



DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES IN 2011

Population number and structures¹

Population of Bulgaria is 7 327 224 persons as of 31 December 2011 or 1.5% of the EU population. According to the number of population the country ranks at the 16th place immediately after Austria (8 404 thousand persons) and before Denmark (5 561 thousand persons).

Male population is 3 566 767 (48.7%) and female - 3 760 457 (51.3%) or to 1 000 males correspond 1 054 females. Males prevail amongst the population aged up to 52 years. The number and share of females into the total population increase amongst the elderly.

Ageing of population continues to express by decrease of the share of children up to 15 years of age and increase of the share of population aged 65 and more.

Share of persons aged 65 and more at 31.12.2011 is 18.8% (1 381 079) of the country population. It increases by 1.1 percentage points compared to 2010 and 1.9 percentage points compared to 2001.

Aging of population is more intensive amongst females than amongst males. Share of females aged 65 and more is 21.8%, compared to 15.7% - males. The difference is due to the higher mortality amongst males and as a consequence – lower life expectancy.

As of 31.12.2011, children up to 15 years of age represent 13.4% (979 956) of the total population number. Their number decreases by 0.4 percentage points compared to 2010 and by 1.6 percentage points compared to 2001.

Share of persons aged 65 and more is highest in districts Vidin (25.9%), Gabrovo (24.5%) and Montana (23.8%). In 14 districts the share of population aged 65 and more is over 20% of the district's population. Lowest is the share of elderly population in districts Sofia-capital - 15.9%, Blagoevgrad, Varna and Burgas – 16.4%.

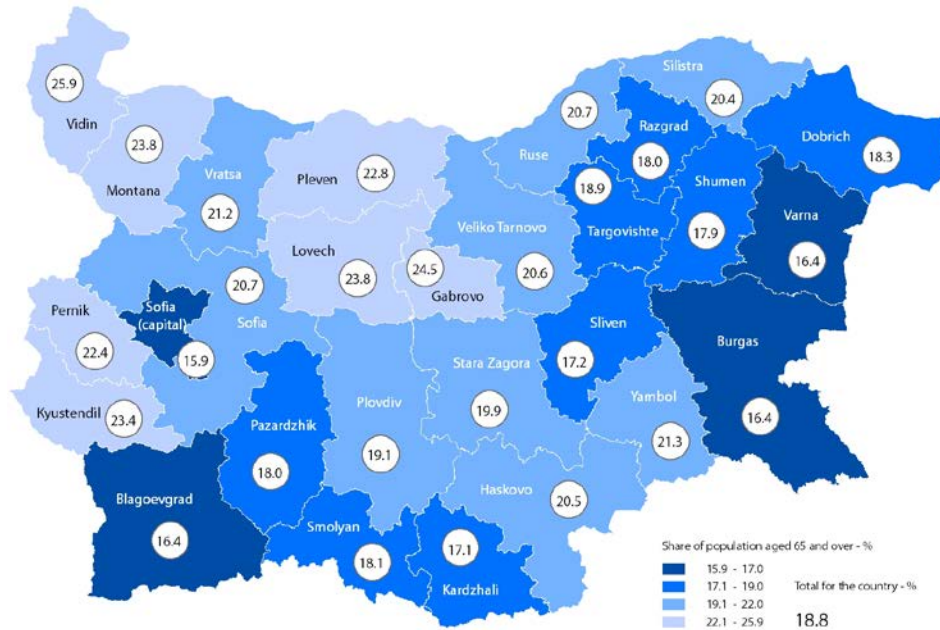
Share of population under 15 years of age is highest in district Sliven - 17.4% and lowest in district Pernik - 11.5%.

Ageing of population is characteristic of bigger part of EU countries. Highest is the share of elderly population in Germany (20.6%), Italy (20.3%) and Greece (19.3%). Almost the same share of population aged 65 and more (18 - 19%) is observed except in Bulgaria – 18.8%, in Sweden and Portugal also - 18.5 and 18.2% respectively. Lowest is the share of elderly population in Ireland - 11.6%.

Share of the youngest population in Germany, Latvia and Bulgaria is below 14%. Highest is this in Ireland (21.8%) and Norway (18.7%).

¹ Population number and structures at the end of 2011 are calculated based on the results of population census as of 1.02.2011 and the respective calculations on the natural increase and migration, received from the demographic statistics for the rest eleven months of the year

Figure 1. Population aged 65 and more as of 31.12.2011 by districts



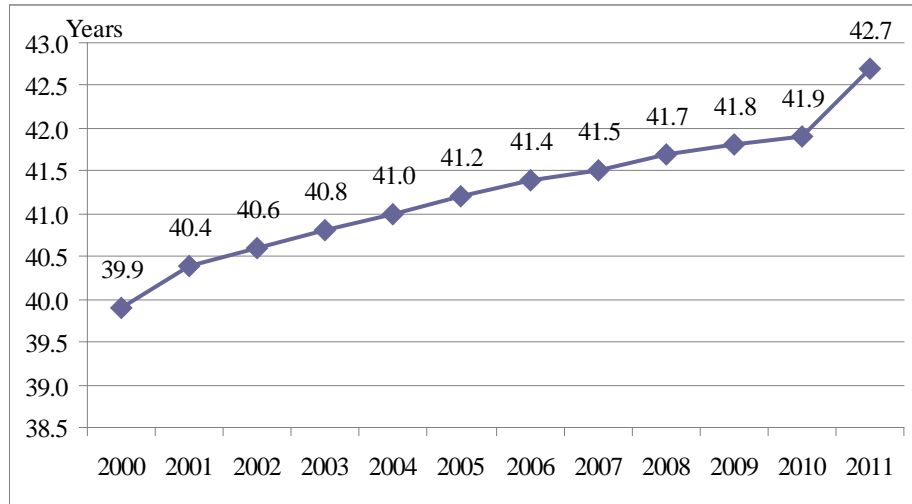
As of 31.12.2011 **the age dependency ratio** - ratio between persons under 15 and 65 and more per 100 persons aged 15-64 completed years is 47.5%. The same ratio in 2005 and 2010 is 44.5 and 46.0% respectively. The ratio is more favorable in urban areas - 42.2% than in rural - 63.9%.

