

Vital events, 2017

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Summary

On 1 January 2018, the number of the **population** was 9,771 thousand in Hungary, 26.9 thousand fewer than a year earlier. In 2017, both favourable and unfavourable changes could be observed in the major demographic processes. Compared to the previous year, the number of births and marriages decreased, that of deaths grew, and in parallel, the extent of natural decrease increased. At the same time, the number of induced abortions and divorces declined and infant mortality fell to a new historic low. Total fertility rate continued to increase slightly to 1.5 in 2017, which has been the highest value since 1996. According to preliminary data, 91,600 children were born and 131,700 people deceased in 2017. Natural decrease amounted to 40,100 persons, which was 18% higher than a year earlier. Net international migration was more favourable than in the previous year, and this could offset the extent of natural decrease in the population number. As a result, the actual population decrease was nearly 26,900 persons, 18% lower than the one measured a year earlier.

Table 1

Main vital events

Vital events	1990	2010	2016	2017 ⁺	2017 ⁺ (2016=100.0)
Live birth	125 679	90 335	93 063	91 600	98.4
Death	145 660	130 456	127 053	131 700	103.7
Infant death	1 863	481	368	330	89.7
Marriage	66 405	35 520	51 805	50 600	97.7
Divorce	24 888	23 873	19 552	18 600	95.1
Induced abortion	90 394	40 449	30 439	28 500	93.6
Natural decrease	-19 981	-40 121	-33 990	-40 100	118.0
Actual decrease	-1 670	-28 602	-32 924	-26 900	81.7

⁺ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Following the historic low of about 88 thousand **births** in 2011, the number of births showed an increasing trend until 2016 with the exception of 2013. In 2016, the number of births increased by 1.5% or 1,400 infants year-on-year, and the 93,063 live births represented the highest number in the six preceding years. The growth stopped in 2017, and the number of births estimated at 91,600 was 1.6% or 1,463 fewer than a year before and essentially the same as two years earlier.

The number of **deaths** has been continuously more than 130 thousand for a long time, but it was below this level between 2011 and 2016 except for 2015. In 2017, the number of deaths increased significantly, which not only exceeded again 130 thousand, but represented an excess mortality of 3.7% or nearly 4,650 people compared to the previous year. The number of deaths estimated at 131,700 in 2017 was practically the same as the one measured two years earlier, in 2015.

The **infant mortality rate** – with fluctuations – is basically decreasing. The number of deaths under one year of age fell below 5 per mille in 2011 for the first time, but it has never been below 4 per mille. According to preliminary data, 330 infant deaths occurred in 2017, which represent a rate of 3.6 per mille, the lowest level observed so far.

The number of **marriages** fluctuated within narrow limits, or rather stagnated after the turn of the millennium, but it considerably fell (by one fifth) between 2006 and 2010. Thereafter, a growth could be observed, which increased the number of marriages by nearly one and a half times between 2010 and 2016. In 2017, this process stopped, and 50,600 marriages were registered, 2.3% less than a year earlier. In the preceding two decades, the number of marriages exceeded 50 thousand only in 2016 and 2017.

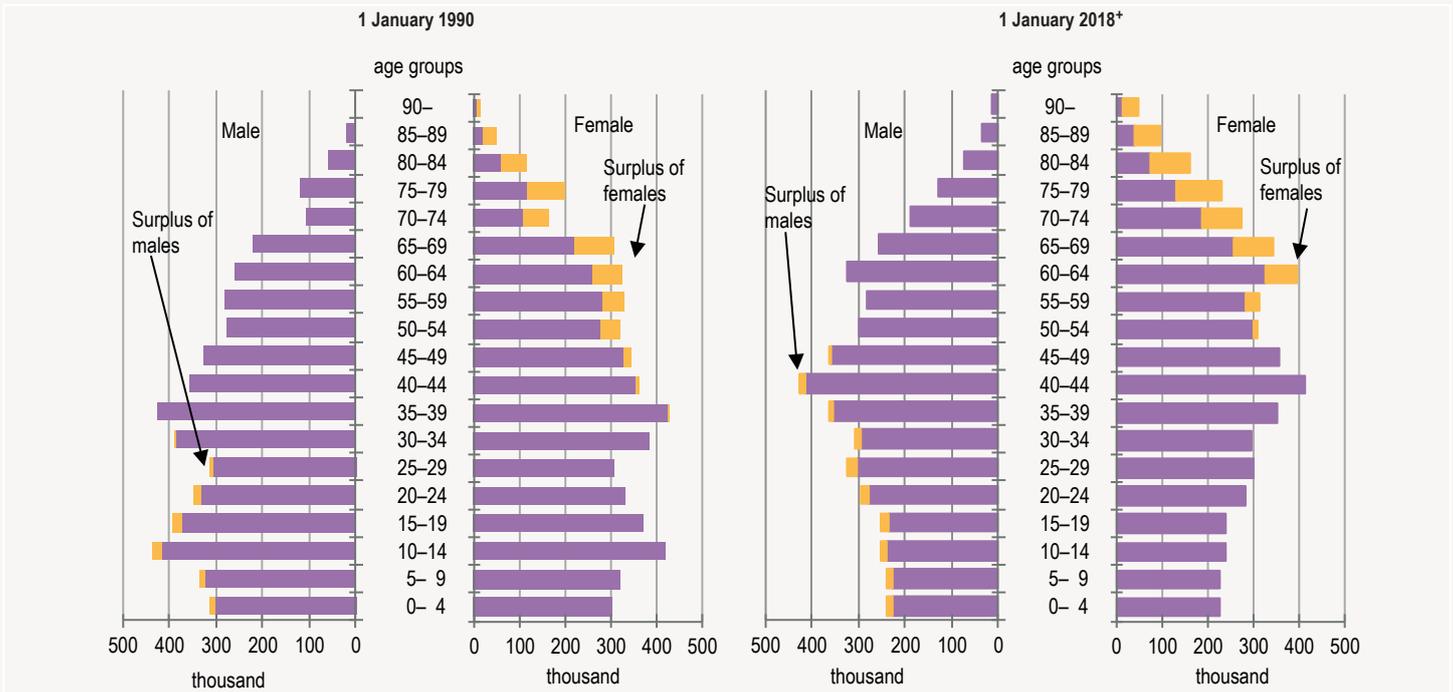
The annual number of **divorces** was around 24–25 thousand in the decade after the turn of the millennium and then, it showed a definitely decreasing trend. In 2014, for the first time in fifty years, the number of divorces fell below 20 thousand, then it remained in this range except for 2015. The estimated number of marriages dissolved by courts was 18,600 in 2017, which meant a decrease of 4.9% or numerically nearly 1,000 divorces compared to the previous year.

The decrease in the number of births and the increase in the number of deaths have considerably increased the pace of **natural decrease** of the population. Due to the negative balance of births and deaths, natural decrease was 40,100 in 2017, 18% higher than in the previous year. The actual decrease in the population number was much lower, 26,900 people due to the positive balance of international migration, which was higher than in 2016. In 2017, the positive balance of international migration moderated the pace of natural decrease by 13,200 people.

The **changes in the structure of the population by age** having been experienced for a long time continued. The ageing process of the population accelerated. The number and rate of people aged 60 years and over exceeded those of the 0–14 year-old child-age population in 1992 for the first time, but since 2005, even the number of people aged 65 years and older has been higher than that of child-age population. On 1 January 2018, the number of 65 year-old and older people per hundred children was 130. The 15–64 year old population (population of working age) must provide for a stagnating number of child-age and

Population by sex and age groups

Figure 1



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

a growing number of old-age people. On 1 January 2018, the number of child-age and old-age people per hundred people of working age was 50.

