

## Vital events, 2018

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### Summary

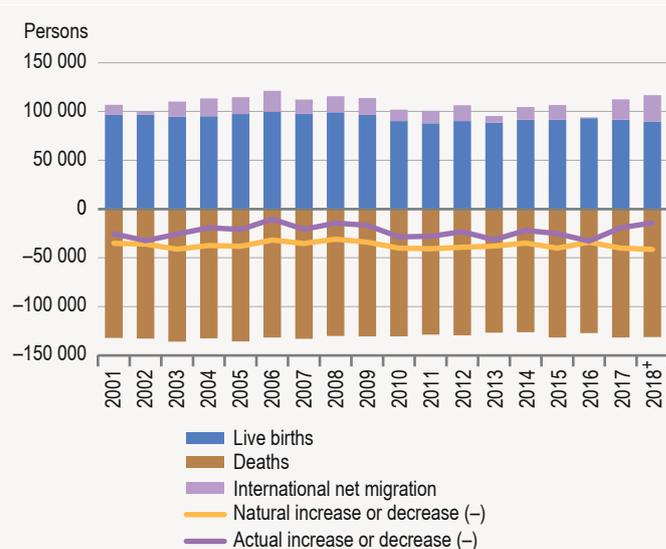
On 1 January 2019, the number of the population was 9,764 thousand in Hungary, 14.3 thousand fewer than a year earlier. Major demographic processes in 2018 were controversial, in which both favourable and unfavourable changes occurred. Compared to the previous year fewer children were born, the number of deaths decreased as well, though to a lower extent than that of births, therefore, the natural decrease of the population went on increasing. A rise in the number of marriages was a favourable phenomenon, the number of induced abortions and foetal deaths diminished and infant mortality fell to a new historic low. 89,800 children were born and 131,100 inhabitants deceased in 2018 according to preliminary data. Natural decrease amounted to 41,300, which was 3% higher than a year earlier. Despite a decrease in the number of births, the total fertility rate of 1.49 remained unchanged and was the same as in the previous year. This means that the decrease in the number of births was due to a fall in the number of the female population of child-bearing age. The positive balance of international migration was more favourable compared to the previous year, and this could lower the extent of natural decrease in the population number. As a result, the actual decrease of the population was 14.3 thousand, about 25% lower than a year earlier.

After a long decrease the number of births fell below 90 thousand first in 2011, which had never occurred before in the history of domestic birth events. Following this it started to rise and exceeded 93 thousand in 2016. The number of births in 2018, estimated at 89,800, was 1.9% lower than in the previous year. In case the fertility for 2011 had persisted, some 15.8 thousand fewer children would have been born in 2018 and 88.1 thousand fewer over the seven years since 2011 than were actually born.

The number of deaths decreased below 130 thousand first in 2011 after more than three decades and remained below this level in the subsequent five years except in 2015. It increased to 131.7 thousand in 2017, rising significantly, by 3.6%. In 2018 it went down slightly from this high level, and the number of deaths estimated at 131,100 was some 570 lower than a year earlier.

Figure 1

### Factors influencing changes in population number



\* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

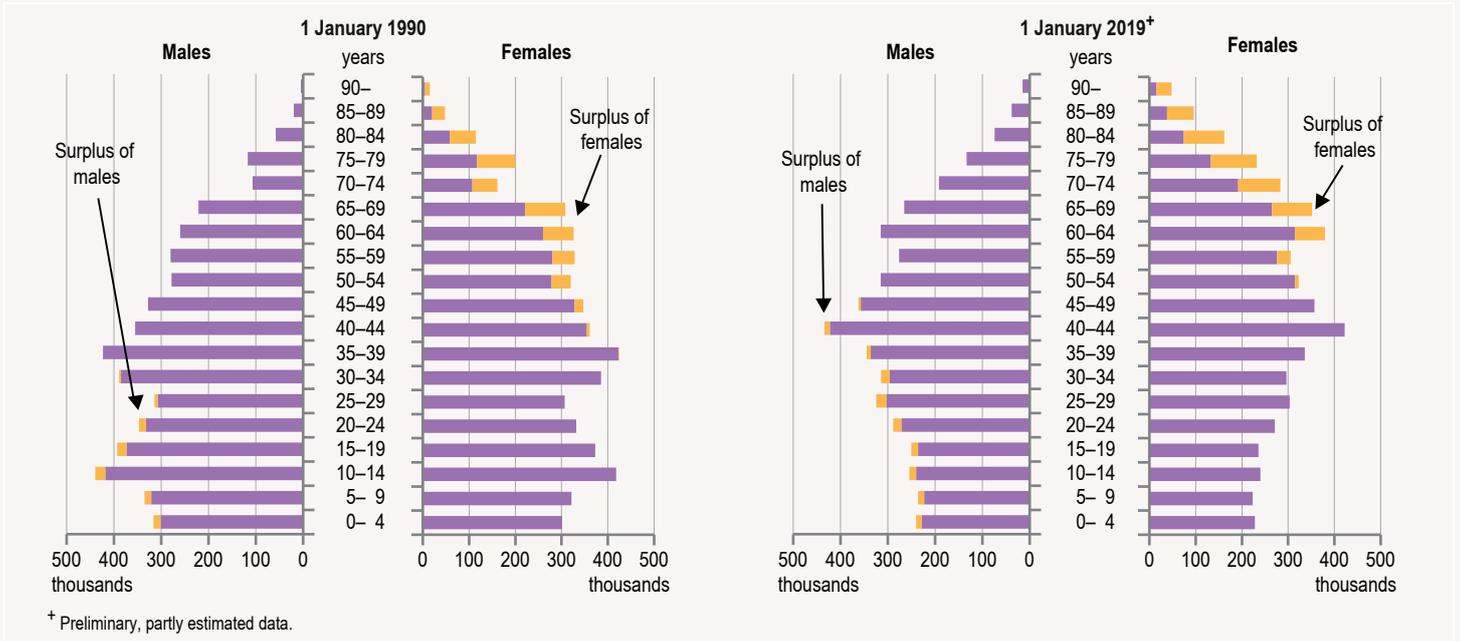
The basically decreasing trend of infant mortality was broken by rises only in a few years in the last three decades. The number of deaths under one year of age per thousand live births fell below 5 per mille first in 2011, and following a further improvement it plunged below 4 per mille in 2017. Hardly more than 300 new-born babies deceased before one year of age in 2018 according to preliminary data, which represented an infant mortality of 3.4 per mille and the lowest value measured so far.

