

Vital events, January–December 2011

Contents

1	Summary
2	Natural and actual increase, decrease
2	Births
3	Induced abortions
3	Marriages
4	Divorces
4	Deaths
5	Internal migration
6	International migration

Summary

On 1 January 2012, the population number of the country was 9 million 962 thousand, 23.3 thousand fewer than a year ago. Among demographic processes determining the population number, the number of live births continued to decrease, that of deaths diminished, while the positive balance of international migration exceeded the one a year before. According to preliminary data, in 2011, 88,050 children were born, 128,700 persons deceased, and the surplus from international migration was 17,350.

Table 1

Major events of vital statistics

Vital event	1990	2010	2011 ⁺	2011 ⁺ /2010 2010 = 100,0
Live birth	125 679	90 335	88 050	97.5
Death	145 660	130 456	128 700	98.7
Infant death	1 863	481	435	90.4
Marriage	66 405	35 520	35 750	100.6
Divorce	24 888	23 873	23 200	97.2
Induced abortion	90 394	40 449	38 400	94.9
Natural decrease	-19 981	-40 121	-40 650	101.3
Actual decrease	-1 670	-28 602	-23 300	81.5

+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Following the considerable decline in 2010, the number of live births fell again by 2.5 percent in 2011 resulting from the 2,285 fewer live births than a year ago. The number of newborns fell below 90 thousand in 2011 for the first time, and did not even reach half of the number of those born in the middle of the 1970s, thus hitting a new low in the history of birth statistics in Hungary.

The number of deaths was 128,700, 1.3 percent (1,756 persons) less than in the previous year. The basically moderating trend observed in the last one and a half decades stopped in the last few years, and the number of deaths has continuously exceeded 130 thousand for a long time. It fell below this level in 2011 for the first time after 1974, which occurred along with a significant improvement of mortality but a much more unfavourable age composition than earlier. The fall in the number of births was larger than that of deaths, consequently, natural decrease continued – albeit to a small extent – to increase, and it amounted to 40,650 persons in 2011. The improving trend of infant mortality continued in 2011, and the number of infant deaths per thousand newborns fell below five per mille for the first time in the demographic history of our country: the rate of 4.9 per mille was 0.4 per mille point lower than a year before.

The decreasing trend of marriages stopped in 2011. The number of marriages fluctuated at a low level, or rather stagnated in the years after the turn of the millennium, but it fell considerably, by one fifth between 2006 and 2010. The number of marriages was 35,750 in 2011, which meant a slight increase of 0.6 percent and 230 couples compared to the low level in the previous year.

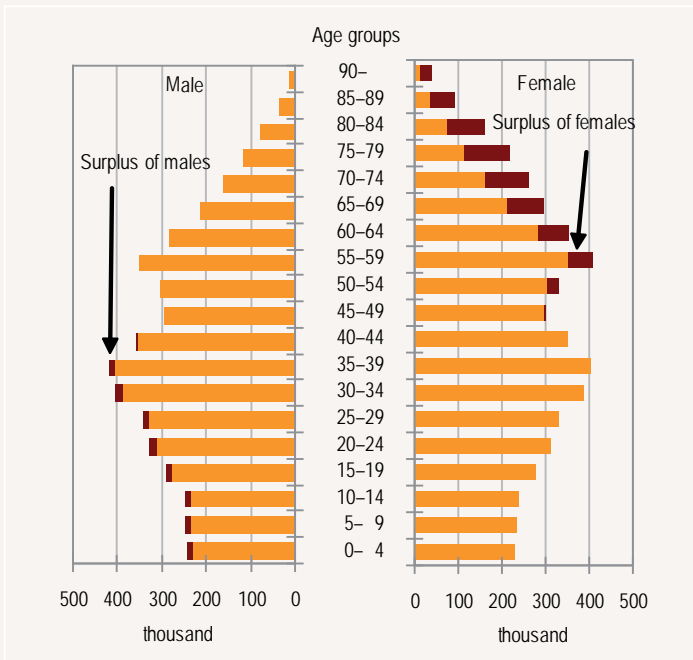
The annual number of divorces fluctuated around 24–25 thousand after the turn of the millennium; however, it remained below 24 thousand in the last three years. In 2011, 23,200 marriages were dissolved by courts, which was about 670 (2.8 percent) fewer than a year ago, and 6.3 percent less than the average number of divorces in the five years between 2005 and 2009. The absolute number of divorces showed a definitely decreasing trend in the last few years, though, when evaluating this fact, it must be taken into account that the figures refer to fewer and fewer marriages or married couples.

