



DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

Since 1990 in Bulgaria is observed a stable trend of decrease of the population. Due to the social, economic and political changes in the country, significant changes in the demographic behavior of the population occurred which led to a rapid decrease of its natural increase. For the worsening of the demographic situation a strong influence had also the intense external migration processes. In 1990 the population of the country amounted to 8 669 thousand persons. Over the next 10 years it decreased by almost 780 thousand people and in 2001 it reached 7 891 thousand persons. The decrease continued over the next years, although with lower rates. At the end of 2010 it was 7 505 thousand. Women account for 51.6% of the population and men - for 48.4%.

According to the projections of the National Statistical Institute the population of Bulgaria will continue to decrease in the future. In 2015 the population is expected to be about 7 142 thousand. In the next 5 years (2020) it will decrease to 6 914 thousand, in 2025 - 6 678 thousand, and in 2030 it will reach 6 452 thousand. During the whole projected period (until 2030) on average the population will decrease annually by about 46 thousand people.

The number and the age structure of the population influence the size of the economy and the social expenditures. The number of the population of working age impacts on the possibilities for economic growth. On the other hand, the extent to which younger or older, especially retired people dominate the population reflects on the level of expenditure required for education, health care and pensions.

The number of the population influences the demand for land, energy, and other natural resources, as well as the environment, i.e. air emissions, soil and water, and quantities of waste generated. A change in the age structure of the population is also likely to have an impact on different consumption patterns of individuals in different phases of their life.

The indicators included in this theme are as follows:

1. **Total fertility rate - key indicator,**
2. **Coefficient of demographic replacement - key indicator**
3. Life expectancy at age 65, by gender
4. Aggregate replacement ratio
5. At-risk-of poverty rate for persons aged 65 years and over