Following a long and significant decrease the number of marriages reached its minimum in 2010 at 35.5 thousand marriages. In the next six years the number of matrimonies went up considerably, some one-and-a-half-fold. The 51.8 thousand marriages in 2016 were a two-decade record and rose above 50 thousand for the first time in twenty years. After a decrease in 2017, the number of marriages grew again in 2018. The number of marriages, estimated at 50,900, was nearly 330 couples more than in the previous year, and it remained above 50 thousand similarly to the case in the preceding two years.

The number of divorces was around 24–25 thousand in the decade following the turn of the millennium and then decreased from the end of the decade, as a result of which it fell below 20 thousand in 2014, for the first time in fifty years. Following a rise in 2015, the rate of decrease accelerated in the past three years. 3.8% less marriages were dissolved by courts in 2016 and 5.4% less in 2017 than one year earlier. The 16,500 divorces estimated for 2018 were the lowest value in nearly sixty years and were nearly 11% or some 2,000 dissolved marriages lower than in the previous year. On an annual basis, the highest annual decrease of some 20% last occurred in 1988, when an amendment to the family law act rendered procedural law somewhat stricter in dissolution proceedings.

Figure 2

Population by sex and age group



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Changes in the age structure of the population can be described by the number of people in three large age groups and by their share within the population. The number of the 0–14-year-old child-aged population decreased only slightly compared to the previous year, and their share of the total population hardly went up, from 14.5% to 14.6%. The number of 15–64-year-old people of working age became over 51 thousand fewer and their share diminished as well, from 66.5% to 66.1%. The process of ageing of the population is still observed. The number of inhabitants aged 65 years and over rose by nearly 38 thousand, and their share within the population was up from 18.9% a year earlier to 19.4% on 1 January 2019. Because of the decrease in the number and share of the population of working age there were 22 child-aged and 29 old-aged inhabitants per hundred people of working age, both values slightly rising compared to a year earlier. Contributors to the process of ageing of the population were the rise in the number of old-aged people as well as the declining number of the child-aged population. The ratio of these two population groups is expressed the most suggestively by the ageing

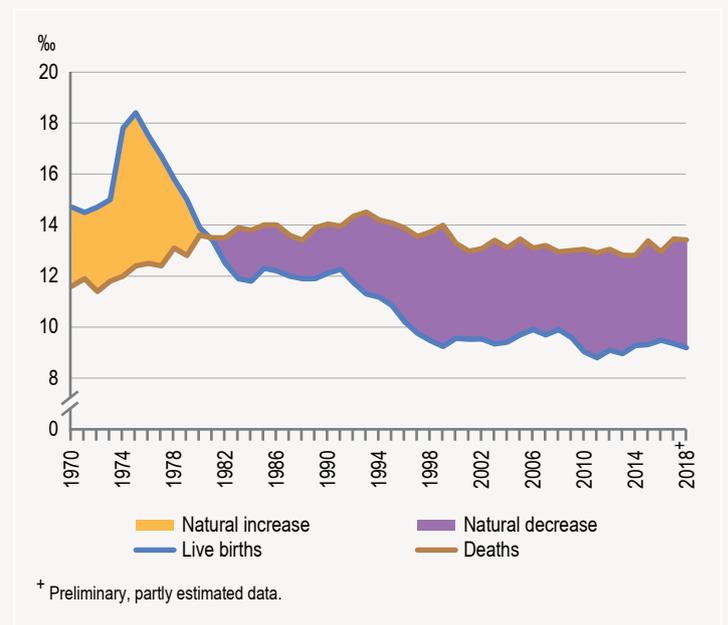
index. The number and share of inhabitants aged 65 years and over exceeded those of the 0–14-year-old child-aged population first in 2005, since when the excess of old-aged people has continuously grown. There were 133 old-aged inhabitants per hundred child-aged population on 1 January 2019, compared with 130 on the same date in the previous year.

Natural and actual increase/decrease

The largest population number in the current territory of the country was registered on 1 January 1981, at 10,713 thousand. The natural decrease, which started in 1981, has been continuous – at a varying pace – for thirty-eight years. The negative balance of the number of births and deaths caused the population number to decline by 1,183 thousand between 1981 and 2019. The largest natural decrease occurred in 1999, when the population number decreased by nearly 48.6 thousand over a year.

Figure 3

Development of natural vital events



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Table 1

Major vital events

Vital events	1990	2010	2017	2018+	2018+ (2017=100.0%)
Live births	125 679	90 335	91 577	89 800	98.1
Deaths	145 660	130 456	131 674	131 100	99.6
Infant deaths	1 863	481	332	305	91.9
Marriages	66 405	35 520	50 572	50 900	100.6
Divorces	24 888	23 873	18 495	16 500	89.2
Induced abortions	90 394	40 449	28 496	26 900	94.4
Natural decrease	-19 981	-40 121	-40 097	-41 300	103.0
Actual decrease	-1 670	-28 602	-19 190	-14 300	74.5

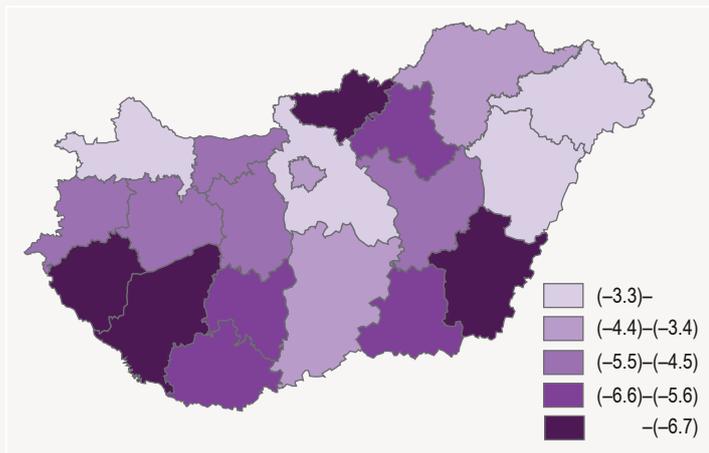
+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