Natural and actual increase, decrease

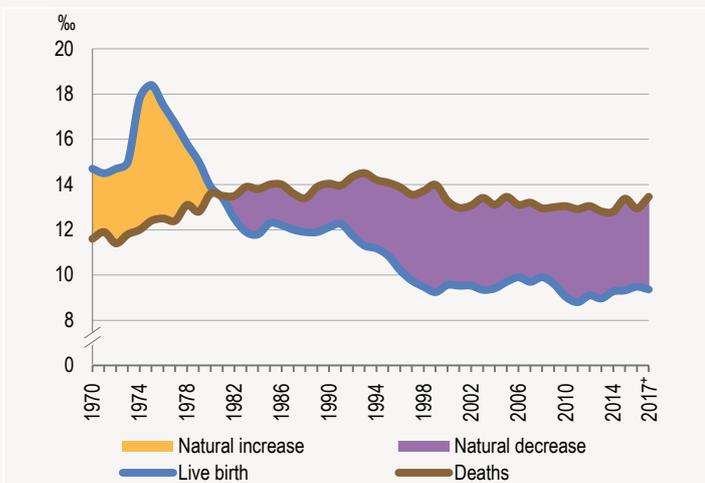
The number of the population was 9,771 thousand on 1 January 2018 based on the further calculated 2011 census data. The largest population number in the current territory of the country was registered on 1 January 1981 with 10,713 thousand people. Although at a varying pace, natural decrease, which started in 1981, has been continuous for thirty-seven years. Between 1981 and 2018, due to natural decrease, the population declined by 1,142 thousand. The greatest natural decrease was recorded in 1999, when, over one year, the population decline was nearly 48.6 thousand due to the negative balance of live births and deaths. In the last ten years, 2011 was the least favourable year with a population decline of more than 40.7 thousand. In 2017, natural decrease was not much less than that amounting to 40.1 thousand people.

To calculate the actual population decrease, the balance of international migration has also to be taken into account. Between 1981 and 1 January 2018, actual decrease amounted to 942 thousand, i.e. 200 thousand fewer than natural decrease. This means that the number of the population has increased by 200 thousand on the whole owing to the positive balance of international migration. The positive balance of international migration could moderate the population decline resulting from natural decrease only by 1,066 people in 2016, but by 13,200 people in 2017.

In 2017, the number of deaths was higher than that of births in every region and county of Hungary. However, the extent of natural decrease resulting from this was different by territorial units. Natural decrease per thousand population was the highest in Southern Transdanubia and Southern Great Plain, while it was the lowest in Pest region¹ and Northern Great Plain. In respect of counties, the rate of natural decrease was considerably higher than the national average in Békés, Zala, Nógrád and Somogy counties due to the below average birth rates and above average death rates. At the same time, mainly due to the younger age structure than the national average, birth rates are relatively high and death rates are relatively low, and, consequently natural decrease is the lowest in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar and Pest counties.

Figure 2

Natural demographic processes

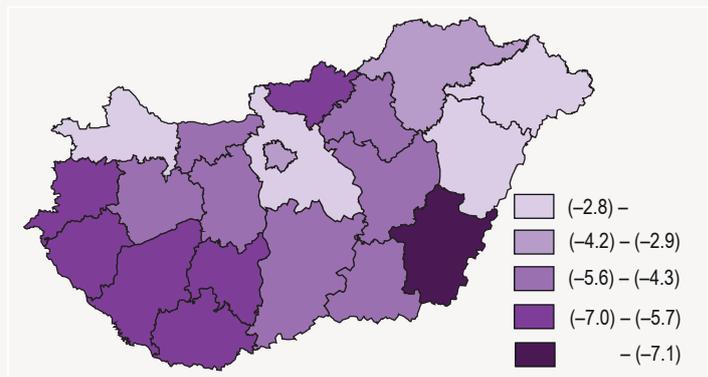


+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

¹ On 1 January 2018, Central Hungary was divided into Budapest and Pest region.

Natural decrease per thousand population by counties, 2017+

Figure 3



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

In 2017, there were only two counties – Pest and Győr-Moson-Sopron – in the country where, despite the natural decrease, the number of the population actually grew due to the combined effect of internal and international migration. Both internal and international migration was positive in both counties, but the positive balance of internal migration had a larger weight in the growth in the population number than that of international migration. Also these two counties recorded the largest internal migration gain per thousand population with 12.4 per mille and 5.8 per mille, respectively, but the balance of internal migration was positive in the counties of Central Transdanubia, especially in Fejér county and in Vas county in Western Transdanubia as well. Outmigration was the highest in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Békés counties, but the population decline resulting from internal outmigration was significant in Tolna, Hajdú-Bihar and Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok counties as well.

In respect of international migration, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and the capital proved to be the most attractive territorial unit in 2017, but the positive balance of international migration increased the population number more than the national average also in Győr-Moson-Sopron, Csongrád, Vas, Heves and Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok counties. Despite the positive balance of international migration, the population number of Budapest decreased compared to the previous year. In addition to natural decrease, internal outmigration also lessened the population number of the capital, and the gain from international migration could not offset all this.

Live births, fertility

The number of births fell below hundred thousand in 1998 for the first time, and it was on a basically low level around 95–100 thousand with some fluctuations in the decade after the turn of the millennium. After another considerable decrease in 2010, the number of births was not even 90 thousand in 2011. The 88,049 live births registered that year was the lowest value in the one and a half century’s history of vital statistics in Hungary. Then, a slow increase started as a result of which, the number of births was 93,063 in 2016, 5.7% and 5,014 children more than the nadir six years earlier. Birth data in the first six months of 2017 showed a promising picture, since the number of births was slightly higher than in the previous year, mainly due to the 10% surplus in the number of births in May. This surplus, however, has gradually disappeared and turned into a shortage, since in all months of the second half of the year, the number of births was below the level of the corresponding months of the previous year. In the second half of 2017, 3.7% less or numerically nearly 1,800

fewer children were born. As a result of this, 91,600 children were born in 2017, 1.6% or nearly 1,500 infants fewer than in the previous year.

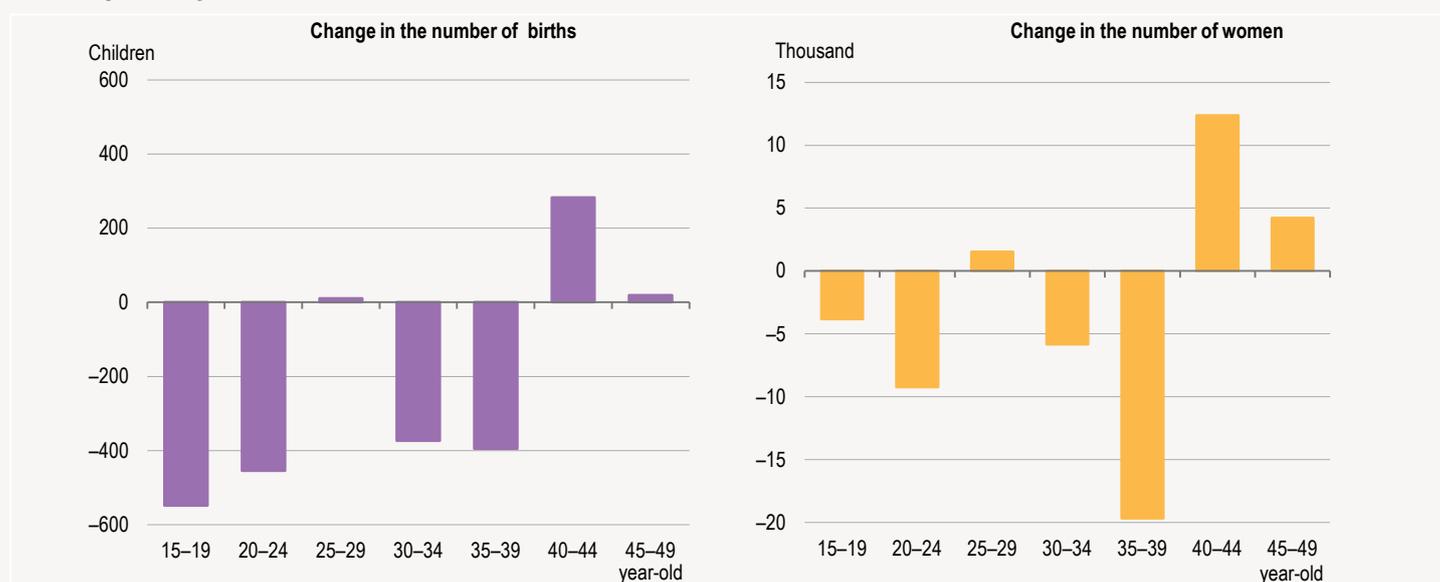
The various age groups of women in childbearing age contributed differently to the decrease in the number of births. The largest decrease occurred among women younger than 25 years and aged 30–39 years who gave birth to nearly 1,000 and 770 fewer children, respectively than a year earlier. The number of births increased only among 40 year-old or older women (about 300 more births), but this could only moderate the rate of decline.

