to the population rise of the Czech Republic, remains stable. The highest net migration was reached with Ukraine (13.0 ths.), followed by Slovakia (6.2 ths.) and Vietnam (4.1 ths.).

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages was 1.0 thousand higher than in 2005 and reached the number 52.9 thousands. According to nuptiality life tables, 30% of women and 37% of men would stay single under present age-specific nuptiality rates. The mean age at first marriage was 31.0 years for men and 28.4 year for women, in both cases 0.3 years higher than in the previous year. The number of divorces stood at 31.4 thousands in 2006, by 127 higher than in 2005. The total divorce rate was 48.7% of marriages ultimately terminated by divorce.



GERMANY

Population

Germany had a population of 82 314 900 on 31.12.2006. This constitutes a loss of 123 000 persons against the previous year (82 438 000). In 2005 the decline in population size amounted to 62 900 persons. Population decrease in 2005 and 2006 took place because the surplus of deaths over births, amounting to 144 400 in 2005 and 148 900 in 2006, was not compensated by the positive migration balance of 79 000 in 2005 and 22 800 in 2006.

Around 7 256 000 foreigners lived in Germany on 31.12.2006. The share of foreigners as against the total population is 8.8 %. The size of the foreign population was constant in comparison to 2005 (7 289 000). These data come from the current statistical update of population. A second source of data on the foreign population is based on the Central Register of Foreigners, according to which the number of foreigners was 6 751 000 at the end of 2006. The notable difference in comparison with the current population update is due to a different coverage of the foreign population and to different reporting paths.

Fertility

The fertility rate in Germany remains low. The number of live births fell to 672 700 in 2006, whilst it was still 767 000 in 2000. For 2006 a total fertility rate of 1.33 was recorded.

In 2006, 30 % of all children in Germany are born to women who were not married at the time of the birth of their child. This trend has undergone a marked increase since the start of the nineties. In the eastern part of Germany 60% of all children are born to unmarried mothers.

The trend towards starting the family formation phase at a later age has continued. In 2006 women were 31.1 on average when their child was born. The mean age at birth of the first child (in Germany within the current marriage) reached 29.8 years in 2006.

Mortality

The results of the 2004/2006 life table show an average life expectancy of a new-born girl of 82.08 years. For new-born boys, a life expectancy of 76.64 years was recorded. The increasing trend in life expectancy continues. The life expectancy of the elderly is also still rising. Women's further life expectancy at age 60 is 24.49 years, and men's 20.58 years. A reduction is also being observed in the number of children who died before the age of one. It was 2 600 in 2006. The infant mortality rate hence fell from 3.9 to 3.8 in comparison to the previous year.

Migration

Germany also had a positive migration balance of 22 800 persons in 2006, which is, however, lower than in the previous years (2005: 79 000). 661 900 persons, of which 558 000 foreigners, moved to Germany in 2006 and 639 100, of which 483 800 foreigners, left the country. The highest numbers of foreign immigrants came from Poland, Turkey and Romania. There were considerable emigration flows of foreigners back to Poland, Turkey and Italy. The main countries of destination for German citizens were Switzerland, the United States and Austria.

Marriage and divorce

373 700 marriages were registered in 2006. Compared with 2005 the number of marriages decreased by 14 800.

The number of divorces was nearly constant in 2005 compared with previous years (2005: 201 700). The total divorce rate reached a level of 0.4. 2005 is the first year since 1999 without a growing divorce trend.

The share of divorced marriages with children decreased again. 49.2 % of divorced marriages had children in 2005. A total of 156 400 children were affected by their parents' divorce.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

The Act to Expand Day-care for Children under three (*Gesetz zum Ausbau der Tagesbetreuung für Kinder unter drei Jahren*), also known as the Day-care Expansion Act (*Tagesbetreuungsausbaugesetz - TAG*), has been in force since 2005. The intention pursued with the Federal Act is to define the framework for vital improvements in state-run child-care. The goal is to:

- create 230 000 additional places in kindergartens and crèches, and in full day-care, by 2010;
- improve the quality of child-care by developing children's abilities early, and
- offer parents options between a variety of care arrangements. Day-care is to be expanded and improved by means of skill-building measures.



ESTONIA

Population

On 1 January 2007 the estimated population number of Estonia was 1,342,409. In 2006 the population number decreased 0.17%. In previous years the decline was more than 0.2% per year. In spite of the increasing number of births the natural increase is still negative. In 2006 the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 2,439.

The number of people at working-age, which had stayed quite stable since the beginning of the millennium, declined in 2006 by 3,500. At the same time the number of elderly (aged 65 and older) increased by 4,000. The number and share of children (0–14-year-old) declined in spite of the increasing number of births, because the numerous birth generations born at the beginning of the 1990s are going out from that age-group. At the beginning of 2007 the share of children accounted for 15% and the share of elderly for 17% of total population.

Fertility

The number of births is increasing. In 2006, 14,877 children were born. Crude birth rate increased up to 11.1 and total fertility rate up to 1.55 in 2006. Fertility increased most of all among 25–39-year-old women. The mean age of mother at childbirth is continuously increasing. In 2006 the mean age of mother at the birth of the first child was 25.4 years. About half of the children born are first to their mothers. In recent years their share has declined slowly. At the same time the share of second births has increased.

The number of induced abortions has a declining trend. In 2006, 28 abortions were induced per 1,000 women of fertile age. The number of abortions per 100 live births is continuously decreasing — 63 abortions were induced per 100 live births in 2006.

Mortality

In 2006 the number of deaths was 17,316. More than half of deaths are caused by the diseases of circulatory system, followed by malignant neoplasms, injuries and poisonings. The crude death rate was 12.9.

The number of infant deaths has decreased to 66 in 2006. Infant mortality rate was 4.4. Also the number of late foetal deaths has decreased from 88 to 56. Therefore, infant mortality has reached record low level.

In 2005 the life expectancy of males was 67.3 years and of females 78.1 years. When the life expectancy at birth for women is slightly more than 10 years longer than that of the men, then the life expectancy of women and men aged 65 does not differ so much any more. 65-year-old women could expect to live an average 18 and men 13 years more.

Migration

The migration data for the period 2000–2006 are not published as the data on registered changes of the place of residence do not cover all the migration events and the recommended definitions on migration statistics cannot be used for these data.

Marriage and divorce

In recent years the number of marriages increases and the number of divorces declines. In 2006 the crude marriage rate was 5.2 and the crude divorce rate was 2.8. Mean age at marriage increases. In 2006 the mean age at first marriage of women was 26.5 years and of men 29.0 years.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

Complement to the Family Law Act applied starting from 1 December 2001 allows ministers of religion to compile marriage records and issue marriage certificates. Starting from 1 January 2004 the Aliens Law includes the obligation of an alien having a residence permit in Estonia to register his place of residence in the Population Register during one month from arrival in Estonia. Starting from 27 May 2005 the Population Register Act includes the obligation of any person who

changes his or her place of residence in Estonia to register the new place of residence in the Population Register. A person should inform the municipality within 30 days from arrival to the new place of residence. In 2004 the Parental Benefit Act came into force. The purpose of this Act is to compensate for the loss of income arising from the raising of a child and to support the combination of work and family life.



GREECE

Population

At the beginning of 2006, the estimated total population of Greece amounted to 11,125,179 persons. The annual growth rate in 2006 was 4.2 per thousand population, equal to the rate of natural increase of 0.6 (resulting from a birth rate of 10.1 and a death rate 9.5 in 2006), plus a rate of 3.6 of net migration. On 31/12/2006, the estimated population was 11,171,740 persons.

During the last decade (1995 - 2004) and until 2006 there have been substantial changes in the age composition, based on the total of the estimated population. The proportion of children (0 - 14 year of age) dropped from 17.4% in 1995 to 14.3% in 2006, while the group of persons at pension age (65 years and over) increased to 18.5% in 2006, from 15.1% in 1995. The active population (15 - 64 years of age) share has fallen from 67.5% in 1995, to 67.1% in 2006. In absolute figures, the age group of children (0 - 14 years) shows a decrease of 13.7% in 2006, as compared with 1995, while the active population of 15 - 64 years of age shows a corresponding increase of 4.3% and the population aged over 65 years increased by 28.6%, respectively.

It is obvious, therefore, that the age composition presented a shift towards older ages and the ratio of ageing has shown a sharp upward trend since 1995, reaching in 2006 at the level of 130 persons aged 65 years and over, for every 100 persons aged 0 - 14 years, compared with 87 persons in 1995.

Fertility

In 2006, fertility in Greece showed a slight increase compared with the previous years. Generally the crude birth rate showed an upward trend between 1995-2004, going up from 9.5 births per 1000 head of population in 1995 to 9.7 births in 2005 and 10.1 births in 2006.

The total fertility rate declined steadily over the past decade and until the end of 2005. From 2.09 births per mother in 1981 - just below the replacement level (2.1) - it decreased to 1.32 in 1995 and after following an upward trend reached at 1.34 in 2005 and at 1.41 in the year 2006, remaining well below the replacement level. The net production rate, which corresponds to the overall fertility rate, was 627 daughters in 1995, 632 in 2005 and 664 in 2006, continuing the upward trend in this index.

The evolution of the fertility trend had an adverse effect on the country's natural population increase, the birth surplus having fallen steadily from 1,337 in 1995, to 2,454 in 2005 and increased again at 6,566 individuals in 2006.

The age specific fertility index for the last ten years (1995 - 2004) shows a shift away from the 20-24 age group (which has been the most fertile group from the beginning of the decade until 1988) to the older age groups and particularly the 25-29s and to the 30-34s from the year 2005. This is related to the increase by some three years in the average age of women at first marriage. The mean age of mother at the birth of first child having stabilized at 23 years at the beginning of the eighties, started to rise from 1985 and on, reaching 28.8 years in 2005 and 28.9 years in 2006.

The number of births by birth order has decreased proportionately over the years 1995 -2006, meaning that the ration of birth by order has remained about the same.

Births outside marriage showed a considerable increase in 2006 at 5,914, the ratio of births outside marriage rising to 52.8 per 1000 live births, as compared with 5,485 (51.0) in 2005 and 3,083 (30.4) in 1995.

Mortality

The crude mortality rate rose moderately yet steadily during the eighties and nineties from 8.9 deaths per 1000 head of population in 1981 and 9.4 in 1995 to 9.5 in 2006. This slight increase was due mainly to the rise in the number of deaths amongst the over 75s, caused by the ageing of the population. The specific by age and sex mortality rates showed a stable downward trend except the women aged 80 years and more.

The average age of death, which in 1995 was 71.8 for men and 77.6 for women, increased steadily by almost two years over the last decade, to 73.5 years for men and 79.6 years for women in 2006, as compared with 73.2 and 79.2 respectively in 2005.

The infant mortality rate gradually declined, the steady annual decrease bringing the figure down from 8.2 deaths per 1000 live births in 1995, to 3.8 deaths in 2005 and 3.7 deaths in 2006.

Expectation of life at birth showed an increase for men, from 75.0 years in 1995, to 77.1 in 2006 and for women from 80.2 years to 82.0 years in 2006, thus decreased the gap between men and women from 5.2 to 4.9 years.

As regards to the causes of death over the 1995 - 2006 period, first position was held by heart diseases, followed (in decreasing order) by neoplasm's, cerebrovascular diseases and diseases of the respiratory system, the fifth position being held by accidents.

Migration

The external migration changed the population age pyramid by increasing proportion of the elderly people. First the emigration reduced the active population in our Country, while the immigration added population to the elderly. During the decade 1951-1960 our Country had a loss of 211,000 people and during the decade 1961-1970 a size of 435,000 individuals because of the emigration. In the decade 1971-1980 the immigrants showed an increase amounted to 272,000 people. During the above decade, the internal migration of the population to the big urban areas, contributed to the increase of the elderly people. The movement of population from the country to the big urban areas caused the phenomena of decrease in fertility because those people adopted the habits and the circumstances of those who lived in the urban areas.

During the decade of 1990 there were political changes in the Eastern Europe that changed our Country, to a reception Country of foreign immigrants. This population reached 762 000 persons in the Census of 2001 from 138 000 persons in the Census of 1991 and constituted the main cause for the increase of population during nineties.

Marriage and divorce

The crude marriage rate in 2006 decreased and reached the level of 5.2 marriages per 1000 head of population, while in 2005 and 2004 it was 5.5 and 4.6 respectively. At the beginning of the eighties the crude marriage rate was 7.3 marriages per 1000 head of population.

The cumulated first marriage frequency for women aged under 50 showed a downward trend during the eighties, reaching 0.68 in 2005 and 0.65 in 2006, from 0.87 in 1980. This trend has adversely affected the number of births.

The mean age of women at first marriage gradually increased during the decade, from 25.3 years in 1995, to 28.1 years in 2005 and 28.4 years in 2006.

The divorce rate has shown an upward trend, from 135.1 divorces per 1000 marriages in 1994, to 239.5 in 2004 and 221.1 divorces in 2005.

The overall divorce rate fluctuated during the eighties. This could be partly attributed to the establishment of divorce by mutual consent and the principle of "irretrievable breakdown of marriage", which simplify divorce proceedings. While until 1984 the overall divorce rate remained stable at the level of 8 divorces per 100 marriages, it showed an increase between 8 and 10 divorces over the period 1984 -1992. Between the years 1993 and 1994 it showed a light increase of 10 divorces per 100 marriages, from the year 1995 showed a greater increase reaching the 15 divorces per 100 marriages until the year 1997, while from the year 2004 it jumped at 21 divorces and 24 for the year 2005.

The crude divorce rate showed the same trend during the eighties, fluctuating between 0.6 and 0.9 divorces per 1000 head of population, stabilizing at 0.6 for the period (1990-1992) but it increased to 1.1 in 2004 and to 1.2 in 2005.

Demographic projections

According to the last available population projections (which is based on the last population census) the total population of Greece will be 10,778,997 people in the year 2050 (main variant). The age structure will be different than in 2000: The proportion of children (0-14 year of age) will drop from 15.3% in 2000 to 12.1% in 2050, while the group of persons at pension age (65 years and over) will increase to 31.5% in 2050, from 16.6 in 2000. The active population (15-64 years of age) will decrease 11.7 percentage points from 68.1% in 2000, to 56.4 in 2050. To product these projections three variants (high, main, low) and period approach were used. In the low variant low fertility (TFR=1.19 in 2050), slow increase in life expectancy (Life expectancy at birth 78.2 for males and 83.2 for females in 2050) and reduction of migration was considered. In the high variant high fertility (TFR=1.89 in 2050), fast increase in life expectancy (Life expectancy at birth 82.9 for males and 87.6 for females in 2050) and further migration increase was considered. The main variant is the average of the other two variants.



FRANCE

Population

On 1st January 2007, the population of metropolitan France and its overseas departments is estimated to have reached 63.4 million people. The number of births increased greatly in 2006 to their highest level since 1981. The decline in death rates also contributed to natural population growth, which was last equalled over thirty years ago. The fertility rate reached 2.0 children per woman, with France continuing to be one of the most fertile countries in the European Union. Marriages are declining in number, whilst Pactes Civils de Solidarité (civil partnerships) are increasingly frequent. Life expectancy is rising: it is now over 77 years for men (77.1 years old) and has reached 84.0 years for women.

In 2006, the number of births in metropolitan France and in the overseas departments increased (+ 23,100 compared to 2005) and the number of deaths decreased (- 7,100). The natural increase is close to 300,000 persons, a level that has not been reached in more than thirty years. Net migration is estimated at 93,600 persons, slightly more than in 2005. As of 1st January 2007, taking into account the first three annual census surveys, the population of France is estimated at 63.392 million persons, of whom 61.538 million live in metropolitan France. It attains 64.1 million with the inclusion of the 710,000 persons who live in the overseas territories (French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Mayotte, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon and Wallis and Futuna).

Nevertheless, the ageing of the French population continues. As of 1st January 2007, 10.3 million persons, or 16.2% of the population, were age 65 and older. They accounted for less than 15% of the total population in 1994. Conversely, 15.8 million inhabitants, or 25.0% of the population, were under age 20. Despite six consecutive years of high birth rates, the percentage of the population in the youngest age category continues to decline: in 1994, 26.7% of the population was below age 20. As of 1st January 2006, the European Union numbered 463.5 million inhabitants. France ranked second among the most populated countries, behind Germany (82.4 million) and just ahead of the United Kingdom (60.4 million) and Italy (58.8 million).

Population estimations and annual census surveys

Annual population estimations become final when the results of a new general census become available. With the implementation of the new census method, based on annual surveys adjusted over a period of five years, the demographic situation in 2006, like that of preceding years, will be established definitively when the results of the five annual surveys of 2004 to 2008 become known. The data already collected contribute to an initial estimation of these results.