To calculate the actual decrease of the population number, the balance of international migration needs to be taken into account, too. The actual decrease came to 949 thousand between 1 January 1981 and 2018, i.e. 234 thousand fewer than the natural decrease. This means that the number of the population grew by 234 thousand on the whole owing to the positive balance of international migration. The positive balance of migration lowered the population decline resulting from natural decrease by nearly 21,000 in 2017 and by some 27,000 in 2018.

The number of deaths was higher than that of births in every region and county in Hungary. However, the extent of natural decrease resulting from this was different by territorial unit. The natural decrease per thousand population was the highest in Southern Transdanubia, Southern Great Plain and Central Transdanubia and the lowest in Pest, Northern Great Plain and Budapest Regions. Among counties, the rate of population decrease was considerably higher than the national average in Békés, Nógrád and Zala Counties – between 7.0 and 7.7 per mille –, due to the below-average birth rates and the above-average death rates there. However, the birth rates were relatively high and the death rates relatively low, and, consequently, the natural decrease was the lowest, between 2.0 and 2.7 per mille, in Pest, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Hajdú-Bihar Counties, mainly due to the younger age structure there than the national average.

Figure 4

**Natural decrease per thousand population by county, 2018<sup>+</sup>**



<sup>+</sup> Preliminary, partly estimated data.

There were five larger territorial units in the country in 2018 where despite the natural decrease the number of the population actually increased as a combined effect of internal and international migration. The

population of Pest County was up by nearly 13 per mille, which was mostly due to internal migration. The population increase of nearly 11 per mille in Győr-Moson-Sopron County was influenced by both higher-than-average internal and international migration. Komárom-Esztergom, Fejér and Vas Counties also increased their population, though to a lower extent than the previous ones. Both migration events contributed to the rise of the population number in Fejér County. The balance of both internal and international migration was positive – though to different degrees – in all of the territorial units with increasing population number.

Also Pest and Győr-Moson-Sopron Counties recorded the highest internal migration gain per thousand population, with 13.2 and 9.5 per mille, respectively, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Békés Counties suffered the largest outward internal migration, but the population decrease resulting from outward internal migration was significant in Tolna and Hajdú-Bihar Counties as well.

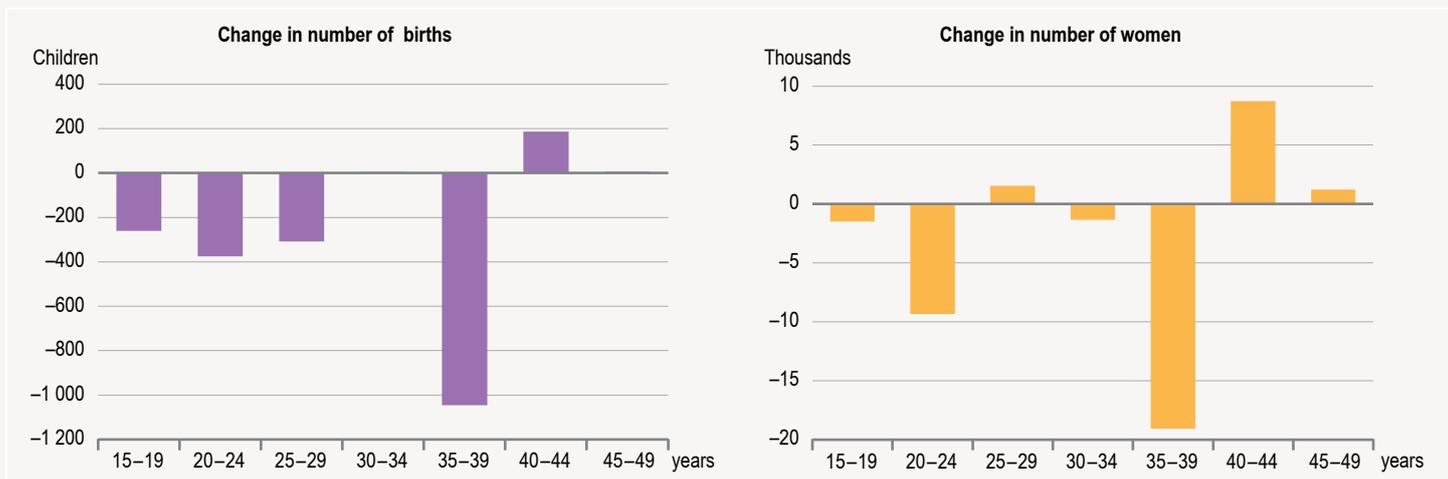
In respect of international migration Komárom-Esztergom County and the capital proved to be the most attractive territorial units in 2018, but the positive balance of international migration increased the population number more than the national average also in Győr-Moson-Sopron, Fejér, Heves, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Vas and Csongrád Counties. Despite the positive balance of international migration the population in Budapest decreased compared to the previous year. In addition to natural decrease, outward internal migration also reduced the population number of the capital, and the gain from international migration could not offset all this.

