

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES IN 2014 (FINAL DATA)

Population number and structures

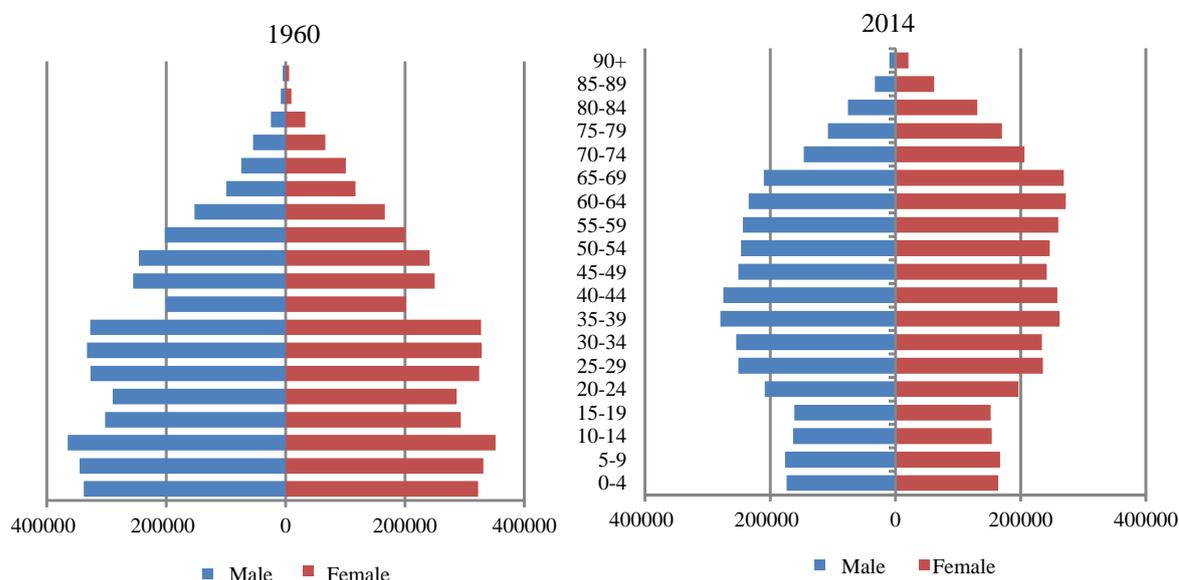
The current demographic situation in the country is characterised by a continuing decrease of the population number, population ageing and still high level of mortality. As a positive in 2014 could be mentioned the slight increase of crude birth rate and the increasing life expectancy at birth.

As of 31 December 2014 the population of Bulgaria was 7 202 198 persons representing 1.4% of the EU population¹ thus ranking the country at the 16th place immediately after Austria (8 507 thousand persons) and before Denmark (5 627 thousand persons). Compared to 2013, the country population has decreased by 43 479 persons or by 0.6%.

Male population was 3 502 015 (48.6%) and female - 3 700 183 (51.4%) or to 1 000 males correspond 1 057 females. Males prevailed among the population aged up to 51 years. The number and share of females into the total population increased among the elderly.

The process of population ageing continues. By the end of 2014 the number of persons aged 65 and over was 1 440 329 or 20.0% of the country population. Compared to 2013, the share of population aged 65 and over has increased by 0.4 percentage points and compared to 2001 - by 3.1 percentage points.

Figure 1. Age structure of population as of 31.12.1960 and 31.12.2014



The aging of population is more intensive among female population than among male. The share of females aged 65 and over is 23.2%, compared to 16.6% - males. The difference is due to the higher mortality among male population and as a consequence - lower life expectancy.

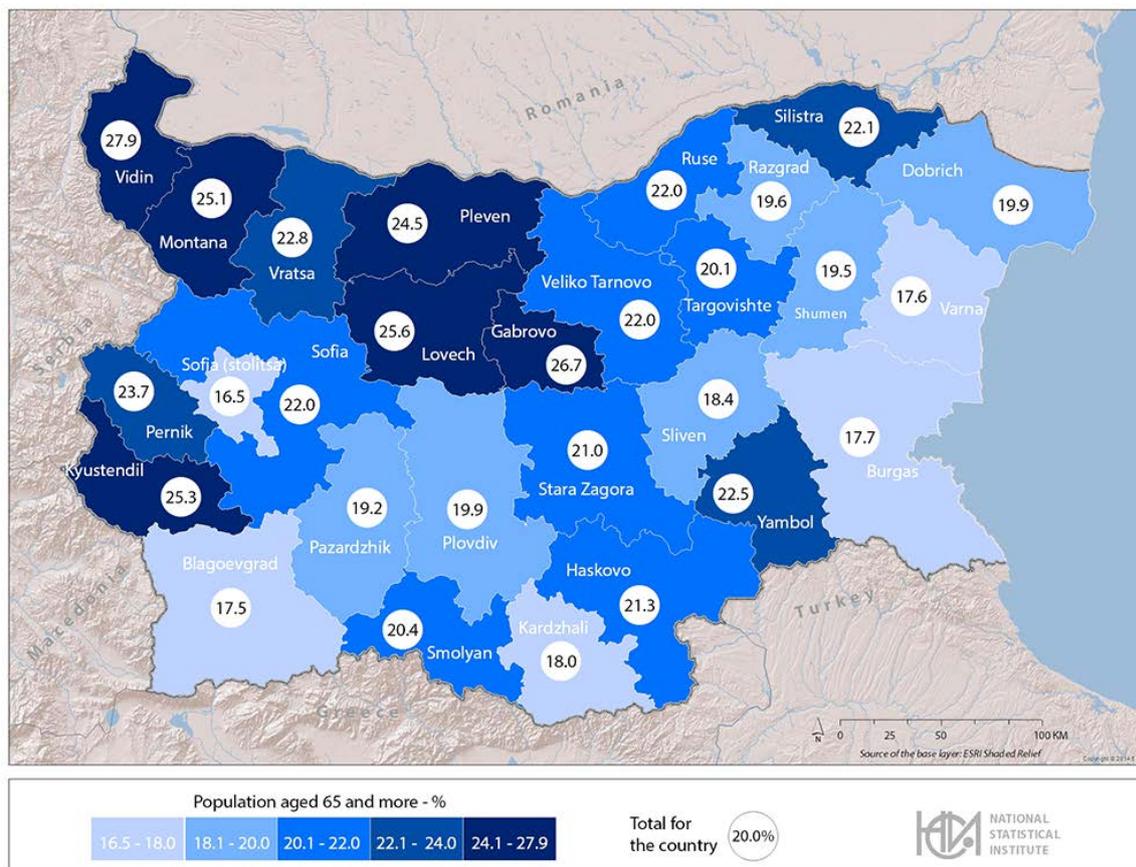
¹ In the international comparisons, data on EU member states refer to 2013, source: Eurostat website - <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/>



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The share of persons aged 65 and over is highest in districts Vidin (27.9%), Gabrovo (26.7%) and Lovech (25.6%). In 17 districts, people aged 65 and over are more than 20.0% of the district population. Lowest is the share of elderly population in districts Sofia (stolitsa) - 16.5%, Blagoevgrad - 17.5%, Varna and Burgas - 17.6% and 17.7% respectively.