Most unfavorable is the age dependency ratio in districts Vidin (61.0%), Lovech (58.6%) and Montana (58.1%). In 14 districts the ratio is over 50%. Districts with most favourable values are Sofia-capital (39.8%) and Smolyan (42.3%).

Ageing of population leads to increase of the population **mean age**. It increases from 40.4 years in 2001 to 41.2 years in 2005 and **42.7 years at the end of 2011**. Ageing of population is observed both in urban and rural areas, but the mean age of rural population is 4.3 years higher than of urban one. In urban areas the mean age of population is 41.5 years, compared to 45.8 years in rural areas.



Figure 2. Mean age of population



The tendency of population ageing leads to changes in the age structure and influences the distribution of population **under, at and over working age**. The last are influenced not only by population aging, but also by legislative changes concerning the retirement age. According to the legislation, in 2011 at working age are persons aged 16 to 60 years for women and 16 to 63 - for men.

The number of population at working age at the end of 2011 is 4 523 thousand persons or 61.7% of the total population. The number of population over working age is 1 760 thousand persons or 24.0% and under working age are 1 045 thousand persons or 14.3% of the country population.

1. Population under, at and over working age

(Per cent)

Year	Age groups		
	Under working age	At working age	Over working age
1990	21.6	55.5	22.9
1995	19.1	56.6	24.3
2001	16.3	59.2	24.5
2005	14.8	62.4	22.8
2006	14.6	62.8	22.6
2007	14.5	63.0	22.5
2008	14.5	63.2	22.3
2009	14.5	63.1	22.4
2010	14.6	62.7	22.7
2011	14.3	61.7	24.0

The reproduction of population at working age is characterized by **the coefficient of demographic replacement**, showing the ratio between the number of persons entering working age (15-19 years) and



number of persons exiting it (60-64 years). At 31.12.2011 the ratio is 68. For comparison in 2001 each 100 persons exiting working age are replaced by 124 young persons.

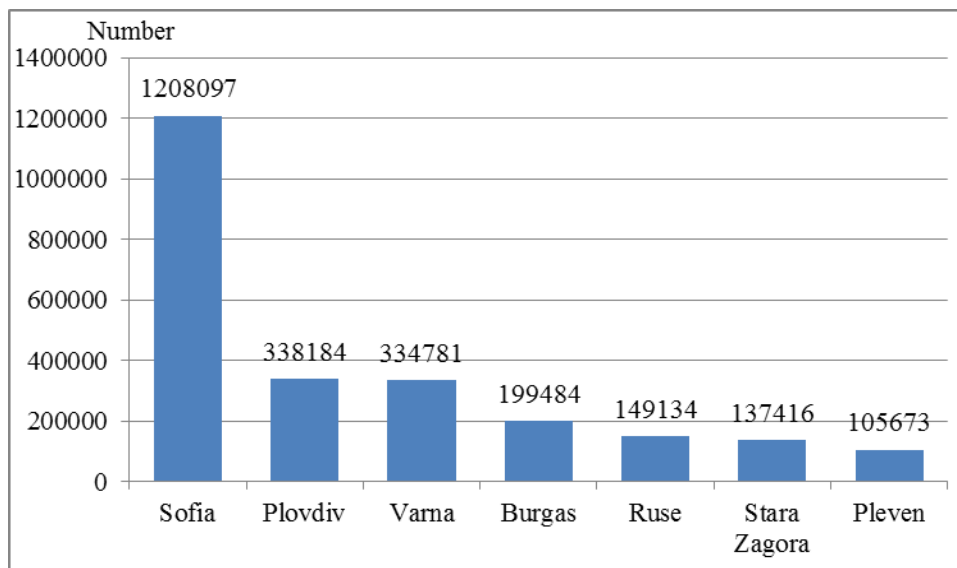
Most favorable is the ratio in districts Kardzhali (91), Blagoevgrad (86) and Sliven (84). Lowest is the ratio in districts Gabrovo and Vidin, where 100 persons exiting working age are replaced respectively by 48 and 51 persons entering it.

Territorial distribution of population

There are 5 302 settlements in Bulgaria at the end of 2011, of which 257 are towns and 5 045 – villages. There are 183 settlements without population. In 1 127 (21.3%) settlements from 1 to 50 persons live there. **Urban population is 5 324 900 or 72.7% of the total country population and rural - 2 002 324 or 27.3%.** Distribution of the urban and rural population at the end of year is a result not only of the natural increase and migration, but also of administrative changes. The villages Ignatievo and Kran became towns in 2011.

With a population more than 100 thousand persons are seven towns in the country. 33.7% of the country population lives in them.