These estimations have resulted in an upward revision of the estimations based on data from the last general census in 1999 regarding population, and also net migration and the natural balance. Accordingly, as during the two preceding years, an adjustment was made. It is on the order of 436,000, and was distributed uniformly over the years 1999 to 2003. The adjustment was increased by 126,000 to take the 2006 census survey into account. The population figures since 1st January 2000 have therefore been revised upward compared to the population estimations published in January 2006 ("Demographic balance sheet 2005", Insee Première No. 1059, January 2006).

Fertility

In 2006, 796,800 births were registered in metropolitan France and 34,100 in the overseas departments, for a total of 830,900 – an increase of 2.9% in one year. This number of births is higher than the peak reached in the year 2000 and the highest reached in twenty-five years. The number of women ages 20 to 40, who account for 95% of births, continues to diminish (with 28,000 fewer women than in 2005, or - 0.3%), but women are having more children than before. The cyclical fertility indicator is increasing. It reached 2.0 children per woman in 2006 – the highest level in thirty years.

The number of births has increased only for mothers age 30 and above. In 2006, the mothers of 52.8% of newborns were at least 30 years of age. That percentage was 44.3% in 1996. The average age of mothers at the birth of their children continues to increase. In 2006, women gave birth at an average age of 29.8, compared to 29.0 ten years ago and 27.7 twenty years ago.

Women who have reached the end of their fertile lives have had an average of more than two children. For women born in 1956, the cumulative birth rate is 2.14 children. At age 35, these women had already had 1.96 children. Women born in

1966 had had only 1.76 children at age 35, but subsequently caught up part of the delay. They had had 1.97 children at age 40 and their cumulative birth rate will be in excess of 2 children. In 2006, women age 35 had already had an average of 1.69 children. The delay has increased, but a cumulative birth rate of at least 1.95 children per woman can be expected.

In 2006, children born to foreign mothers accounted for 12.0% of the total number of births. This proportion is a little lower than in 2005 (12.4%), but has increased slightly over the past ten years. In 1996, the proportion was 9.6%.

Mortality

531,100 persons died in 2006, or a reduction of 1.3% compared to 2005. The decrease affects women (- 1.7%) more than men (- 1.0%) and is particularly marked among women age 90 and above. For the third year, mortality is below what might have been expected given the ageing of the population and the prolongation of the trend seen in recent decades.

Life expectancy has passed above the threshold of 84 years for women. With an average life expectancy of 77.1 years, men have passed the threshold of 77 years. In one year, women gained 3.5 months of life expectancy and men nearly 5 months. Thus the discrepancy between the sexes continues to be reduced. It stands at 6.9 years in 2006, or exactly one year less than ten years ago.

In 2005, with an average life expectancy of 76.7 years, the French were living an average of almost one year longer than other Europeans (75.8 years). The Italians have the greatest longevity, with 77.6 years. On the other end of the scale, the Latvians and Lithuanians have a life expectancy that is more than ten years shorter (65.6 and 65.4 years respectively).

France owes its favourable situation to its women. French women live nearly two years longer than the European average (81.9 years). Only Spanish women live longer (83.9 years in 2005). On the other end of the scale, Latvian and Lithuanian women have a life expectancy of 77.4 years.

Since 2004, the infant mortality rate has remained below the threshold of 4 in 1,000. With 3.8 deaths of children under the age of one year for 1,000 live births in 2006, France ranks among the best-placed countries. The European average is 4.5 in 1,000.

Migration

Net migration in France is estimated at 93,600 persons in 2006. This represents a slight increase compared to 2005 (+ 2,000). France has maintained its specificity in comparison to its European neighbours: migratory movements contribute to one fourth of population growth, whereas they represent 80% of growth in the twenty-five countries of the European Union taken together.

Marriage and divorce

274,400 marriages were celebrated in 2006, or 8,800 fewer than in 2005. The increase in 2005 thus appears as an exception, and the decline observed between 2001 and 2004 has begun again. The number of marriages is at its lowest level since 1995. In eight marriages out of ten, the two spouses are marrying for the first time, but this proportion continues to decline compared to remarriages.

In 2005, mixed marriages (between a French national and a foreign national) and marriages between foreign nationals accounted for 18% of marriages. That is slightly less than in 2004, confirming the decline already observed during that year.

Marriages are still tending to take place increasingly later in life. In 2005, women married for the first time at age 29.1; men at age 31.1. The progression has been rapid – ten years ago, marriages were taking place 2.2 years earlier.

PACS still on the increase

The number of Civil Partnerships (PACS) continues to increase. In 2005, 60,500 PACS were entered into – 50% more than in 2004. In the three first quarters of 2006, 57,500 PACS had already been registered, or only slightly less than in the entire year 2005. The total number of PACS entered into since the creation of the PACS in November 1999 is 263,000. The number of dissolutions is also increasing. It was 8,700 in 2005, or 23% more than in 2004, and had already reached 6,800 in the first nine months of 2006. 33,600 PACS have been dissolved since 1999, or 12.8% of the PACS entered into.



ITALY

Population

Total population

At the end of 2006 the total resident population was 59,131,287; the annual growth amounted to 380 thousand, or 0.6 % percent. The increase was mainly due to the net migration that, following a long established trend, is strongly positive (+222,410). The natural balance that used to show a surplus of deaths on births, in 2006 was positive, even if the amount was almost negligible (+2.118).

In order to complete the alignment of population registers to the results of the latest census, important adjustment procedures were undertaken, which resulted in an increase of 155,048 residents.

Foreign population

The number of foreigners counted in the resident population is continuously increasing: at the end of 2006 they are 2,938,922 (5% of total population). In relative terms the increase has been of +10 per cent in the last year, +117 per cent in the last 5 years. During this period, an important regularization process has taken place, following the law 189/2002 giving to about 650 thousand foreigners, who were already in Italy without a valid residence permit, the opportunity to adjust their position. Following their regularization, foreigners could ask for the inscription to the population register, and enter in the count of resident population.

The main factor of increase of foreign population are immigration flows (254,588) leading to a net migration of +237,614. The natural balance is positive as well, on much lower but not negligible numbers (+54,318), due to an increase of births and a very low number of deaths.

With regard to countries of origin, the composition of resident foreigners is such that the three first citizenships (Albania, Morocco and Romania) account for 36% of the total. China and Ukraine are relevant as well (respectively 4.9% and 4.1%). The rest of foreigners is quite heterogeneous, coming from a wide range of countries: the first ten citizenships account for only 63 per cent of total.

The number of acquisitions of Italian citizenship is growing: in 2006 it was 35,266 (+23.1%).

It is a flow that displaces population from the “foreign” segment to the “national” one, nevertheless leaving to it the characteristics of immigrant population.

Fertility

During the last decade fertility has slightly increased from the historical minimum of 1.19 observed in 1995. The TFR in 2006 is estimated to be 1.35, as the result of a converging trend between northern and southern regions. The contribution given by foreign women is not negligible, due to their higher fertility (2.41 in 2005). Their contribution is important in terms of number of births as well: the total number – 560,010 in 2006 - shows an increase of +1.1% (with respect to 2005) which is almost completely due to the increase in the number of foreign new-born, which accounts for 10.3% of total births (it was 9.4% in 2005).

The mean age at childbearing has risen to 30.9 years (in 2005), an augmentation of 3.5 years since 1979, when it was at its minimum (27.4), even though the fertility levels were higher. It indicates that the process of postponement of fertility is still under way, as part of a more general delay in the transition to adult life.

The majority of births occur inside the wedlock, even though the number of live births from not married women is growing and in 2006 it has reached 18.6% of total births.

Mortality

In 2006 the number of deaths was 557,892, with a slight decrease compared to 2005 (-1, 7%) and a crude death rate for resident population of 9.5 per thousand. Life expectancy at birth continues to increase: the latest estimates for 2006 are

78.3 years for men and 83.9 years for women, with an increase in the last decade more marked for men (3.3 years) than for women (+2.6 years).

Infant mortality continues to decline: the rate in 2004 is 3.7 per thousand, compared to 6.5 per thousand in 1994.

When assessing the main causes of death, data show that deaths due to tumours have slightly increased, the crude death rate changing from 32.9 (per thousand) in 1994 to 33.4 in 2004 (estimates) for men and from 22.0 (per thousand) in 1994 to 23.4 in 2004 for women. The most frequent cause of death continues to be the diseases of the circulatory system. The crude death rate has reached in 2004 (estimates) 35.5 (per thousand) for men and 41.4 for women (compared to 40.0 and 44.7 respectively in 1994).

Migration

The net-migration rate amounts to +3.8 per thousand in 2006. It is lower than in the previous period, when the rate was perturbed by the effects of the 2002 Regularization law, but still quite relevant. In fact, migration are the main cause of population growth, resulting from a light negative rate for Italian citizens (with a population loss around -0.3 per thousand) and a high positive net-migration of foreigners (+84.7 per thousand). This is due to the regular migration flows of new workers and to the subsequent family reunifications.

Internal migration (24.9 per thousand) causes a significant redistribution of population between southern regions and the rest of Italy, following a well-established migration path. These flows regard both Italians and foreigners, driven by the economic differentials still characterizing the country.

Marriage and divorce

During 2006 the decrease in the number of marriages in Italy continued: they were 243 511 (around 4.000 less than the previous year) with a marriage rate of 4.1 per thousand. During 2005, first nuptiality rate (per thousand) were 512 for men and 578 for women. First marriages are largely prevailing, even though the percentage of subsequent weddings is continuously increasing (12.4% of total weddings in 2005, 9.3% in 1999).

The general postponement in the passage to adult life results also in an increase of the mean age at first wedding that in 2005 reached 32.6 years for men and 29.8 for women. In 1999 it used to be about 2 years lower.

An emerging phenomenon is the formation of mixed couples, between Italians and foreigners, which are 8.8 % of the total (in 2004). They were only 3.3% 10 years before. Usually the groom is Italian and the bride is a foreigner (80% of weddings with spouses of different nationality), more frequently originating from Eastern and Central European countries and from South America. The opposite combination is much less common, and in this case the groom often comes from North African countries or from Eastern Europe.

The number of divorces in 2005 was 47 036, a figure that shows a 4.3% increase compared to 2004. During the last ten years, the total number of divorces grew of about 74% (27,038 in 1995).

Government decisions and development in legislation

The main legislative measures about population relate to immigration. The law 189/2002 established the rules for a regular entry to Italy of foreign workers, at the same time allowing the clarification of the position of those irregularly present on the territory, who could eventually obtain a residence permit. It contained measures to prevent illegal entry and to contrast illegal stay as well.

The legislative procedure to fix on a three years basis flows of immigrant workers was established in 1998, and then partially revised with the law 189/2002. The procedure involves governmental bodies and social actors.

As for naturalization, the law 91/1992 establishes as main requisite 10 years of continuative residence in Italy. For Italians who emigrated abroad and for their descendants the procedure is eased, recognizing citizenship as a right that can be handed down. It is possible to acquire Italian citizenship also by marriage and, for foreigners born in Italy, after having the legal age.



CYPRUS

Population

The total population of Cyprus is estimated at 867.600 on 1st January 2007, compared with 854.300 in the previous year, an increase of 1,6%. These figures cover the population in the Government controlled area of Cyprus as well as estimates of the Turkish Cypriot community in the Turkish occupied area.

In 2006 the population increase is explained by an overall net migration rate of 10,8‰ and a natural increase rate of 4,7‰ population. In the last decade there was a declining (though positive) natural increase and a sizeable net migration balance, so that in the last five years 2002-2006 the contribution of the net migration balance to the overall population growth exceeded the natural increase.

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.

The population in the Government controlled area is estimated at 778.700 on 1st January 2007. The age structure of the population reflects the past trends in the number of births, the increasing life expectancy and the inflow of migrants in the young working ages. The proportion of the population aged 65 and over increased to 12,3% compared to 11,3% in 2000 and 11,0% in 1995. On the lower end of the age pyramid the proportion of children below the age of 15 dropped to 18,0%, compared to 22,3% in 2000 and 24,6% in 1995.

Fertility

The total number of births is estimated at 9.732 in 2006.

In the Government controlled area the number of births increased to 8.731 in 2006 from 8.243 the year before. The crude birth rate increased to 11,3 per thousand population from 10,9 in 2005, while the total fertility rate increased to 1,44 children per woman compared to 1,42 in the previous year.

The pattern of fertility has been changing. The contribution to total fertility of the age-group 25-29 increased compared to previous years. 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 27,7 and 29,6 years respectively in 2006.

The proportion of extra-marital births, though increasing, remains low in Cyprus constituting only 5.6% of the total in 2006.

Mortality

In 2005 the total number of deaths is estimated at 5.715.

In the Government controlled area the number of deaths was 5.127 giving a crude death rate of 6,7 per thousand population. The infant mortality rate is estimated at 3,1 per thousand live births in 2006. Life expectancy at birth was calculated at 77,0 for males and 81,7 for females according to the most recent life tables of 2004/2005.

Migration

Overall, the net migration balance is positive. It is estimated at about 9.300 in 2006, compared to 13.800 in 2005. This reflects mainly the net migration balance in the Government controlled area, as the net migration of Turkish Cypriots in the occupied area was estimated positive in 2006 but negative in 2005.

Marriage and divorce

In 2006 the total number of marriages was estimated at 13.046.

In the Government controlled area the number of marriages was 12.617 in 2006 compared to 12.966 the year before. These figures include an increasing number of foreigners who married in Cyprus but are not residents of Cyprus.

As from 2004 it has been possible to separate the number of marriages of residents. In 2006 the number of marriages of residents totalled 5.252 giving a crude marriage rate of 6,8 per thousand population, compared to 5.881 and 7,8 respectively the previous year. Further analysis is based on residents only.

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 30,6 in 2006. Similarly mean age of women at first marriage increased from 22.9 to 28,2 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 75% in 2006.

The total number of divorces is estimated at 1.955 in 2006.

In the Government controlled area the number of divorces increased to 1.753 from 1.514 the year before and the crude divorce rate increased to 2,27 per thousand population from 2,0. The total divorce rate, which shows the proportion of marriages that are expected to end up in divorce, increased to 273 per thousand marriages from 233 in 2005.

Though there are no regular official statistics on the number of consensual unions, this life style as an alternative to marriage is rare in Cyprus. However, there is a growing tendency of young persons living together during the engagement period preceding marriage. The census of 2001 enumerated 0,7% of the population living in consensual unions.

Demographic projections

On the basis of the Census results a set of demographic projections covering the Government controlled area was compiled for the period 2002-2052.

The projection assumes a fertility decline with the total fertility rate reaching 1,3 in the period 2017-2022 and remaining at this level thereafter. Life expectancy at birth is assumed to increase gradually and reach 79,0 for males and 85,0 for females at the end of the projection period. A positive net migration balance is assumed throughout the projection period, with an annual balance of +6.000 in the first 5-year period, declining gradually to +3.000 in 2012 and remaining at this level till the end of the projection period.

Under these assumptions the population will be growing until 2032 when it is expected to reach 851.800, and will remain at this level until 2037 and from then onwards it will start declining reaching 822.100 in 2052. The population age structure will undergo significant changes. The proportion of children aged under 15 is expected to decrease substantially to 13,1% in 2032 and 11,0% in 2052. In contrast, the proportion of the elderly aged 65 years and over will be increasing to 21,3% in 2032 and 28,7% in 2052.



LATVIA

Population

At the beginning of 2007, the resident population of Latvia stood at 2 281 305. Since 2000, Latvia's population has decreased by 100 410 persons, or by 4.2 %, (13 285 in 2006). This calculation is based on the final results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census and the data of the current demographic statistics.

In 2006, the average age of the population increased by 0.2 years and was 40.4 years at the beginning of 2007. The average age of men was 37.4 years and that of women 42.9 years. Data on the age structure of the population show that the population of Latvia continues to age.

At the beginning of 2007, only 14.0 % of the population was aged 0-14, 20.7 % was of post-productive age (62+ for men and 61+ for women), and 65.3 % was of working age. The latter category - share of population of working age - was 58.9 % at the beginning of 2000. The increase in the proportion of the working age population is the result of a change to retirement age by the Latvia's legislation.

Nowadays, the proportions of men and women in the population are almost equal. At the beginning of 2007 the proportion of men was 46.1 %. They outnumbered women in all age groups up to 34 years. In age groups 35 years and above they were in a minority, with the most pronounced female surplus in age groups over 70.

Statistical data show a change in the ethnic composition of the population in recent years. During the last five years, the percentage of ethnic Latvians has increased from 58.2 % to 59.0 % at the beginning of 2007. However, in Riga - the Capital city - the percentage of ethnic Latvians is less than half - 42.3 %. The population density is 35.3 inhabitants per square kilometre.