The decrease in live births larger than that of deaths increased somewhat the pace of natural decrease. As the negative balance of births and death, natural decrease amounted to 40,650 in 2011, which represented a growth of 1.3 percent (nearly 533 persons) compared to 2010. The positive international net migration lasting for a long time can only moderate the fall in the population number resulting from natural decrease. The positive balance of international migration amounting to 17,530 exceeded by 5,830 and nearly 51 percent the one a year before. This positive balance managed to compensate the natural decrease larger than in the previous year; consequently, the population number fell by 23.3 thousand in 2011 as opposed to 28.6 thousand in 2010. The lower actual decrease was entirely the result of the positive net migration higher than earlier.

In the composition of the population by age, structural changes, which have been observed for a long time, continued. The ageing process of the population accelerated. The number and proportion of people aged 60 years or older exceeded those of child age (0–14 year-old) population in 1992 for the first time, but since 2005, even the number of people aged 65 years and older has exceeded the number of child age population. On 1 January 2012, the number of elderly, at least 65 year-old people per 100 children was nearly 117.

Population by sex and age groups, 1 January 2012⁺

Figure 1



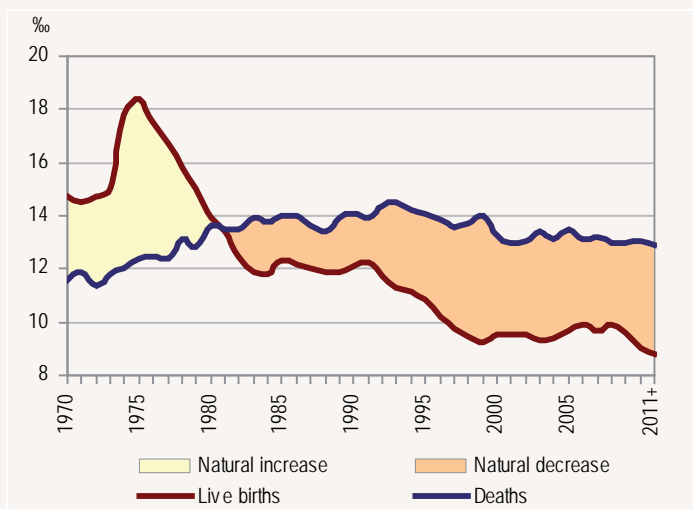
+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Natural and actual increase, decrease

On 1 January 2012, the population number of the country was 9,962 thousand according to the 2001 census data updated by the number of live births and deaths as well as by net migration. Natural decrease has been continuous for three decades. In 2011, the number of live births fell to a larger extent than that of deaths, thus, the pace of natural decrease accelerated somewhat. The number of deaths exceeded by 40,650 the number of births, thus, as the difference of the two main vital events, the decrease in the population number was so many. However, the actual decrease of the population number was reduced by the positive balance of international migration. The gain in population resulting from this process increased year-on-year and was estimated to be 17,350 persons. So, as a whole, 23.3 thousand fewer people lived in Hungary than a year earlier.

Natural demographic processes

Figure 2



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

The number of deaths exceeded that of live births in each region and county of the country. The degree of natural decrease arising from this was however different. Natural decrease per thousand inhabitants was the highest in Southern Great Plain, Southern Transdanubia and Northern Hungary and the lowest in Central Hungary and Northern Great Plain. In respect of counties, the process of decrease was faster than the national average in Békés, Nógrád, Vas and Zala counties due to the below average birth and above average death rates. At the same time, in Pest, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Hajdú-Bihar counties, birth rate is relatively high and death rate is relatively low mainly due to the age composition younger than the national one; consequently, the degree of natural decrease was the lowest there.