Figure 3. Towns with more than 100 000 inhabitants as of 31.12.2011



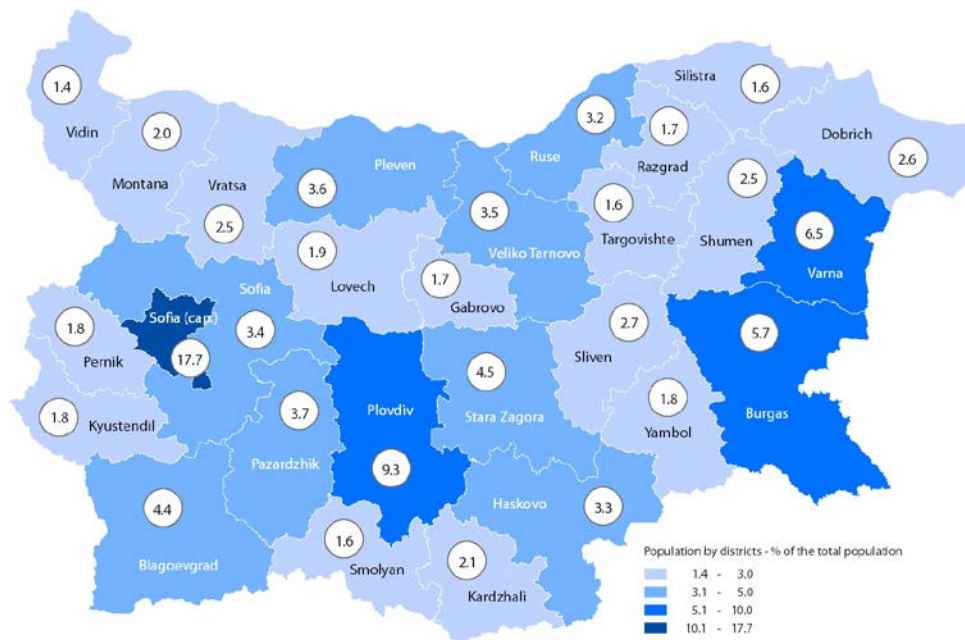
According to the country administrative-territorial structure there are 6 statistical regions, 28 districts and 264 municipalities in Bulgaria.

Nearly half of the country population (49.2%) lives in the South-West and South central regions. The number of their population is 2 131 thousand (29.1%) and 1 471 thousand persons (20.1%) respectively. Next according to the number of population are South-East and North-East regions - 1 073 thousand or 14.6% and 962 thousand persons or 13.1% of the country population. The number of population living in North Central and North-West regions is 853 and 837 thousand persons respectively, or each of them about 12% of the country population.



Lowest is the number of population of district Vidin - 99 481 persons or 1.4% of the country population and highest of district Sofia-capital - 1 296 615 persons (17.7%). In 16 districts the population number is under 200 thousand and the population living in them represents 31.2% of the total. There are 6 districts with population between 200 and 300 thousand persons and 20.7% of the country population is living there. Six districts have population above 300 thousand persons and in two of them, Sofia-capital and Plovdiv, lives more than ¼ of the total country population (27.0%). District Varna takes the third place with population of 474 thousand persons, followed by districts Burgas - 415 thousand persons, Stara Zagora (331 thousand) and Blagoevgrad (322 thousand).

Figure 4. Population as of 31.12.2011 by districts



The distribution of population by municipalities is not uniform. There are 60 municipalities with population below 6 000 and 3.0% of the country population lives there. Population of 124 municipalities is between 6 and 20 thousand persons and 18.6% of the country population lives there. Number of municipalities with population between 20 and 50 thousand persons is 50 and 19.2% of the total population lives there. Lower is the number of municipalities with population between 50 and 100 thousand persons. There are 21 such municipalities which total population is 1 444 460 persons or 19.7% of the total. Only 5 municipalities have population between 100 and 200 thousand persons and 9.5% of the total population lives there. Population is over 200 000 persons in 4 municipalities – Sofia capital, Varna, Plovdiv and Burgas. 29.9% of the country population lives there.

Basic factors influencing the changes of population number and structures are the demographic processes – fertility, mortality and migration.



Fertility

There are 71 402 children born in 2011, of which **70 846 (99.2%) live born**. The number of live births decreases by 4 667 children compared to the previous year.

The crude birth rate² in 2011 is 9.6‰, compared to 10.0‰ and 10.7‰ in 2010 and 2009 respectively.

The number of live born males (36 533) is by 2 220 higher compared to the live born females (34 313), or 939 females correspond to 1 000 males.

The number of live born children in urban areas is 53 396 and in rural - 17 450. Crude birth rate in urban areas is 10.0‰ and in rural - 8.7‰. The respective figures for 2010 are 10.6 and 8.6‰.

2. Crude birth rate and natural increase of the population

Years	Crude birth rate (per 1 000 population)	Natural increase (per 1 000 population)	Total fertility rate
1990	12.1	-0.4	1.81
1995	8.6	-5.0	1.23
2001	8.6	-5.6	1.24
2005	9.2	-5.4	1.31
2006	9.6	-5.1	1.38
2007	9.8	-5.0	1.42
2008	10.2	-4.3	1.48
2009	10.7	-3.5	1.57
2010	10.0	-4.6	1.49
2011	9.6	-5.1	1.51

Highest is the crude birth rate in districts Sliven - 12.5‰, Sofia-capital - 10.6‰, Varna and Targovishte - 10.4‰. Lowest in 2011 is the crude birth rate in districts Vidin and Smolyan - 7.5 and 6.5‰ respectively.

Crude birth rate for the European Union (27)³ is 10.7‰ according to the Eurostat data. Highest crude birth rate is observed in Ireland - 16.5‰, followed by Great Britain (13.0‰) and France (12.8‰).

Level of crude birth rate in Bulgaria is the same as in Greece, Romania, Malta, Portugal and Austria. Lowest crude birth rate within the EU is registered in Hungary (9.0‰), Latvia (8.6‰) and Germany (8.3‰).

The number of women in fertile age or the sizes of fertile contingents are crucial for the level of crude birth rate and the character of reproduction of the population.