Fertility

The number of live births was 22 264 in 2006 (42 135 in 1987, the highest number in the post-war period), which is equal to a total fertility rate of 1.35. After the peak in 1986-1987 (2.21), the total fertility rate fell to 1.11 in 1998 to slightly increase again in 1999-2000 and in 2004-2005. At present it is slightly over half of the replacement level (2.1 - 2.2) and is one of the lowest in Europe.

Increase of fertility in the st year has been observed for females aged 15 - 19 (by 11 % compared with the year 2005), aged 35 - 39 (by 7 %) and aged 40 - 44 (by 17%).

The mean age of mothers of new-borns is 28.0 years which represents an increase of 0.7 years since 2000, but the mean age of mothers at first birth (25.3) has gone up by 0.9 years.

It is envisaged that the number of females in the fertile age will not decrease in the coming years as women born in the 80s - when fertility observed was the highest in the post-war period - are now of fertile age.

An increase in illegitimate births has been observed in Latvia. In 2006, 43.4 % of all births belonged to females not legally married (39.5 % in urban and 51.8 % in rural areas). In 1990, only 16.9 % of births were out of wedlock (12.9 % in urban and 23.7 % in rural areas).

Mortality

The number of deaths in 2006 was 33 098 (32 205 in 2000). The crude death rate increased from 13.6 ‰ in 2000 to 14.5 ‰ in 2005. The death rate was 13.9 ‰ for urban population and 15.8 ‰ for rural population. The overall mortality rates for men exceeded the indicators of women 1.2 times on average.

The mortality trends in Latvia are rather different from those of the developed European countries. 53.6 % of all deaths were caused by diseases of the circulatory system (775 per 100 000 population), followed by 18.5 % from neoplasms (267 per 100 000 population), and 9.8 % from external causes (141 per 100 000 population).

Life expectancy at birth was 65.9 years for men and 76.8 for women (64.9 and 76.0 in 2000, respectively).

In 2006 170 infant deaths were recorded in the first year of life. This represents the lowest infant mortality rate in the post-war period - 7.6 deaths in the first year of life per 1000 live births.

Migration

According to Recommendations of the United Nations in the first place, data on long-term migrants have been compiled and published. This category includes persons arriving in the country for a permanent settlement or for a stay period of one year or more and persons departing from the given country to another with an aim to change the permanent place of residence or to stay in this destination country for one year or more. The criteria of time allows separation of the long-term migrants from other flows of border crossing persons - tourists, excursionists, and short-term migrants.

The data compiled on long-term migration of the Latvian population in 2006 show evidence of notable decrease of the high number of departures observed in early 1990s.

In 2006, 2801 persons arrived in Latvia for permanent stay (by 48.5 % more than the preceding year), while 5252 persons left for permanent stay in other countries. The resident population of Latvia decreased by 2451 persons in 2006 due to international migration.

The majority of emigrants who left for Western countries went to Germany (487), United Kingdom (381), USA (289), Ireland (189), France (142), Sweden (94), and Israel (83). Emigrants to our neighbouring countries Lithuania and Estonia were 193 and 101, respectively. The majority of emigrants who left for Eastern European countries went to the Russian Federation (1652), Ukraine (339), and Belarus (417).

In reality, the international migration statistics data do not reflect movements of the population accurately enough. To ensure internationally comparable migration statistics data, the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community Statistics on migration and international protection that is close to adoption seems very promising.

The Declaration of Place of Residence Law had a major impact on national internal migration with volumes in 2006 reaching 1.7 times more those of 2002 comprising 52 482 and 31 413 persons respectively. Since it came into force (1 July 2003), the number of changes to the place of residence recorded at local level has increased rapidly.

The proportion of internal migration to the total migration volume of 2006 was 93 %, while international migration constituted 7 %.

The number of foreigners in the country is currently 40 669 persons, or about 1.8 % of the total population. Among the residents of Latvia there are more than 392 000 non-citizens of Latvia, which are not counted among foreigners. Since 2000 the Central Statistical Bureau processes and publishes a detailed breakdown of the population by country of citizenship.

Marriage and divorce

In 2006, 14 616 marriages were contracted in Latvia representing a 58.7 % increase compared to 2000, and 16.5 % increase compared with the previous year. Between 2000 and 2005 the crude marriage rate increased essentially - from 3.9 to 6.4.

The average age at first marriage is currently 26.3 years for brides and 28.4 years for bridegrooms, which is respectively 5.6 % higher than in 2000 for brides and bridegrooms.

In 2006, 21.7 % of the bridegrooms and 19.9 % of the brides with Latvian ethnicity married a partner of a different ethnicity.

Roughly one half of the population aged 18 and over (51.9 % of males and 43.5 % of females) is legally married. The share of married persons has increased in 2006 if compared with the previous year. As in other European countries, cohabitation has become more common in recent years.

7249 divorces were registered in 2006. Since 2000, divorces have increased by 1115, or by 18.2 %. The number of divorces in 2006 was 496 per 1000 marriages and the crude divorce rate was 3.2.



Demographic projections

In compliance with the requests of ministries and other governmental agencies, as well as international organisations, a new set of demographic projections for the period up to the year 2050 has been developed by the Statistical Office of the European Communities - Eurostat in co-operation with the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia and with the Department of Demography at the University of Latvia. The 2000 Population and Housing Census data and recent statistical data on demographic development and migration served as a background for these projections. On this basis, the in-country demographic projections will be carried out for the 7 largest cities under the state jurisdiction, and 26 rural districts.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

The Parliament of Latvia adopted amendments to the Law on State Statistics of the Republic of Latvia that came into effect on 14 April 2006. The law states that the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia is responsible for the organisation of the work of official statistics in the Republic of Latvia and for the correctness of data it has obtained, compiling the information received from respondents.

The CSB of Latvia shall perform the following functions:

- Implementation of a unified State policy in the field of the management, compilation, analysis and publication of statistical information;
- Provision of users of statistics with information included in the National Programme for Statistical Information for which responsible is the Central Statistical Bureau;
- Preparation, within the limits of regular annual financial resources, of a national programme for statistical information, official statistical questionnaires. The National Programme for Statistical Information and official statistical questionnaires shall be approved by the Cabinet;
- Taking responsibility for the development of a unified mandatory system of classification and codification of economic information which complies with international standards. The procedure for preparing (adapting), implementing and using the unified classification system for economic information shall be determined by the Cabinet;
- Co-ordination of the whole flow of statistical information at the national level, as well as the mutual harmonisation of the statistical indicators to be included in State registers and other information systems;
- Co-ordination of the activities of State and local government institutions regarding matters of statistics.

The above mentioned Law also states that the methods used in state statistics and the prepared information shall be impartial and independent of political processes and interest groups, the statistical information shall be available to state and local government institutions as well as to the general public.

If summary statistical data have been collected according to the State Statistical Programme adopted by the Government of Latvia, these data are available for users free of charge.

LITHUANIA

Population

At the beginning of 2007, the estimated population of Lithuania was 3 384 879, i.e. 18 405 less than at the beginning of 2006. Since 2000 the population decreased by 127 196 persons or 3.6 %.

In 2006, due to the natural decrease, the population declined by 13 548, due to the negative net migration decreased by 4 857 persons. Over 2000–2006, due to the natural decrease, the population declined by 72 800, due to the negative net migration – by 54 396 persons.

The age structure shows an ageing population. At the beginning of 2007, 20.4 % of the population was aged 60 and older; the proportion of children (aged 0–14) was 15.9 %. Over the period 2000 –2006 the number of children decreased by 24.2%, while the population aged 60 and older increased by 3.5 %. At the beginning of 2007, the number of men aged 60 and older amounted 248 760 and women amounted to 443 151, i.e. each sixth man and each fourth woman were in this age group.

At the beginning of 2007, the population density was 51.8 inhabitants per square kilometre.

Fertility

The total number of live births was 31 265 in 2006, i.e. 724 more than in 2005. The number of live births per 1000 population increased by 8.9 in 2005 to 9.2 in 2006.

Although the number of live births has been increasing since 2003, the total fertility rate remains low and does not ensure alternation of generations. The total fertility rate in 2006 made up 1.31 (1.26 in 2003).

The mean age of mothers at the birth of their first child was 25.2 years in 2006, an increase of 1.3 years compared with 2000.

The number of first and second live births has been increasing and amounted to 85.1 % of all live births in 2006 (80.9 % in 2000). However, the share of the third, fourth and higher birth order decreased and in 2006 it accounted for 14.9 % of all live births (19.1 % in 2000).

Over the period 2000–2006, the number of children born outside marriage increased 1.2 times and represents 29.6 % of all births in 2006.

Mortality

In 2006, 44 813 deaths were registered which is 1014 more than in 2005. Since 2000, mortality rate has been increasing, and in 2006 it was 13.2 per 1000 population. It was the highest mortality rate since 1950.

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 213 in 2006, 4 more than in 2005. In 2006, the infant mortality rate was 6.8 per thousand live births.

Life expectancy at birth of men was 65.3 and of women 77.1 years in 2006 (66.8 and 77.5 in 2000 respectively). The difference in life expectancy between men and women is high – 11.8 years in 2006.

In 2006, age-adjusted death rates for men were twice higher than those for women.

During the period 2000–2006 as much as 85 % of the total number of deaths fell within the three main causes of death: diseases of the circulatory system, malignant neoplasms and external causes of mortality. In 2006, 45.2 % of men's and 64.5 % of women's deaths were attributed to diseases of the circulatory system. Mortality due to malignant neoplasms accounts for 18.2 % of all deaths. Of great concern to society is mortality due to external causes which accounted for 17.2 % of male and 5.9 % of female deaths in 2006. The highest number of deaths, caused by the external causes of mortality, included intentional self-harm – 19.7 %; transport accidents – 16,8 %; accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol – 9.1 %; drowning and submersion – 6.3% and assault – 4.8 %.



Migration

In 2006, 7 745 persons immigrated to Lithuania, 956 more than in 2005. The biggest share of immigrants were aged 15–59 (84.1 %), children aged 0–14 (11.4 %) and persons aged 60 and older (4.5 %). Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania compared to the total number of immigrants were 71.1 %.

Statistics Lithuania has estimated the number of emigrants for 2006 and revised the data on emigrants for 2001–2005. The estimation was carried out based on the data on the declaration of residence and the sample survey on undeclared emigration (a supplementary module within LFS). This survey was carried out in order to measure the volumes of undeclared emigration as precisely as possible. The survey results showed that only each second-third resident of Lithuania declared his departure.

In 2006, 27 800 residents of Lithuania left the country, of which 12 600 declared their departure, while 15 200 – did not. In 2006, the number of emigrants was almost two times less than a year ago. The highest number (48 100) of emigrants was in 2005. In 2001–2006, 168 700 persons left the country. Most people emigrated to the United Kingdom, Ireland, USA, Germany, Russian Federation and Spain. The biggest part (20 %) of the emigrants were aged 25–29, while people aged 20–24 made up 15 %, and those aged 30–34 represented 12 % of the emigrants.

The sample survey on undeclared emigration results does not allow a correction of retrospective annual population estimates. More and more emigrants who have not declared their departures come back to Lithuania. It is planned to conduct survey which will enable to assess undeclared immigration.

Marriage and divorce

In 2006, 21 246 marriages were contracted which is 1 308 couples more than in 2005. Over the recent fifth years, the number of marriages increased by one-third. The average age at first marriage for women was 25.1 years in 2006 and 23.7 years in 2000 and for men – 27.3 years and 25.7 years respectively. In 2006, 21.7 % of women and 23.4 % of men had been married previously.

The total number of divorces was 11 202 in 2006. From 2000 the number of divorces has been quite stable – 11 000 couples divorced annually. The number of divorces per 1000 population was about 3.

In 2006, the average duration of marriage was 13 years. The total divorce rate indicates that 47 % of all marriages end in divorce. The number of divorces involving dependant children under 18 was quite stable: 36.9 % of couples who divorced in 2006 did not have common children, 41.8% had one child and 21.3% had two and more children.

LUXEMBOURG

Germaine Thill

Population

In the 1st quarter of 2006 several municipalities (Communes) were contesting their population figures established by STATEC, throwing up some doubts on the reliability of the migration data contained in the file extracted from Luxembourg's Répertoire Général des Personnes Physiques (general register of natural persons) and made available to STATEC by the Centre Informatique de l'Etat (CIE - national computing centre).

After a year of investigation, a working group composed by experts from the CIE, STATEC and the municipality of Luxembourg-City concluded that net migration figures had been underestimated for the last years, thus leading to an underestimation of the total number of inhabitants.

A new file on migration flows, transmitted by the CIE allowed STATEC to establish new population figures for the years 2004 to 2006. Although some incoherencies are remaining STATEC is convinced that the new figures are closer to reality than the old ones. However, a new revision of population data cannot be excluded for the future.

According to the new figures the population increased in 2006 by 7 000 (+1.5%) and on 1 January 2007 totalled 476 200 persons (the revised figures for the years 2004 to 2006 being 454 950, 461 200 and 469 100).

The percentage of foreign residents continued to grow and was 41.6% in 2006, compared with 40.8% in 2005.

Fertility

After the decrease recorded in 2005, the number of births increased from 5 371 in 2005 to 5 514 in 2006 (+2.7%).

The number of Luxembourg births rose from 2 403 in 2005 to 2 470 in 2006 (+2.8%), while foreign births increased from 2 968 to 3 044 (+2.6%).

As in the previous years, the number of foreign births exceeded the number of Luxembourg births and in 2006 they account for more than 55% of all births in the country. Ten years ago in 1996 foreign births only accounted 42% of all births.

The number of births outside marriage has steadily increased passing from 27.2% of all births in 2005 to 28.8% in 2006.

In 2006, the total fertility rate was 1.64 children per woman and the birth rate was 11.7 per 1000 population.

The average age of a mother giving birth was 31.0 among Luxembourg women and 30.3 among foreign women.

Mortality

The number of deaths rose in 2006, passing from 3 621 in 2005 to 3 766 in 2006. This increase was mainly the result of more deaths among foreign residents, where the number went up from 634 in 2005 to 683 in 2006 (+7.7%) while the number of deaths among Luxembourgers grew from 2 987 deaths in 2005 to 3 083 in 2006 (+3.2%). It should be noted, however, that in absolute terms the number of deaths among the foreign population remains very low because of its very young age structure.

The crude death rate remained below 8‰ and in 2006 was 7.97‰ (compared with 7.78‰ in 2005).

The decrease of infant mortality (deaths of children below the age of one) recorded in the last years continued also in 2006 where there were 14 infant deaths and the infant mortality rate of 2.5‰ was even lower than in 2005 (2.6‰).

The number of stillbirths fell from 21 in 2005 to 14 in 2006 and the rate of stillbirths per 1000 births was 2.5 compared to 3.9 in 2005.



Migration

As already explained in the first paragraph of this article, there had been an upward revision for net migration.

According to the new migration data transmitted by the Centre Informatique de l'Etat to STATEC there had been 14 352 arrivals to and 9 011 departures from Luxembourg in 2006, net migration being 5 531 (revised net migration figures for 2003, 2004 and 2005 are respectively 5 412, 4 392 and 6 110).

Marriage and divorce

Although in recent years the number of marriages has remained more or less steady a certain decline was noticed in 2006, where their number decreased from 2 032 in 2005 to 1 948 in 2006 (-4.1%). The marriage rate was 4.12 per 1000 inhabitants.

Mean age at first marriage continues to rise, and in 2006, men married for the first time at 32.3 years and women at 29.9 years.

The first marriage indicator was 0.417 for men and 0.456 for women (0.438 and 0.492 in 2005).

With 1 182 divorces pronounced their number reached a peak in 2006 knowing an increase of 13% compared to 2005.

The divorce rate is 2.50 per 1000 inhabitants and the total divorce rate stands at 0.56. More than half the marriages, which take place in any year, will thus end in divorce, if the frequency of divorce by length of marriage continues at the 2006 rate.

Government decisions and changes in legislation

On August 25th 2006 the Chamber of Deputies adopted a law allowing Luxembourgers born abroad to keep the quality of Luxembourger by abolishing articles 25,8 and 46 of the modified law of July 22nd 1968 on the Luxembourg nationality.