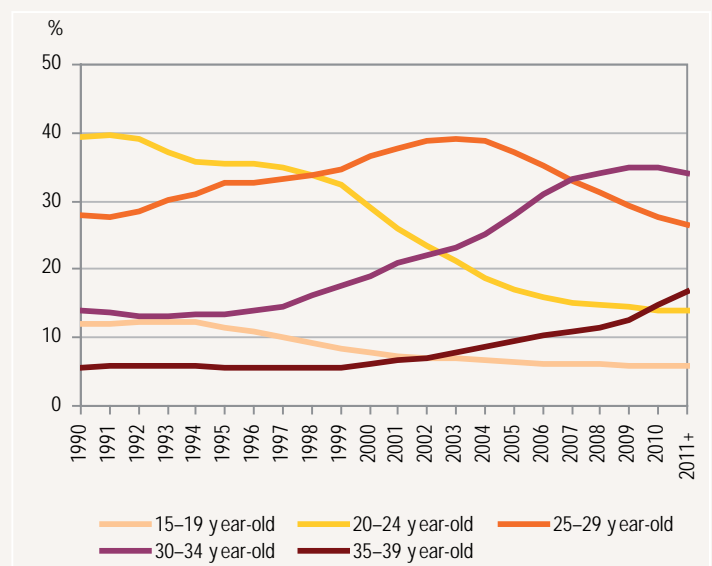
In 2011, there were only three larger territorial units in the country, where, due to internal and international migration, the population size actually increased; these were Budapest and Pest county (comprising together Central Hungary) as well as Győr-Moson-Sopron county.

Births

The number of live births fell below hundred thousand in 1998 for the first time, then, after the turn of the millennium, it varied with some fluctuation, but basically at a low level between 94.6 and 99.9 thousand. In 2010, a significant fall occurred, i.e. 6.3 percent and nearly 6,100 fewer children were born than a year before, and the number of births only slightly exceeded 90 thousand. The decreasing trend continued in 2011 at a lower pace, and, as a consequence, the number of births fell below 90 thousand for the first time. 88,050 newborns were registered in 2011, 2.5 percent and 2,285 children fewer than in the previous year, and this was the lowest number of births in the last 136 years of the history of demographic statistics in Hungary. The decline was uneven in respect of the age groups of childbearing women. Among women younger than 35 years of age, the frequency of childbearing decreased in each age group, and the fall was the largest, 5.6 percent among the 25–29 year-olds. At the same time, in case of women aged 35–44 years, as a continuation of earlier trends, a slight increase was observed. In 2011, women in this latter age group gave birth to nearly 1,500 more children than a year earlier; however, this could by far not compensate for the decrease of 3,800 in the number of births among women younger than 35 years of age.

Figure 3

Share of certain age groups of women in total number of births



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

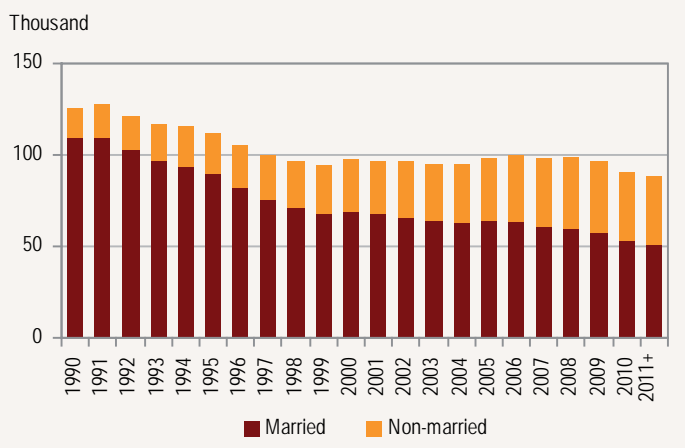
The further increase in the average age of childbearing women is shown by the phenomenon, that in 2011, childbearing was the most frequent among women aged 30–34 years, which was first observed in 2010 in the course of fertility studies in Hungary. Until the mid-1990s, women aged 20–24 years, while until 2009, those aged 25–29 years dominated among childbearing women. This shift is not due to the increasing fertility of women in their early thirties, but to the significant decrease in the fertility of those in their late twenties. Over two years, childbearing fell by 15 per cent among them, and so the 30–34 year-old women got to the first place in this respect, among whom the decline was only 4.3 per cent over the same period. In 2011, women aged 30–34 years accounted for more than one third, 34 per cent of the total number of births, so the change in their fertility behaviour continued to play an important role in the annual number of births. In this respect, their decreasing fertility being observed since 2008 is an unfavourable phenomenon.