The direction and the extent of the change in the number of births basically depends on two factors: on the number of women in childbearing age and their fertility level, as well as their changes compared to the previous year. The picture is more nuanced if these two factors are also involved in the study. The decrease in the number of births in 2017 took place in parallel with the decline in the number of women of childbearing age. Compared to the previous year, the midyear number of women aged 15–49 years fell by more than 20 thousand. The decrease affected very differently the various age groups. The number of women younger than 40 years decreased almost in each age group, and their number fell by 37 thousand on the whole. By contrast, the number of women aged 40–49 grew by about 17 thousand. This means that not only the age structure of the total population, but, within this, also that of women of childbearing age is gradually ageing. Due to the basically low and decreasing number of births in the past decades, the number of women entering childbearing age (aged 15–19 years) fell by nearly 4 thousand in 2017, and that of 20–24 year-old women decreased by more than 9 thousand. The most significant decline of about 25.5 thousand, however, occurred among women in their 30s, and among them, the decrease was the largest, nearly 20 thousand, in the age group 35–39. This was primarily due to the large difference between the number of the generation entering this age group (born in 1982) and that of the generation leaving that (born in 1977).

The primary reason for the decline in the number of births is the fact that there are fewer potential mothers and the fertility level or, in other words, the frequency of childbearing in the various age groups is very different. Not only the number of women under 25 years of age but also their fertility decreased compared to the previous year, which caused the decline in the number of births. The fertility of women in their 30s increased slightly, but this was not enough to offset the considerable decrease in their number. In the case of women over the age of 40, the specific situation has arisen that in addition to their number, their fertility

Figure 4

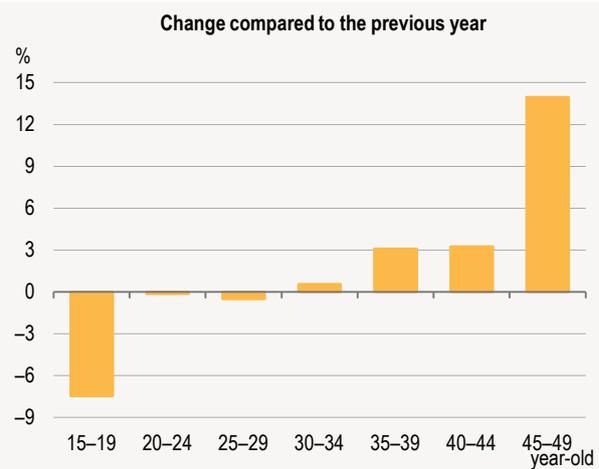
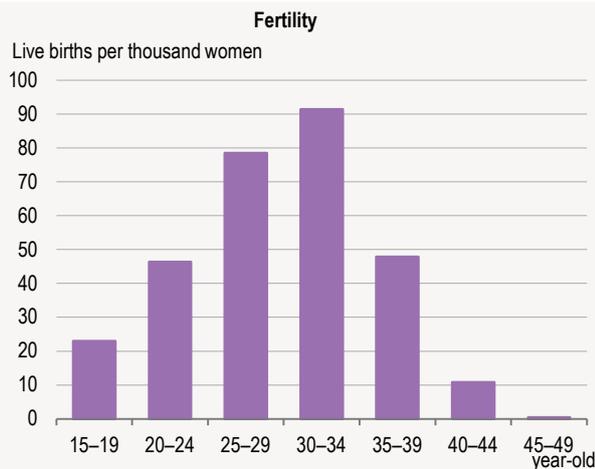
Change in the number of births and in the number of childbearing-aged women by age groups of women compared to the previous year, 2017*



* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Fertility level and its change by age groups of women, 2017⁺

Figure 5

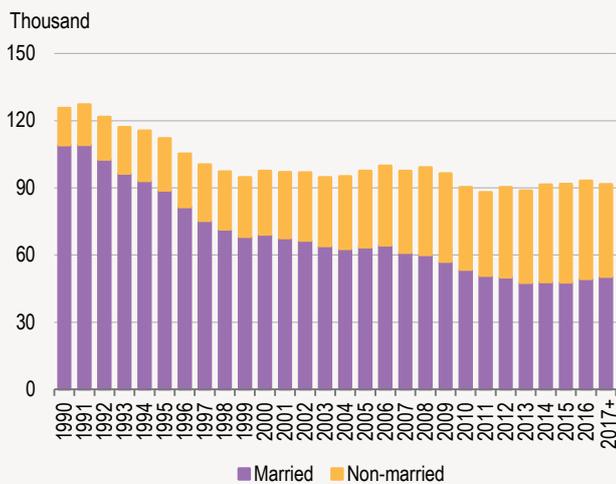


⁺ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

increased as well, which was accompanied by the rise in the number of births. A significant part of the surplus of about 300 in the number of births came from women aged 40–44, but their fertility is very low, so, despite the growth, it did not result in a rise in the number of births which could have compensated for the declining number of births in the other age groups.

Figure 6

Live births by marital status of women



⁺ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

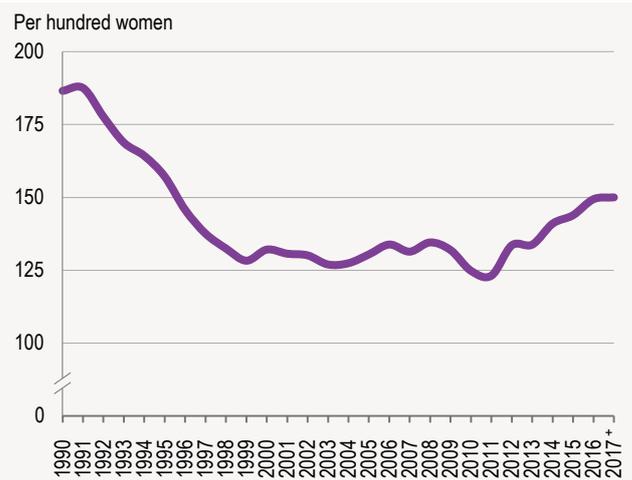
An important factor of the annual number of births is the proportion of births within and outside marriage. The proportion of births outside marriage continuously increased in the past decades, between 1990 and 2000, it more than doubled, from 13% to 29%. After the turn of the millennium, following a short break, it began to rapidly grow again, and reached nearly 48% in 2015, which was the highest proportion measured so far. In 2016–2017, the proportion and number of births outside marriage fell. Most probably, this can be attributed to the dynamic rise in the number of marriages observed in the past years. In 2017, 55% of children were born within and 45% were born outside marriage. Compared to the previous year, the number of births within marriage increased by 1.9% (917 children), while that of births outside marriage fell by 5.4% (2,380 children). Therefore, the decrease in the number of births in 2017 came entirely from the fewer births outside marriage, while the growing number of children born within marriage moderated the extent of the year-on-year decrease in the number of births. Regarding the age of the mother, the number of births within marriage rose in each

age group of mothers, while that of children born outside marriage grew only in the 40–49 age group and fell in all of the younger age groups.