After the adoption April 5 2006 of a new law relative to the right of asylum and to additional forms of protection, the Directorate of Immigration is preparing the elaboration of a new law on immigration

HUNGARY

Population

On 1st January 2007 the population was estimated at 10 066 200 which is 10 400 less than in the previous year. The natural decrease in 2006 was 3.2 ‰ compared to 3.8 ‰ in 2005. Because of the positive balance of international migration the actual population decrease in 2006 was 1.0 ‰, 1.1‰ less than in the previous year. In recent decades population development can be divided into two distinctive periods. The first period, characterised by moderate growth, ended in 1980 at which point the population reached its maximum size of 10 709 463. The second period, from 1981 onwards, is characterised by a continuous decrease: from 1981 to 2006 the population decreased by 6.0 %.

The decrease of the population took place simultaneously with the ageing process of the population. On 1st January 2007 the ratio of children under 15 years was 15.2 % compared to 20.5 % in 1990. However, the proportion of persons over 65 years was 15.9 %, compared to 13.2 % in 1990. The composition of the population by marital status changed significantly. At the end of 2006 only 48.0 % of the adult population over 14 years of age was married, while in 1990 their ratio was 61.2 %. During this period the ratio of never married persons increased from 20.3 % to 30.5 %. There were 1 106 females per 1 000 males at the end of 2006.

Fertility

The number of births in 2006 was 99 871 which is 2375 (2.4%) more than in 2005 and corresponds to 9.9‰ live births. The total fertility rate increased from 1.32 to 1.35 in 2006.

The increase in fertility was mainly attributed to the changing behaviour of childless women aged over 30 who then had their first child. While the fertility level increased among women aged over 30, it continued to decrease among women below 25 years. Compared to 1990s, the fertility level in 2006 has decreased by 50 % for women under 20 years, by 67% for women aged 20-24. Conversely, compared to 1990, the fertility level increased by 67% for women aged 30-34, and by 77% for women aged 35-39.

The changing age-specific fertility behaviours have contributed to the ageing process of mothers. During the last sixteen years the mean age at childbirth increased by 3.21 years and reached 28.88 years in 2006. In the same period the mean age at birth of the first child increased by 4.30 years to 27.29.

Among the total number of births, the number and proportion of extra-marital births continued to increase. For example, while the total number of births was nearly 21% lower in 2006 than in 1990, the number of births outside marriage has doubled. Furthermore, 35.6% of total births were outside marriage in 2006 compared to 13.1% in 1990, and 85.9% of the extra-marital births were conceived by single women and 13.2% by divorced women.

In 2006 the proportion of infants born with a low weight (less than 2 500 grams) was 8.3%, compared to the 8.2% in the previous year.

In the last one and a half decades the number and ratio of induced abortions showed an improving picture. Since 1990 the number of abortions has decreased by 48.8% and in 2006 there were 19.1 induced abortions per 1 000 women aged 15-49 years. The 46 324 induced abortions carried out in 2006 is 2365 less than in the previous year. The total abortion rate measured 0.65 per woman in 2006 is much lower compared to its value of 1.25 in 1990. In the last sixteen years the induced abortions decreased to a higher degree than the number of births. As a result the number of induced abortions per 100 live births decreased from 71.9 in 1990 to 46.4 in 2006 thereby indicating a more responsible contraception.

Mortality

For three decades until the early 1990s death rates increased. Since then a definite improvement can be observed in mortality. However in the past few years the number of deaths seemed to be fluctuant mainly due to the flu epidemic of the spring and winter months. In 2006, 131 603 people died, 4129 (3.04 %) less than in the previous year. This represents 13.1 ‰ compared to the 13.5 ‰ in 2005.



The gender aspect of mortality deserves special attention. In the last ten years the mortality rate for men decreased to a greater extent than for women. The improvement is most significant among middle-aged men.

In 2006 the average life expectancy at birth was 69.03 for men and 77.35 for women. This is an increase of 0.47 years for men and 0.42 years for women compared to the result of the 2005 life table. Life expectancy at birth for men is now 4.0 years higher than fifteen years ago, for women it is 3.5 years higher. However it is much lower, than the average of industrialized and EU countries.

There are significant differences in mortality by regions which mainly reflect the diverse social situation in the country: the death rate of adult males is much higher in rural than in urban areas. The geographic differences in mortality are not so pronounced for women.

The infant mortality rate in 2006 was 5.7 per thousand live births, about 0.5 less than in 2005. This is still high on an international scale but shows a definite improvement in the last decades. The relatively high infant mortality can be attributed partly to the relative high proportion of premature birth.

Migration

Hungary is first and foremost a transit and only then a destination country. Officially migration decreased and stabilized after the major international migration movement in the early 1990s.

In 2005 25 582 migrants arrived in Hungary, of whom 88.7 % were Europeans, mostly Romanians, Germans, Ukrainians, Serbian and Montenegrin. 8.1 % came from Asia, mostly from China and Vietnam. The number of foreign citizens leaving the country was much lower in 2005, only 3 320 foreigners left the country.

On 1st January 2006 the number of foreigners staying long-term or permanently in Hungary reached 154 430. Migrants are not distributed evenly between the different counties and there are much fewer migrants in the north and south of the country. Immigration primarily concerns the capital and large towns. After the capital and Pest County, most foreigners can be found in Csongrád County. The age composition is characterised by a predominance of young adults (20-39 years old).

After a significant increase in 2005 there was decrease in the number of foreigners applying for Hungarian nationality. According to the preliminary data 6 101 migrants were naturalized in 2006, compared to 9 870 in 2005.

For the time being, 51.3% of the new Hungarian citizens live in Central Hungary, 18.9 % on the Southern Transdanubia and 12.4 % on the Southern Great Plain.

Marriage and divorce

Since the middle of the 1970s the number of marriages has shown a declining trend. The reduction was significant especially in the last one and a half decades. Between 1990 and 2006 the number of marriages fell by 33.0 %, and the total first marriage rate (TFMR) for females decreased from 0.77 to 0.47 during the same period. In 2006 there was a slight increase in the number of marriages with 44 528 registered occurrence, representing an increase of 0.7 % over the previous year. The crude marriage rate was equal to 4.4 ‰, and the TFMR for women was 0.47 which value did not change compared to the previous year. While the decline in marriages in the past decade can be observed in all age groups, the fall was much greater in the younger age groups. Thus, the mean age at first marriage increased during the period.

Last year's increase in the number of marriages is mainly due to a changing attitude towards marriage among women aged 30 to 34, while among the never married women aged below 25 a significant decrease can be observed. Because of these changes since the second part of 1990s women in the age group 25-29 years have the highest propensity to marriage, while prior to this, for a long time it was among those aged 20 to 24.

Thus the postponement of first marriages continues. Between 1990 and 2006 the mean age for women at first marriage increased by 5.3 years and it reached 27.3 years. According to the present first marriage rate, 53 % of the women would remain unmarried at the age of 50 years.

The increasing occurrence of informal cohabiting is related to the falling number of marriages. According to the results of the 2005 micro census, 12.2 % of families cohabit.

The number of divorces decreased from the second half of the 1980s to the beginning of the 1990s. In the 1990s the number of divorces did not change significantly. In 2006, 24 869 marriages ended in divorce, 0.3 % more than in the previous year. The crude divorce rate was 2.5 ‰, and the total divorce rate indicates that 44 % of all marriages would end in divorce. The most affected age-group is 20-29 year olds.

Demographic projections

Population projections are made regularly and provide information on the population by age and sex up to 2050. In addition, the population is also projected by level of education, as well as by categories of economic activity and inactivity. Usually every five years a regional population projection is added to the projection set.

According to the latest national population projection, the total fertility rate will be around 1.3 in the short term and then increase slowly to 1.5. Life expectancy at birth is assumed to increase from 69.0 to 79.7 by 2050 for men and from 77.3 to 86.7 for women. International migration is included into the projection: net migration is assumed to be rather high, +15 000 annually. (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 projections show a further and significant population decline, with a new phase of ageing process and changing size of given age groups as a consequence of fluctuations in the annual number of births in the past. The size of the population is projected to be 9.0 million by 2050 and the proportion of those aged 60 and over is estimated to be 37 %. This set of projections is based on the final data of the 2001 census and yearly population estimation afterwards to 2007.



NETHERLANDS

Mila van Huis

Population

On 1 January 2007 the total population of the Netherlands was 16 358 000. In the beginning of 2001 the exact number of 16 000 000 was reached. Population growth in 2000 was 123 000. Since 2001 population growth has dropped from 118 000 in 2001 to 24 000 in 2006. The decreased growth rate was caused by a decrease in the number of immigrants and an increase in the number of emigrants.

Population with foreign background

On 1 January 2007 the population included 1.6 million people who were born abroad with at least one parent born abroad – so-called first generation migrants. In addition, the population included 1.6 million people who were born in the Netherlands but have at least one parent who is born abroad – so-called second generation migrants. Because many migrants have obtained Dutch citizenship, distinguishing first and second generation migrants in the above manner gives a better indication of the size of the population with a foreign background than, for example, using a distinction of persons by citizenship.

Further distinctions can be made between western and non-western migrants. The so-called non-western first generation migrants are defined as persons born in Turkey, Africa, Asia (except former Dutch East-Indies, Indonesia and Japan) or Latin America. Persons born in other countries are considered as western first generation migrants. Dutch East-Indian, Indonesian and Japanese backgrounds are included in the western category because of their relatively high socio-economic status. The western and non-western second generation migrants are determined by the mother's country of birth, or, when the mother was born in the Netherlands, by the father's country of birth.

On 1 January 2007 the number of non-western first generation migrants was 1.0 million persons. Two-thirds of them were born in Turkey, Suriname, Morocco or the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. The number of non-western second generation migrants was 0.7 million persons. Three out of four of them have parents born in one of the four above-mentioned countries.

Households

On 1 January 2007 the number of private households was 7.2 million. This number includes 2.5 million single person households, 2.1 million couples without children and 2.1 million couples with children. Furthermore, there are 0.5 million single-parent households. Among the 4.2 million couples there are 0.8 million cohabiting couples. Most people living in a consensual union are aged between 25-40. One-third of the cohabiting couples have one or more children. On 1 January 2007 the population in institutional households numbered 0.2 million. Almost half of them live in homes for the elderly.

Fertility

In 2006 there were 185 000 live-births, which is 3 000 less than in 2005. One-third of the children are born out of the wedlock. In 2006 women were 29.4 years old on average at first childbearing, which is the same as the 2005 figure. The 2006 total fertility rate (TFR) is estimated at 1.7.

Mortality

In 2006 the number of deaths was 135 000, which is 1 000 less than in 2005. According to the 2006 sex- and age-specific death rates, life expectancy at birth was 77.6 years for males. This is 2.9 years higher than ten years earlier. Female life expectancy is increasing at a much lower pace. Between 1996 and 2006 life expectancy of women increased from 80.4 years to 81.9 years.

Migration

In 2006 the number of immigrants was 101 000, 9 000 more than in 2005. After some years of increasing numbers of asylum seekers the numbers have fallen. In 2000 the number of asylum seekers was 44 000, 14 000 higher than in 1995.

However, the last six years the number of asylum seekers dropped to 14 000 in 2006. Most asylum seekers are not registered as immigrants before they move from a centre for asylum seekers to an ordinary dwelling. This implies that many asylum seekers are registered as immigrants some time after they arrived in the Netherlands.

In 2006 132 000 persons emigrated from the Netherlands, which is considerably higher than the 120 000 emigrants in 2005. These numbers include net administrative corrections, which are assumed to be caused by under-reporting of emigration.

As a result of the increasing emigration net migration is negative in 2006 with 31 000. In 2005 and 2004 net migration was also negative and in 2003 net migration was approximately zero.

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages in 2006 was 72 000, almost the same as in 2005. About four out of five newly married couples were cohabiting at the time of marriage. These numbers include marriages of same sex couples. As of 1 April 2001 same sex couples are allowed to marry in the Netherlands. In 2006 600 male couples married and 600 female couples. Marriages of same sex couples are in many ways similar to marriages between men and women. However, with respect to children there is a clear distinction. If a child is born in a marriage of two women the woman who gave birth to the child is automatically the legal mother. The other woman will only be a legal parent if she adopts the child. The same holds for children who are born in a marriage between two men.

On 1 January 1998 registered partnership was introduced in the Netherlands. Registration was made possible for couples of the same or the opposite sex. Registered partnership resembles marriage in many respects. However, like marriages of same sex couples, there is a clear distinction with respect to children, since only one of the partners in a same sex couple can be the biological parent. In 2006 the number of contracted partnerships was 11 000, much higher than the 3 000 partnerships in 2001 initially. The increase concerns mainly contracted partnerships between men and women. This is due to the possibility to change a marriage into a contracted partnership. This is a relatively easy way to end a marriage if there are no children involved. For this reason the number of divorces has decreased, from 37 000 in 2001 to 32 000 in 2006.

Demographic projections

According to the 2006-based Dutch population forecasts, the number of inhabitants of the Netherlands will continue to grow over the next 30 years. The maximum population size will be 17.0 million around the year 2035.

The number of persons with a non-western foreign background will rise from 1.7 million in 2007 to 2.7 million in 2050. The first generation migrants will grow from 1.0 million to 1.2 million, the second generation migrants from 0.7 million to 1.5 million.



PORTUGAL

Graça Magalhães

Population

The total resident population reached 10 599 095 on 31 December 2006 (5 129 937 men and 5 469 158 women).

The total growth rate has slowed down to 0.28% (0.38% in the previous year) and maintains the downward trend observed in recent years. This is mainly due to the reduction of the net migration rate to 0.25% (0.36% in 2005), once the natural increase rate has increased to 0.03% (0.02% in 2005).

The positive natural change is also influenced by migration, given that migrants are usually younger than the national population and contribute to fertility in a larger extent than to mortality.

The population ageing process continues, mainly as a consequence of the decrease of the proportion of young people. The ageing ratio (persons of 65 years and more per 100 persons below the age of 15) has increased from 110 in 2005 to 112 in 2006.

Fertility

The number of live births from mothers resident in Portugal fell to 105 449, whilst it was 109 399 in 2005. The crude birth rate decreased to 10.0 per thousand (10.4 in 2005) and the total fertility rate decreased to 1.36 (1.41 in 2005).

Keeping up with the trend of postponing motherhood, the mean age of women at first birth rose to 28.1 (27.8 in 2005) and the mean age at childbearing grew to 29.9 (29.6 in 2005). This occurred as a consequence of changes in the age specific fertility rates. In 2006 Portugal had lower age specific fertility rates than in the previous year, except for women over 35 years old.

Mortality

In 2006 the number of deaths of residents in Portugal was of 101 990 (107 462 in 2005) and the crude death rate diminished to 9.6 per thousand (10.2 in 2005). The infant mortality rate fell from 3.5 to 3.3 per thousand in comparison with the previous year.

Life expectancy at birth rose, for men, from 74.9 years in 2005 to 75.2 years in 2006 and, for women, from 81.4 years to 81.8 years in the same span of time.

The life expectancy of the elderly is also still rising. At the age of 65 years old, men's life expectancy rose to 16.3 years (16.2 years in 2005), whilst women's life expectancy moved up to 19.8 years (19.6 years in 2005).

Migration

As in the recent past, the demographic growth in Portugal was strongly influenced by international migration, although in a downward trend. For 2006 a net migration of about 26 100 was estimated, less than 38 400 in 2005.

Marriage and divorce

In 2006 the total number of marriages was of 47 857, less 814 than in the previous year, maintaining a sliding trend, and the marriage rate fell to 4.5 per thousand (4.6 in 2005). The percentage of first marriages declined to 79.4% (91.2% in 2005). At the same time, the mean age at first marriage rose both for men (from 28.9 to 29.1 years) and women (from 27.3 to 27.5 years).

The number of divorces was of 23 935 and the divorce rate reached 2.2 per thousand.

Demographic projections

The last demographic set of projections for Portugal, carried out by Statistics Portugal, was published in 2003. Under the assumptions of a slight increase in fertility, a gradual increase on life expectancy and a moderate positive net migration, it was expected that the population would grow until 2010 and, from then onwards, would decline, reaching 9 302 485 in 2050. The population age structure also will experience changes. The proportion of young people aged under 15 is expected to decrease to 13.1% (15.5% in 2006), whilst a large increase is expected in the proportion of the elderly, aged 65 and over, that may reach 31.8% in 2050 (17.3% in 2006). As a consequence of these changes in the age structure of the population, the ageing ratio may more than double, reaching around 243 older persons per 100 young persons (111.7 in 2006).



ROMANIA

Population

On 1st of January 2007 Romania had 21.57 million inhabitants of which 10.51 million were men and 11.06 million were women. The population has decreased with around 0.2 % per annum over the last ten years as a result of natural decrease and net migration. Both natural increase and net outward migration have contributed to the population decrease in the last year, with natural increase contributing with -38 611 persons and net outward migration around -6 500 persons.