An important factor of the annual number of births is that how many of them are marital and extra-marital births. The proportion of extra-marital births continuously grew until 2009, then, it remained unchanged in 2010 with a rate of 40.8 per cent. In 2011, it started to increase again and reached the highest level observed so far (42.3 per cent). In the background of this growth was the above average decrease of 4.9 per cent in the number of marital births, while not only the proportion, but also the absolute number of extra-marital births grew. In respect of differences by age, it is worth mentioning that the number of marital births did not decrease in each age group, only in case of women under 35 years of age, while a significant part (72%) of the surplus in births among 35–44 year-old women mentioned earlier was marital ones.

At the fertility level of 2011, hundred women would give birth only to 124 children during their life, much fewer than ever before. This means to get more distant from the number of 210 children necessary for simple reproduction on the average. Gross reproduction rate was 0.600, that is, at the fertility level of 2011, thousand women would give birth to 600 daughters during their life, so the number of the new child generation would be 40 per cent fewer than the number of the parents' generations. This means a so large deficit in reproduction, from which level it is more and more hopeless to reverse the negative processes.

Figure 4

Live births by marital status of mother



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

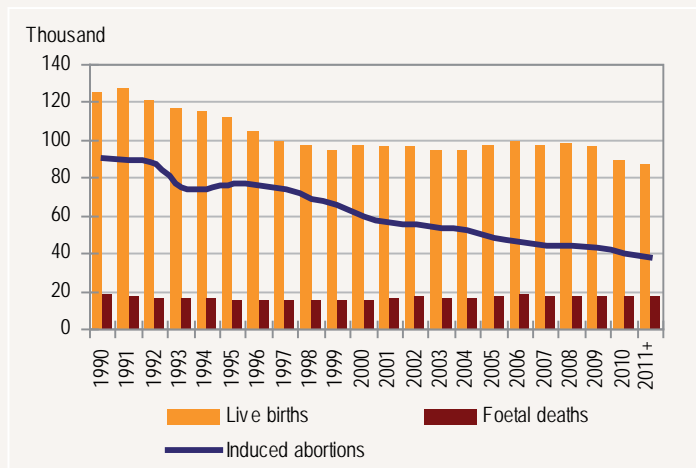
Induced abortions

The decreasing trend of abortions, following a sudden stop in 2008, continued in the last three years. Together with the decrease in the number of births, the number of induced abortions fell as well. In 2011, the number of interventions was 38,400, by nearly 2,050, i.e. 5.1 per cent fewer than in

the previous year. The downward trend can be observed in each age group of women except for teenagers. The most significant, about 6-7 percent fall occurred among women aged 25–34 years, while the change was the smallest – a decrease of 1.1 per cent – among the 35–39 year-olds. It is remarkable, that among women under 20 years of age, the number of induced abortions did not decrease; on the contrary, it slightly rose in 2011 year-on-year. Since the number of induced abortions fell to a higher degree than that of live births, the number of abortions per thousand live births was 436 in 2011, by 12 fewer than a year earlier.

Figure 5

Obstetrical events



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Marriages

Marriages have been showing a downward trend for a long time. In the years following the turn of the millennium, the 44–46 thousand marriages did not even reach half of the annual 90–100 thousand marriages characteristic of the 1970s. The degree of decrease is especially remarkable if we take into account that in the 1970s, a large number of people born in the “Ratkó era” got married, and since the turn of the millennium, the age-groups of their children representing a similarly high number entered the age of marriage. Despite this fact, the number of marriages continued to diminish, and in 2010, it showed one of the lowest levels in the history of demographic statistics. There was a slight move from this low in 2011, when the number of marriages was 35,750, 0.6 per cent more than a year earlier resulting from the 230 more couples getting officially married. The age composition of marrying couples has significantly changed. Among marrying couples, teenagers appear only now and then, but the frequency of marriage strongly declined among young people in their twenties as well. In 2011, the number of marriages increased considerably year-on-year only among adults of “more mature age” of 35–49 years. Nevertheless, women get married most frequently in the second half of their twenties, while men at the beginning of their thirties. Marriages postponed in young ages can be less and less compensated by the larger number of marrying couples in their thirties or forties. Not only the postponing behaviour may be in the background of this phenomenon, but also the fact that people treat with reserve couple relationships based on marriage, and cohabitating partnerships with less commitments become more and more widespread.