Number of women in fertile age at 31.12.2011 is 1 650 thousand. It decreases by 260 thousand compared to 2001 and by 418 thousand compared to 1990.

Total fertility rate (TFR)⁴ is one of the basic indicators characterizing the fertility. The average number of live born children per women in 2011 is 1.51. TFR in 2001 is 1.24 children and in 2010 -

² Number of live born children per 1 000 persons of the average annual population during the year.

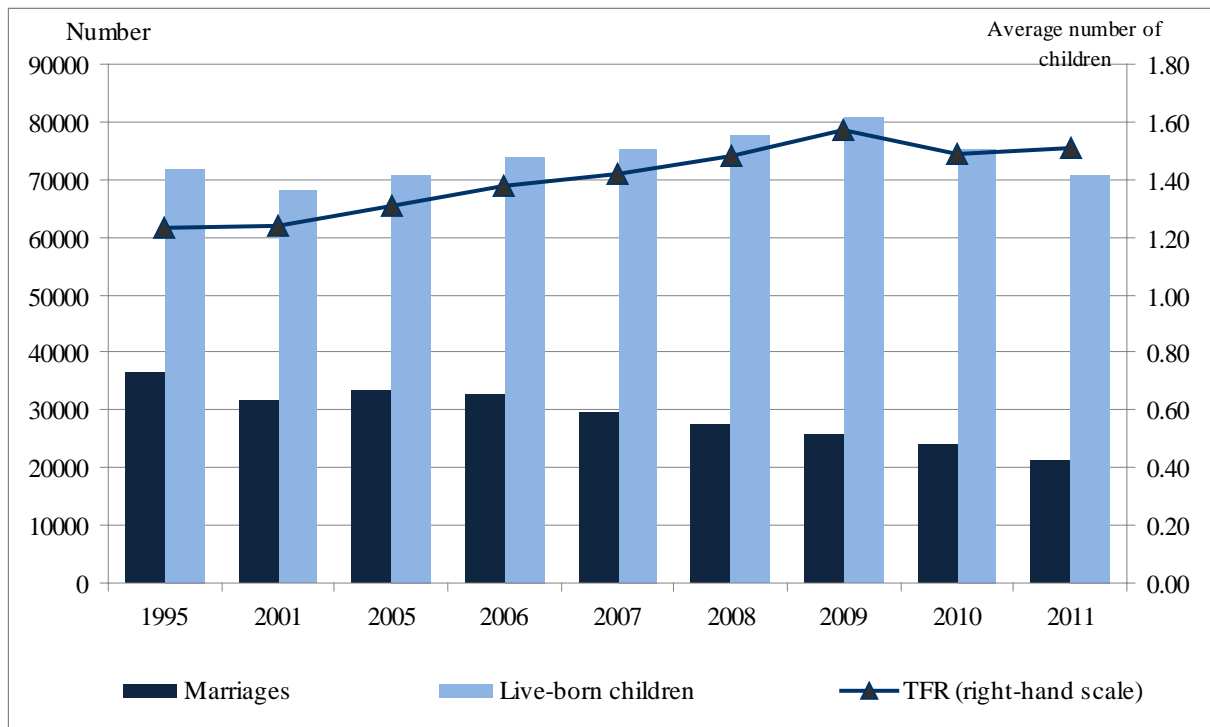
³ For international comparisons, data on the other countries concern 2010 source: Eurostat web page - <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>.



1.49 children. The TFR values during the last three years are the highest after 1991, when the value of 1.65 children is registered.

The TFR for the European Union (27) is 1.59 children in 2009.

Figure 5. Marriages and live born children; TFR



Mean age of women at first birth in 2011 is 26.3 years. It increases by 0.1 years compared to 2010 and 2.5 years compared to 2001. The mean age at first marriage (26.9 years) is at the 2010 level and compared to 2001 it increases by 2.1 years. Comparing both indicators, a tendency is observed the birth of the first child to precede the marriage.

⁴ Average number of live born children, whom a mother would give birth to during her entire fertile period according to the age specific fertility rates during the reporting year.



Figure 6. Mean age of women at first marriage, at birth of first child and mean age of the fertile contingents



There are 1 119 multi-foetal births registered in 2011. In 1 096 cases, there are two children born and in 23 – three children. Compared to 2010, a decrease of 125 multi-foetal births is observed.

Stable tendency of increase of the absolute number and share of extramarital births has been observed since 1991. Share of extramarital births continuously increase from 18.5% in 1992 to 42.1% in 2001 and 54.1% in 2010. **The number of children born outside marriage in 2011 is 39 722 or 56.1%.**

The high extramarital fertility is due to the considerable increase of the number of cohabiting without legal marriage young people.

In 69.0% of the cases of extramarital birth, there are data on the father, which means that most probably these children are grow up in families, by parents living in consensual union, without marriage.

The increase of extramarital births is observed for the most EU countries. Highest is the share of extramarital births in Estonia - 59.1%, Slovenia - 55.7% and France - 55.0%, and lowest in Greece - 7.3%.

Mortality

The mortality remains high in 2011. **Number of dead persons is 108 258 and the crude mortality rate - 14.7‰.**



3. Mortality, infant mortality and premature mortality coefficients

Years	Mortality ⁵ - ‰	Infant mortality ⁶ - ‰	Premature mortality ⁷ - %
1990	12.5	14.8	29.7
1995	13.6	14.8	28.3
2001	14.2	14.4	25.2
2005	14.6	10.4	24.6
2006	14.7	9.7	24.6
2007	14.8	9.2	24.1
2008	14.5	8.6	24.1
2009	14.2	9.0	24.4
2010	14.6	9.4	23.4
2011	14.7	8.5	23.3

Highest is the mortality in districts Vidin (22.7‰), Montana (20.9‰), Pernik (18.9‰), Kyustendil (18.8‰), Vratsa and Pleven - 18.5‰. The pointed districts have the highest level of population ageing. The districts with younger age structure have quite lower mortality rate. Lowest is the mortality in district Sofia-capital - 11.7‰, followed by Blagoevgrad and Varna - 11.9‰ and Kardzhali - 12.1‰.