Figure 2. Share of population aged 65 and over as of 31.12.2014 by districts



Ageing of population is observed in the bigger part of EU member states. At the beginning of 2014, the share of population aged 65 and over for EU-28 was 18.5% or 0.3 percentage points higher than the previous year. Highest is the share of elderly population in Italy (21.4%), followed by Germany (20.8%) and Greece (20.5%) and lowest is this share in Ireland - 12.6%.

As of 31.12.2014, **children up to 15 years of age were 998 196 or 13.9% of the total population number**. The share of children up to 15 years has increased by 0.2 percentage points compared to 2013 and by 1.1 percentage points compared to 2001.

The share of population under 15 years of age is highest in districts Sliven - 18.0% and Burgas - 15.2% of the district population. As a total in 16 districts the share of children up to 15 years is lower than the country one. Lowest is the share registered in district Gabrovo - 11.3%, followed by district Smolyan - 11.5%, and districts Pernik and Kyustendil - 11.8 and 11.9% respectively.

Share of the youngest EU-28 population is 15.6%. Lowest shares are observed in Germany (13.1%), Bulgaria and Italy (13.9% each), and highest - in Ireland (22.0%) and France (18.6%).

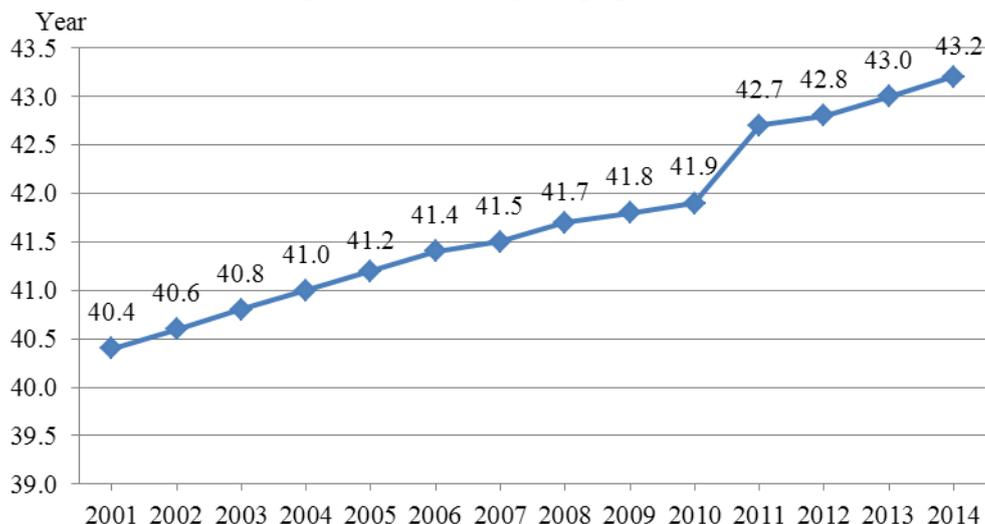
As of 31.12.2014 the **age dependency ratio**² was **51.2%**, or to each persons in ‘dependent’ ages (under 15 and over 65 years) correspond less than two persons in ‘independent’ ages. In 2005 and 2013 the ratio is 44.5 and 50.0% respectively.

The ratio is more favourable in urban areas - 46.2% than in rural - 66.6%. As a total in 22 country districts the age dependency ratio is over 50.0%. Most unfavourable is the ratio in districts Vidin (66.8%), Lovech (63.6%) and Montana (62.4%). The districts with most favourable values are Sofia (stolitsa) - 43.1%, Blagoevgrad - 46.5% and Smolyan - 46.7%.

The population ageing leads to increase of the population **mean age**. It has increased from 40.4 years in 2001 to 41.2 years in 2005 and has reached **43.2 years at the end of 2014**.

Ageing of population is observed both in urban and rural areas. In urban areas the mean age of population is 42.1 years, compared to 46.0 years - in rural areas.

Figure 3. Mean age of population



The tendency of population ageing influences the distribution of population **under, at and over working age**. The last are influenced not only by the population aging, but also by legislative changes³ concerning the retirement age. The last remained the same in 2014 and namely, at working age are women up to completion of 60 years and 8 months and men up to completion of 63 years and 8 months.

The number of population at working age as of 31.12.2014 was 4 403 thousand persons or 61.1% of the total population, of which men are 2 310 thousand and female - 2 093 thousand persons. The population at working age has decreased by over 68 thousand or by 1.5% compared to the previous year.

² Number of persons in ‘dependent’ ages (persons under 15 years of age and 65 and more) per 100 persons in ‘independent’ ages (persons aged 15 to 64 years) calculated in percentage.

³ Age limits used for distribution of population under, at and over working age are defined according to Ordinance on pensions and length of insurance, adopted by the Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 30 (State Gazette 21/17.03.2000). According to the last Ordinance amendments, the upper age limit for population at working age is to be increased by 4 months up to completion of 65 years for male and 63 years for female.



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At the end of 2014, the number of population over working age was 1 734 thousand persons or 24.1% and under working age were 1 065 thousand persons or 14.8% of the country population.

1. Population under, at and over working age

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
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
2012	14.4	61.8	23.8
2013	14.6	61.7	23.7
2014	14.8	61.1	24.1

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). As of 31.12.2014 the ratio was 62. For comparison, in 2001 each 100 persons exiting working age have been replaced by 124 young persons.

Most favourable is the ratio in districts Sliven - 78, Pazardzhik - 71, Targovishte and Shumen – 68 each. Lowest is the ratio in districts Smolyan and Gabrovo, where 100 persons exiting working age are replaced by 47 persons entering it.

Territorial distribution of population

As of 31.12.2014, 5 267 480 or 73.1% of the total country population resided in urban areas and 1 934 718 or 26.9% - in rural ones.

There were 5 266 settlements in Bulgaria by the end of 2014, of which 257 - towns and 5 009 - villages. The distribution of urban and rural population by the end of year is a result not only of the natural increase and migration, but also of changes in the country's administrative structure. Based on the Council of Ministers decisions, 2 settlements are closed in 2014, of which one is annexed to another settlement.

In 2014 there are 164 settlements without population. Highest is the number of settlements without population in districts Gabrovo, Veliko Tarnovo and Kardzhali – 61, 57 and 11 respectively.