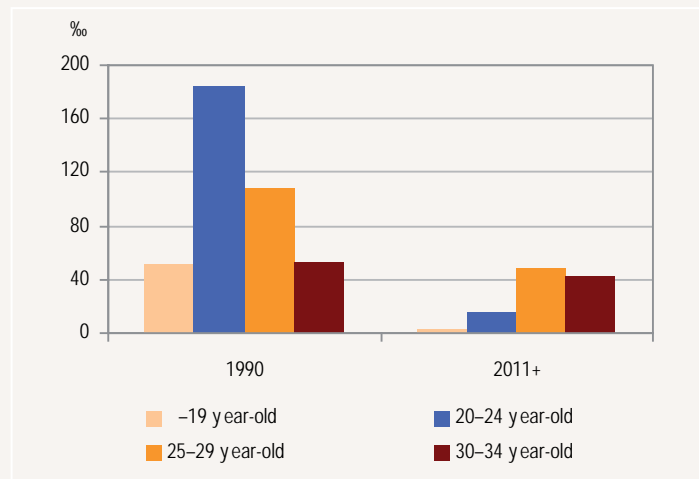
On 1 July 2009, marital status was extended by a new category, the registered cohabiting partnership.¹ In the second half of 2009, 67, while in 2010, 80 registered cohabiting partnerships were recorded in the registers. In 2011, the number of newly registered cohabiting partnerships decreased nearly by half to 45. Among them, the number of male couples was 24, while that of female couples was 21, and 40 per cent of them were

1 Act XXIX of 2009 on Registered Partnership and Related Legislation regulating the establishment and termination of same-sex partnerships entered into force on 1 July 2009.

residents in Budapest. The average age of starting the official procedure was 37.7 years in case of men and 34.2 years in case of women. The difference of age between male partners was 6.4 years, while that between female partners was 6 years on the average.

Figure 6

Marriages per thousand non-married women of corresponding age



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Divorces

In 2011, the number of 23,200 court divorces was numerically about 670 fewer than in the previous year, but nearly 2,000 (7.8 percent) fewer than the level three years earlier. Compared to the divorces stagnating on a high level in the last decade and increasing since 2004, the definite decrease in the last years is a remarkable phenomenon. However, the declining number does not anyway mean the increasing stability of couple relationships, since both the number of marriages and the proportion of those living in marriage significantly fell. In respect of the age composition of divorced women, a slow shift can be observed towards older age groups. Although divorce is invariably the most frequent among 20–34 year-old women, considering its dynamics, the frequency of divorce increased the most in the last ten years among women aged 35 years or older. In all probability, the higher age of divorced people is connected with the rise in the age of those getting married, but, at the same time, it refers to the increasing exposure of long-existing marriages as well.

Invariably, much more marriages terminate through divorce or widowhood, than the number of new marriages. The number of the former was 69,600 in 2011, while the latter amounted only to 35,750. This means that the number of ceased marriages per 100 new marriages was nearly the double, 195. In 1990, this indicator was 135, while in the 1970s, the balance of marriages used to be still positive, i.e. more new marriages were contracted than the number marriages terminated by divorce or widowhood.

The lasting negative balance of marriages significantly modified the composition of the population by marital status. Since 1990, the proportion of the married population has considerably decreased from 61.2 to 44.3 percent; along with this, the proportion of singles has grown from 20.3 to 33.5 percent, while that of divorced has increased from 7.4 to 11.1 percent. At the same time, the proportion of the widowed population did not significantly change and fluctuated between 11 and 12 percent in the last twenty years. The dominance of married people among the population aged 15 years and more stopped in 2004 for the first time, and since that time, the predominance of the unmarried population has become more and more evident. Differences between men and women are significant: the proportion of married people and that of singles is the highest in case of both sexes, but among women, the proportion of widows is 5 times, while that of divorced is nearly 1.3 times as much as among the so-called stronger sex.

