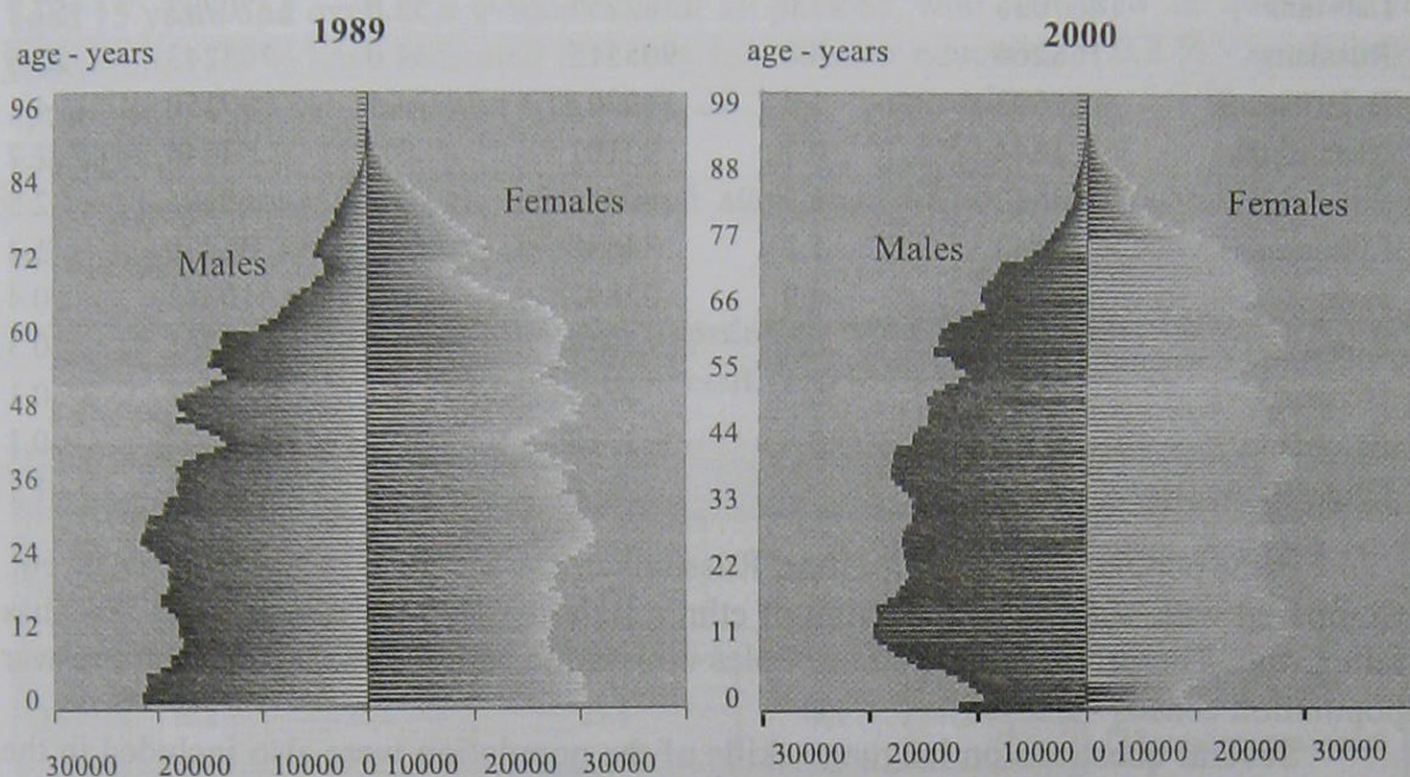


In the period between the two last population censuses, the total number of population decreased by 289 thsd or by 10.8 %, of which 0 - 14 aged population decreased by 140 thsd or 25 %, 15 - 59 aged - by 184 thsd or 11 %. At the same time, the number of population aged 60 years and over increased by 35 thsd or 8 %.

The demographic "pyramid" on page 8 widely used in demographic publications clearly shows the population age structure 1989 and 2000.

Population age "pyramids" by sex, 1989 and 2000



Issues of interest to many users and important in the situation for Latvia regarding the ethnical composition and language skills were also included in the 2000 Census Programme.

The Census data show that the population of Latvia consists of more than 150 ethnicities. If we look into the data of the last pre-war population census, we see that the proportion of ethnic Latvians compared with all following censuses was the highest in 1935 - 77 %.

The table shows the number of numerically largest ethnicities in Latvia and the proportion of selected ethnicities in the total number of population in the census years.

In 1989, the proportion of ethnic Latvians in the total number of population had declined to 52 %, the lowest indicator ever. According to the 2000 Census, the proportion of ethnic Latvians over the last ten years has already increased to 57.7 %. It must be noted, however, that along with their increase in per cent the number of ethnic Latvians decreases.