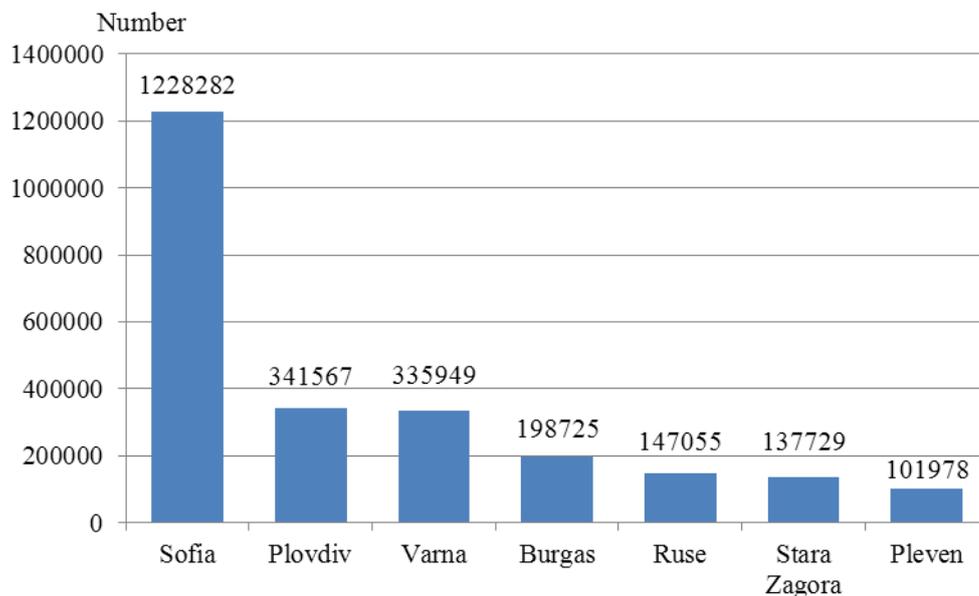
The population number is between 1 and 49 persons incl. in 1 135 or 21.6% of the settlements.



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There are seven towns with a population above 100 thousand persons and 34.6% of the country population lives there.

Figure 4. Towns with more than 100 000 inhabitants as of 31.12.2014



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

Statistical regions

Nearly half of the population of the country (49.6%) lives in Yugozapaden and Yuzhen tsentralen regions. The number of their population is 2 125 thousand (29.5%) and 1 446 thousand persons (20.1%) respectively. The next according to population number are Yugoiztochen and Severoiztochen regions - 1 059 thousand or 14.7% and 950 thousand persons or 13.2% of the country population. The number of population living in Severen tsentralen and Severozapaden regions is 826 thousand or 11.5% and 797 thousand persons or 11.1% of the country population respectively.

The population number has decreased compared to 2013 in all the statistical regions; highest decrease has been observed in Severozapaden region - 1.6% and lowest - in Yugozapaden region - 0.1%.

Districts

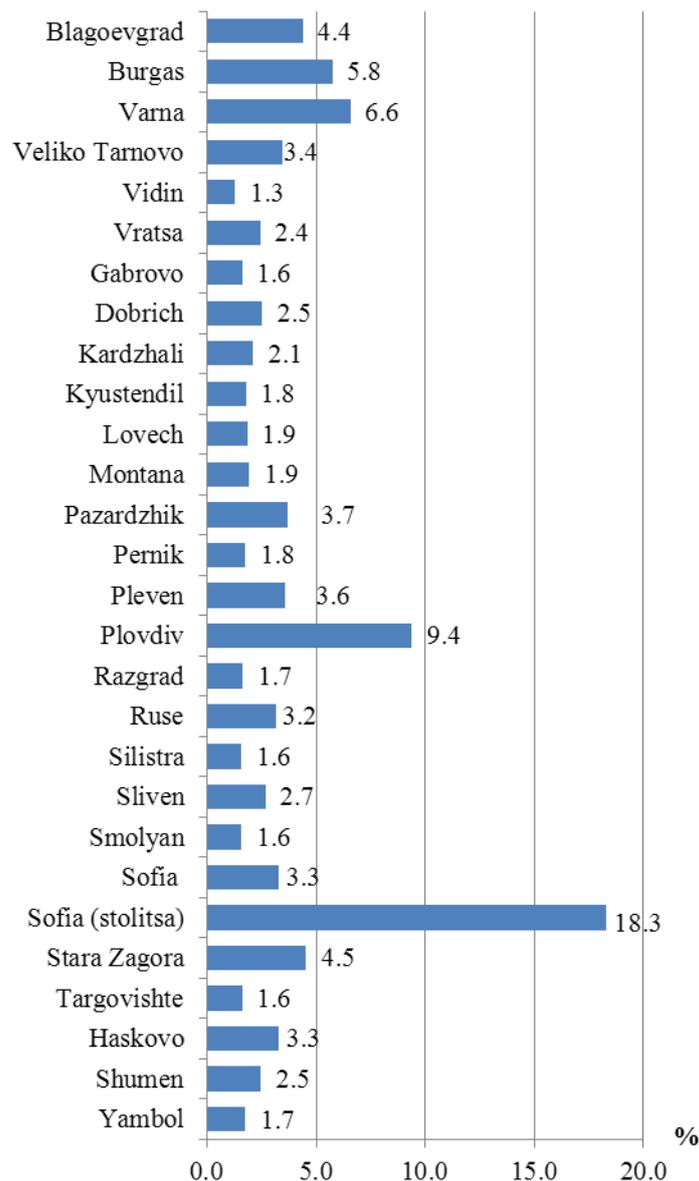
Lowest is the number of population in district Vidin – 93 361 persons or 1.3% of the country population and highest in district Sofia (stolitsa) - 1 316 557 persons (18.3%). In 16 districts the population number is under 200 thousand and the population living in them represents 30.6% of the country population. There are 6 districts with a population between 200 and 300 thousand persons and 20.5% of the country population is living there. Six districts have population above 300 thousand persons and in three of them, Sofia (stolitsa), Plovdiv and Varna, lives more than 1/3 of the total country population (34.2%).



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Compared to 2013, the population has increased in two districts - Sofia (stolitsa) by 0.5% and Kardzhali by 1.0%. In all the rest, a decrease has been observed, as highest is in districts Vidin - 2.2% and Smolyan - 1.9%.

Figure 5. Share of population as of 31.12.2014 by districts



Municipalities

The distribution of population by municipalities is not uniform. There are 66 municipalities with population below 6 000 and 3.5% of the country population lives there. At the same time, there are 9 municipalities with population over 100 thousand people and 40.2% of the country population lives



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there. Highest is the number of population of municipality Stolichna (1 316 557), followed by Varna (344 775) and Plovdiv (341 567). Lowest is the number of population of municipality Treklyano - 625 persons.

Table 2. Size of municipalities according to the population number as of 31.12.2014

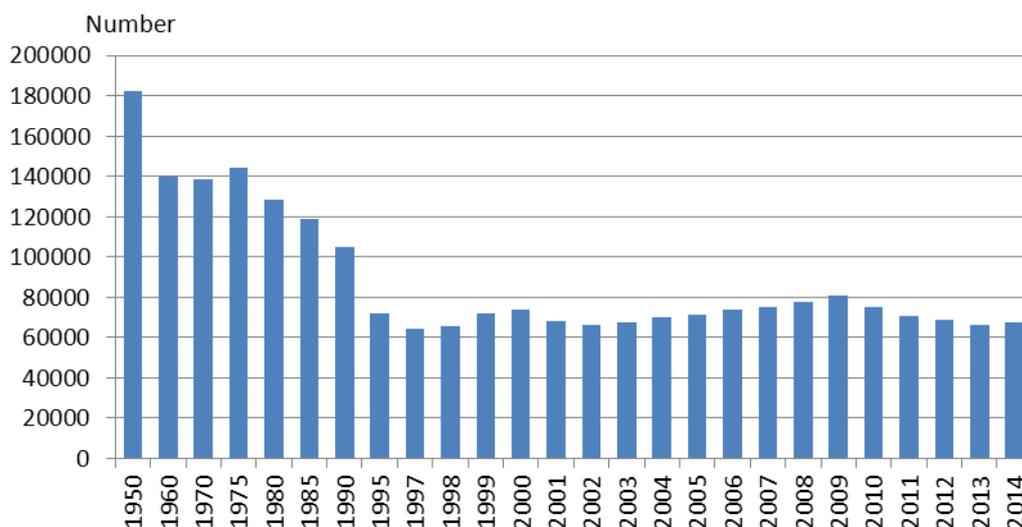
Size of municipality	Municipalities		Population	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	264	100	7202198	100
Up to 5999	66	25.0	254588	3.5
6000 - 19999	120	45.5	1319496	18.3
20000 - 49999	50	18.9	1424653	19.8
50000 - 99999	19	7.2	1306459	18.1
100000 and more	9	3.4	2897002	40.2

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

Fertility

There are 68 083 children born in 2014, of which **67 585 (99.3%) - live born**. The number of live births has increased by 1 007 children or 1.5% compared to the previous year.