The differences derive mainly from the different number and age composition of men and women, as well as from their different habits and opportunities of marrying and re-marrying.

Table 2

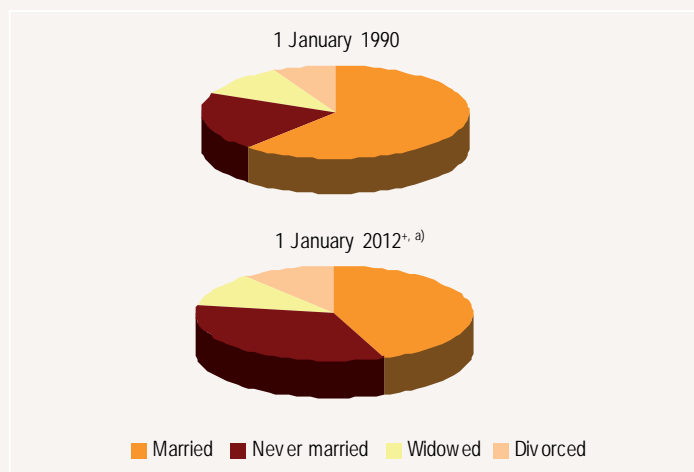
Marriages and ceased marriages

Denotation	1990	2000	2010	2011 ⁺
Marriages	66 405	48 110	35 520	35 750
Ceased marriages	89 817	79 685	71 081	69 600
due to death	64 929	55 698	47 208	46 400
due to divorce	24 888	23 987	23 873	23 200

+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Figure 7

15 year-old and older population by marital status



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

a) According to marital status categories before 1 July 2009.

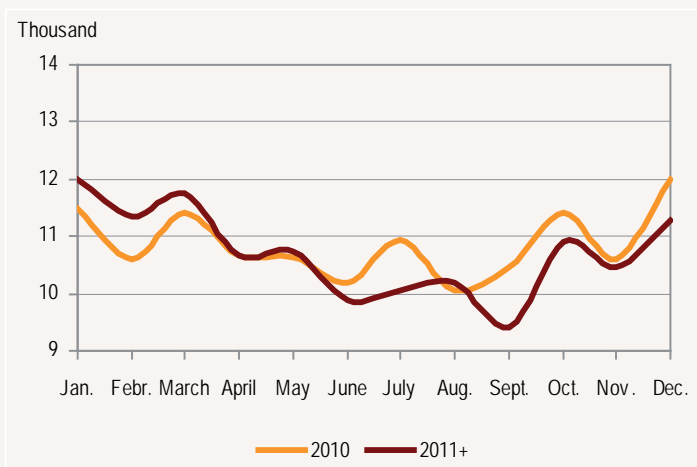
Deaths

The number of deaths has showed a basically decreasing trend with some fluctuations since the beginning of the 1990s. The number of deaths exceeding 150 thousand in 1993 has been the highest for decades. The decrease started from this level interrupted frequently by years of increase or stagnation. The year 2011 meant a change in this approach, as the number of deaths has fallen under 130 thousand for the first time for many years. The number of 128,700 deaths has been the lowest since 1974, while the population was significantly ageing in the last three and a half decades. This means that in 2011, the improvement in mortality managed to compensate the effect of the population ageing which increases automatically the number of deaths. The number of deaths was uneven over the year; it grew in the first three months, but then, albeit with some minor fluctuations, it showed basically an improving trend. Between January and March, 1,640 (4.9%) more people, while in the nine months between April and December, 3,396 (3.5%) fewer people deceased than in the same periods of the previous year. Consequently, the number of deaths diminished on the whole by 1.3 percent resulting from the 1,756 fewer deceases compared to 2010. 2011 was a lucky year also with regard to the fact that the seasonal effect of periodically returning flu epidemics did not play a determinant role. In 2011, the number of deaths per thousand inhabitants was 12.9, 13.5 among men and 12.4 among women. Year-on-year, this indicator diminished by 0.2 per mille point for men, and remained unchanged in case of women. In the changes of deaths by age, the differences between sexes are remarkable. The mortality of men improved or remained unchanged in each age group, the most spectacular improvement, a decrease between 15 and 20 percent, occurred among middle-aged,