Compared to the European countries the mortality rate in Bulgaria is rather higher (14.7‰). Lowest is the mortality in Ireland - 6.1‰ and Cyprus - 6.7‰. The mortality rate in Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, France and Spain is below 9.0‰. In most of the European countries the mortality is between 9.0 and 10.5‰. In some countries (Estonia, Romania, Hungary, Lithuania and Latvia) the mortality rate is between 11.8 and 13.4‰.

The mortality rate for the European Union (27) is 9.7‰ in 2010.

Mortality amongst male (15.8‰) continues to be higher than amongst female (13.7‰). To 1 000 dead females in 2011 correspond 1097 dead males. Strongly expressed differences in mortality amongst urban and rural population also remain unchanged. Mortality rate in rural areas (21.4‰) is higher than in urban ones (12.2‰).

The premature mortality in 2011 is close to 2010 value - 23.3%. In the previous years this indicator is considerably higher - 25.2% in 2001, 24.6% in 2006 and 24.4% in 2009. Consequently, the high mortality level is mainly due to deaths in upper ages. There are considerable differences in the premature mortality for males and females. While the dead females aged up to 64 represent 15.1% of all dead females, amongst males this share is twice higher - 30.8%.

Premature mortality for the European Union (27) in 2009 is about 20%.

There are 601 dead children up to 1 year of age in 2011 and the infant mortality rate is 8.5‰. The infant mortality rate decreases steadily after 1997, when the highest value (since 1990) - 17.5‰ has been

⁵ Number of deaths per 1 000 persons of the average annual population during the same year.

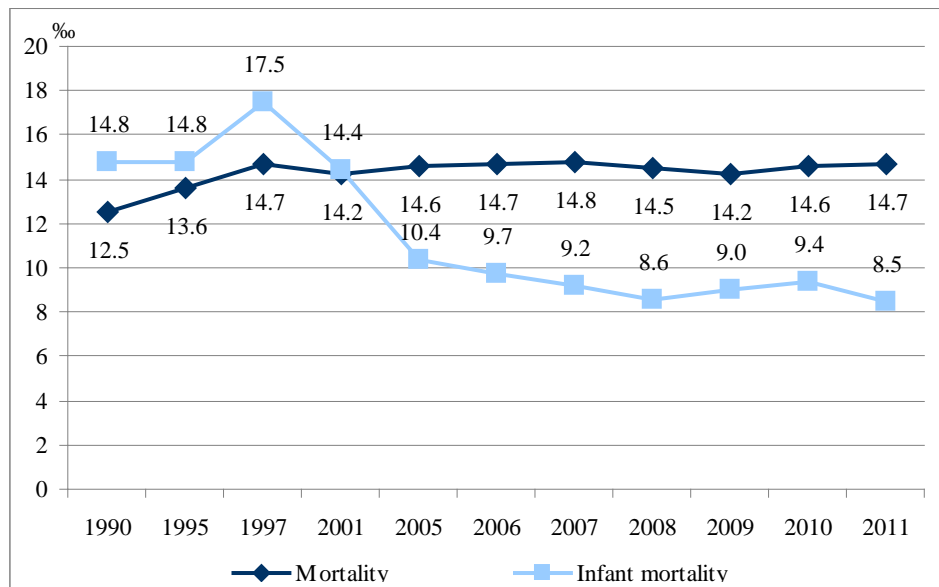
⁶ Number of dead children at the age below 1 year per 1 000 live born children.

⁷ Share of people who die below 65 years of age of the total number of deaths.



registered. The infant mortality in 2001 is 14.4‰, in 2008 - 8.6‰ and in 2010 г. - 9.4‰. The infant mortality observed in 2011 is the lowest registered in the country demographic development.

Figure 7. Mortality and infant mortality rates



The infant mortality rate for 2011 is lower than the country average in 11 districts. Lowest is it in districts Sofia-capital - 4.2‰, Kyustendil - 4.6‰ and Targovishte - 5.6‰. Highest infant mortality is registered in district Sliven (17.0‰). Rather higher than the country average is the infant mortality in districts Pazardzhik (14.6‰), Shumen (12.0‰) and Kardzhali (11.8‰).

No matter the positive tendency of decrease, the infant mortality is still higher compared to the European countries. The only country where higher than in Bulgaria infant mortality is registered is Romania (9.8‰). In most European countries the infant mortality rate is below 6.0‰ and the lowest one is observed in Finland - 2.3‰, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden - 2.5‰, and Check republic - 2.7‰.