According to the total fertility rate of 2017, hundred women would give birth to 150 children during their lifetime, numerically one child more than one year earlier. This means a very slight increase in fertility, however, this was the first time when, compared to the previous year, a rising fertility was accompanied with a decreasing number of births. On the whole, the increasing fertility comes from fewer women of childbearing age, which resulted in a decline of nearly 1,460 in the number of births in 2017. The fertility level of 2017 was still far below the average of about 210 children necessary for simple reproduction, but it has been the highest value since 1996. The gross reproduction rate was 0.726, i.e. at the fertility level of 2017, thousand women would give birth to 726 daughters during their lifetime, and thus, the number of the children generations going to grow up would be nearly 27% lower than the number of the parents' generations.

Figure 7

Total fertility rate



⁺ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Induced abortions, foetal deaths

Following the halt in 2008, the decreasing trend of induced abortions having been observed for long decades continued again, and the rate of decline accelerated spectacularly last year. The number of interventions was 28.5 thousand in 2017, nearly 2,000 and 6.4% less than in the previous year. The number of abortions per thousand women in

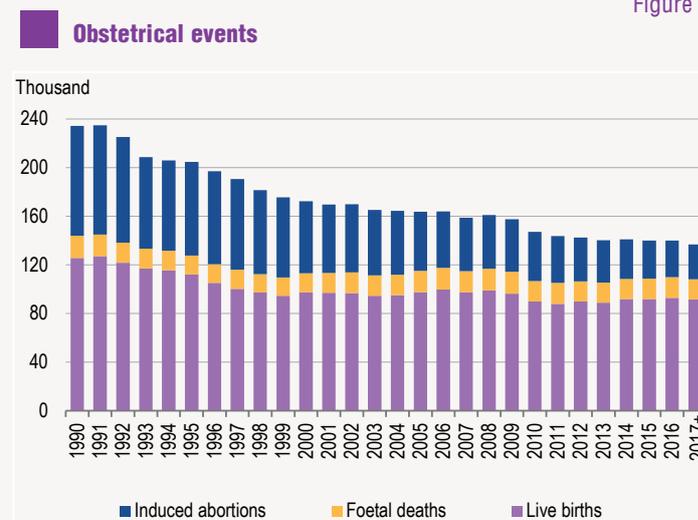
childbearing age was 12.6 as opposed to 13.3 a year earlier. Although to different degrees, a decreasing trend could be observed in each age group. The frequency of abortions decreased below average among women under 25 years of age, the decline was the most significant among women over 35 years of age, especially among those aged 35–39, which may be related to the more frequent childbearing of women of this age. The age profile of abortions did not change, and induced abortions were the most frequent among women in their 20s in 2017 as well, with 20–23 abortions per thousand women. Due to postponing childbearing to later ages, many women in their 20s are childless, however, they represent potential mothers of the future, and induced abortion may have a particular risk among them, as often their first pregnancy is interrupted by abortion. Compared to the previous year, the number of induced abortions fell more than that of births, as a result of which, the number of abortions per hundred live births was 31.1 in 2017, as opposed to 32.7 interventions in 2016.

The number of foetal deaths, i.e. the total number of early and medium-term foetal deaths and stillbirths fell as well. The estimated number of foetal deaths was 16.7 thousand, 2.9% less than in 2016. As the number of births fell at a lower rate than that, the number of foetal deaths per hundred live births decreased slightly as well, from 18.5 to 18.2 year-on-year. The reduction of foetal deaths may represent a potential reserve for the increase in the number of births, because in the vast majority of cases, desired conceptions are concerned, since otherwise, unwanted pregnancies would be intentionally interrupted. In most cases of foetal death, the mother loses her foetus against her will, and so the desired child cannot be born.

Foetal deaths and induced abortions make up together foetal losses. Their number decreased as well, so in 2017, foetal losses per hundred live births

was 49.3 as opposed to 51.2 in the previous year. This is still a very high value, because it means that there is one foetal loss for every two live births.

Figure 8



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Marriages

As a result of the steady and significant decreasing trend from 1970, the number of marriages reached its nadir in 2010 with one of the lowest values in the history of vital statistics so far. In the 1970s, the large number of generations born in the Ratkó era got married young, and after

Figure 9

Number of marriages by age groups of men and women



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

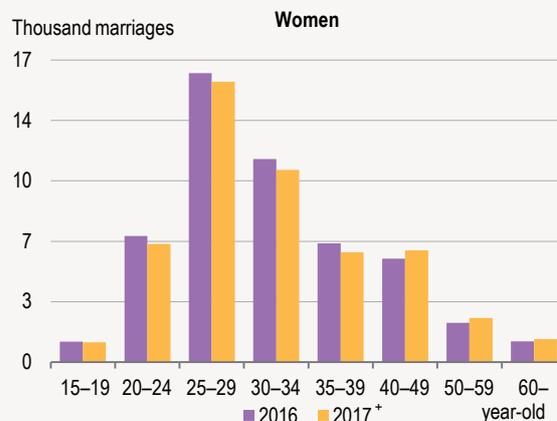
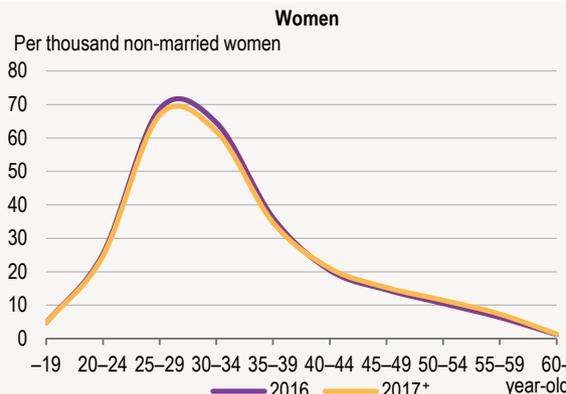
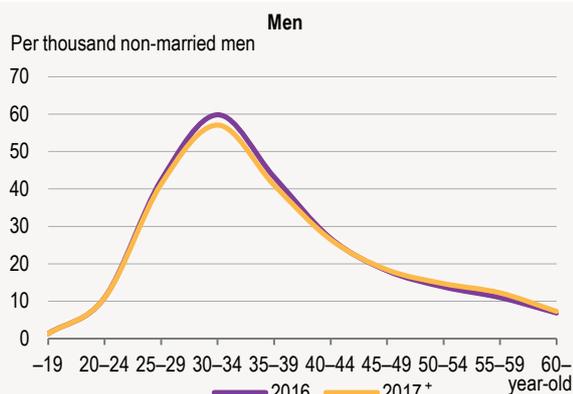


Figure 10

Marriage rate by age groups of men and women



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

the turn of the millennium, the similarly large number of their children entered the age of marriage. Despite this, the number of marriages continued to decrease, and the 35.5 thousand marriages in 2010 were only slightly more than one third of the more than 100 thousand marriages registered in the middle of the 1970s, which represented a local maximum. There was a positive shift from this low, as a result of which the number of marriages rose nearly one and a half times in six years. The number of 51.8 thousand marriages in 2016 was the highest figure in the twenty years preceding that. In 2017, the upward trend stopped and the number of marriages estimated at 50.6 thousand was 2.3% or about 1,200 fewer than in the previous year.

The number of marriages did not decrease in each age group of men and women. The decrease affected only the age groups younger than 40 years, while the number of marriages increased year-on-year among women and men older than that. The number of marrying women under 40 years of age decreased by 4.9% and that of marrying men of same age by 5.3%, which meant more than 2,000 fewer marriages than in the previous year. There was an above average decline in case of 20–24 year-old women and men and women in their 30s. The increasing willingness of the 40 year-old and older age groups to marry could only moderate this decrease, since the surplus of marriages was only about 800. The most significant increase could be observed in the age groups over 50 years where the number of marriages grew by 11–13% among women and 9–11% among men year-on-year.