Figure 6. Live born children within the period 1950 - 2014





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The crude birth rate⁴ in 2014 is 9.4‰, compared to 9.2‰ and 9.5‰ in 2013 and 2012.

The number of live born males (34 735) is by 1 885 higher compared to the live born females (32 850), or 946 females correspond to 1 000 born males.

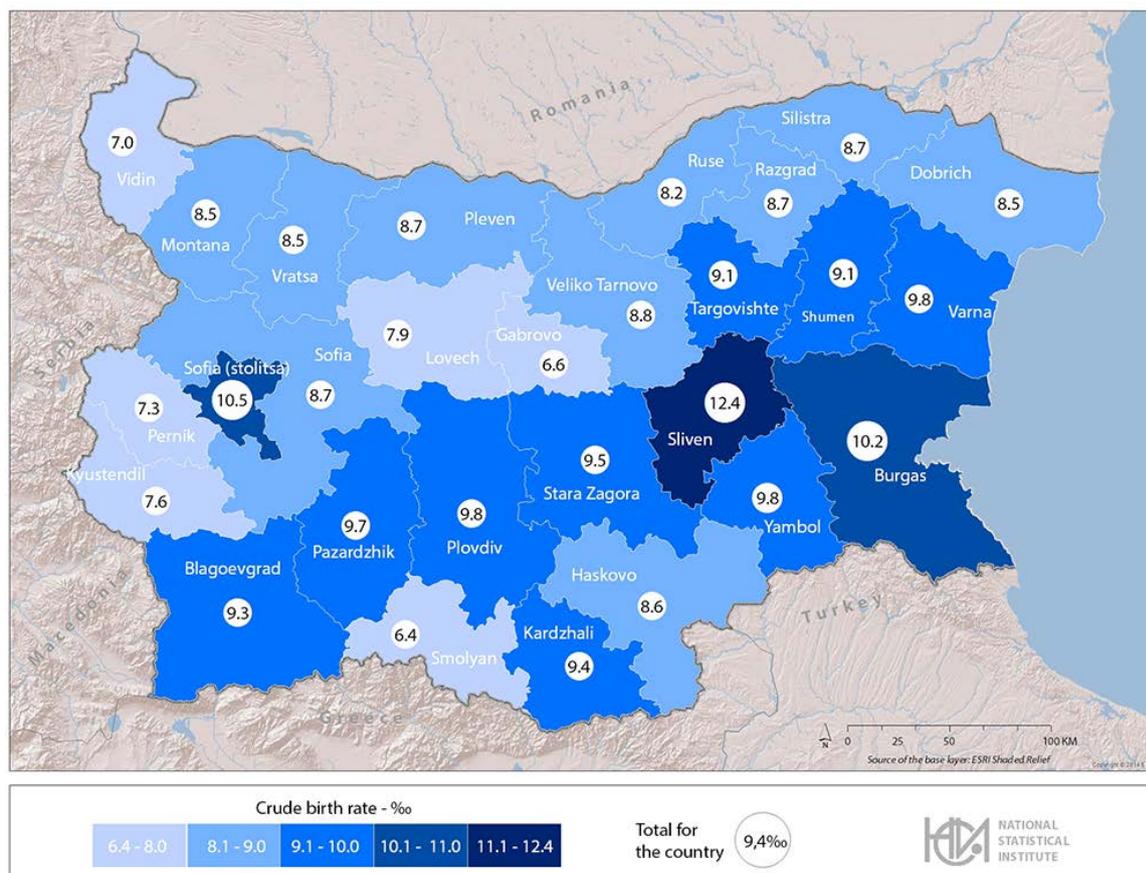
The number of live born children in urban areas is 50 704 and in rural - 16 881. Crude birth rate in urban areas is 9.6‰ and in rural - 8.7‰.

The crude birth rate for EU-28 is 10.0‰ according to Eurostat data. Highest crude birth rate is observed in Ireland - 15.0‰, followed by France (12.4‰) and Great Britain (12.1‰).

The crude birth rate in Bulgaria is a little bit higher than in Spain and Romania - 9.1‰ and Hungary - 9.0‰. Lowest crude birth rate within the EU is registered in Germany, Greece and Italy - 8.5‰.

In Bulgaria, highest is the crude birth rate in districts Sliven - 12.4‰, Sofia (stolitsa) - 10.5‰ and Burgas - 10.2‰. The crude birth rate is higher than the country average in districts Varna, Plovdiv and Yambol - 9.8‰, followed by Pazardzhik, Stara Zagora and Kardzhali - 9.7, 9.5 and 9.4‰ respectively. The crude birth rate is lower than the country average in all the rest districts and lowest crude birth rate in 2014 is registered in districts Smolyan (6.4‰), Gabrovo (6.6‰) and Vidin (7.0‰).

Figure 7. Crude birth rate in 2014 by districts



⁴ Number of live born children per 1 000 persons of the average annual population during the year



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The number of women in fertile age (15 - 49 completed years) or the size and fertility of the fertile contingents influence considerably the fertility levels and the character of population reproduction.