35–44 year-old men. At the same time, among women, the picture is not so unambiguous: the nearly 22 percent increase in the mortality of girls under 15 years of age is remarkable, but it must be mentioned here, that due to the low number of cases, an unexpected accident or tragedy now and then may significantly modify the annual level of mortality in this age group. In any case, this was the only age group in 2011, where the mortality of girls exceeded that of boys of same age. Mortality rose by 1 percent among young women aged 15–29 years, by 5.5 percent among the 40–44 year-olds, but there was an increase of 1–3 percent among older, 60–69 year-old women as well. At the same time, mortality of both genders improved in 2011 in each age group above 70 years of age.

Figure 8

Number of deaths by months

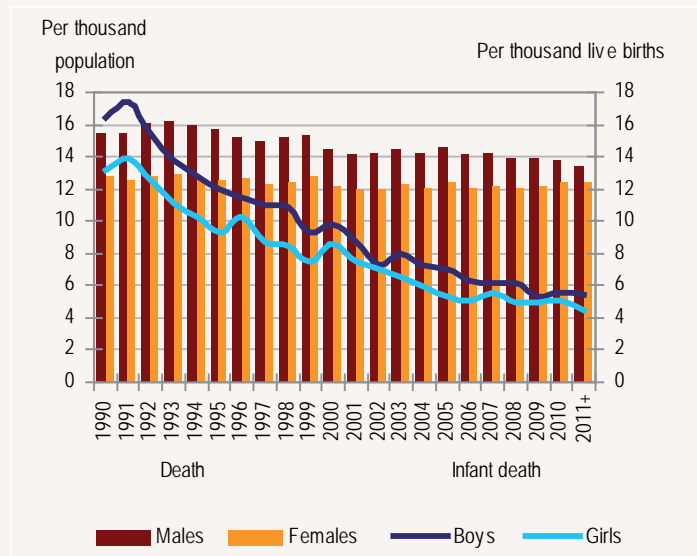


+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

In the field of infant deaths, there was a turning point as well, since the mortality of infants under one year of age fell below 5 per mille for the first time in our demographic history. There was an improvement in case of both sexes, but it was much higher (12%) among girls than among boys (3.2%). In 2011, out of ten thousand infant boys 54, while out of ten thousand infant girls 45 deceased under one year of age. Infant mortality calculated for both genders was 4.9 per mille, 0.4 per mille point lower than in the previous year.

Figure 9

Death and infant death rates by sex



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

In 2011, the total number of deaths decreased by more than 1,700. Due to the differences in mortality between sexes mentioned earlier, the overwhelming majority of the decrease (76%) occurred among men. The number of deceased men fell by nearly 1,340, while that of deceased women decreased by 420 year-on-year. In respect of marital status, only the number of deaths among divorced people grew in both genders, while it diminished in case of all the other marital statuses.

Due to the difference in life expectancy between the two sexes, the majority (53 percent) of deceased men lived in marriage before their death, while, among deceased women, the proportion of widows was the most considerable with more than 63 percent.