In addition to the absolute number, we get a clearer picture if the intensity of marriages is measured by the number of marriages per thousand non-married women/men of corresponding age. The value of this indicator is not only influenced by the number of people of corresponding age but, within them, also by the proportion of non-married people, i.e. of those who may potentially enter into marriage. In 2017, in respect of the age groups of couples entering into marriage, there were changes of different direction compared to the previous year. The willingness to marry decreased only among women under 40 and men under 45 years of age. Over these ages, the intensity of marriages increased in each age group. The largest decrease occurred among 35–39 year-old men and 30–34 year-old women, while the most dynamic growth could be observed in the 55–59 age group in case of both sexes. It should be noted here that due to the postponement of age at marriage, the frequency of marriage is high among women and men in their 30s,

therefore, if it is decreasing, there will be a significant deficit in the number of marriages. At the same time, age groups over the age of 50 enter relatively rarely into marriage, thus, their increasing frequency of marriage results in fewer surplus in marriages.

Registered partnerships of same-sex partners

On 1 July 2009, marital status was extended by a new category, namely the registered partnership.² In the second half of 2009, the number of registered partnerships was 67, while it was 80 in 2010, the first whole year. Until 2013, this number was decreasing year by year, and the number of such partnerships registered by the registrars that year was only 30 couples, less than half of the one registered three years earlier. Since 2014, the number of registered partnerships has shown again an upward trend: it was 65 in 2015, 85 in 2016 and 87 in 2017, which has been the highest figure since the introduction of the new category. The number of registered partnerships was higher among men than among women every year: in 2017, 49 male and 38 female couples were registered by the registrars. Although male couples are still in majority, compared to 2014, the number of registered partnerships of female couples increased more than three-fold, and in 44% of all cases, female couples were registered in 2017. In more than half of such partnerships, the couples were inhabitants of Budapest or Pest county. The average age of men initiating the official procedure was 38.7 years, while that of women was 34.3 years. The average age difference was 6.4 years among male and lower, 6.1 years among female partners.

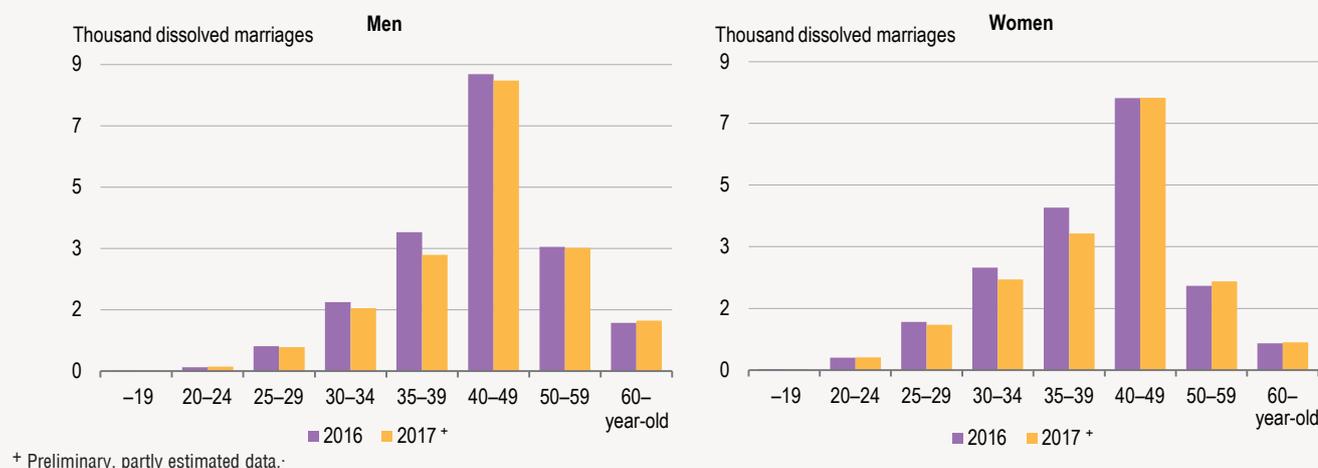
Divorces

Compared to the number of divorces, which stagnated on a high level (24–25 thousand per year) after the turn of the millennium, the number of dissolved marriages definitely fell between 2010 and 2014, and, for the first time after a long period, the number of marriages dissolved by court fell below 20 thousand in 2014. The improving trend stopped in 2015, and their number increased again to more than 20 thousand. The estimated number of divorces was 18.6 thousand in 2017, which was 952 or 4.9% lower than in the previous year and the lowest value in the past half century.

The number of marriages, despite the fall in 2017, has increased by 42% since 2010, but that of divorces has decreased by 28% over the same period. If the number of divorces is decreasing, while that of

Number of divorces by age groups of men and women

Figure 11



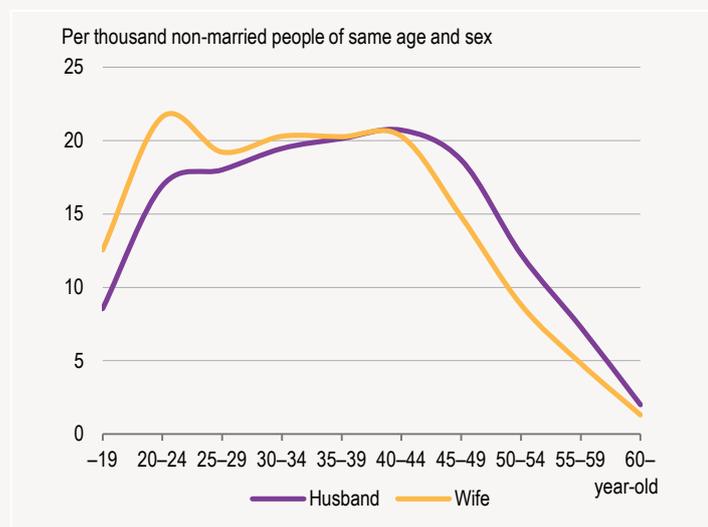
² On 1 July 2009, the Act XXIX of 2009 on Registered Partnerships and Related Legislation, which regulates the establishment and termination of same-sex partnerships, entered into force.

marriages is dynamically increasing, this refers to the growing stability of marriages. Compared to the previous year, fewer divorces occurred mainly among 25–39 year-old women and 30–44 year-old men with a much above average decrease (10% and 13%, respectively) in the number of divorces. A slightly increasing number of divorces only affected women over 39 and men over 44 years of age.

The frequency of divorces by age shows the number of divorces per thousand married women and men of corresponding age. The frequency of divorces by age shows a different picture among men and women. In each age group of women under 40 years of age, divorces were more frequent than among men of similar age, while over 40 years of age, the frequency of divorces was higher in each group of men. Taking into consideration the average age of women at marriage, the strikingly high divorce rate of 20–24 year-old women shows that marriages contracted at such a young age are broken up after a relatively short duration. The divorce rate is the highest among 20–44 year-old women and 30–44 year-old men, the number of divorces per thousand existing marriages is 19–22 in these age groups.

Figure 12

Divorce rate by age groups of earlier spouses, 2017⁺



⁺ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

If we observe the dynamics of divorce rates, i.e. their year-on-year change, the picture is slightly different. In 2017, the decrease in the number of divorces was the largest, much above the average among women aged 25–39 years. The stability of marriages at teenage age has also increased due to lower frequency of divorces. A below average decrease occurred in the women's age group where the divorce rate is the highest, that is, among women in their early 20s. An increasing frequency of divorces could be mainly observed in the age groups over 50 years, but here the intensity of divorces is relatively low, so this involves fewer dissolved marriages. The situation is similar among men, as the dynamics of the decline was the most significant in the middle-aged, 25–44 age group, but among married men, in addition to the age groups over 54 years, the frequency of divorces grew among men under 25 years of age as well compared to the previous year. The number of divorces decreasing less or sometimes increasing in case of men and women of higher age suggests that in such cases, marriages are broken up after a longer duration.