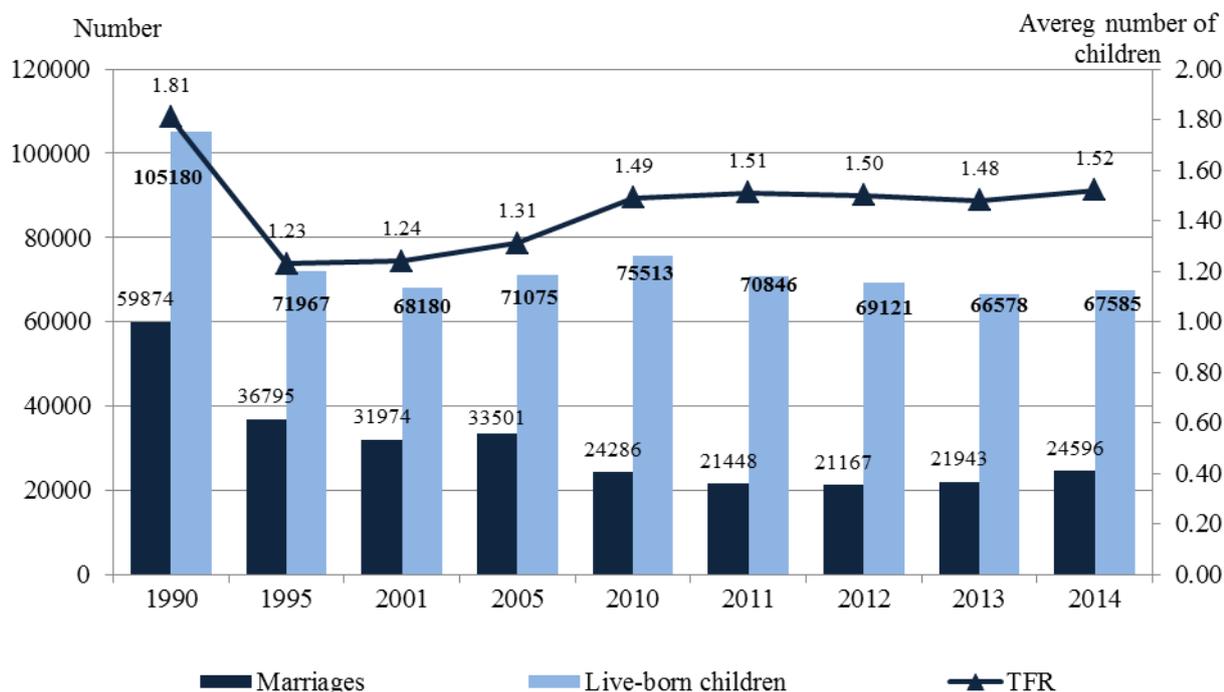
The number of women in fertile age as of 31.12.2014 was 1 580 thousand. It has decreased by over 21 thousand compared to the previous year and by 306 thousand compared to 2001.

Changes in the age structure of fertile contingents contribute considerably to the decrease of crude birth rate. It has to be taken into consideration that nearly 90% of births are realised by women aged 15 to 34 years; the number of women aged 15 - 34 years is 818 thousand in 2014 and a decrease by 2.6% has been registered compared to 2013 and by 25.1% compared to 2001. The number of women in the mentioned age group decreases mainly due to lower number of females, entering fertile age and the emigration processes.

The number of children born by mothers aged below 18 years in 2014 is 3 130 or it has decreased by 124 children compared to 2013. At the same time, the number of children born by mothers aged 40 and more has increased from 1 276 in 2013 to 1 517 in 2014.

Total fertility rate (TFR)⁵ is one of the basic indicators characterising the fertility. **The average number of live born children per women in 2014 is 1.52.** TFR in 2001 has been 1.24 children and in 2013 - 1.48 children.

Figure 8. Marriages and live born children; TFR



The mean age of women at first birth has increased from 26.5 in 2013 to **26.7 years in 2014**. The mean age of women at first marriage has also increased from 27.3 years in 2013 to 27.5 in 2014. Comparing both indicators, a tendency is observed the birth of first child to precede the marriage.

⁵ 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



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There are 1 200 multi-foetal births registered in 2014 or 82 more than in 2013. In 1 185 of the cases, two children are born, in 14 - three children and in one - four children.

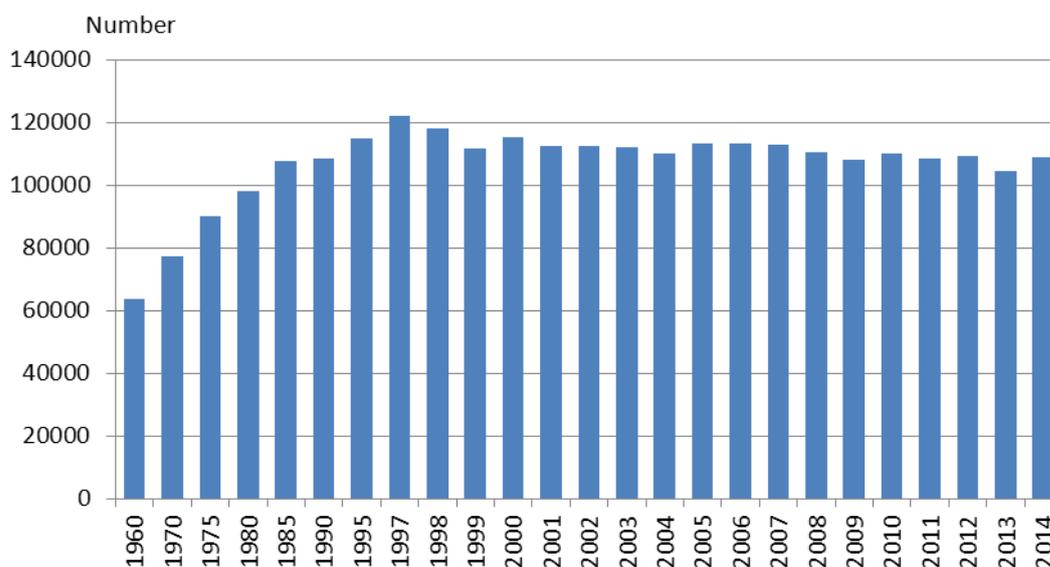
Stable tendency of increase of the number of extramarital births has been observed since 1991. The share has increased from 18.5% in 1992 to 42.0% in 2001 and 59.1% in 2013. **The number of children born outside marriage in 2014 is 39 773, while the share decreased to 58.8%** of the total number of live born. The share of extramarital births in rural areas (67.8%) is higher than in urban (55.9%). For 72.5% of the extramarital births data on the fathers exists, i.e. most probably the children are grown up in families, by parents cohabiting without marriage.

Highest share of extramarital births is registered in districts Lovech (76.3%), Vidin (75.4%), and Sliven (73.1%). The share of extramarital births in all country regions is higher than 50.0% except in districts Blagoevgrad and Kardzhali - 42.0 and 44.9% respectively.

Mortality

The number of deaths in 2014 is 108 952 and the crude mortality rate⁶ - 15.1‰. Compared to the previous year the number of deaths has increased by 4 607 or 4.4%. The crude mortality rate remains too high.

Figure 9. Deaths within the period 1950 - 2014



Mortality among males (16.1‰) continues to be higher than among females (14.1‰). In 2014 there are 1 082 deaths of males per 1 000 deaths of females. The considerable differences in mortality in urban and rural areas also remain unchanged. Mortality rate in rural areas (21.6‰) is higher than in urban ones (12.7‰).

The mortality rate for EU-28 in 2013 is 9.9‰. Mortality rate in Bulgaria is highest among the European countries. Lowest is the mortality in Ireland - 6.4‰ and Cyprus - 6.0‰. In Luxembourg, Malta, Spain, Netherlands and France it is below 9.0‰. Except in Bulgaria, rather higher is the mortality in Latvia - 14.3‰ and Lithuania - 14.0‰.