**Live births, fertility**

After a long, decreasing trend the number of births fell below hundred thousand first in 1998, and it was at a basically low level, ranging between 95 thousand and 100 thousand in the decade following the turn of the millennium. Following another considerable decrease in 2010, it was not even 90 thousand in 2011. The 88,049 new-born babies registered that year represented the lowest number of births in the past one and a half centuries' history of vital statistics in Hungary. Then, with some fluctuations, a slow rise started, as a result of which there were 93,063 new-born babies in 2016, 5.7% or 5,014 children more than in 2011, when the lowest point was recorded. The rising trend stopped in the last two years, and the number of births started to decrease again. The 91.6 thousand new-born babies in 2017 were nearly 1,500 fewer (1.6% less) than in the previous year, and the number of births of 89,800 in 2018 showed another decrease, which was about 1,800 (1.9%). Birth data for the first half of 2018 already projected an unfavourable picture to be expected at an annual level. Somewhat more children were born back in January than a year earlier, however, there were nearly 1,100 fewer new-born babies between February and May than in the same period of the previous year, the half of which was due to a decrease in

Figure 5

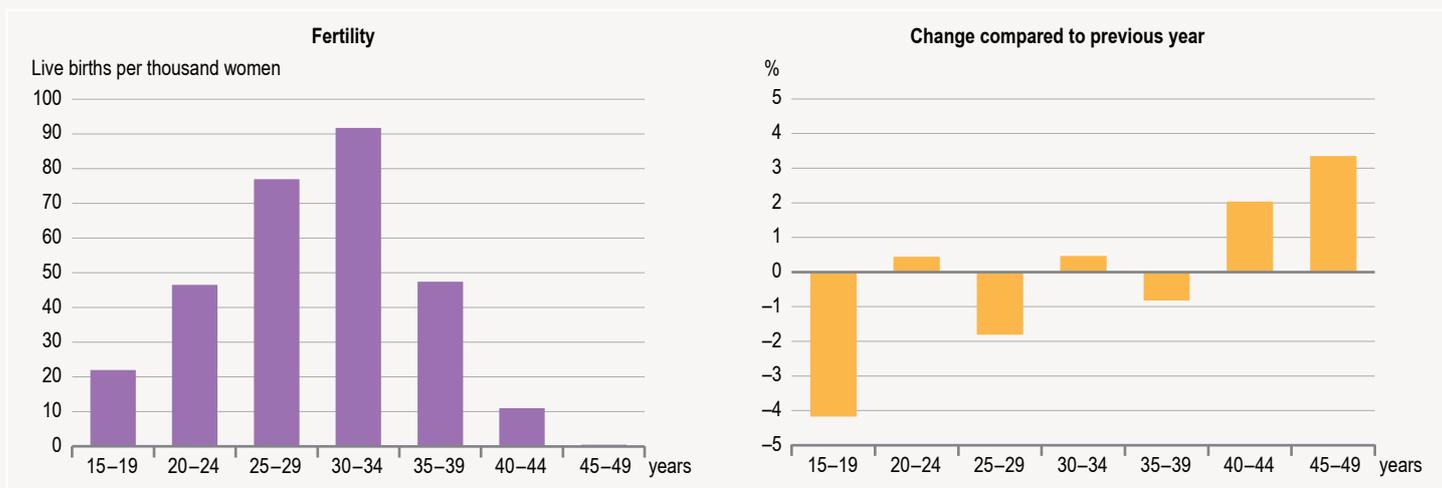
**Change in number of births and in number of women of child-bearing age, compared to previous year, by age group of women, 2018<sup>+</sup>**



<sup>+</sup> Preliminary, partly estimated data.

### Level of and change in fertility by age group of women, 2018\*

Figure 6



\* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

births of some 550 in May. Another decrease in births of 750 was due to the decreasing number of births in the second half of the year, from which the hardly 7.2 thousand births in December stood out particularly, which meant a drop of 405 compared to a year earlier. There were four months in 2018 when more children were born compared to the previous year.

The various age groups of women of child-bearing age contributed differently to the decrease in the number of births. Women in the age groups under 30 years gave birth to fewer children – some 950 new-born babies fewer in total – than one year earlier. The number of births to 30–34-year-olds was practically the same as a year earlier, while the largest fall occurred in the age group of 35–39-year-olds, where over 1,000 fewer children were born. A slight rise was observed only for women aged 40 years and over, but the increase of about 190 in the number of births to them could only lower the decrease in the other age groups.

The direction and the extent of the change in the number of births basically depend on two factors: the number of women of child-bearing age and their fertility level, as well as the changes of these compared to the previous year. The picture can be more nuanced if these two factors are also involved in the study. The decrease in the number of births in 2018 took place in parallel with the decline in the number of women of child-bearing age. Compared to the previous year the mid-year number of women aged 15–49 years went down by nearly 20 thousand. There were nearly 11 thousand fewer females in the age groups under 25 years than one year earlier. The number of women in the age groups of 25–34-year-olds was practically unchanged, within which that of 25–29-year-olds slightly rose, while the number of 30–34-year-olds diminished to a similar extent. The largest fall was recorded among women aged 35–39 years, their number being 19 thousand fewer than a year earlier. The number of women aged 40–49 years was up by nearly 10 thousand, within which primarily that of women aged 40–44 years increased. The rising number of women in the first half of their 40s was due to a substantial rise in the number of births in the middle of the 1970s, while the spectacular decline for 35–39-year-olds resulted from a significant fall in the number of births at the beginning of the 1980s compared to earlier on.

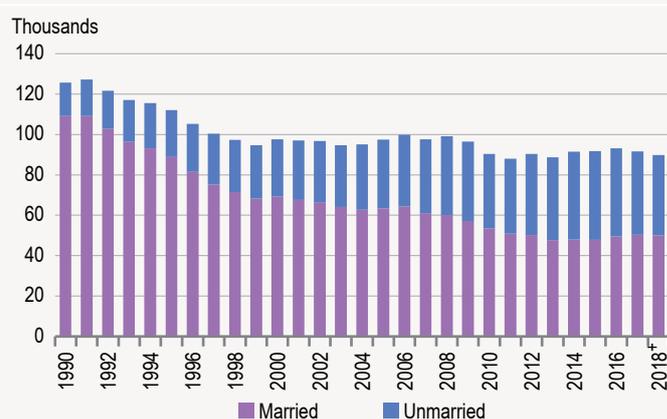
The primary reason for the decline in the number of births is that there were fewer potential young mothers, in addition, the level of fertility or, in other words, the frequency of child-bearing in the various age groups was very different, too. Both the number and fertility of teenagers diminished, that is why they gave birth to fewer children. The fertility of women aged 20–24 years slightly went up, however, their number decreased by 9.3 thousand, and this latter caused the fewer new-born babies in the age group than in the previous year. The number of women aged 25–29 years slightly rose, but their fertility decreased, which implied a fall in the number of births to them. There were no considerable changes in either the number

or the fertility level of 30–34-year-olds, so the number of births to them was practically the same as one year earlier. Nearly 60% of the total decline in the number of births came from women aged 35–39 years, their number decreasing substantially, by 19 thousand, and their fertility lessening as well. The number of women aged over 40 years grew by some 10 thousand, their fertility also increased, however, their child-bearing is low compared with younger age groups, therefore, the increase in the number of births to them could compensate only to a small extent the decline in the number of births in the age groups under 40 years.