The population age structure is changing, reflecting past trends in annual births, and the fluctuation in life expectancy and migration flows. The percentage of the population aged 65 and older rose from 13.2% in 2000 to 14.9% in 2007. In 2007, 1.3 million persons were aged 75 or over, an increase of 273 000 in comparison with 2000. The proportion of the population under 15 years has continued to decrease from 18.5% in 2000 to 15.4% in 2007.

Fertility

In 2006 there were 219 483 births, 1537 less than in 2005. The specific crude birth rate of young women (under 20 years) decreased. Nevertheless, mothers in this age group gave birth to one-third of all children born outside marriages. Most of the newborns had mothers aged 25-29 years.

In 2006, the mean-age of women at first birth was 25.2 years, 0.3 years more than in 2005. Mean-age at childbirth was 26.9 years, 0.3 years more than in 2005. The fertility rate, 39.5 live births per 1000 women (aged 15-49 years) increased.

Mortality

258 094 deaths were registered in 2006, 4008 less than in 2005. The crude death rate decreased from 12.1‰ in 2005 to 12.0‰ in 2006. Mortality is still at a high level in the European context.

Almost 84% of registered deaths of young people (up to 15 years) took place during the first four years of life, and over 70% of them during the first year of life. The share of deaths of those aged 65 and over was almost two-thirds of the total number of deaths. The phenomenon of "male over-mortality" is present in all age groups. In the last decade, the most frequent causes of death were diseases of circulatory system (21.2% ischemic diseases and 21.1% cerebral-vascular diseases) and neoplasm which together accounted for 79.7% of the total number of deaths.

For the period 2004-2006, life expectancy at birth was 72.22 years. Women's life expectancy exceeded men's by 7.06 years, which is less than in the previous period. During 2004-2006, life expectancy increased slightly for both sexes. Some variation in men's survival probabilities for those aged 40 and over could be attributed to stress, standard of living, work-place security, unhealthy food, environmental pollution, alcohol and tobacco consumption.

Migration

Triggered by the political and social reforms of 1989, the removal of restrictive regulations concerning free circulation between countries resulted in a peak in international migration in 1990. Between 1992 and 2005, emigration decreased. However, net migration, although falling, was negative prior to 2000. Accordingly, the net migration rate fell from -1.29 ‰ in 1992 to -0.30 ‰ in 2006. Most of the legal emigrants were highly trained and qualified people.

Marriage and divorce

146 637 marriages were registered in 2006, giving a crude marriage rate of 6.8. Romania still has a high marriage rate compared to other European countries where rates of 4-5 ‰ are common.

In 2006, the number of first marriages decreased compared to the previous year. Young people continue to postpone marriage and consensual unions are becoming more frequent. The percentage of single people increased amongst the younger age groups.

Men tend to marry later than women. Mean-age at marriage has increased and in 2006 it reached 30.8 years for men and 27.2 years for women. Mean-age at first marriage was 28.6 years for men and 25.3 years for women.

In 2006, 32 672 divorces were registered, or 1.51 divorces per 1000 inhabitants, a decrease compared to 2005. The divorce rate level, which is relatively low in comparison with other European countries, indicates a relative stability of the family in Romanian society. The social and economic changes in the last couple of years have not influenced this demographic phenomenon in any significant way.

Young generations tend to divorce faster. Compared to 1990, most of the young age groups registered an increased divorce rate, especially among those under 20. As in previous years, the highest frequency of divorces was recorded among men aged 30-39 and women aged 25-34. About 94% of the total numbers of divorces were first divorces.

The mean-age at divorce was 39.0 years for men and 35.4 years for women, slightly higher compared to the previous years. For childless marriages, the highest frequency of divorces was registered after 1 year of marriage, and, for couples with one child, after 7 years of marriage. Infidelity remained the main cause of divorce (13.0%), followed by alcoholism (7.1 %) and physical violence (5.8 %). Men were four times more likely to cause divorce as compared to women.



SLOVENIA

Population

At the end of 2006 there were 2,010,377 people living in Slovenia. During 2006 the population grew by 0.4 percentage points. For the first time since 1996 population growth was not only a result of a positive net migration but also a result of natural increase (in 2006 there were 752 live births more than deaths in Slovenia).

At the end of 2006 the population consisted of 2.7% of foreign citizens. Almost half of them (45.6%) were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19.3% of Serbia and Montenegro and 12.8% of Croatia. In 2006 foreigners from former Yugoslav Republics represented 88.7% of all foreigners in Slovenia, whereas foreigners from EU-27 countries represented 5.6% of all foreigners in Slovenia.

In the last 20 years the mean age of population grew by 5.7 years and reached 40.8 years by the end of 2006. On average men were 39.2 years old and women were 42.5 years old, which means that since 1986 the mean age of men has increased by 5.8 years and of women by 5.7 years.

In the past two decades there has been a constant decrease in the share of children aged 0-14 and an increase in the population aged 65 or more. At the end of 2006 the population consisted of 14.0% persons aged below 15 years and 15.9% persons aged 65 or more. The ageing index of men was 85.2 and of women 143.9.

The total divorce rate, which had grown to 0.273 in 2005 due to a large number of divorces, dropped in 2006 to 0.244.

Marriages tend to last longer. Three decades ago 35.4% of marriages were divorced in the first four years of marriage and only 22.4% were divorced after more than 15 years of marriage. In 2006, only 13.4% of marriages were divorced after 4 years and 52.1% after more than 15 years. Marriages divorced in 2006 lasted on average 13.8 years.

With marriages lasting longer the number of divorces involving dependent children is getting lower. In the mid-1970s almost a third of divorces didn't involve dependent children. In 2006 the share of divorces without dependent children reached 44.3%. Marriages that were divorced in 2006 involved 1,982 dependent children. After the divorce four fifths of dependent children were assigned to mothers, 7.7% to fathers and 10.6% to both parents.

Fertility

In 2006, 18,932 children were born, 9,762 boys and 9,170 girls. Compared to the previous year the number increased by 775 (4.3 percentage points). After 2003, when in Slovenia the lowest number of live births was registered, the number has gradually increased. On average 9.4 children were born per 1,000 population in 2006.

The total fertility rate in Slovenia is among the lowest in Europe. In 2006 it was 1.31. In 1980 it was over 2.1 children per woman for the last time and after that it started to decline. The fertility rate for women under 25 has been decreasing, while for women aged 30-34 it has been increasing. In 2006 most children were born to women aged 29 years.

In 2006 the mean age of mothers at childbirth rose to 29.6 years. The reason is postponing births to later ages. In the past twenty years the mean age of mothers at childbirth rose by almost 4 years.

The share of children born outside marriages is on the rise. Compared to the previous year it increased by 0.5 percentage points. In the mid-1970s 10% of children were born outside marriage, in 2006 the share was 47.2%. The share of first and second order births was slightly more than 85%. First order births represent a half (49.6%) of all live births.

The number of induced abortions is declining in all age groups. In 2006, 5,632 induced abortions were registered, which is 0.3 induced abortion per one live-born.

Mortality

In 2006 the lowest number of deaths after 1979 was recorded; 18,180 people died (9,270 men and 8,910 women). Compared to 2005 the number of deaths was lower by 645 or 3.4 percentage points. The crude death rate was 9.1 per 1,000 population or 0.3 less than in 2005 (9.4) and 0.6 less than in 2003 (9.7).

Among deaths there were 64 deaths of infants under one year of age; 32 boys and 32 girls. The number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births has dropped from 4.1 in 2005 to 3.4 in 2006.

The mean age at death for men in 2006 was 0.4 year lower and for women 0.3 year higher than the mean age at death for men and women in 2005. In 2006 the age of men at death was on average 9.6 years lower than the age of women. The mean age of men was 68.5 years and of women 78.1 years. In the last three decades the mean age of men at death rose by almost 6 years (5.9) and of women by more than 7 years (7.1).

Life expectancy is on the rise. A boy born in 2005-2006 can expect to live 74.8 years and a girl 81.9 years. Compared to 2004-2005, life expectancy for men rose by 0.8 year and for women by 0.6 year. In the last three decades, life expectancy rose by 8.3 years for men and by 7.7 years for women.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system (cardiovascular diseases) and cancer are the most frequent causes of death. For women the most frequent cause of death are diseases of the circulatory system and for men cancer. Per 100,000 men 316 men died due to diseases of the circulatory system and 302 due to cancer, while per 100,000 women 403 women died due to diseases of the circulatory system and 233 due to cancer.

Injuries as a result of accidents, suicides and homicides are the third most frequent cause of death. More men than women and more young than old die because of this cause. Among all deaths in 2006, 8.2% (11.0% of men and 5.2% of women) died due to accidents, suicides and homicides. At age 20-44 injuries accounted for 50.6% of all deaths and at age 0-19 years for 36.9% of all deaths.

Migration

In 2006, 20,016 people immigrated to Slovenia; 18,251 (91.2%) of them were foreigners. On the other hand, 13,749 people emigrated from Slovenia, most of them (11,046 or 80.3% of all emigrants) foreign citizens.

6,267 more people immigrated to Slovenia than emigrated from it. Positive net migration was recorded among foreigners only (7,205), while net migration of the citizens of the Republic of Slovenia – which has been negative since 2000 – was negative again (-938).

Compared to 2005, the number of immigrants to Slovenia increased by 33.1 percentage points, while the number of emigrants was up by 59.8 percentage points.

Net migration was 169 people less than in 2005.

In general, the trends of immigration of foreigners to Slovenia didn't change in 2006. The majority of foreign citizens who immigrated to Slovenia in 2006 were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, followed by citizens of Serbia and Montenegro. Most of immigrated foreigners were men (80.7%).

Among all foreigners who immigrated to Slovenia in 2006, 85.3% were citizens of former Yugoslav Republics, while 7.3% were citizens of EU-25.

In the last decade, the highest number of Slovene citizens immigrated to Slovenia (1,765 people) in 2006. Most of them returned from Germany (14.8%), which has been since 2000 the previous residence for the majority of immigrated Slovene citizens. 10.0% of them immigrated (returned) from Croatia and 9.6% from Austria.

While in 2006, 2,703 citizens of Slovenia emigrated abroad, which is almost a third more than in the previous year. The highest number of them emigrated to Germany (19.6%) and Austria (17.4%).

Marriages and divorces

After 2005, when the number of marriages dropped below 6 thousand for the first time ever, their number in 2006 again exceeded 6 thousand. 6,368 marriages took place or 9.4 percentage points more than a year before. In 2006 the number of marriages per 1000 population was 3.2. 89.3% of grooms and 91.1% of brides were married for the first time.

The mean age of grooms and brides at marriage is on the rise. The mean age of grooms has exceeded 30 years of age since the mid-1990s and it was 32.8 years in 2006. The mean age of brides reached 30 years for the first time (30.0).



The mean age of grooms and brides at first marriage is also on the rise. A groom married for the first time in 2006 was 30.6 years old and a bride 28.1. The mean age of grooms was 4.9 years and of brides 5.4 years higher than 3 decades ago.

At the beginning of the 1980s the total female first marriage rate was over 0.70, at the beginning of the 1990s it was over 0.50 and since 2000 onward just over 0.40. In 2005 when the total female first marriage rate reached the lowest rate with 0.37 has grown again in 2006 and reached 0.40.

After ten years of continuous increasing in the number of divorces the number finally dropped in 2006. 2,334 divorces took place, which is 13 percentage points less than in 2005. The divorce rate per 1000 population was 1.2 while a year before it was 1.3. There were 366.5 divorces per 1000 marriages.

SLOVAKIA

Zuzana Podmanická

Population

In the year 2006, demographic development did not follow all the trends of the previous period. Although a natural increase was reached again, the natural population growth decreased compared to 2005. The crude mortality rate has remained under 10 per mille. Life expectancy at birth for males has stayed above the age limit of 70 years; for females it exceeded for the first time the age limit of 78 years.

Increasing intensity of marriage rate after the year 2001 stopped in 2005, and in 2006, marriage rate showed further decline.

There still is a clear tendency of a long-term increase of divorce rate; there were 49 divorces per 100 concluded marriages, which is the highest value ever reached in the Slovak Republic.

Age structure

As a result of a long-term decline of birth rate, the structure of the population by basic age groups shows an ongoing decrease in the pre-productive population (aged 0-14 years). Compared to 2005, the share of the pre-productive population fell by 0.5 points and reached 16.1% of the total population. At the end of 2006, there were 870.6 thousand 0-14-year olds in the Slovak population, which is a year-to-year decrease of 23.7 thousand. The year-to-year number of the productive population (aged 15-64 years) increased by 21.1 thousand and reached 3 883.4 thousand, the share of 71.7% in the total Slovak population. The age structure of the post-productive population (aged 65 years and over) has gradually changed as well. Compared to 2005, the number of post-productive inhabitants increased to 11.9% of the total population; in absolute terms that means an increase of almost 7 thousand persons to the value of 639.6 thousand persons. As a result of the decrease in 0-14-year olds and the increase in 65-and-over-year olds, the aging index continues to rise. Compared to 2005, the aging index increased by 2.8 points, so there were 73 persons aged over 65 years per 100 persons aged 0-14 in 2006.

Compared to 2005, the average age of inhabitants increased in both males and females; for males it reached 36.1 years, for females 39.3 years.

Although the economic dependency ratio still shows a downward trend, from the long-term perspective this decline gradually drops, and a period when it stops and changes into growth is not far away in consequence of a gradually increasing share of the non-productive population compared to the decrease of the productive population. In 2006, the economic dependency ratio reached the value of 38.9, which means there were 39 dependent persons (i.e. those aged 0-14 years and 65 years and over) per 100 persons aged 15-64.

Fertility

In 2006, 53.9 thousand live children were born, almost 526 less than in the year 2005. Since 2005, the crude live-birth rate decreased by 0.1 points and reached 10.0 per mille. Age-specific fertility rates of females have also changed: they show a decrease for females aged 20-24 years, and, at the same time, an increase for females aged 30-34 and 35-39 years. The level of fertility rates in women of higher age is also documented by increase of the average age in woman at childbirth. In 2006, the average age of woman at live birth of all children was 27.8 years, i.e., a year-to-year increase of 0.3 years. The average age at live birth of the first child showed a similar rising tendency: it has increased by 0.3 years compared to 2005, and reached 26 years.

Total fertility rate of females had decreased until the year 2001, since then slightly increased as a consequence of a higher birth rate, and, in 2006 it fell again, representing the value of 1.24. In terms of birth order of live births in relation to all previous deliveries of the mother, 46.8% live-born children were born in the first birth while 31.8% in the second birth.

The share of children born out of wedlock has increased: while in 2001 it was less than 20%, in 2006 it rose to 27.5%, suggesting an acceleration when compared to the previous periods.



Abortions

In the year 2006, the tendency from previous years of declining abortion rate continued, but the decline has slowed down.

In 2006, 19 thousand pregnancies ended by abortions. Induced abortions represented 75% of the total abortions.

Crude abortion rate decreased by 0.1 points when compared to the year 2005, and reached 3.5 per mille.

According to the abortion index, there were 35 abortions per 100 births.

Mortality

Since 1993, the crude mortality rate has remained under 10 per mille. There were 53.3 thousand deaths in 2006, i.e. 174 less than in the previous year. The crude mortality rate has stayed at 9.9 per mille.

Mortality in the Slovak Republic shows the same pattern as mortality in most countries (except some developing countries): mortality for the male population is higher than that for the female population. In 2006, 52.7% of deaths occurred in males, while 47.3% in females. There were 1 114 male deaths per 1 000 female deaths. A long-term tendency of gender-based differences in mortality rates has been evident especially among males and females in productive age. The most unfavourable mortality rates have been among population aged 20 – 34 years with about 80% of male deaths.

In 2006, the most frequent causes of death for the male population were diseases of the circulatory system (48.2%), neoplasms (24.3%) and external causes (i.e. injuries and poisoning (8.7%)). The share of the circulatory system diseases was highest also for the female population (62.5%); the next causes of death were neoplasms (19.5%) and respiratory diseases (5.1%).

Migration

In 2006, 91.5 thousand persons changed their place of permanent residence within the Slovak Republic; it was 4.3 thousand more than in 2005. There were 17 persons per 1 000 inhabitants who changed the municipality of their permanent residence. Females were prevailing in terms of number of migrating persons. In 2006, 49 thousand females and 42.5 thousand males changed their municipality of permanent residence; in the long-term perspective, the share of migrating females has stayed at about 53%. Population in productive age (15 – 64 years) represents more than 70% of the total internal migration.

The prevailing type of internal migration is moving shorter distances, i.e. from one municipality (LAU 2) to the other one in the same district (LAU 1); it represents 46% of the total internal migration. Migration from one district to the other one in the same region represents 30% of the total internal migration, and migration from one region (NUTS 3) to the other one reached 24% of the total internal migration.