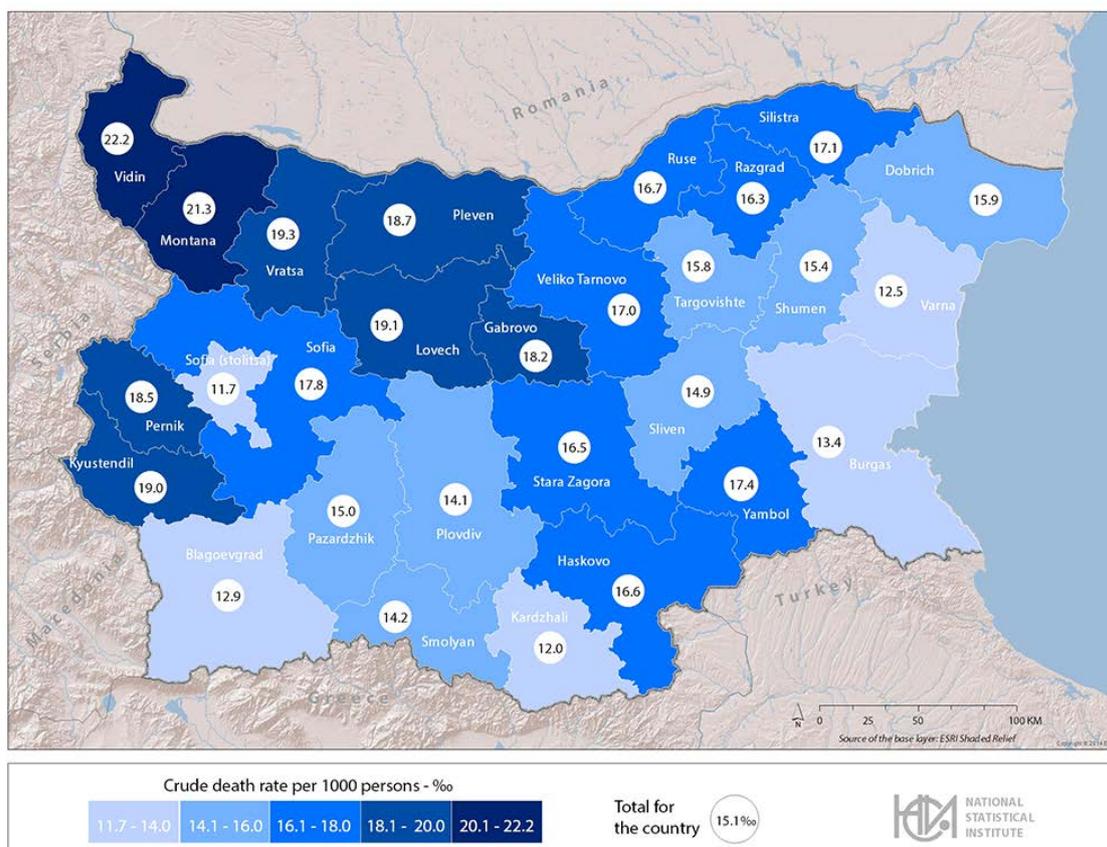
⁶ Number of dead persons per 1 000 persons of the average annual population during the year



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Highest is the mortality in districts Vidin - 22.2‰ and Montana - 21.3‰, followed by Vratsa (19.3‰) and Lovech (19.1‰). There are nine districts, with a mortality rate lower than the country average and lowest is the mortality in districts Sofia (stolitsa) - 11.7‰, Kardzhali - 12.0‰, Varna - 12.5‰ and Blagoevgrad - 12.9‰.

Figure 10. Mortality rate in 2014 by districts



The premature mortality⁷ in 2014 remains at the 2013 level - 22.4%, or an increase by 0.1 percentage points has been registered compared to 2012. There are considerable differences in the premature mortality indicator for male and female population. The dead females aged up to 64 represent 14.7% of all dead females, while among the males the same share is almost twice higher - 29.5%.

There are 517 children who die up to 1 year of age in 2014 and the infant mortality rate⁸ is 7.6‰. The infant mortality rate has decreased steadily after 1997 and in 2014 it increased for the first time by 0.3‰. The infant mortality in 2001 is 14.4‰, in 2005 - 10.4‰ and in 2013 - 7.3‰.

The infant mortality rate for 2014 is lower than the country average in 11 districts. Lowest values are registered in districts Gabrovo - 1.3‰ and Smolyan - 2.7 ‰. Highest infant mortality rate is registered in district Sliven (15.4‰), followed by Haskovo - 12.1 ‰ and Silistra - 12.0‰. Rather higher than the

⁷ Share of deaths of persons below 65 years of age of the total number of deaths

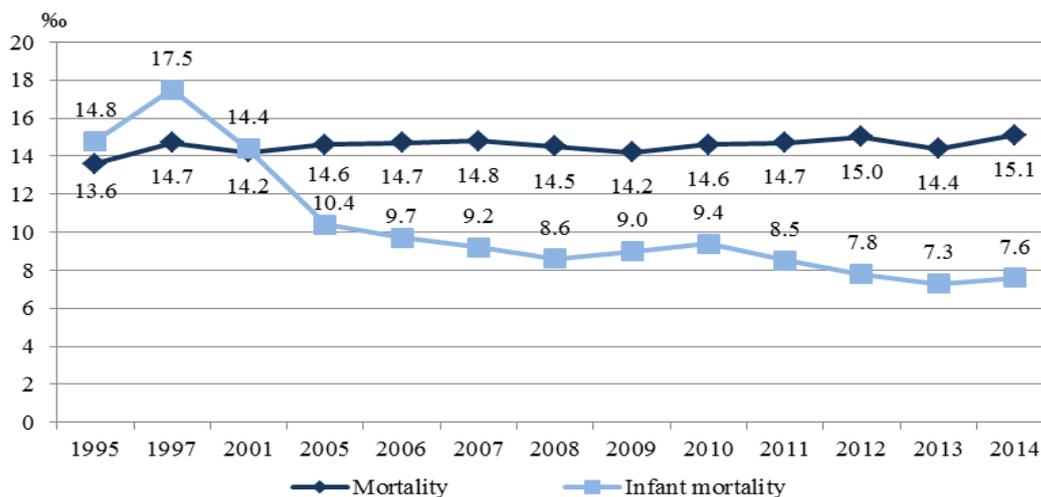
⁸ Number of children who die up to 1 year of age per 1 000 live born.



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country average and above 10.0 %) is the infant mortality in districts Shumen (11.79%), Sofia and Vidin - both 10.6%.

Figure 11. Mortality and infant mortality

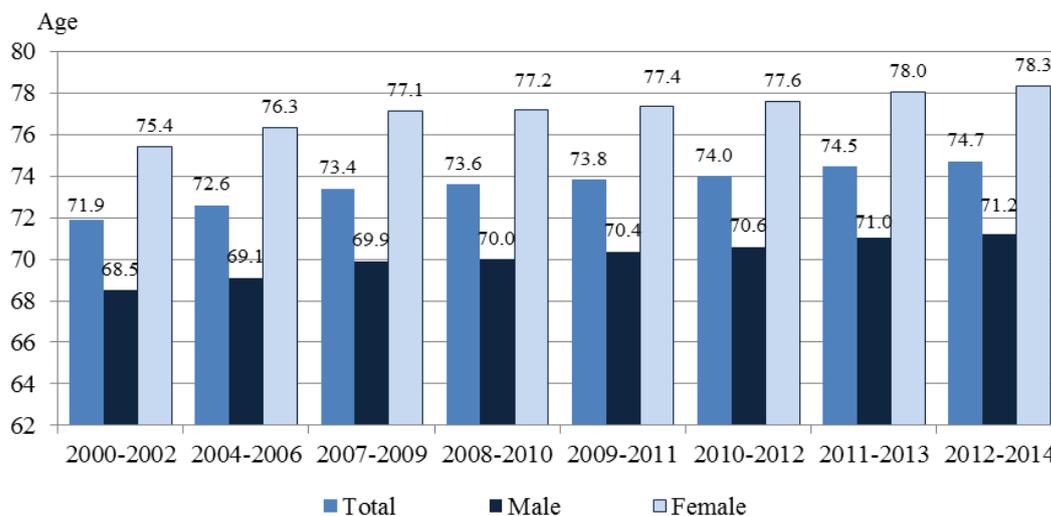


The different mortality rates among male and female population, as well as among the urban and rural population determine the difference in the life expectancy for separate population groups.