An important factor of the annual number of births is the ratio of births within married to those within unmarried partnerships. The proportion of births outside marriage rose continuously in the past decades, between 1990 and 2000 it increased more than two-fold, from 13% to 29%. It began to rise rapidly again after a short break following the turn of the millennium, and reached nearly 48% in 2015, which has been its peak so far. In the last three years the number and proportion of children born outside marriage fell. Most probably, this can be attributed to the dynamic rise in the number of marriages in the past years. 56% of children were born within and 44% outside marriage in 2018. 85% of the total decrease in the number of births resulted from the decline in the number of children born outside marriage, the number of children born within marriage decreased only slightly. As for the age of mothers, the number of children born within marriage went up in all age groups except for teenagers and women aged 35–39 years, while that of births outside marriage increased only in the age group of 40–49-year-olds and was down among all younger mothers.

### Live births by marital status of mother

Figure 7



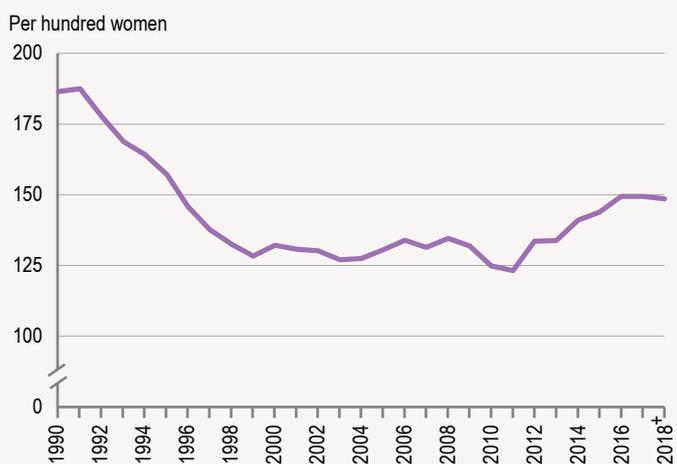
\* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

At the fertility level of 2018, hundred women would give birth to 149 children during their lifetime, numerically as many as a year earlier. This means an unchanged level of fertility and a decreasing number of births compared to the previous year. On the whole, the unchanged fertility came from fewer women of child-bearing age, which resulted in a decline of 1,777 in the number of births in 2018. The fertility level of 2018 was still far below the number of children of about 210, which is necessary on average for simple reproduction. The gross reproduction rate was 0.723, i.e. thousand women would give birth to 723 female children during their lifetime at the fertility level of 2018, and the number of children in the generations growing up as a result would be 28% lower than the number of people in the parents' generations.

Compared with the historic low of 123 children per hundred women in 2011, the level of fertility rose to 149 children in 2018, which was a growth of 21%. In case the fertility for 2011 had persisted, some 15.8 thousand fewer children would have been born in 2018 and 88.1 thousand fewer over the seven years since 2011 than were actually born. Nevertheless, the number of women of child-bearing age was down by about 137 thousand, nearly 6% between 2011 and 2018. If the number of the female population of 2011 is considered as unchanged, 14 thousand more new-born babies would have been born last year along with the fertility for 2018 than were actually born.

Figure 8

**Total fertility rate**



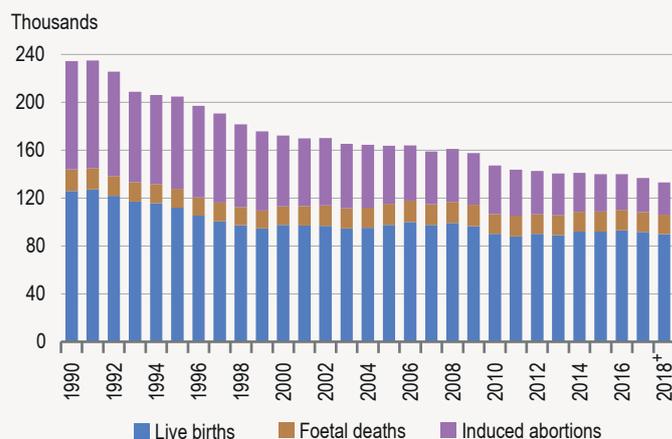
\* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

**Induced abortions, foetal deaths**

The decreasing trend of induced abortions, having been observed for a long time, continued and the rate of decline was also notable. The 26.9 thousand interventions in 2018 were some 1,600 fewer or 5.6% less than one year earlier. The number of induced abortions per thousand women of child-bearing age was 12.0 as opposed to 12.6 in the previous year. Although to different degrees, the downward trend could be observed in all age groups. The frequency of induced abortions decreased to a lower-than-average extent among women in their 20s and those aged 35–39 years, while the most significant fall of 7.7% occurred among 30–34-year-old women, which may be related to the more frequent child-bearing of women of this age. The age profile of induced abortions did not change, and induced abortions were the most frequent among women in their 20s in 2018 as well, with 20–23 induced abortions per thousand women in this age group, however, it was a favourable phenomenon that a higher-than-average decline was recorded among teenage young people. Due to postponing child-bearing to later ages, many women under 30 years of age are childless, all the same, they represent potential mothers of the future, so induced abortion may have a particular risk among them, since they often have their first pregnancy terminated. Compared to the previous year, the number of induced abortions fell more than that of births, as a result of which there were 30.0 induced abortions per hundred live births in 2018, compared with 31.1 in 2017.