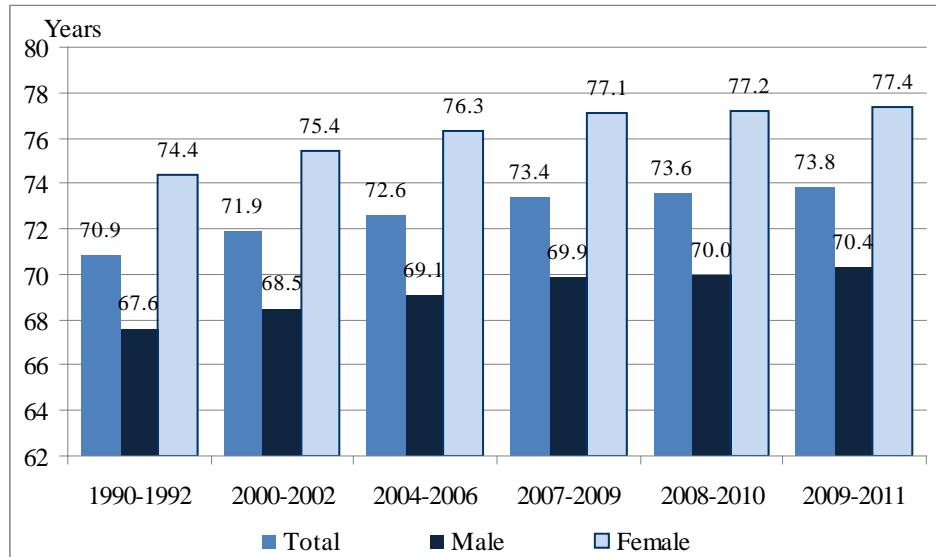
The infant mortality for the European Union (27) in 2009 is 4.3‰.

The mortality rates amongst these population categories determine the difference in the life expectancy between the two sexes as well as between urban and rural population.

Life expectancy for the country, calculated for the period 2009 - 2011 is 73.8 years. Within the period 2000 - 2002 the life expectancy is 71.9 years. Thereafter it increases by 1.9 years for males and 2.0 years for females. Life expectancy for males is 70.4 years within the period 2009 – 2011, whereas for females it is 7 years higher or 77.4 years. Life expectancy for urban population (74.6 years) is by 2.6 years higher than for rural (72.0 years).



Figure 8. Life expectancy by sex and periods



Life expectancy for males in some European countries like Estonia and Latvia is lower, while in Hungary, Lithuania and Romania is close to the observed in Bulgaria. In all the rest countries it is higher and reaches nearly 79 years in Ireland, Spain, Sweden and Netherlands. Life expectancy for female population in Romania is the same as in Bulgaria. In Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary and Slovakia the life expectancy is between 78 and 79 years. In the rest European countries the life expectancy for females is over 80 years and in France and Spain - over 85 years.

Life expectancy for the European Union (27) is 76.7 years for male and 82.6 years for female in 2009.

Marriages and divorces

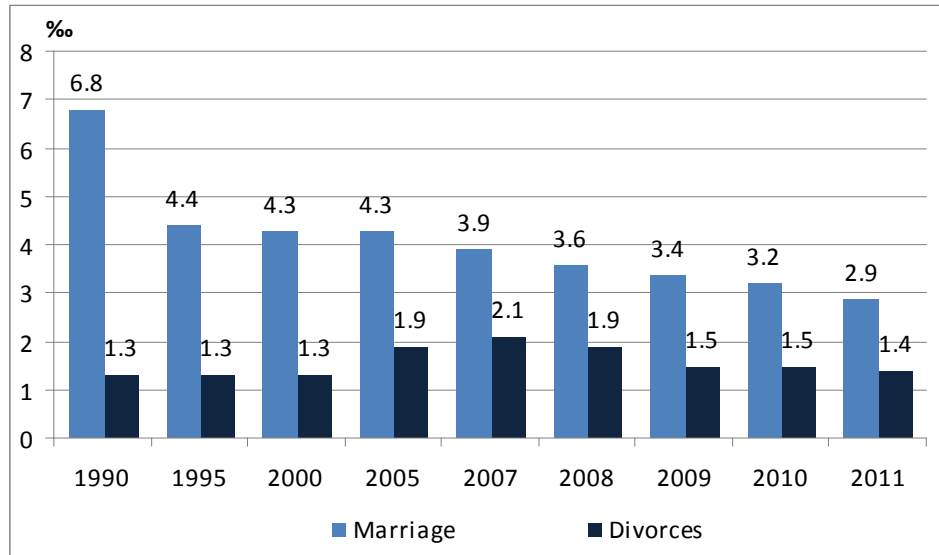
Number of marriages continues to decrease in 2011. There are 21 448 juridical marriages registered or 2 838 less than the previous year. 77.9% (16 704) of the marriages are registered amongst urban population and 4 744 - for rural population. Decrease of the number of marriages leads to decrease of the marriage rate (number of marriages per 1 000 population). The marriage rate in 2001 is 4.0‰, in 2010 - 3.2‰ and drops to 2.9‰ in 2011.

The decrease of juridical marriages is due to spreading of so called de facto marriages. Young people more and more prefer cohabiting, without marriage. One could presume that the marriage is postponed. The increasing mean age at first marriage is a proof in this respect. The mean age at first marriage for males increases from 28.1 years in 2001 to 30.0 years in 2010 and 30.1 in 2011. The respective values for females are: in 2001 - 24.8 years and in 2010 and 2011 - 26.9 years.

There are 10 581 divorces in 2011 or 431 less than in 2010. 83.6% of the total number of divorces refers to the urban population.



Figure 9. Marriage and divorce rates (per 1 000 population)



Highest is the number of divorces by mutual agreement (67.4%), followed by divorces due to incompatibility of temperament (22.9%), virtual parting (6.0%) and lack of care for the family (2.2%). The share of reasons like infidelity, physical and mental cruelty, habitual use of spirits and drugs and rashly contracted marriages is under 1.0%.

The average duration of the marriage before the divorce in 2001 remains at the same level as during the last several years - 14 years, but compared to 2001 it increases by almost 2 years.

Internal and international migration

There are 90 646 persons who have changed their residence within the country in 2011.