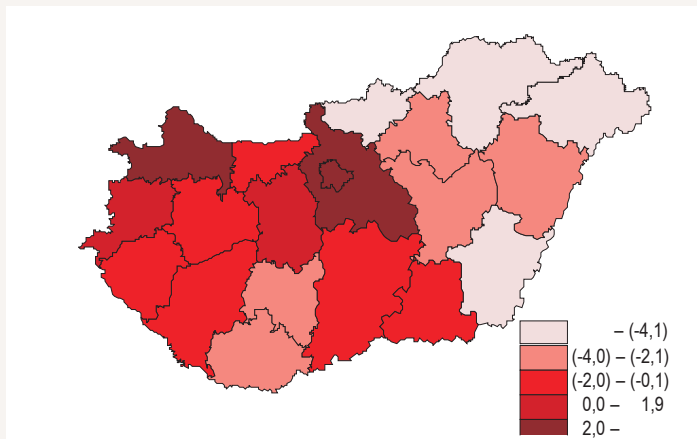
Internal migration

The direction and degree of internal migration may considerably modify the population number of a certain region determined by the number of births and deaths. In 2011, the number of permanent migrations continued to decrease in line with the trend in the past years. At the same time, the extent of change was less significant. Nearly 201 thousand people changed their place of residence, which meant a 1 percent decrease year-on-year. However, in the number of temporary migrations, a nearly 50 percent increase could be observed, thus, it amounted to 260 thousand in 2011. The significant change can be explained first of all by administrative reasons. According to Act LXVI of 1992, the number of temporary migrations includes also those who, after a certain period, do not prolong the registration of their place of stay, thus it gets automatically deleted. In 2006, this period was modified from two to five years, so places of stay registered five years earlier were automatically deleted due to the lack of renewal first in 2011.

In respect of permanent migration, there was no significant change in the mobility between settlement types compared to the previous year. In case of Budapest, the balance was invariably positive, it amounted to more than 2,000, but the increasing trend of the past years stopped. Similarly to 2010, an out-migration of 2,000 people was observed in other towns, while in villages, a small (50 persons) negative balance was seen. In case of temporary migrations, the processes of the past years have turned, probably due to the effect of the above mentioned law. As opposed to the increasing trends earlier, net migration was more than 7,000 fewer in Budapest than in 2010, however, it was still positive here (5,300 persons). In other towns, a decrease of similar degree was observed, thus net migration turned to negative. In villages, despite the significantly improving net migration (by 14.4 thousand), an out-migration of more than 2,000 thousand was observed. The total balance of migration in the capital fell by half compared to 2010, thus increasing its population by more than 7 thousand. In case of other towns, the total balance of migration turned to negative, while in villages, out-migration diminished considerably, by more than 14,000 people.

In regional comparison, similarly to 2010, net internal migration was invariably positive in Central Hungary (14,300 people) and in Western Transdanubia (2,900 people), but the balance was minimally positive (100 people) in Central Transdanubia as well. Among counties, the most attractive were Pest and Győr-Moson-Sopron counties in 2011 as well, but, at the same time, in Csongrád county a decrease of 150 people, and thus, a negative balance was observed year-on-year. Among regions, population retaining capacity is the weakest in Northern Great Plain and Northern Hungary; as a result of internal migration, the population number in these regions fell by 6,350 and 6,150, respectively. Among counties, out-migration was the largest in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar, Békés and Nógrád counties. In addition to Győr-Moson-Sopron and Pest counties, net internal migration was positive only in Vas and Fejér counties, thus, in areas east of the Danube, out-migration continues to be characteristic.

Figure 10

Difference in internal migration per thousand population, 2011⁺

+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

International migration

International migration modifies further the picture outlined above, since it can mitigate the losses deriving from natural decrease and internal out-migration. In 2011, international net migration was positive in each county of Hungary, and an outstanding role was played by Central Hungary, where the major proportion of immigrants lives. In addition, Northern Great Plain is also an attractive region in respect of immigration, while the fewest immigrants came to Northern Hungary.

The number of foreigners residing in Hungary for a long time with a valid permit was 211,700 on 1 January 2012, which exceeded by 2.3 percent the level a year ago. At present, foreign citizens account for 2.1 percent of the population of the country. The overwhelming majority of them came from Europe, within this, from Romania, Ukraine, Serbia and Germany. 40.8 percent of foreigners live in Budapest, 37.9 percent in towns other than Budapest and 21.3 percent in villages. The age composition of immigrants is younger than that of the native population. The number of the age group 20–39 years was determinant in both sexes, and their proportion was above 43 percent among foreigners residing in Hungary.

Further information, data (links):[Tables](#)[Methodology](#)**Contact details:**gabriella.geczi@ksh.hu

Telephone: +36 1 345 6558

ferenc.kamaras@ksh.hu

Telephone: +36 1 345 6565

[Information services](#)

Telephone: +36 1 345 6789

www.ksh.hu