**Development of obstetric events**

Figure 9



\* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

The number of foetal deaths, which is the total number of early and medium-term foetal deaths and stillbirths, became fewer as well. Foetal deaths, estimated at 16.3 thousand, declined by 1.5% compared to 2017. As the number of births fell at a higher rate than this, foetal deaths per hundred live births slightly rose year on year, from 18.1 to 18.3. The reduction of foetal deaths may represent a potential reserve for a rise in the number of births, because in the vast majority of cases these are desired conceptions, since otherwise, unwanted pregnancies would be intentionally terminated. In the majority of foetal death cases, 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 foetal losses per hundred live births lessened, too. The number of foetal losses per hundred live births was 48.1 in 2018, compared with 49.2 in the previous year. This is still a very high value, because it means that there is one foetal loss for almost every two live births.

**Marriages**

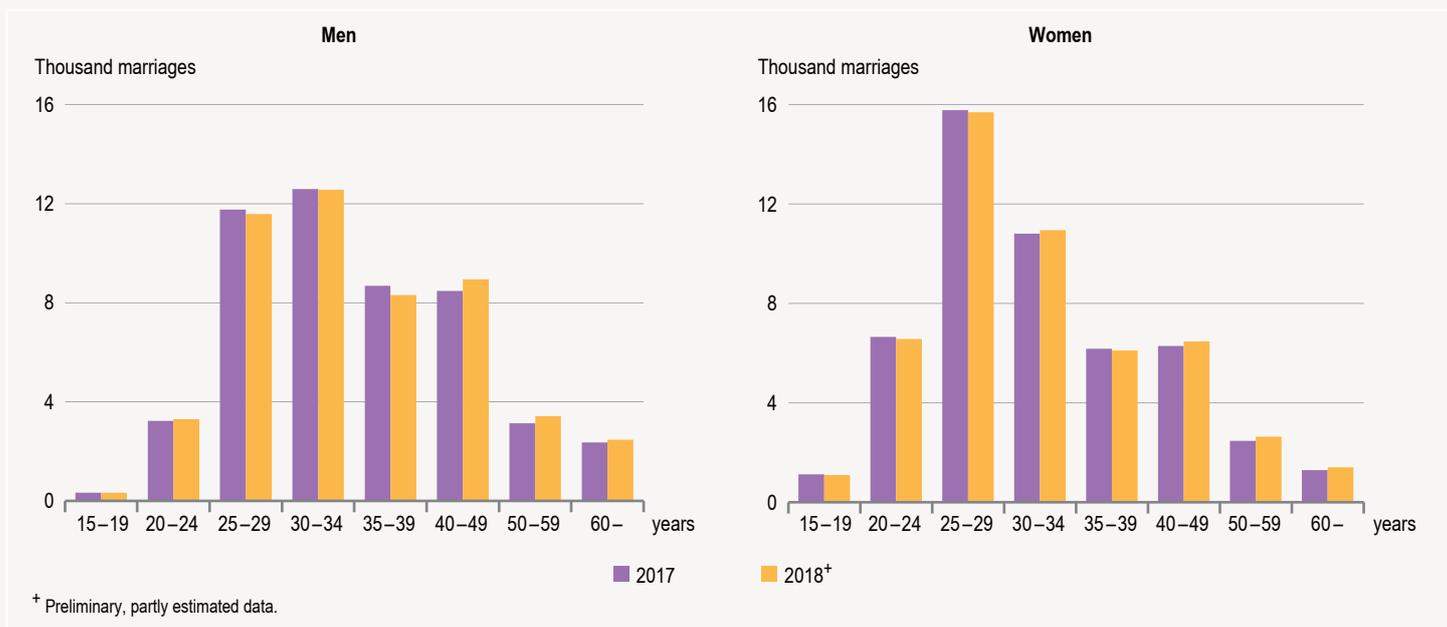
As a result of a long-lasting and significant decrease, the number of marriages reached a low in 2010 with one of the lowest values in the history of vital statistics so far. The 35.5 thousand marriages that year were only somewhat more than one-third of the more than 100 thousand marriages registered 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 almost one-and-a-half-fold in six years. The 51.8 thousand marriages in 2016 were the highest figure compared with the preceding twenty years. In 2017 the upward trend stopped and the number of matrimonies (50.6 thousand) diminished by 2.4% compared to the previous year, which was about 1,200 marriages fewer. The 50,900 marriages estimated for 2018 slightly rose again in number, they were nearly 330 more than the number of weddings a year earlier.

The number of marriages did not go up in each age group of men and women. The increase was recorded mostly in the age groups of people aged 40 years and over, while the number of marriages changed variously but mainly decreased among younger women and men year on year. The number of marrying men aged 40 years and over rose by 6.1%, which was a growth of 850 for marrying men. This was lowered by a decrease of some 520 among marrying men aged under 40 years compared to one year earlier. The highest rise of 9.3% occurred for 50–59-year-old men, while the fall was the most significant in the number of 35–39-year-old men, at 4.4%.

There was a rise among women aged 40 years and over, of 4.5% though, a lower rate than that for men. A lower decline was recorded for

Figure 10

### Number of marriages by age group of men and women



women aged under 40 years compared to men, what is more, the number of weddings slightly went up in the age group of 30–34-year-olds, where marriage is the most frequent.

The picture is clearer if in addition to absolute numbers we measure the intensity of marriages, with the number of matrimones per thousand unmarried women or men of corresponding age. The value of this indicator is influenced not only by the number of people of corresponding age but also by their share, i.e. of those who may potentially enter into marriage, of the population. As for the age groups of couples entering into marriage, the picture was very varied in respect of rises or decreases in 2018.