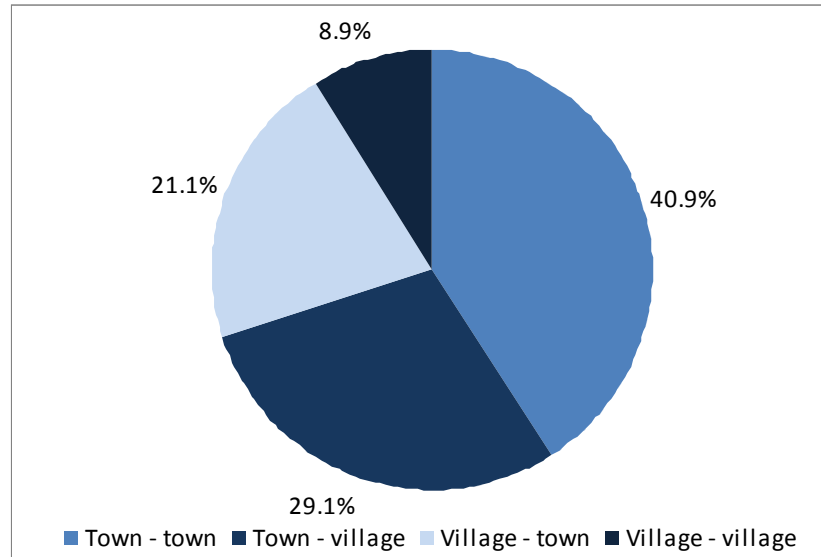
Amongst the migrants within the country 48.6% are male and 51.4% - female.

Highest is the share of internal migrants aged 20 - 39 years (32.3%), followed by persons below 20 years of age (26.4%). Considerably lower (18.7%) is the share of internal migrants aged 40 - 59 years and 60 years and over - 22.6%.

Highest is the share of migrants from one to another city (40.9%). Considerably lower is the number and share of the flow "village - village" (8.9%). The number of people who migrated from the villages to the cities (29.1%) is higher compared to the opposite flow "city - village" (21.1%).



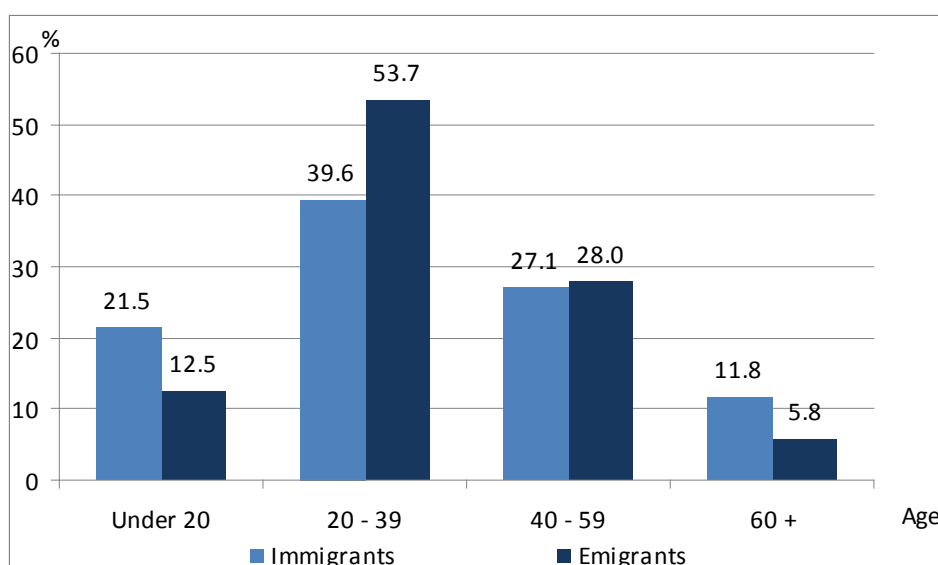
Figure 10. Direction of the internal migration



As a result of migration between cities and villages, the rural population decreased by 7 146 persons and the urban one increased with the same number of people.

9 517 persons have declared change of their current address in Bulgaria with an address abroad in 2011. Of them 46.9% are male and 53.1% - female. Nearly 54% of the emigrants are aged 20 to 39 years. Emigrants aged 40 - 59 years are 28%. The youngest emigrants (under 20 years) are 12.5% and the emigrants over 60 years of age - 5.8%.

Figure 11. Structure of emigrants and immigrants by age



Persons who have changed their address abroad with an address in Bulgaria or the immigration flow includes Bulgarian citizens who return in the country and citizens of other countries, granted permission for



permanent stay in Bulgaria. There are 4 722 persons who change their address abroad with an address in Bulgaria in 2011. Male represent 50.9% of the total number of immigrants and female - 49.1%.

39.6% of the immigrants are aged 20 - 39 years and 27.1% - 40 - 59 years. The youngest immigrants (under 20 years) are 21.5% and the oldest, over 60 years of age – 11.8%.