Main reasons reported by migrants for internal migration are housing (37%) and accompanying relative (27%); 7% persons have been reported to have changed their place of permanent residence for the reason of marriage.

The international migration (migration turnover) between the Slovak Republic and foreign countries reached 7.3 thousand persons in 2006. Number of reported immigrants to Slovakia represented 5.6 thousand persons, number of emigrants is above the 1 000 persons limit since 2001 (in 2006, it was 1.7 thousand persons).

International migration in terms of the change of the municipality of permanent residence is represented by the movement of Slovak citizens and part of foreigners as immigrants and emigrants (registered or checked out from permanent residence).

The total number of foreign citizens living in Slovakia is based on the residence permits registered by the Bureau of Border and Aliens' Police of the Ministry of Interior of the SR.

Increases and number of inhabitants

In 2001, for the first time in the history of the Slovak Republic, a natural decrease was reached. The tendency of natural decrease had persisted during two subsequent years. Since 2004, a natural increase has been reached again; in 2006 it

represented 603 persons; in absolute terms it was a year-to-year decrease by 352 persons. Crude rate of natural increase dropped slightly to the value of 0.1 per mille.

In 2006, net migration reached almost 3.9 thousand persons; it increased four times since 2001. In terms of sex, males represented more than 70% of the total net migration.

The total increase, which is a result of vital statistics and foreign migration, remained stable between the years 2005 and 2006, i.e. the crude rate of total increase had stayed at 0.8 per mille; in absolute numbers it was a slight increase by 99 persons.

On 31 December 2006, 2 618 284 males and 2 775 353 (51.5%) females with permanent residence lived in the Slovak Republic. There were 943 men per 1 000 women, as well as in 2005.

The number of municipalities has not changed; as of end of the year 2006, in Slovakia, there were 2 891 municipalities (LAU 2) including 4 military districts and 138 cities. There were 1 866 inhabitants per 1 municipality. In urban area lived 2 985 585 inhabitants, i.e. 55.4% of the total population, and 2 408 052 inhabitants lived in rural area, i.e. 44.6%. The Slovak Republic area was 49 034 km² and the population density 110 persons per 1 km².

Marriages and divorces

In the year 2006, there were 26 thousand new marriages concluded in Slovakia; it is 210 less than in the last year but almost 2.1 thousand more than in the year 2001 when a record was reached by the historically lowest number of marriages since the year 1920. From 2002 to 2004, the number of marriages increased probably in consequence of concluded marriages that were postponed in previous years.

However, increasing intensity of marriage rate after the year 2001 stopped in 2005, and since then, no further increase in marriages has occurred again. Crude marriage rate decreased to 4.8 per mille, representing the same value as in the year 2003. A decline in marriages since the 90s has been mainly influenced by a decline in intensity of marriage rate amongst younger generations.

The tendency of postponing marriages by women and men to higher age has continued; it has become evident by a decrease of marriages among younger ages, (namely among up-to-30-year old males and up-to-25-year old females), accompanied by an increase of marriages amongst males and females of higher age. The most marriages occurred amongst 25-29-year old fiancés. Compared to 2001, the number of marriages has most risen among 30 – 34 years old males and females; the figure has doubled since 2001.

An increase in the average marriage age provides further evidence of the tendency of concluding marriages in higher age. In 2006, the average marriage age reached 31 years for males and 28 years for females. The average age of the first marriage has been on the rise too.

The tendency of a long-term increase of divorce rate is lasting with some exceptions from the year 1954. In the year 2006, almost 12.7 marriages ended in divorce. Crude divorce rate has slightly increased, and, in 2006, it was represented by the value of 2.4 per mille. The divorce index increased too; there were 49 divorces per 100 concluded marriages.

The average divorce age has been slightly rising as a consequence of an increased average age of fiancés as well as increased average marriage duration. For males, the average divorce age reached the age limit of 40 years for the first time, for females it reached 37.4 years; it had been a year-to-year increase by 0.4 years in both sexes. In 2006, the average marriage duration reached 14.2 years, i. e. a one year rise when compared with the year 2001. The rise was caused by a divorce increase among couples with marriage of longer duration.

In the long perspective, a difference of characters, attitudes and interests is by both sexes being given as the most often cause of divorce; it has stayed about 60% of the overall recorded divorce causes. For men the next causes of divorce are adultery (10.2%) and addiction to alcohol (9.9%), for women cases where no infliction was found by court (15.3%), and other reasons (10.9%). Divorces have unfavourable consequences on the well-being of under-age children who thus lose one parent. There are two thirds divorced marriages with children of minor age. Of the total divorced marriages with minors, marriages with one minor child have been prevailing, representing almost 60%. Since 1999, the average number of children of divorced couples has stayed at the level of 1.5.



FINLAND

Anne Ruokolainen

Population

At the end of 2006, the population of Finland totalled 5 276 955. This represents an increase of 21 375 persons, i.e. 0.4%, from the year before. In the previous year, population growth was 18 969 persons.

Of the population, 17.1% were aged under 15, 66.5% were between 15 and 64 and 16.5% over 65. The proportion of children in the total population decreased by 0.2 percentage points from the previous year, whereas the proportion of elderly people rose by 0.5 percentage points. The mean-age of the population was 40.2 years. From the beginning of the 1990s the mean-age has risen by three years.

Fertility

In 2006, 58 840 births occurred, which was 1 095 more than the previous year. The total fertility rate was 1.84, which was a little higher than the year before. The fertility rate was highest for women aged 30 to 34.

During the last 30 years, the birth rate has gone neither up nor down. The total fertility rate has varied between 1.50 in 1973 and 1.85 in 1992 and 1994.

Mortality

The number of deaths totalled 48 065 in 2006, that was 137 more than the year before. As measured by the 2006 mortality rate, the life expectancy of males at birth was 75.8 years and that of females 82.8 years. Life expectancy of males and females was slightly longer than the year before. From the early-1990s, the life expectancy of males has extended by almost 4 years and that of females by about 3 years.

Infant mortality was 2.8‰ in 2006. In year 2001 infant mortality was 3.2 and the figure has varied between 3.0‰ and 3.3‰ during the past few years.

Migration

In 2006, a total of 22 451 persons immigrated to Finland and 12 107 persons emigrated from Finland. Net immigration was thus 10 344, about 1 400 more than the year before. Immigration increased over the previous year by about 1 100 persons and emigration decreased by 300 persons.

The majority of immigrants were from Sweden, 3 448 persons. Most of them were Finnish citizens. The second highest number of immigrants came from Estonia, 2 734 persons. The highest emigration occurred to Sweden, 3 071 persons, and the second most to United Kingdom, 1 190 persons.

At the end of 2006, 121 739 foreign citizens were living in Finland, which means 2.3% of the total population. The number of foreign citizens was 7 887 higher than the previous year. Finnish citizenship was granted to 4 433 foreigners in 2006, which was 1 250 less than year before.

Marriage and divorce

In 2006, the number of marriages was 28 236, which is 1 047 less than the year before. 13 255 couples divorced, which is 128 less compared to previous year.

At the end of 2006, there were 1 431 376 families in Finland. The number is 5 374 higher than the previous year. As many as 299 403 couples were cohabiting, i.e. 20.9% of families. There were 5 966 more cohabiting couples than the year before.

Demographic projections

Latest population projection by municipality up to the year 2050 and a projection for the whole country up to the year 2050 were made in spring 2007. According to the projection, the population of Finland will grow until the end of the projection period, when it will be over 5.7 million.

The large age groups born after the Second World War will reach the age of 65 from 2010 onwards. The number of pensioners and their proportion in the total population will go up sharply at that time. In 2030 the number of over 65-year-olds will be 60% more than now. Pensioners will then account for 26% of the total population, 0-14 year-olds for 16% and 15 to 64 year-olds for 58%. In 2030 the mean age of the population will be 44.1 years.

According to the projection, the annual number of births will fluctuate around the level of 60 000 until year 2050: the annual number of births will be at its highest during the late-2010s (61 000) and lowest around the early-2030s (57 500). The annual number of deaths will increase until 2045; the number will then be over 67 000, i.e. 40 % more than now. According to the projection, the annual number of deaths will exceed that of births in 2030.

The fertility rates were kept constant when calculating the projection. The total fertility rate is 1.84. Mortality is expected to go down in accordance with the trend calculated from the early 1980s to the early 2000s. The projection predicts that the life expectancy of men will be 82.0 years and that of women 87.0 years in 2030. Annual net immigration is expected to be 10 000 persons.



SWEDEN

Population

The population size was 9 113 257 at the end of 2006. Due to a high net migration and also a surplus of births over deaths the population increased by 0.7 %.

Fertility

Sweden's "roller-coaster" fertility rate has received international attention. In 1965 fertility started to decline as in most other European countries and during the period 1965 to 1980 the total fertility rate dropped from almost 2.5 to 1.7 children per woman. In the 1980s fertility rates grew rapidly and reached 2.14 in 1990 – one of the highest fertility rates in Europe at the time. The high fertility rate imposed a new situation in a country known for piloting modern demographic behaviour and low fertility levels.

The number of births of the second order and above begun to increase already in 1978. The postponement of first births continued until 1984 when the number of first births started to increase among younger women. This trend continued throughout the second half of the 1980s.

Calculations for benefits from Sweden's family insurance system are based on the earnings recorded over the months prior to birth. This provides an incentive to postpone parenthood until the level of earnings corresponds to a suitable level of benefits. Since 1980 the system also contains an element which encourages closely spaced births. If the interval between two births is 24 months or less (30 months from 1986) the benefit level for the second child is based on the earnings before the birth of the first child.

Since the early 1990s fertility was again declining rapidly. The economic recession, increased unemployment and less generous family policies were contributing factors. In 1999 the total fertility rate reached an all time low of 1.5. The fertility has increased since then and in 2006 the total fertility rate was 1.85.

Mortality

Mortality has continued to decrease. In 2006 life expectancy was 78.7 for males and 82.9 for females. Infant mortality, which reached the lowest level ever in 2005 with only 2.4 deaths per 1 000 live births was a little bit higher in 2006 with 2.8 deaths per 1 000 live births.

Migration

During 2006, 95 750 people immigrated to Sweden which was the highest level ever. Emigration reached the highest level seen in over 100 years when 44 908 people emigrated.

This led to a positive net migration of 50 842. Roughly one fourth of the immigrants were Swedish or Nordic citizens. As compared to 2005, immigration increased with around 30 500 persons. The increase in 2006 may be a result of the introduction of a temporary law, which applies from 15 November 2005 to 30 March 2006. The law gives people who have been denied residence permits and who have stayed in Sweden for a long period of time, the right to a new assessment.

Marriage and divorce

After the marriage boom in 1989 (109 000), caused by a change in the regulation of widow's pensions, the number of marriages is again approximating the pre-1989 yearly average of 40 000. After 1989 the number of marriages declined and reached 31 600 in 1998. In 2006 the number of marriages rose to 45 551. The number of divorces was 20 295.

Approximately 280 men and 380 women registered a partnership in 2006.

Demographic projections

In the population projection of 2007 fertility is assumed to 1.85 children per woman and then remains at that level. The decrease in mortality is assumed to continue, resulting in an increase of life expectancy from 78.7 years in 2006 to 81.5 by 2025 for men and from 82.9 years to 84.8 for women. Immigration reached nearly 96 000 persons during 2006 and is assumed to continue to be high and reach 71 423 during 2025. Emigration reached 45 000 persons during 2006 and is assumed to be 47 000 during 2025. Projections are updated yearly with a major revision every third year (latest major revision 2006).

The projections show a slow population increase. The ageing of the population will continue and the dependency rate will increase from 0.70 in 2006 to 0.82 to the year 2025.

Year	Number of persons (in thousands) by age						Dependency rate
	Total	0-19	20-39	40-64	65-79	80+	(0-19+65-)/20-64)
1975	8 208	2 231	2 323	2 403	1 026	225	0.74
1984	8 343	2 113	2 388	2 416	1 121	304	0.74
1990	8 591	2 111	2 379	2 574	1 157	370	0.73
1995	8 837	2 172	2 418	2 704	1 129	415	0.73
2000	8 883	2 139	2 369	2 844	1 078	453	0.70
2006	9 113	2 169	2 323	3 040	1 091	490	0.70
2010	9 303	2 141	2 376	3 051	1 238	494	0.71
2015	9 507	2 109	2 426	3 041	1 438	494	0.74
2020	9 729	2 212	2 410	3 041	1 534	532	0.78
2025	9 936	2 281	2 429	3 043	1 528	656	0.82



CROATIA

Ivana Buršić and Grozdana Bubnjar

Population

According to 2006 mid-year estimate Croatia had about 4 440 000 inhabitants (48.2 % men and 51.8 % women).

The average age of population is constantly increasing and in 2006 it reached 40.3, i.e. 38.8 for men and 42.2 for women.

Demographic ageing of population continues. In 2006 the share of the population aged 0-14 was 15.7 % and those aged 65 and more was 17.0%. The share of working age population (15-64 years) was 67.3%.

The ageing index was 79.4 for men and 122.6 for women. Life expectancy at birth was 72.5 years for men and 79.3 years for women.

The population density is 78.5 inhabitants per square kilometre.

Fertility

In 2006 there were 41 446 live births which is 2.5% less than in previous year. The crude birth rate was 9.3 and the total fertility rate was 1.38, well below replacement level.

The vital index (live births per 100 deaths) in 2006 was 82.3.

In 2006 the average age of a woman at childbirth was 28.6 years and at the first childbirth 26.7 years, which is an increase by 4 years comparing to 1976.

First birth order amounts 47.1 %, second order 34.1 %, third order 12.9 % and the fourth and higher birth orders 5.9 % of the total number of live births.

The children in Croatia are mainly born inside marriage (89.0 % in 2006).

The number of legally induced abortions has been decreasing and in 2006 amounted 11.4 per 100 live births.

In 2006 the proportion of infants born with a low weight (less than 2 500 grams) was 4.7%.

Mortality

In 2006 there were 50 378 deaths which is 2.7% less than in previous year. The crude death rate was 11.3. The average age of death was 69.5 for men and 77.0 for women.

The infant mortality rate was 5.2 which is the lowest figure ever. Analyses of infant mortality during a longer period show a significant fall.

The most common causes of death in 2006 were diseases of the circulatory system (44.3 % of men and 57.4 % of women) and neoplasms (29.3 % of men and 21.1 % of women).

Migration

In 2006, there were 14 978 persons that immigrated to the Republic of Croatia, and 7 692 persons emigrated to foreign countries. Out of the total number of migrants, there were 93.1% Croatian citizens and 6.9% foreigners that immigrated into the Republic of Croatia, while 90.6% Croatian citizens and 4.3% foreigners emigrated abroad.

The Republic of Croatia had the positive net migration with foreign countries as well as in the previous years and in 2006 the net migration amounted to 7 286 persons. However, this figure cannot be considered fully reliable because of incomplete registration of emigrants.

The most intensive migration flows in 2006 were with neighbouring countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro. Out of the total number of immigrants, there were 72.3% persons who arrived from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro. Out of the total number of emigrants from the Republic of Croatia, 54.7% persons departed to those two countries. Migrations with the EU countries are followed (out of the total number of immigrants and emigrants, there were 17.9% persons who arrived from, and 28.3% persons who departed to the EU countries).

Marriage and divorce

There were 22 092 marriages in 2006. The marriage rate per 1000 inhabitants was 5.0. The average age at first marriage is constantly increasing. In 2006 it was 26.5 years for women and 29.5 years for men. The total first marriage rate was 0.65 for men and 0.67 for women. The proportion of remarriages in total number of marriages was 9.3 % for men and 8.7 % for women. The proportion of religious marriages was 64.1 % in 2006.

The number of divorces was 4 651 in 2006, which is 211 per 1000 marriages. The total divorce rate was 0.18. The average duration of a marriage ending in divorce was about 14 years. The number of divorces without dependent children was 44%, with one dependent child 31% and with two or more dependent children 25%.



"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"

Danica Mitkovska

Population

The last Census of the Population, households and dwellings was carried out on 31 October 2002. According to the census data, the total population was 2 022 547 persons (1 015 377 male and 1 007 170 female). At the end of 2006 the population totalled 2 041 941 persons which is an increase of 0.17 %.

The age structure at the end of 2006 showed that 18.92 % of the total population is aged under 15; 69.84 % aged 15-64; 11.21 % aged over 65 and 0.04 % of unknown age. The average age is 36.2 years and the life expectancy is 73.76 years for men and women.