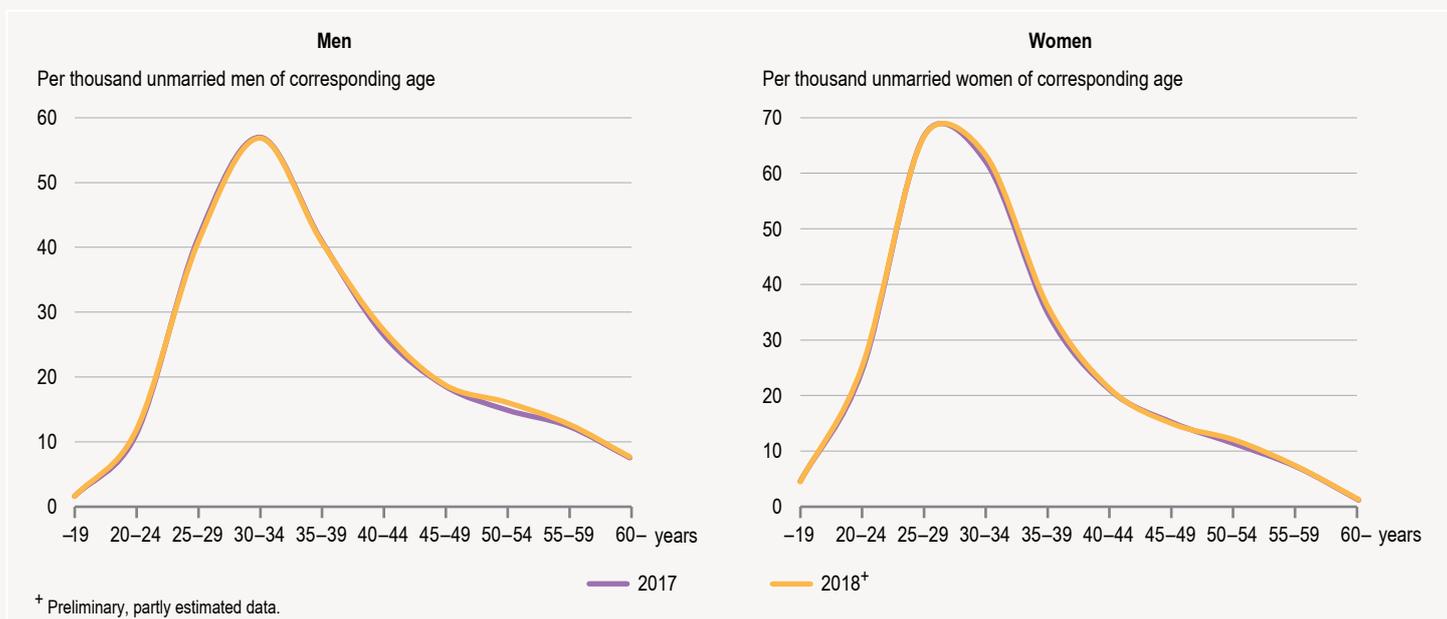
The frequency of marriages rose in all age groups of unmarried men aged 40 years and over, thus contributing to the higher increase in the number of marrying men. However, the willingness to marry decreased among all men aged under 40 years except for the age group of

20–24-year-olds, for whom a rise of 5.6% was registered. The frequency of marriages for men is so low in this age group that in spite of the relatively significant percentage rise the number of marriages in their case was merely 67 more than a year earlier.

Although to differing degrees, the intensity of marriages for women went up already from the age of 30 years, except for the age group of 45–49-year-olds, where there was a lower decline compared to one year earlier. Marriages of women aged 35–39 years deserve attention, since in their case the rise in the frequency of marriages was paralleled with a decrease in the number of matrimones, the opposite of which can be observed for 45–49-year-old women, where the diminishing frequency was coupled with a rise in the number of marriages. The reason for this may be a substantial fluctuation in the number of women concerned compared to the previous year, which influenced the number of births as well as marriages in these age groups.

Figure 11

### Marriage rate by age group of men and women



### Registered same-sex partners

On 1 July 2009, marital status was extended with a new category of law, namely registered partnership.<sup>1</sup> 67 registered partnerships were formed in the second half of 2009 and 80 in 2010, the first whole year. This number was decreasing year by year until 2013, and 30 such partnerships were registered altogether by registrars that year, which was less than the half of the partnerships registered three years earlier. Their number has risen again continuously since 2014 and increased sharply in 2018 compared to a year earlier. The 130 such partnerships formed in 2018 were some one-and-a-half times as many as in the previous year and have been the highest figure since the introduction of the relevant legislation. The number of such partnerships has been higher among men than among women every year: 86 male and 44 female couples were registered by registrars in 2018. The vast majority of the rise was due to the considerably larger number of male partnerships, which was three-fourths higher than one year earlier. The rate of increase was lower, about 15% for women. Registered male partnerships accounted for two-thirds and registered female ones for one-third of all cases in 2018.

In case of more than the half (53%) of such partnerships the couples were inhabitants of Budapest or Pest County. Men initiated the official procedure at the age of 41 years and women at the age of 39 years on average. The average difference of age was 9.3 years between male and lower, 6.1 years between female partners.

### Divorces

The number of divorces, stagnating on a high level of around 24 thousand–25 thousand per year following the turn of the millennium, started to follow a declining trend from the end of the decade and fell below 20 thousand in 2014, for the first time in fifty years. Although the improving trend stopped in 2015 and the number of divorces rose once more above 20 thousand, in the following three years it remained permanently under 20 thousand again and decreased at a growing rate. The number of divorces, estimated at 16.5 thousand in 2018, was almost 2,000 fewer or nearly 11% less than in the previous year, which was the lowest value in the past half century. On an annual basis, the highest decrease of above 20% last occurred at the end of the 1980s, when an amendment to the family law act rendered procedural law somewhat stricter in dissolution proceedings.