The number of those living in marriage is increasing due to new marriages, but decreasing due to divorces and widowhood. The balance of marriages compares the number of new and ceased marriages. If the number of new marriages is higher than that of ceased ones, the balance is positive, otherwise it is negative. The balance of marriages has been continuously negative for nearly four decades, i.e. more marriages end

due to divorce or widowhood than the number of new marriages. Not even the growing number of marriages in recent years could change this, but the difference between the number of marriages contracted and that of ceased marriages decreased significantly. In 2017, 63,300 marriages ceased, more than 70% of them due to widowhood, and only 50,600 new marriages were recorded. The number of ceased marriages per hundred new marriages was 125 in 2017, which was somewhat less favourable than the number of 123 in the previous year, mainly due to the higher number of marriages terminated by death and the lower number of marriages.

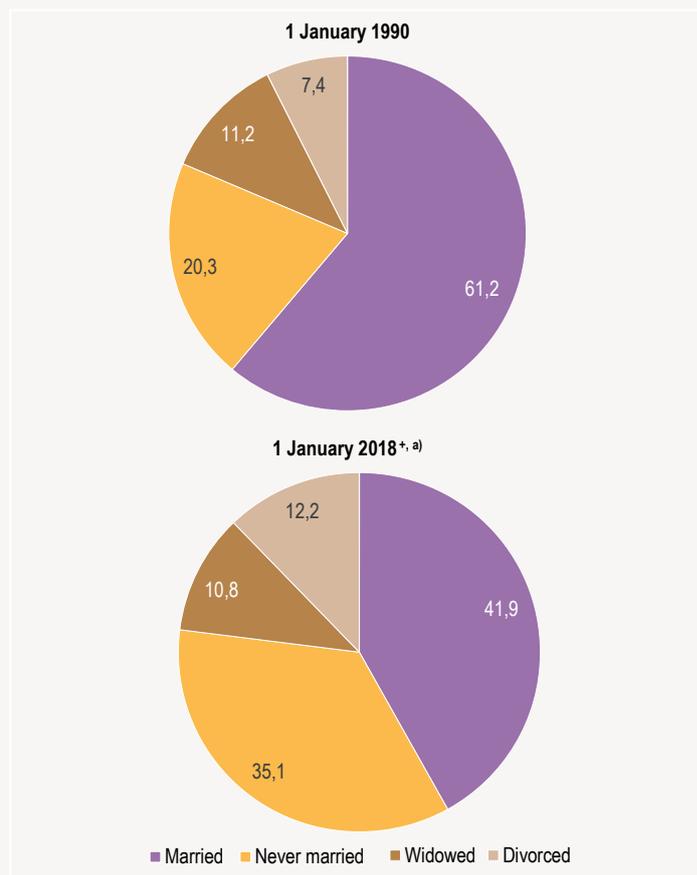
Table 2

Marriages and ceased marriages

Denomination	1990	2000	2016	2017 ⁺
Marriages	66 405	48 110	51 805	50 600
Ceased marriages	89 817	79 685	63 480	63 300
due to death	64 929	55 698	43 928	44 700
due to divorce	24 888	23 987	19 552	18 600
Ceased marriages per 100 marriages	135	166	123	125

Figure 13

15 year-old and older population by marital status



⁺ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

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

The long-lasting negative balance of marriages considerably changed the composition of the population by marital status. Since 1990, the proportion of 15 year-old and older people living in marriage has significantly fallen from 61% to 42%, and in parallel with this, the proportion of singles has grown from 20% to 35% and that of divorced people from 7.4% to 12%. The proportion of about 11% of widowed people did not basically change. The dominance of those living in marriage

stopped in 2004 for the first time, and since that time, the dominance of unmarried persons has become more and more evident. The dynamically growing number of marriages in recent years has not yet been able to change this trend, and has only moderated the increasing dominance of non-married people. There are significant differences between men and women: the proportion of married persons is the highest among both genders, the proportion of never married is much lower among women than among men, in contrast, among women, the proportion of widows is 4.6 times and that of divorcees is nearly 1.3 times as high as among 'the stronger sex'. The differences mainly result from the different age structure and mortality of men and women, as well as from their different habits and chances in marrying and remarrying.

Deaths

The number of deaths has been showing a basically decreasing trend with some fluctuations since the beginning of the 1990s. The more than 150 thousand deaths in 1993 was the highest value after long decades. The decrease started from this level frequently broken by years of smaller increase or stagnation. The year 2011 meant a turn in this respect, since the number of deaths fell below 130 thousand that year after a long time and remained below this level until 2014, then changed hectically in the last three years. The number of deaths estimated at 131,700 in 2017 was 3.7% or about 4,650 persons more than in the previous year, and in terms of its magnitude, it was the same as two years earlier.

The number of deaths changed unevenly in 2017. Compared to the same period of the previous year, excess mortality was already nearly 6,000 in the first four months of the year, mainly due to the 26% rise in January and 19% increase in February. The number of death in May was essentially the same as in the previous year, while between June and December, with the exception of one month, fewer people died than a year earlier. The decline in the second half of the year moderated the surplus accumulated until that time by nearly 1,370, and as a result, regarding the whole year, the increase in the number of deaths became lower than it could be predicted on the basis of data of the first months of the year.

Figure 14

Number of deaths by months



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

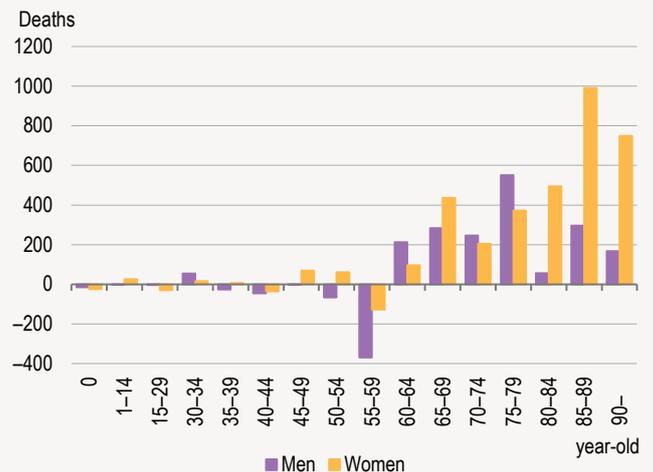
The excess number of deaths affected people of different age and gender to varying degrees. The number of deaths fell in almost all age groups of men under 60 years of age with the exception of the 30–34 age group whose number of deaths increased by more than one fifth (54 persons) compared to the previous year. On the other hand, the significant drop of 7.3% in the number of 55–59 year-old deceased men deserves attention, which reduced the number of deaths in this age group by about 370 compared to the previous year. On the whole, the number of deaths fell by 3.9% or about 470 persons among men below 60 years of age in 2017 compared to a year earlier. In all age groups of 60 year-old and older

men, the number of deaths increased, especially in the 75–79 age group where the 6.8% growth resulted in 550 more deaths than in the previous year. The number of deaths of 60 year-old and older men increased by 3.6% or about 1,800 persons on the whole, which surplus was moderated by the fewer number of deaths among men under 60 years of age. Thus, excess number of deceased men was 1,342 persons in 2017.

In case of women, the situation was different in so far that the decrease was not even considerable among women under 60 years of age, moreover, the number of deaths increased more or less in the majority of age groups compared to the previous year. However, the overwhelming majority of excess number of deceased women occurred in the age group of 60 and over as well, especially among older women over the age of 84, where the number of deaths accounted for more than half of the total excess number of deaths. On the whole, the number of deceased women aged 60 and over rose by 5.7% or more than 3,300 persons, to much higher extent than that of men. Thus, the overwhelming majority, 71% of excess deaths came from women in 2017. It should be noted here that in the age groups over 60 years, the number of elderly women is much higher than that of men, and over the age of 80 there are almost 2.5 times more women than men. A deteriorating, increasing number of deaths therefore results in a significantly higher number of deaths in case of women than in case of men of similar age.