Life expectancy for the country⁹, calculated for the period 2012 - 2014 is 74.7 years. Compared to the previous period it has increased by 0.2 years.

The life expectancy of male population is 71.2 years, whereas of female - 71 years higher or 78.3 years. The life expectancy of urban population (75.5 years) is 2.7 years higher than of rural one (72.8 years).

Figure 12. Life expectancy by sex and periods



⁹ Preliminary data.

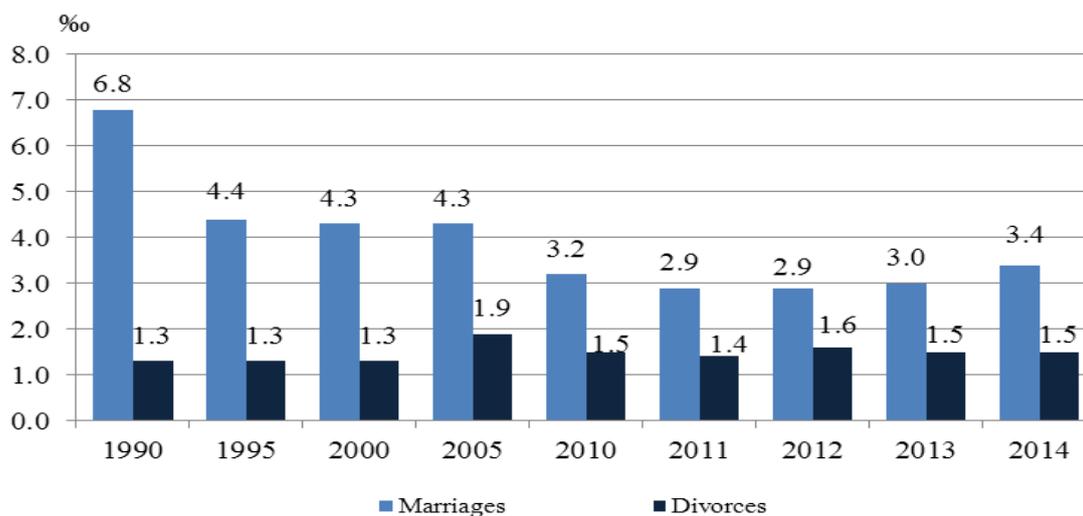


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Marriages and divorces

There are 24 596 juridical marriages registered in 2014, or 2 653 more than the previous year. Out of the total number, 76.3% (18 756) of the marriages are registered among urban population and 5 840 - among rural. The marriage rate¹⁰ is 3.4‰, compared to 3.0‰ in 2013 and 4.0‰ in 2001.

Figure 13. Marriage and divorce rates (per 1 000 population)



The mean age at first marriage in 2014 is 30.6 years for males and 27.5 - for females. Compared to the previous year, the mean age at first marriage has increased by 0.3 years for males and 0.2 years for females.

Highest is the marriage rate in district Kardzhali (4.8‰), followed by districts Targovishte (4.5‰), Razgrad and Dobrich (4.3‰ each). Lowest is the marriage rate in districts Vidin – 1.7‰ and Vratsa - 2.0‰.

The number of divorces in 2014 is 10 584 or 324 less than in 2013. Out of the total number of divorces, 82.0% refers to the urban population.

Highest is the number of divorces by ‘mutual agreement’ (62.6%), followed by divorces due to ‘incompatibility of temperament’ (27.4%) and ‘virtual parting’ (7.5%).

The average duration of a marriage before the divorce in 2014 is 15.1 years.

Internal and international migration

94 520 persons have changed their residence within the country in 2014. Among the migrants within the country, 45.7% are male and 54.3% - female.

Highest is the share of internal migrants aged 20 - 39 years (35.8%), followed by persons below 20 years of age (25.3%). Considerably lower (17.2%) is the share of internal migrants aged 40 - 59 years and 60 years and over - 21.7%.

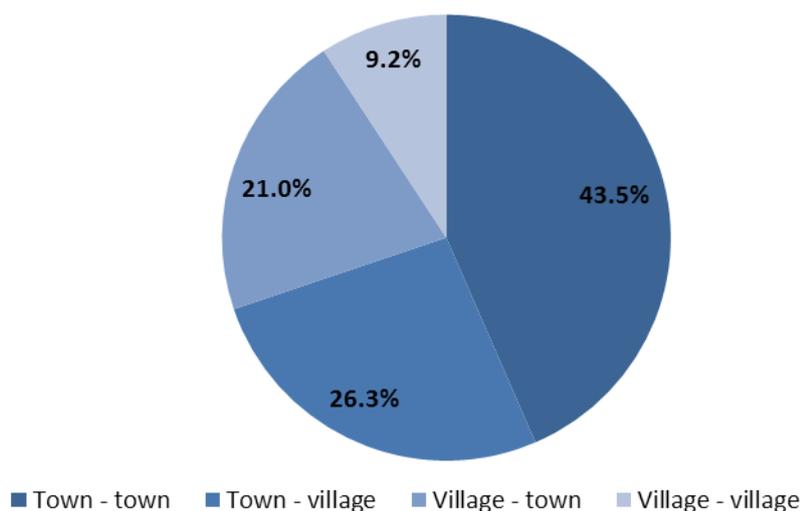
¹⁰ Number of marriages per 1 000 population



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The share of flow 'town - town' is highest one (43.5%). Considerably lower is the number and share of the flow 'village - village' (9.2%). The number of people who have migrated from towns to villages (26.3%) is greater compared to the opposite one - 'village - town' (21.0%).

Figure 14. Directions of the internal migration in 2014



As a result of the migration between towns and villages, the urban population has decreased by 5 017 persons and the rural one has increased with the same number of people.

Among the internal migrants, highest is the number of persons who have migrated to district Sofia (stolitsa) - 17 807. The highest number of migrants to district Sofia (stolitsa) is registered in districts Sofia - 9.6%, Blagoevgrad - 6.8%, Plovdiv - 5.9%, Vratsa and Varna - 5.2% and 5.1% respectively. Lowest is the number of migrants to Sofia (stolitsa) from districts Razgrad and Silistra - 0.8% both.

28 727 persons have changed their current address in Bulgaria with an address abroad in 2014 – 54.8% are male. Nearly 55% of the emigrants are aged 20 to 39 years. Emigrants aged 40 - 59 years represent 25.8%. The youngest emigrants (under 20 years) are 12.6% of the total number and the emigrants over 60 years of age - 6.6%.

Most preferred destination countries are Germany (19.6%), the United Kingdom (16.1%) and Spain (15.1%).

