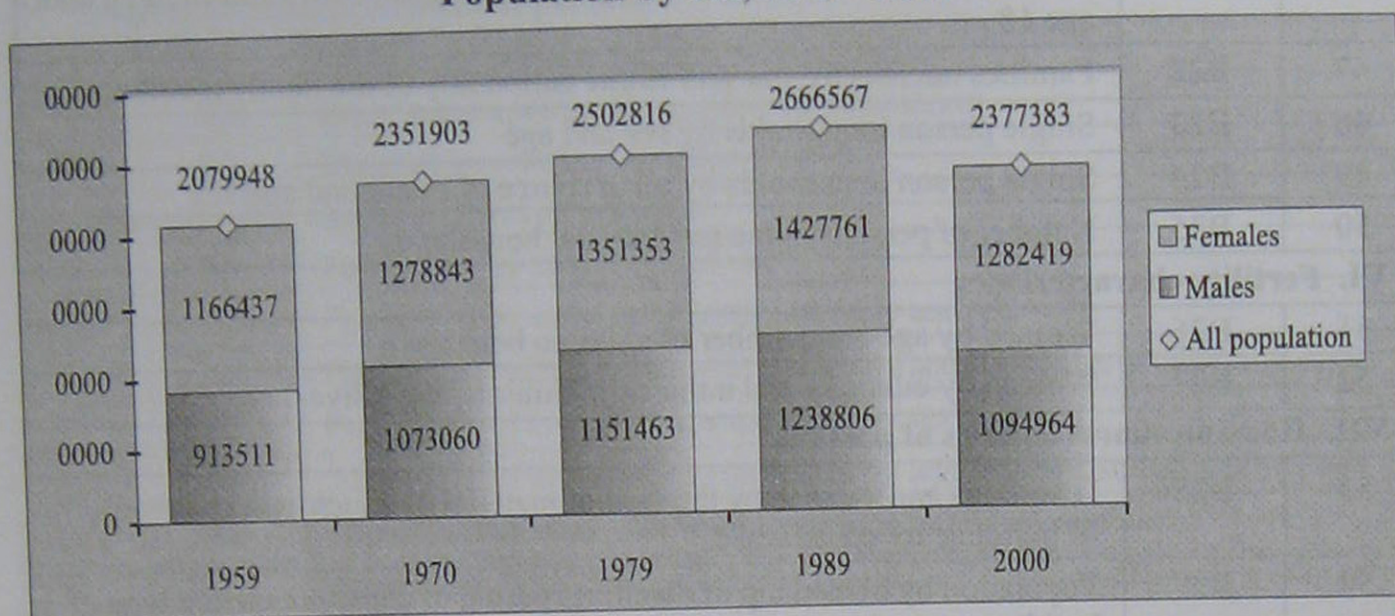


in documents, especially in the first years after regaining of independence of Latvia when legislation on emigration terms was not developed.

The 2000 Census data show the following division of the Latvian population by sex: 1,094,964 males and 1,282,419 females. The proportion of males in the total number of population has fallen from 46.5 % in 1989 to 46.1 % in 2000.

The following diagram shows the dynamics of the population number and sex composition in all post-war censuses.

**Population by sex, 1959 - 2000**



At the basis of this disproportion, the demographic consequences of both world wars go side by side with different life expectancy of males and females. According to the data for the year 2000, it is 64.9 years for males and 76.0 - for females.

The unfavourable demographic process results in a rapid ageing of population - the number of children decreases and the number and proportion of elderly people rises. The following table characterises changes in the population age structure in the period between the population censuses 1989 and 2000.

**Population by main age group, 1989 and 2000**

	Number of population		Per cent to total	
	1989	2000	1989	2000
<b>All population</b>	<b>2666567</b>	<b>2377383</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Of which by age group:				
0 - 14	570863	430275	21.4	18.1
15 - 59	1632595	1448883	61.2	60.9
60 +	463109	498152	17.4	21.0