Figure 15

Change in the number of deaths by age groups of men and women compared to the previous year, 2017⁺



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

In 2017, the number of deaths per thousand population was 13.5, differentiated by gender: 13.7 in case of men and 13.2 in case of women. Compared to the previous year, crude death rate increased by 0.3 per mille point for men and by more than double, 0.7 per mille point for women. The rise in mortality by age was different for the two genders. The relatively low mortality rate of younger ages responds very sensitively to the impact of a tragic accident or an event causing unexpected death. Probably, the 21% rise in the mortality of 30–34 year-old men is the consequence of this. In the other age groups of men under 60 years of age, mortality remained unchanged or decreased compared to the previous year. The mortality of men aged 60 years or over increased in each age group, by 1–3% on the whole. However, it is noticeable that a 2.7% increase in the mortality of 75–79 year-old men resulted in an excess number of deaths of 550, which accounted for 41% of the total excess number of deceased men.

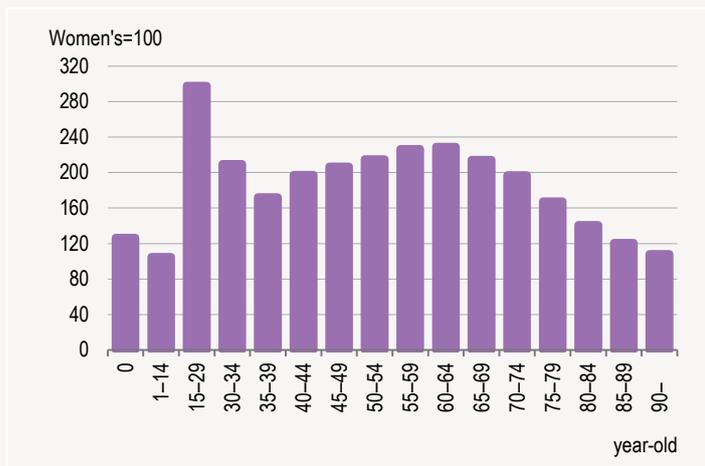
In case of women, the situation is different in so far that the rise in mortality occurred in more age groups and was much higher than that of men. The 38% increase in the mortality of 1–14 year-old girls and, similarly to men, the 14% excess mortality of 30–34 year-old women is striking. In five age groups of women under 60 years of age and in all age groups of 60 year-old and older women, mortality increased compared to 2016. As a result of the higher number of older women and the greater deterioration in

mortality among them than among men, the overwhelming majority of excess number of deaths affected elderly women.

In 2017, the difference between the mortality of the two genders decreased due to the varying degrees of improvement or deterioration in their mortality. However, mortality indicators of men continued to be much more unfavourable than those of women of same age, thus, even if it decreased, the mortality surplus of men remained significant. The difference is the most considerable in the ages between 30 and 74 years, when the mortality of men is nearly or more than twice as high as that of women in each age group and in the 15–29 age group where the difference is nearly or more than threefold.

Figure 16

Death surplus of men by age groups, 2017+



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

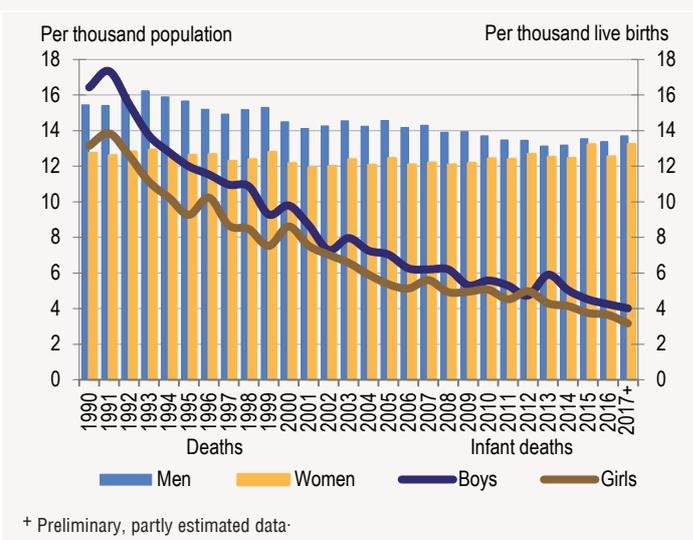
In respect of the marital status of deceased people, it is noteworthy that the smallest increase (less than 1%) was observed among married women and men and the largest one among never married people in case of both genders. It seems so that living in a relationship has a beneficial effect on mortality, and this is true for both genders. As a result of the different life expectancy of men and women and the different marital status of the elderly, the majority of deceased men (51%) lived in marriage before their death, while among deceased women the proportion of widows was determinant (62%).

Infant mortality in itself does not represent a significant role in the total number of deaths, but it is yet an indicator of outstanding importance: it is an important, internationally recognized indicator of the state of development of the health care system, the level of prenatal and neonatal care in a country. Infant mortality has a key role in the development of average life expectancy at birth, because the mortality probability under one year of age is extremely high compared to the mortality probability at later ages. According to the life table of 2016, the mortality probability of infant boys was about the same as that of 47 year-old men, while the mortality probability of infant girls was equal to that of 51 year-old women.

As a result of the general improvement in infant deaths, infant mortality fell below 5 per mille in 2011 for the first time, and it remained below this level in 2012 as well. The improving trend stopped in 2013, and infant mortality rose above 5 per mille. In the following years, a favourable turn occurred again, as a result of which, in 2017, out of ten thousand newborns 36 (3.6 out of one thousand) died before one year of age, which was the lowest ever recorded rate in the history of official vital statistics, and the first time when infant mortality has fallen below 4 per mille. The year-on-year decrease could be observed among both genders and its extent was 4.8% among boys and more than double, 11% among girls. In 2017, both the infant death rate of 4.0 per mille for boys and 3.2 per mille for girls were historically the lowest values.

Death and infant death rates by sex

Figure 17



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Internal migration

The direction and extent of internal migration can considerably change the population number of a certain area, therefore, in addition to the number of births and deaths, it is important to measure it as well.

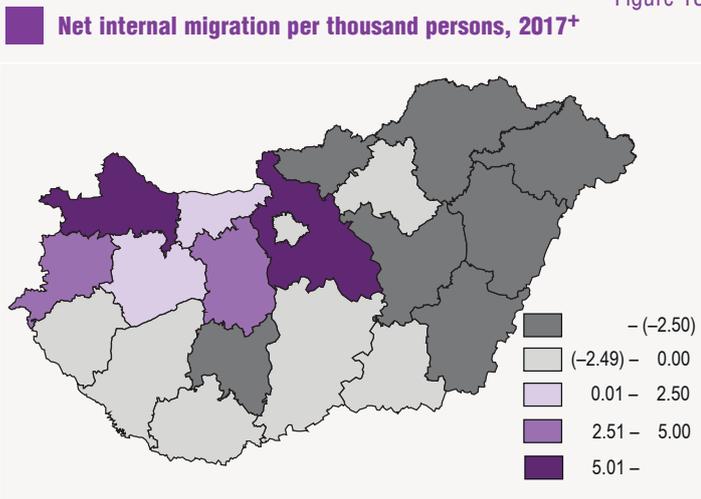
In 2017, the number of permanent migrations was 265 thousand and that of temporary migrations was 307 thousand, which resulted in an increase of 20 thousand or 3.6% in the total internal migration compared to the previous year. Both the number of permanent and temporary internal migrations increased by 10 thousand, which corresponded to an increase of 3.9% for the former and 3.4% for the latter migration type.

The main directions of mobility between settlement types switched in 2016 compared to the previous years, and these trends continued with small differences in 2017 as well. In contrast to the migration surplus characteristic of the capital earlier, similarly to 2016, the total net migration was negative in Budapest in 2017 as well as a result of the suburbanization process. In selecting the target settlement, the role of the agglomeration around the capital has grown. The total migration loss of Budapest was 2,800 persons, within which the loss of 3,300 came from permanent migration, while a gain of 500 persons was observed in temporary migration compared to the loss of 161 in 2016. As opposed to the earlier trend, other towns were characterized by in-migration also in 2017, but the balance of migration decreased compared to 2016. The total migration surplus was 450 in these settlements, which was about one fourth of the figure of 1,586 in 2016. The decrease can be attributed to the loss of 800 persons in temporary migration, as a gain of 1,250 persons came from permanent migration. The population number of villages was also increased by the positive net migration. Both the balance of permanent and temporary migration was positive (2,050 and 300 persons, respectively), as a result of which, total net migration (2,350 persons) was higher than the gain of 1,805 in 2016.