Since 2004, the State Statistical Office presents data in accordance with the methodological changes in the presentation of vital statistical data. This data for the period 1994 to 2006 is presented in the following table:

Year	Live births	Deaths	Natural increase	Marriages	Divorces
1994	31 421	15 649	15 772	15 736	612
1995	29 886	16 169	13 717	15 823	710
1996	28 946	15 882	13 064	14 089	705
1997	26 830	16 373	10 457	14 072	1 021
1998	26 639	16 628	10 011	13 993	1 027
1999	24 964	16 622	8 342	14 172	1 045
2000	26 168	17 085	9 083	14 255	1 325
2001	24 183	16 790	7 393	13 267	1 448
2002	24 154	17 866	6 288	14 522	1 310
2003	23 596	17 813	5 783	14 402	1 405
2004	23 361	17 944	5 417	14 073	1 645
2005	22 482	18 406	4 076	14 500	1 552
2006	22 585	18 630	39 55	14 908	1 475

Fertility

In 2006 the number of live births was 22 585 which is 103 (0.5 %) more than in 2005.

The total number of births outside marriage continued to rise. In 2006 it was 12.5 % of the total live birth compared with 12.4 % in 2005.

The structure of live births by age of the mother shows that 36.0 % of live births were born to mothers aged 25-29. The percentage of live births born to mothers aged 20-24 was 28.5 % while the percentage of those born to mothers aged 15-19 years 7.0 %.

The mean age of women at childbirth continued to rise and reached 27.2 years in 2006 while the mean age at first birth was 25.3 years.

The TFR in 2006 was 1.46 and was calculated based on live births in the country.

Mortality

The number of deaths in 2006 was 18 630 which is 224 (1.2%) more than in 2005. In 2006, 260 children died before they reached their first birthday. The infant mortality rate was 11.5 ‰.

The main causes of death in 2006 were circulatory diseases (58.7 %), neoplasms (18.4 %) and undefined symptoms, signs and conditions (6.1 %).

Migration

Net migration in 2006 was as positive (466 persons) as in previous years. However, this figure cannot be considered fully reliable because of incomplete registration of emigrants. The highest net migration in 2006 was from immigrants of Serbia and Montenegro (523), followed by Albania (277), while the lowest net migration of immigrants was registered among citizens of the Italy (-249).

The majority of immigrants (88.25%) came from European countries: 33.22 % from Serbia and Montenegro, 17.59 % from Albania, etc.

The total number of emigrants has changed considerably during the years. The total number of emigrants in 2006 was 1108. The majority of emigrants also went to European countries.

The data for asylum seekers and refugees are not included.

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages in 2006 was 14 908 which is 408 (2.8 %) more than in 2005.

The number of divorces was 1 475 which is 77 (5.0 %) less than in 2005. There were 98.9 divorces per 1000 marriages which is 8.1 less than in 2005.

In 2006 age at first marriage continued to rise; the mean age at which women contracted their first marriage was 24.5 years and men 27.6.



TURKEY

Population

According to the last population census, the population of Turkey was 67.8 million in 2000 with an annual growth rate of 1.83 % for the period 1990-2000. The population reached a maximum growth rate of 2.8 % per year during the 1950s with a rapid decline appearing after 1970. The population growth rate will decrease slightly in the future according to population projections. The Turkish population was around 73 million in mid-2006, based on the national population projections. The male population and female population were estimated at respectively 36.8 million and 36.2 million in mid-2006. Growth rate was 1.24 % in 2006.

The age structure of the population is rather young. In 2006, the proportion of children (0-14) was 28.1 % and 6.0 % of the population was 65 years or older.

Fertility

Fertility decreased significantly from around 5.6 children to 2.65 children during the period 1970-1990. The level of total fertility was 2.53 children in 2000 according to the 2000 Population Census. Since then the figure has slightly declined even more, with 2006 estimates indicating a total fertility rate of 2.18. The number of live births was estimated at 1 362 000 and the mean age of childbearing is 27.1 in 2006.

Mortality

The infant mortality rate has steadily declined. Infant mortality rate in 2000 was about 43 deaths per thousand births; it decreased to 22.6 deaths per thousand births in 2006 based on population projections. The rate of improvement was especially rapid during the 2000s, which is generally credited to lower fertility, improved living conditions and health services, education and better understanding among mothers and special immunisation campaigns. These improvements in infant and early childhood survival have made a large contribution to raising the general expectations of life at birth, which stood at 74 years for women and 69.1 years for men in 2006.

Migration

Stocks of foreign population

The main data sources for measuring stocks of foreign population are censuses and residence permit registration. The censuses were held every five years up to 1990 and decennial since then. Both 1990 and 2000 Censuses included questions on citizenship, country of birth, place of permanent residence five years ago and place of permanent residence. The number of foreign nationals was 138 106 with a percentage of 0.20 of the total population and the number of foreign born was 1 260 530 with a percentage of 1.86 of the total population based on the result of the 2000 Population Census.

Marriage and divorce

In the last five years, the number of marriages increased from 510 155 in 2002 to 636 121 in 2006, and the crude marriage rate has increased from 7.36 ‰ in 2002 to 8.72 ‰ in 2006 as well.

In the last five years, the number of divorces decreased from 95 323 in 2002 to 93 489 in 2006 and the crude divorce rate has decreased from 1.38 ‰ in 2002 to 1.28 ‰ in 2006 as well.

Demographic projections

The latest available population projections are based on the 2000 Population Census and 2003 Demographic and Health Survey in 2005. The total population projection is broken down into sex and single years of age (up to 75+), and the horizon is the year 2050. The total fertility rate is expected to decrease from 2.18 in 2006 to 1.79 in the year 2050 and then remain constant. As far as mortality is concerned, a future decline is foreseen, generating a life expectancy at birth for men and women of 69.1 and 74.0 years respectively in 2006 and then 74.3 and 80.4 years respectively in 2050. The net migration is assumed to be zero in the period of 2000-2050. According to these assumptions, the population of Turkey will continue to

grow from 73 million in 2006 to 97 million in 2050. The proportion of elderly will grow too. The projections show that the proportion of people at age 65 and over will increase from 6.0 % in 2006 to 17.7 % in 2050 and the proportion of children (under 15) will decrease from 28.1 % to 17.6 %. The active population (15-64 years of age) will decrease from 66 % in 2006 to 64.7 % in 2050.



LIECHTENSTEIN

Christian Brunhart

Population

The permanent resident population at the end of 2006 was 35 168, the highest population total ever recorded in Liechtenstein. This represents an increase of 263 persons or 0.8%; compared to an increase of 305 persons or 0.9% in the previous year. The number of foreigners living in Liechtenstein on 31 December 2006 was 11 907 persons or 33.9% of the population. This was a decrease of 10 persons compared to the previous year. The proportion of foreigners from German speaking countries was 57.4% of all foreign residents: 30.3% of the foreigners living in Liechtenstein are Swiss, 17.1% Austrian, and 10.0% German nationals. Residents from Italy contributed 10.0%, followed by Turkey with 7.4% and Portugal with 4.8%. Altogether there were 92 different nationalities living in Liechtenstein.

The proportion of children and adolescents (under 20 years) has decreased from 25.5% in 1995 to 23.2% in 2006. On December 31, 2006 the number of people under 20 years was 8 169 compared to 7 889 in 1995. The working-age population (ages 20 - 64) increased from 19 846 persons or 64.2% of the permanent resident population in 1995 to 22 798 or 64.8% in 2006. The number of retired people (age 65 and older) was 4201 or 11.9% of the permanent resident population. In 1995 the number of retired persons was 3 188 or 10.3%.

Naturalisation

In 2006, 169 foreigners obtained the Liechtenstein citizenship compared to 159 in 2005, 174 in 2004 and 182 in 2003. The highest number of naturalisations ever recorded was in 1997 with 1129 due to the revision of the respective legal act. The total for the ten years period is 2 881 persons or 24.2% of the actual foreign population. Most of the new citizens had either a Liechtenstein mother or had been living in Liechtenstein for many years. Many of the new citizens were born in Liechtenstein.

Fertility

The number of births in 2006 was 361, compared to 381 in 2005 and 372 in 2004. Since 1999 the number of births has decreased continuously from 430 to 361 with the exception of 2004 and 2005 when an increase of 9.3% was registered. The total fertility rate was 1.45 in 2006 and 1.51 births per woman in 2005. In 2006, 53.7% (48.3%) of the mothers had the Liechtenstein citizenship.

The number of births outside marriage was 16.3% in 2006 and 18.9% in the previous year.

Mortality

The total number of deaths was 220 in 2006 and 215 in the previous year. 51% of those who died in 2006 were 80 years or older. About 66% of the persons who died in this age group were women.

Marriage and divorce

In 2006 (2005) 151 (187) permanent resident men and 139 (162) women married. This results in 226 (258) marriages with at least one partner living in Liechtenstein. The average age of the men for the first marriage in 2006 was 31.7 (32.6) and for women 29.8 (30.4) years.

In 2006 (2005) 81 (94) permanent resident men and 85 (87) women divorced. The number of divorces with at least one partner living in Liechtenstein was 92 in 2006 and 98 in 2005. The average age at divorce was 44.8 (44.0) for men and 40.8 (41.9) for women (2006: preliminary data).

Government decisions and developments in legislation

There were no major government decisions in legislation which have an impact on demographic components.

SWITZERLAND

Population

At the end of 2006 the population of Switzerland comprised 7 508 700 permanent residents, including 1 554 500 foreigners. This increase of 49 600 persons (allowing for statistical discrepancies) represents a demographic growth rate of 0.7%, i.e. one tenth of a percentage point more than in 2005. One reason for the increase in the total permanent resident population was that births outnumbered deaths by 13 100, while there was also a migration surplus of 39 400. Immigration thus constitutes the main factor in demographic growth in Switzerland.

The population continued to age in spite of the slight demographic growth in recent years. Between 1990 and 2006 the proportion of people aged 65 or over went up from 14.6% to 16.2%¹. Over the same period the proportion of people aged under 20 fell slightly from 23.4% to 21.7%, as did the proportion of those aged between 20 and 39 (from 31.2% to 27%).

The ratio of people aged 65 or over to those aged between 20 and 64 continues to rise (1970 : 20%, 1990 : 23.5%, 2006 : 26.1%), whereas the ratio of young people aged under 20 to those aged between 20 and 64 has stabilised since 1990 at between 35% and 38% after a period of steady decline (1970 : 53.9%). Longer life expectancy and lower fertility are the main factors contributing to the ageing of the population, which will become even more pronounced in the next few years when large numbers of the baby boom generations born in the 1960s move into the older age groups.

Fertility

In 2006 there were 73 400 live births, 500 more than in 2005. This is the highest number of births in the last six years. However, it is too soon to talk about a real upward trend in the birth rate. In fact, since 2001 the number of births has been relatively stable at between 71 800 and 73 400.

The total fertility rate, which indicates the average number of children per woman aged between 15 and 49 resident in Switzerland, followed a similar pattern to the birth rate in the 1990s. Whereas in 1990 a woman had 1.59 children on average, this figure stood at 1.48 per woman in 1999. With the sharp rise in births in 2000, the total fertility rate also increased slightly to 1.5 children per woman, before falling back to 1.44 in 2006.

If women are considered according to their nationality, we can see fairly significant differences in fertility. In 2006 a Swiss woman had on average 1.30 children, whereas the average figure for a foreign woman was 1.86. In 1990 these figures had been 1.55 for Swiss women and 1.67 for foreign women. The fertility rate of Swiss women thus declined sharply during the 1990s, while that of foreign women increased as a result of the arrival of people who were nationals of non-EU countries.

Mortality

In 2006 there were 60 300 deaths: 29 200 men and 31 100 women. This figure shows a slight fall in the number of deaths in Switzerland, as 61 100 had been recorded in 2005.

In 1990, the average life expectancy was estimated at 80.8 years for women and 74 years for men. In 2006, these figures were 84 years and 79.1 years respectively. Although the increase is more or less identical for both sexes, the life expectancy gap between men and women is narrowing a bit more every year. In 1990 women lived on average 6.7 years longer than men, whereas in 2006 the gap was down to only 4.9 years.

The number of children who died in the first year of life was higher in 2006, with 291 cases as against 283 in 2005. However, the infant mortality rate has remained stable at a very low level for several years. In 2006 four children out of every 1 000 live births died before their first birthday.

¹ The percentage figures relating to the different age groups in the population were calculated in relation to the total number of permanent residents at the end of the year in question.



Migration

International migration of Swiss nationals

Compared with 2005, there were not only more Swiss citizens who returned to the country (20 400) but also more who emigrated (30 500). The migration surplus thus increased from 8 500 to 10 100, a rise of 18.8%. Men and women account for roughly equal proportions of these migration flows (52.6% male and 47.4% female). In addition, more than half of the Swiss citizens leaving or returning to the country are aged between 20 and 39.

International migration of foreigners

The immigration of foreign nationals is governed by the legislation on aliens and the right of asylum. It is also limited by Federal Council policy aimed at stabilising the number of foreigners in Switzerland and facilitating their integration. Since the agreement between Switzerland and the European Union on the free movement of persons entered into force on 1 June 2002, Switzerland has made a distinction between authorisations for EU-25/EFTA citizens and other nationalities. The annual variations in the number of immigrants and emigrants are to a large extent influenced by the situation on the labour market.

Since 1979, the number of those entering Switzerland with residence permits or establishment permits (which confer more extensive residence rights) or as officials of international organisations has exceeded the number of those leaving. The migration balance of the foreign population was higher in 2006, standing at 49 400 compared with 44 700 in the previous year.

Apart from the movements of foreigners among the permanent resident population, account must be taken of the movements of those with short-term residence permits, asylum seekers and cross-border workers. In 2006 the number of persons granted a short-term residence permit (less than 12 months) continued to rise, reaching 74 500 (compared with 65 200 in 2005 and 59 400 in 2004).

The number of asylum seekers (applications being considered, provisional admissions and expulsions blocked for technical reasons), which had increased in 1999 (107 000), fell sharply in 2006 compared with the previous two years. There were 59 400 applications in 2004, 48 200 in 2005 but only 44 900 in 2006. Migration flows of cross-border workers increased from 201 700 in 2005 to 219 200 in 2006, a rise of 8.6%.

Marriage and divorce

The number of marriages² fell slightly from 40 100 in 2005 to 39 800 in 2006. The increase in the number of divorces has given rise to an increase in the proportion of remarriages, i.e. unions where at least one of the two partners was divorced or widowed. Out of 39 800 unions, 26 200 were marriages between persons marrying for the first time and 13 700 were remarriages (34.3%).

The total first-marriage indicator, which shows marriage rates, has fallen slightly over the last year. It can be stated that, in 2006, 63% of unmarried women under the age of 50 could be expected to marry one day, provided that the rate recorded in 2006 remains unchanged in the coming years. In the case of unmarried men under the age of 50, the figure for 2006 was 58%.

The average age at marriage rose significantly during the 1990s. In 1990, a single woman married at the age of 26.7 years, compared with 28.7 years in 2006. In the case of men, the figure went up from 29.1 years in 1990 to 31.0 years in 2006. This shows that on average men and women are getting married for the first time two years later than they did ten years ago.

The number of divorces fell by 1.6% from 21 300 in 2005 to 21 000 in 2006. This is the first fall in the number of divorces recorded since the new law on divorce was introduced in 2000. In absolute terms, there was an increase of 32.7% in the number of divorces by mutual consent with partial settlement and an increase in the number of divorces in which only one party initiated proceedings (1 435 cases in 2006 compared with 1 316 in 2005). On the other hand, there was a fall of 3.6% in the number of divorces by mutual consent with comprehensive settlement, from 19 100 in 2005 to 18 400 in 2006. Despite this slight fall, the latter accounted for almost 90% of all divorces granted in 2006.

² Since 1 January 2001 the figures all marriages in which at least one of the partners (male or female) was permanently domiciled in Switzerland before the marriage.

ARMENIA

Karine Kuyumjyan

Population

The base for the administrative territorial division is the RA law “On the Administrative territorial division of the Republic of Armenia” adopted on 4 December 1995 (including the changes and additions made 14.12.2004 and 13.06.2006), according to which the territory of Armenia is divided into 11 Marzes (provinces) – (including Yerevan city with marz status), 48 urban and 866 rural communities.

The de jure population as of 1st January 2007 comprises 3 222 953 person of which 1 557 399 were male and 1 665 554 - female. This calculation is based on the last 2001 Population Census data updated by the registered natural and migratory movements for the further appropriate period.

64.1% of the population lives in urban areas and 35.9% in rural areas. 21.7% of the population is at the age 0-15 years; 65.8% is of working age (16-62 years for males and 16-58 years for females) and 12.5% is of retired age.