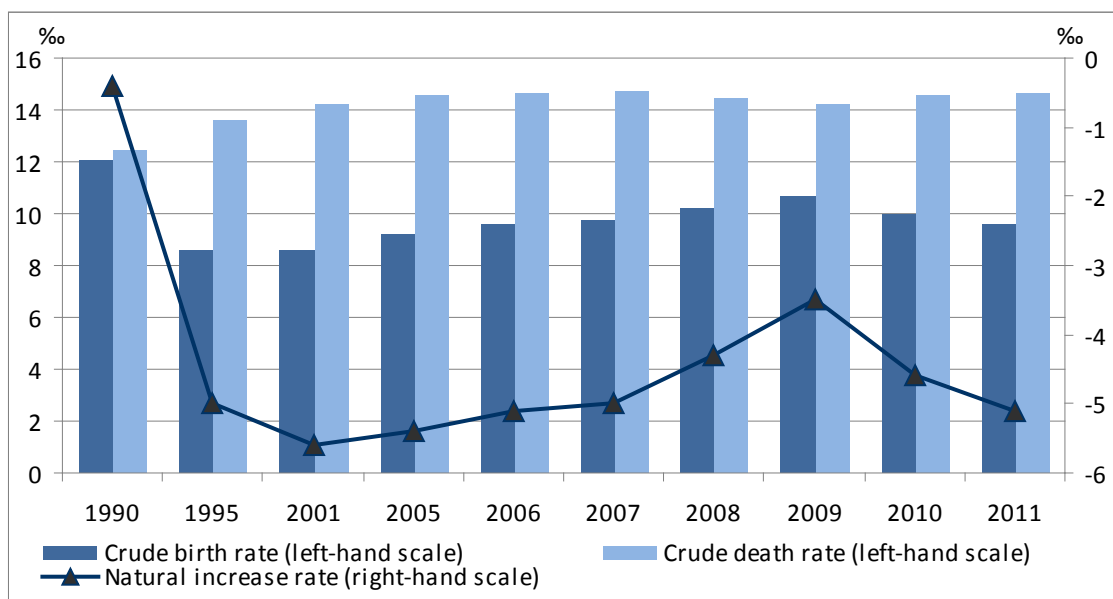
Natural and migration growth of population

The population number and structures are defined by the size and intensity of the natural and migration movement.

The difference between births and deaths represents the natural increase of population. The demographic development of the country after 1990 is characterized by negative natural increase. **The country population decreased by 37 412 persons in 2011 due to the negative natural increase** or 2 760 persons more compared to 2010.

The population decreases by minus 5.1‰⁸. During the previous year the natural growth rate is minus 4.6‰, or the increase by 0.5‰ is registered. The natural increase rate in urban areas is 2.2‰, compared to minus 12.7‰ in rural areas, which means that the decrease of country population is mainly due to the negative demographic tendencies in rural areas.

Figure 12. Fertility, mortality and natural increase



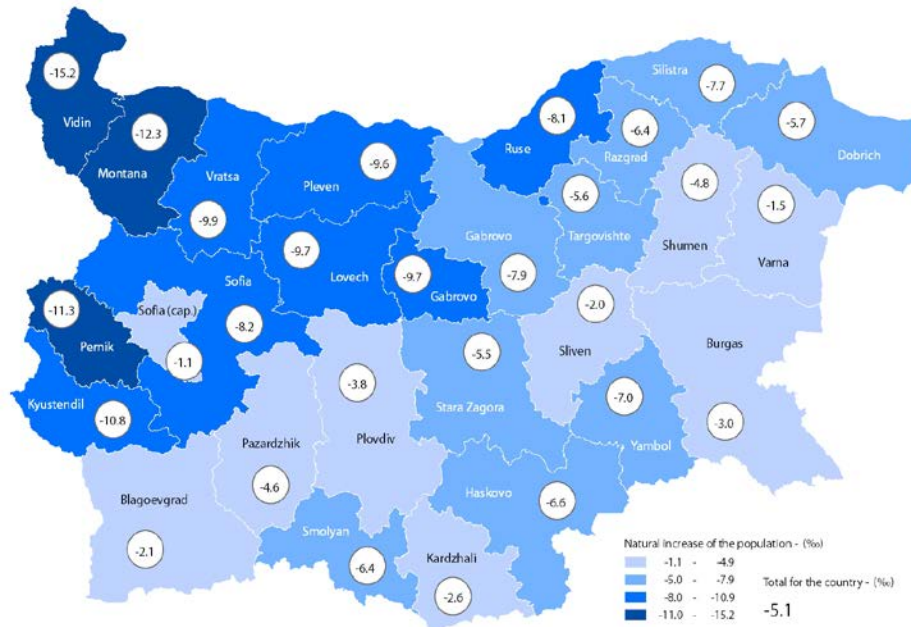
The natural increase in all country districts is negative in 2011.

Lowest is the negative growth in districts Sofia-capital (-1.1‰), Varna (-1.5‰) and Sliven (-2.0‰). Highest is the population decrease due to the high negative growth in districts Vidin, Montana and Pernik and the respective values are minus 15.2, minus 12.3 and minus 11.3‰.

⁸ Difference between the number of live births and number of deaths per 1 000 of the average annual population.



Figure 13. Natural growth in 2011 by districts (per 1 000 population)



There are number of countries in Europe - Latvia, Hungary, Romania, Germany, Lithuania, Portugal and Italy - where the natural increase rate is negative, but the values are lower compared to Bulgaria. All the rest European countries have positive natural increase and highest is it in Ireland (10.4‰) and in Cyprus (5.7‰). Comparatively higher positive natural increase is observed in Luxembourg (4.0‰), France (4.1‰) and Cyprus (5.5‰). Highest is the natural increase in Ireland (10.2‰).

Natural increase rate for the European Union (27) in 2010 is 1.0‰.

Net migration (growth due to international migration) influences considerably the population number and structures. Net migration in 2011 is also negative - minus 4 795 persons. The last is the difference between the number of persons who enter the country and those who leave it. Population decrease due to the international migration measured through the coefficient of net migration is 0.7‰⁹.

Due to the internal and international migration the urban population decreases by 11 146 persons and the rural population increases by 6 351 persons.

There are six districts with a positive migration growth in 2011: Sofia-capital (4.8‰), Ruse (0.8‰), Burgas (0.7‰), Varna (0.5‰), Plovdiv (0.2‰) and Sofia (0.1‰).

Highest population decrease due to the negative migration growth have the districts Razgrad (-7.8‰), Smolyan (-5.4‰) and Yambol (-4.4‰).

⁹ Ratio of the net migration to the average annual population.