Persons who have changed their address abroad with an address in Bulgaria or the immigration flow includes Bulgarian citizens who have returned to Bulgaria and citizens of other countries granted permission or status for stay in Bulgaria. **There are 26 615 persons who have changed their address abroad with an address in Bulgaria in 2014.** Male represent 55.3% of the total number of immigrants and female - 44.7%.

Among the immigrants to Bulgaria, 35.1% are aged 20 - 39 years and 28.1% - 40 to 59 years. The youngest immigrants (under 20 years) are 18.4% and the oldest, over 60 years of age - 18.5%.

Highest is the share of immigrants from Turkey (26.5%), Syria (22.6%) and the Russian Federation (15.2%).



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Population natural and migration growth

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

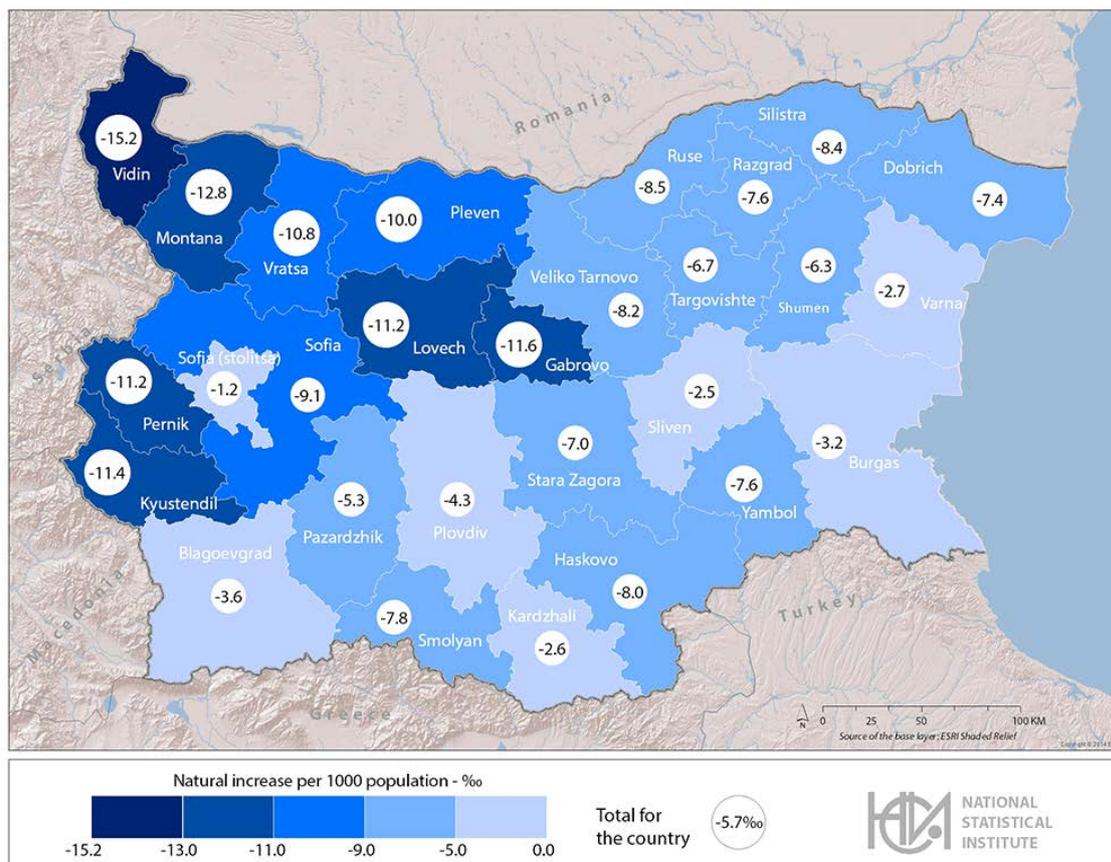
The difference between the number of live births and deaths represents the natural increase of population. The country's demographic development after 1990 is characterised by a negative natural increase. **Due to the negative natural increase the country population has decreased by 41 367 persons in 2014.**

The population decrease, **measured through the natural increase rate is minus 5.7%¹¹**. The natural increase rate in urban areas is minus 3.1‰, compared to minus 12.9‰ in rural areas, or the decrease of country population is mainly due to the negative demographic tendencies in rural areas.

The natural increase in all country districts in 2014 is negative.

Lowest is the negative growth in districts Sofia (stolitsa) (-1.2‰), Sliven (-2.5‰) and Kardzhali (-2.6‰). Highest is the population decrease due to the high negative growth in districts Vidin (-15.2‰), followed by Montana (-12.8‰) and Gabrovo (-11.6‰). Higher than minus 10.0‰ is the natural growth in districts Pleven, Vratsa, Lovech, Kyustendil and Pernik.

Figure 15. Natural growth in 2014 by districts (per 1 000 population)



¹¹ Difference between the number of live births and number of deaths per 1 000 of the average annual population



The natural increase rate for EU-28 in 2013 is 0.2‰.

In 15 EU countries the natural increase is positive and highest is the rate in Ireland (8.6‰), Cyprus (4.9‰) and Luxembourg (4.2‰). Except in Bulgaria, rather high negative natural increase is registered in Latvia (-4.0‰), Lithuania (-3.9‰), Hungary (-3.8‰) and Romania (-3.2‰). Higher than minus 2.0‰ is the natural increase in Germany, Croatia and Portugal.

Net migration (growth due to international migration) influences considerably the population number and structures. The net migration growth in 2014 is also negative - minus 2 112 persons. The last is the difference between the number of persons who have resided in the country and those who have left it.

The decrease of population due to the international migration measured through the coefficient of net migration is -0.3‰¹².

There are seven districts with a positive migration growth in 2014: Kardzhali (12.1‰), Sofia (stolitsa) - (6.5‰), Burgas (2.5‰), Varna (2.1‰), Haskovo (1.0‰), and Plovdiv and Stara Zagora - each 0.5‰.

Highest population decrease due to the negative migration growth is registered in the following districts: Smolyan (-11.6‰), Vratsa (-7.4‰) and Vidin (-7.0‰)

¹² Ratio of the net migration to the average annual population



Methodological notes

The population number and structures by the end of year are calculated based on the population data for the preceding year and data on the population natural and migration movement during the reference year.

Source of data on population number and structures is the Information System Demography of the NSI.

Data source on natural and migration movement of population (births, deaths, marriages, divorces, migration) is the Unified System for Civil Registration and Administrative Service of Population (Bulgarian acronym ESGRAON). Demographic events are registered through standard documents ESGRAON-CDS (Current Demographic Statistics): notification for birth, notification for marriage, notification for divorce, notification for death and address card for change of a present (current) address.

Data on population number and demographic events are distributed according to the administrative-territorial division of the country as of 31.12 of the reference year (settlements, municipalities, districts) and statistical regions according to the “present address”. The last is the address corresponding to the residence declared by the person and officially registered.

The age of population by the end of year is calculated as of 31.12. in completed years.

The persons’ age at occurrence of a demographic event is calculated in completed years based on the date of birth and the date of respective event, i.e. the age completed at the time of event.

The demographic indicators are calculated based on the average annual population. The last is an arithmetical average of the population number by the end of previous and the end of reference year.