Natural growth of population in 2006 comprises 10 437 persons and the crude rate of natural growth was 3.2‰, which had decreased by 0.3 per mille points in comparison with the previous year, mainly as a result of an increasing death rate. In 2006 the figure of natural growth exceeded the negative net migration and as of the 1st January, 2007 an increase of the total population by 3.7 thousand persons was recorded compared with the same period of the previous year.

Fertility

In 2006 there were 37 639 live births and 662 stillbirths. This is an increase of 0.4% in live births and an increase of 1.8 times of stillbirths compared with the previous year. In 2006 the crude birth rate was 11.7‰ (Since October 16, 2005 the definitions of WHO «On Live births, Stillbirth and Perinatal Period» had put in force in accordance with 10th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases of World Health Organization (RA Government decision N 949, June 16, 2005)).

The total fertility rate for 2006 was 1.348 per women, which does not represent even the replacement level.

In 2006 the mean age of mother giving birth was 24.4 years; for the first child it was 22.9 years.

There is a decrease in the share of births of a third and more within the total births structure – 12.7% compared with 14.0% in 2005 and 30.3% in 1990. The share of first births in 2006 was 52.1% of total births.

Mortality

In 2006 there were 27 202 deaths, including 523 infants under 1 year. The crude death rate was 8.5 per 1000, 9.1‰ for males and 7.9‰ for females. The absolute number of deaths increased by 3.1%, infant deaths increased by 13.7% in comparison with the previous year. Infant mortality rate was 13.9‰ per 1000 live births.

In 2006 the share of deaths resulting from diseases of the blood circulatory system (49.9%) and malignant neoplasm (19.0%) prevailed. The share of deaths resulting from diseases of endocrine system, digestive disturbance, disturbance of metabolism and immunity had also increased.

In 2006, 58.3% of the infant deaths were caused from conditions originating in the perinatal period (the first week of life), 21.6% from congenital anomalies and 7.6% from diseases of the respiratory system, of which more than half were diseases of the upper respiratory tract.

In 2006, deaths of children under 5 years was 15.8‰ per 1000 live births and within the death of 0-4 year mortality of infants under 1 year prevailed (87.9%).

In 2006 there were 10 cases of maternal deaths which represents maternal mortality rate - 26.6 per 100 000 live births.

In 2006 life expectancy at birth was 73.3 years: 70.0 for males, 76.4 for females.



Migration

In 2006, according to the administrative records of the passport services of the RA police office (the official source for estimation of migration), there were 1 335 (registered) arrivals to Armenia and 8 053 (registered) departures from Armenia. The negative net migration comprised -6 718 persons.

In 2006, amongst the total volume of passenger flows through border posts (air, railway and road) the number of arrivals exceeded the number of departures by 21700 cases, compared with 12500 in 2005 and 2 100 in 2004, that is during the last three years the balance of passenger turnover was positive.

Marriage and divorce

In 2006, 16 887 marriages were registered which represents an increase of 1.6% compared with the previous year. The crude rate of marriage was 5.2‰ (the same as it was in 2005) There were 2 797 registered divorces which represents an increase of 13.4% on the previous year. The crude rate of divorce comprised 0.9‰.

MOLDOVA

(data are presented without the rayons of the left side of river Nistru and municipality Bender)

Nina Cesnocova

Population

The 90's became a turning point in the history of demographic development of the country: the population decrease started. The changes in the population dynamics are the direct result of trends registered at the level of demographic phenomena (birth rate, mortality and migration).

The negative values of natural growth, connected with the values of external migration balance, influenced the decrease of country population, during 1997-2006 with 76.8 thousand persons, accordingly, the number of the urban population decreased with 46.1, while rural - with 30.7 thousand persons.

The resident population of the Republic of Moldova constituted 3581.1 thousand inhabitants of which 1718.9 thousand men (48%) and 1862.2 thousand women (52%) as of January 1st 2007. Of them, 41.3% (1478.0 thousand) lived in urban localities and 58.7% (2103.1 thousand) in the rural ones. Approximately half of urban population is concentrated in municipality Chisinau.

The population age structure is influenced by the characteristics of a process of demographic ageing, due to decrease of birth rate, which determined the absolute and relative reduction of young population (0-14 years).

The reduction of share of young population (0-14 years) from 25.6% to 18.1% (-283.4 thousand persons) and the increase of share of the old population (65 years and over), from 9.3% to 10.2% (+29.5 thousand persons) was recorded in 2007 in comparison with January 1st 1997.

Adult population (15-64 years) represents 71.6% of the total, which constitutes an increase with 184.4 thousand persons in comparison with the beginning of 1997. The share of age groups of 15-34 and 45-59 years increased and the share of age groups of 35-44 and 60-64 years decreased in the frame of adult population.

The masculinity share constituted 929 persons of men per 1000 persons of women. While for the age group of 65-74 years, this share constituted 667 men per 1000 women, in the age group of 75 years and over, the female population was approximately twice higher than the male one (515 men per 1000 women).

Approximately 12% of the rural population exceeded the age of 65 years and over, the share of old women constitutes 14% in the total of rural female population. The structure of population by ages and resident areas confirms the fact that the process of demographic ageing is more obvious in the rural area. The share of old population in the rural area is higher 1.4 times than in the urban area.

Population policy

One of the priorities of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the Republic of Moldova concerns population: programs for population and development, demographic policies and strategies, family friendly social policies.

In this context, on 30 January 2007, the Action Plan for the implementation of the Program of Assistance and Cooperation between UNFPA and the Government of the Republic of Moldova for 2007-2011 was signed.

Simultaneously, the Annual Work Plans for 2007 were approved and signed by both implementing partners on 1st January this year. The National Commission for Population and Development was created and approved by the Government Decision nr. 129 from 7 February 2007.

Expected results:

The poor favourable policies that treat population and development problems are formulated, implemented and monitored in a transparent and participative way.



Institutional capacity developed to set a data collection and analysis system of disaggregated demographic data on population and to produce national policies, as well, to monitor their implementation and impact.

Fertility

In 2006, 37.6 thousand children were born, which is 8.0 thousand less than in 1997, the birth rate decreased from 12.5 to 10.5 live births per 1000 inhabitants. Birth rate is higher in rural areas than in urban ones.

From the view point of legal situation, the share of live-born children out of marriage still remains high (17.3% in 1997 and 23.3% in 2006). The frequency of births out of marriage was higher in rural area (24.4%) in comparison with urban area (21.2%). The highest share of children born out of marriage was from mothers up to 25 years (58.5%).

The distribution of live-born children by the age group of the mother outlines their concentration up to 30 years. In the same time, it is to be mentioned the maintenance of the decreasing trend of share of births for women under 20 years – 13.0% of the total number of live-births, in comparison with 15.2% in 2002 (17.4% - in 1998). The mother's average age at birth constituted 22.5 years. Mothers in rural areas deliver at an earlier age than the mothers in urban areas, 21.8 and 23.8 years accordingly.

The emphasize of concentration of births in young ages, under 30 years, analysed in correlation with the structure of births by ranking, leads to the conclusion that the decrease of number of births was conditioned insignificantly by the increase of couples which do not want to have a child or postpone the delivery of the first child, and mostly by avoiding or postponing the birth of children of the 2nd rank or higher. The significance of this trend is relevant from the viewpoint of learning the model of demographic behaviour and the young couples' attitude towards the desired number of children.

As in previous years, in 2006, the live-births of I and II rank have the highest share (85.9% of the total live-births). The share of live-birth of III rank and over decreased (from 18.4% in 1997 to 14.1% in 2006).

In 2006, the fertility rate decreased with 37.1‰ live-births per 1000 fertile women (15-49 years), in comparison with 46.7‰ in 1997. The fertility of women in rural areas was 1.4 times higher that in urban areas, this discrepancy is decreasing in comparison with the previous years (1.7 times in 1997). For the majority of age groups, the fertility of women from rural areas is maintained higher than the one for women in urban areas, with the exception for the age group 25-29 years.

During the last years, total fertility rate continues to decrease, and in 2006 it constituted 1.2 versus 2.2, necessary for the simple replacement of parents' generation by their children. This indicator constituted 1.0 in the urban areas and 1.4 in the rural one.

Mortality

Starting with the second half of the '90, the mortality has constantly a high level, and it was never lower than 11‰. In 2006, the general mortality reached 12.0 deceased per 1000 inhabitants.

Main indicators of mortality, 2006

Number of deceased (thousand)	43.1
Rate of general mortality (‰)	
- Total	12.0
- Men	13.1
- Women	11.1
- Urban	9.3
- Rural	14.0

The phenomenon of „male over mortality” continued to be registered both in urban and rural areas, however, with higher values for the urban area (116.1% in comparison with 105.8%).

In 2006, the male over mortality recorded higher intensity for the age groups of 20-44 years, and was 2.8 times higher than for females.

In 2006, the mortality structure by causes of death reveals that most deaths (55.8%) are caused by diseases of the blood circulation system, followed by tumours (12.8%), diseases of digestive system (10.2%), accidents, intoxications and injuries (8.7%), and diseases of respiratory system (6.1%).

The male mortality, specified by causes of death, differs of the female one. “The male over mortality” was 3.2 times higher in case of accidents, intoxications and injuries, 1.9 times – diseases of respiratory system and 1.3 times – in case of tumours. “The female over mortality” was registered only in the case of diseases of blood circulation system (1.2 times).

Structure of mortality of population of working age outlines the high level of premature men mortality due to many reasons, and the most pronounced is due to accidents, intoxications and injuries, which occupy the second place in this age category.

Approximately four thousand persons die annually due to external causes, and the majority are men of working age.

In 2006, the infant mortality registered a decrease (11.8 deceased under one year, per 1000 live-born in comparison with 19.8 in 1997). Although the decrease trend continues in the last years, the infant mortality still has a high level in comparison with the rates registered in the EU countries. Beyond this, it is to be mentioned that, the criteria of determining the live born and still born does not correspond to the WHO recommendations. In our country, the indicator of infant mortality is diminished due to incomplete recording of live born and still born.

The main classes of death causes for children remain the states that occur in the postnatal period, which constitutes a third of the total of children deceased under one year, the congenital malformations, chromosomal deformations and anomalies – 30.3%, diseases of respiratory system – 18.3%, accidents, intoxications and injuries – 7.7%.

The evolution of average life duration was conditioned by a set of factors, the most important being the life style, health condition, nutrition, level of hygienic education, and the social-economic conditions as well. The supported programmes to inform the population on a healthy life style, accessible and redundant information on ensuring a rational nutrition determined the positive evolution of average life duration. In 2006, life expectancy at birth constituted 68.4 years, an increase with 1.2 years in comparison with 1997. Life expectancy at birth is higher for women than for men with 7.7 years. This discrepancy is caused by men premature mortality. Average life duration of inhabitants of urban area is higher than of inhabitants from rural area, with 3.2 for men and 3.0 for women accordingly.

Migration

The deep transformations of the legislative system, and accordingly the free circulation of persons, constituted the premises of emphasising the increase of international migration level. The Republic of Moldova, with a negative balance, continues to be emigrants' supplier.

The majority of legal emigrants (with the change of residence place) had a high level of education and qualification, thus, demonstrating the selective character of immigration policies in the countries of destination.

The emigration constituted an important survival instrument for households through the money transfers. In the same time, this phenomenon influences the demographic situation. A painful consequence of emigration is the definitive disintegration of families by official or unofficial divorce, when one of the spouses emigrated for a longer period.

Marriages and divorces

During the last 5 years, an increase of marriages and divorces, was also recorded. The exception constitutes the last year: number of divorces decreased with 13.3%.

In total, 27.1 thousand marriages and 12.6 thousand divorces were recorded in 2006. In average 464 divorces are recorded per 1000 marriages.

In 2006, of the total divorces, approximately 29% occurred after a marriage under 5 years, followed by marriages ending after 5-9 years (20%), and 10-14 years (18%).

In 2006, the average duration of a marriage ending by divorce constituted 11 years.



Marriages ending in case of couples with minor children represented 28.8% of the total divorces. Approximately 6 thousand minor children remain annually without one of the parents as a result of divorces. The most frequent divorces occur in young families, where the spouses' age constitutes 25-34 years.

UKRAINE

Population

As of January 1, 2007, the total population was 46 646 046. During 2006 population decreased by 283 479 (6.1‰). The reason for this decrease was only a natural decrease – 297 724 (6.1‰). Positive migration balance, gave increase in 14 245 persons (0.3‰).

Demographic ageing of the country continues – over the last five years the mean age of the population increased from 38,9 (Population Census data as of December 5, 2001) to 39,8 as of January 1, 2007. Over the past five years the number of the population in age group 0-14 decreased from 16,5 % to 14,2% at same time as the age group 65+ share increased from 14,4% to 16,4%.

Majority in the share of the population belongs to women, and their share continuously grows,- if, as of December 5, 2001 (Population Census data) there were 861 men per 1000 women, then now, as of January 1, 2007, the number of men decreased to 856.

Fertility

Over the last century, the 90's, the number of births decreased and reached the lowest level in 2001 (-7.7‰). However, from 2002 tendencies changes to increase the number of births. The number of live-births in 2006 – 460 368 (9.8‰). Total birth rate has increased from 1.1 (2001) to 1.3 (2006) children.

Also observed the increasing of mean age of mother at childbirth - from 24,6 (2001) to 25,6 (2006). Mainly birth rate increased by older age group of mothers at childbirth. In age group under 20 special birth coefficient, as compared with 2001, increased from 29.3 to 29.5 children per 1000 women, age group 20-24 - from 90.7 to 92.2, at the same time for age group 25-29 coefficient increased from 58.7 to 79.4, 30-34 – from 27.6 to 42.7, 35-39 - from 9.8 to 15.5. Number of births out of wedlock also increased - from 18.0% (2001) to 21,1% (2006).

Mortality

In 2006 the number of deaths was 758 092 (16.2‰). During 2001-2005 period mortality increased from 15,3‰ to 16,6‰, and decreased in 2006 to 16,2‰. At the same time infant deaths (deaths under 1 year of age) rate during 2001-2006 continuously decreased from 11.3 to 9.8 per 1000 live-births.

Average life expectancy at birth slightly decreased, - from 68.3 years at 2001-2002 (62.7 – men, 74.1 – women) to 68.1 years at 2005-2006 (62.4 – men, 74.1 – women) thus the gender gap increased from 11.4 to 11.7 years.

Migration

In 2006, 44 227 people arrived in Ukraine and 29 982 left it for other countries for permanent stay. As a result, the population increased by 14 245 persons.

However, over recent years – 1994-2004 the migration balance was negative, and only in 2005 it was changed to positive and continued to grow as such – from 0.1‰ in 2005 to 0.3‰ in 2006.

Concerning the migrants in 2006, there were a citizens of: Ukraine- 46.8%, Russia – 21.9%, PR of China – 5.8%, Moldova – 2.5%, Armenia – 2.1%, Uzbekistan – 2.0%, Turkey – 2.0%.

Immigrants are mostly citizens of: Ukraine – 90.9%, Russia – 3.6% and PR of China – 0.9%.

45.8 % arrived from Russia, 9.4% from Moldova, 8.1% from Uzbekistan, 3.1% from Israel, 3.0% from Armenia.

The main emigration countries: Russia -60.8%, USA – 8.4%, Belarus – 6.5%, Germany - 5.6% and Israel – 4.8%.



Marriage and divorce

In 2006 there were 354 959 registered marriages. The crude marriage rate continues to grow from 6.4‰ in 2001 to 7.6‰ in 2006.

The mean age of men and women at first marriage continued to increase. The mean age of women and men at first marriage was 22.8 and 25.4 years respectively; in 2001 they were 22.2 and 25.0 respectively.

In 2006 there were 1 792 123 registered divorces or 3.8 per 1000 population. Average duration of wedlock before divorce in 2006 was 11.8 years.

Amongst divorced parties in 2006 41.4% do not have children in wedlock (in 2001- 41.8%).

Number of children in divorced families decreased from 132 424 in 2001 to 128 559 in 2006.

Demographic projections

According to the recent most reliable (mean-mean-man) projection developed by Demography and Social Researches Institute of National Academy of Science of Ukraine the number of population as of mid 2050 should be 36158.4 thousands persons. Number of population in age 60+ by the end of the projection period will be 32.2%.

Government decisions and developments in legislation

As a response to the demographic crisis of the 90's, in 2006 the Government of Ukraine adopted a Strategy of demographic development until 2015, which was followed by adoption of appropriate arrangements for development of such Strategy. The main principles of the Strategy outlined the following main directions: increasing of birth rate and support of the family; improvement of health status; decreasing the death rate and increasing the life duration; regulation of migration process; overcoming the negative impact by ageing of population; demographical development of regions.

European Commission

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