Similarly to previous years, in regional comparison, net internal migration was positive in Pest region (15,600 persons), Western Transdanubia (3,150 persons) and Central Transdanubia (2,500 persons), while in all regions of the large region of Great Plain and North, out-migration continued to be characteristic. Compared to the previous year, the migration surplus grew in Pest region, Central Transdanubia and Western Transdanubia alike. Among counties, Pest, Győr-Moson-Sopron, Fejér, Vas and Komárom-Esztergom counties were the most attractive in 2017 as well, and, similarly to 2016, internal net migration was also positive in Veszprém county. The migration surplus of Pest county was mainly made up by people migrating there from Budapest, 12,900 more people migrated from Budapest to Pest county than vice

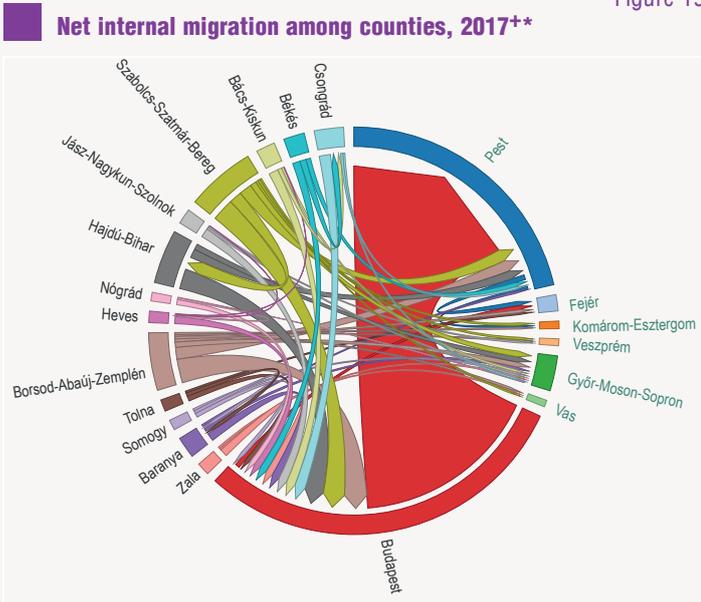
versa. The second largest migration surplus of Győr-Moson-Sopron county (2,650 persons) came mostly from the population exchange with Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg (400 persons), Hajdú-Bihar (400 persons) and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén (350 persons) counties. Also in case of Komárom-Esztergom, Vas and Veszprém counties, the migration surplus resulted typically from the positive net migration with Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg counties. The positive net migration of Fejér county was mainly made up by people migrating there from Pest county and Budapest.

Figure 18



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Figure 19



* The diagram shows the migration connections of counties, based on the differences between in- and outmigrations between counties. For counties with a positive migration balance, we ordered the three counties where their greatest migration gain came from, while to each of the counties with negative migration balance we linked three counties with which they had the largest loss in the population exchange process. In the diagram, the direction of the arrow indicates where more people migrate to, while the colour of the arrow indicates where they migrate from. The size of the arrows reflects the size of migration balances. Counties with positive migration balance are marked in green.
 + Preliminary, partly estimated data.

On the whole, among regions, the population retaining capacity of Northern Great Plain and Northern Hungary was the weakest, where, due to internal migration, the population decreased by 8,250 and 4,850

persons, respectively. Among counties, similarly to the previous years, outmigration continued to be the highest in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén counties in 2017 as well, resulting in a migration loss of 4,900 and 4,150 persons, respectively. In case of both counties, the exceptionally negative balance of migration was mostly attributable to outmigration to Budapest and Pest county. In other areas east of the Danube, outmigration to the capital was the most characteristic as well.

International migration

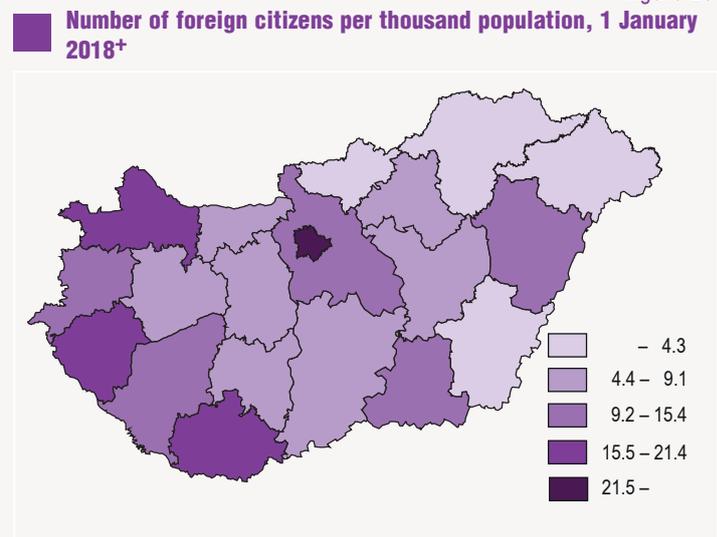
International migration has also a determinant role in the change of the population number in a country, immigration reduces the natural decrease in the population number, while emigration can have a negative effect even on favourable natural vital events. In 2017, the positive balance of international migration moderated the natural population decrease by 13,200 persons in Hungary.

The positive balance of international migration reduced the natural population decrease in Budapest, Northern Great Plain and Western Transdanubia, and within these regions especially in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Győr-Moson-Sopron counties. Among the settlements of the country, Budapest has been also outstanding for years in respect of international migration where the number of people arriving from abroad was much above the average in 2017.

The negative effect of international migration on the population number was the strongest in Somogy county.

On 1 January 2018, the number of foreigners residing in Hungary for a long time with valid permits was 156,000 and accounted for 1.6% of the total population. The vast majority, 65% of immigrants came from Europe, especially from the surrounding countries such as Romania (15%), Germany (11%), Slovakia (6.0%) and Ukraine (5.7%). Another 28% came from Asia, while the proportion of those having arrived from Africa and America was 4.0% and 3.4%, respectively. Among Asian countries, mainly people from China and Vietnam favoured Hungary.

Figure 20



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

On 1 January 2018, 50% of foreigners residing in Hungary lived in Budapest, 33% in towns other than the capital and 17% in villages. In addition to Budapest, their proportion to the total population was high in Baranya, Győr-Moson-Sopron and Zala counties and the lowest in Békés county. Among foreigners, there were more men (57%) than women (43%) on the whole. The age structure of foreigners living in Hungary is younger than that of Hungarians. The number of the 20–39 age group was

the highest among both genders, their proportion was 47% among foreigners living in Hungary.

Due to several factors, there are difficulties in the accurate measurement of emigration of Hungarian citizens abroad, but according to data of administrative registers, the increase in their number stopped and then turned in recent years. In 2017, 25,100 Hungarian citizens moved abroad, 15% less than a year before. 32% of the emigrant Hungarians chose Germany, 27% Austria and 17% selected the United Kingdom as their new home. Predominantly members of younger age groups moved abroad: 43% of emigrant Hungarians were under 30 years of age and 72% of them

have not yet reached the age of 40. These ratios differ significantly from the age structure of the resident population in Hungary (32% and 46%, respectively). 54% of emigrants are men and the vast majority of them are singles (64%).

In 2017, 18,500 Hungarian citizens who had emigrated earlier migrated back. The number of Hungarians migrating back from abroad has been increasing steadily since 2014, and in 2017, nearly 9% more people migrated back than in 2016. 30% of Hungarians migrating back returned to Hungary from Germany, 29% from Austria and 20% from the United Kingdom.

Further information, data**(links):**[Tables](#)[Tables \(STADAT\)](#)[Methodology](#)**Contact details:**kommunikacio@ksh.hu[Contact us!](#)

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