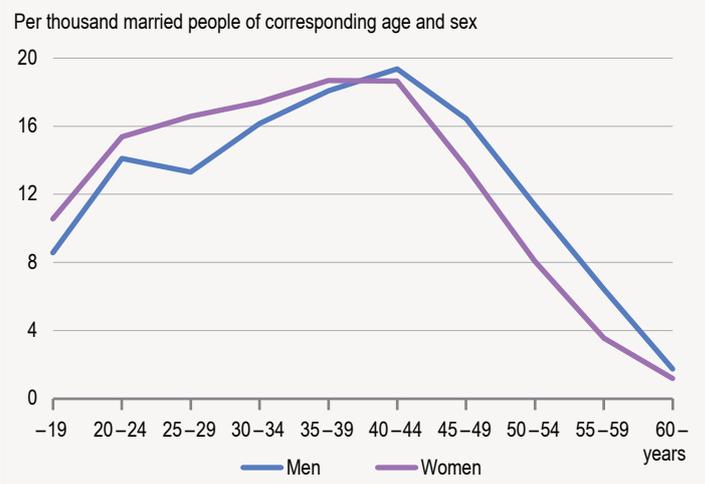
The number of marriages was up by 43%, while that of divorces lessened by 31% between 2010 and 2018. If the number of divorces decreases, while that of marriages rises, this refers to the growing stability of married partnerships,

too. Fewer divorces were observed in almost all age groups in 2018 compared to the previous year, though to differing degrees. The decrease in the number of divorces was the most significant in the age groups of 30–49-year-olds, and over two-thirds of the total decline occurred in the case of married couples of this age for both sexes. In proportional terms the decrease was much higher than the average for 20–24-year-old women and 25–29-year-old men. In these age groups the proportion of people living in marriage is low, therefore, even a small decrease in the absolute number of divorces may result in a substantial proportional change compared to the previous year.

The frequency of divorces by age gives the number of divorces pronounced by a court per thousand married women or men of corresponding age. The pattern of frequency of divorces by age shows a different picture among men and women. Divorces were more frequent in all age groups of women under 40 years of age than among men of similar age, while the frequency of divorces was higher among men in all age groups over 40 years of age. 25–44-year-old women and 30–49-year-old men divorced the most frequently out of thousand married people in 2018. Differences in divorce frequencies by sex are influenced among others by the different age at marriage of married parties.

Figure 13

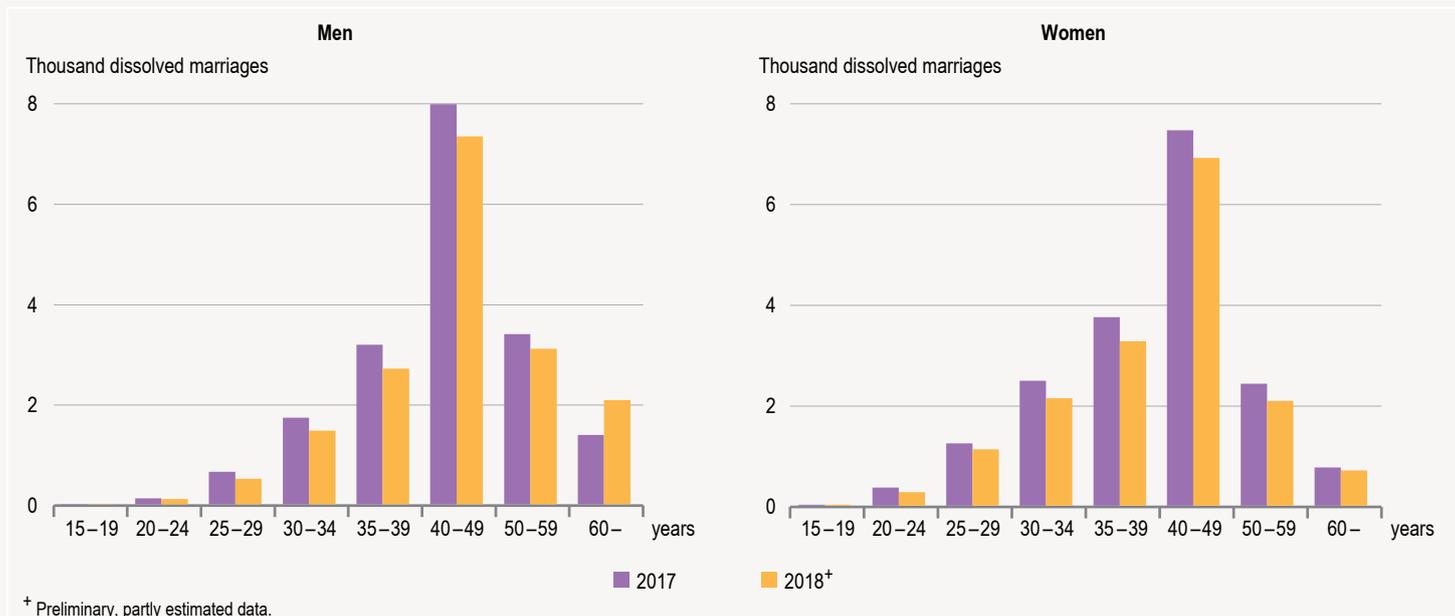
### Divorce rate by age group of earlier married parties, 2018<sup>+</sup>



<sup>+</sup> Preliminary, partly estimated data.

Figure 12

### Number of divorces by age group of men and women



<sup>+</sup> Preliminary, partly estimated data.

<sup>1</sup> Act XXIX of 2009 on Registered Partnerships, which regulates the formation and termination of same-sex partnerships, entered into force on 1 July 2009.

If we observe the dynamics – i.e. the year-on-year change – of the frequency of divorces, the picture is slightly different. In 2018 a higher-than-average decrease was recorded for women under 35 years of age, within which the most substantial fall of almost 30% among women aged 20–24 years. Due to the increasing age at marriage, relatively few people get married under 25 years of age, while marriages at young age are generally of short duration, they end up in divorce more frequently. Divorces were the most frequent among women aged 20–24 years in 2017, who, however, were only fifth in the ranking of divorce rates by age group in 2018. This may mean among others that marriages at young age became more stable, because of more conscious and committed marriages. A lower-than-average decrease occurred in women's age groups where otherwise the frequency of divorces was the highest, i.e. among 35–44-year-old women, but the frequency of divorces declined to a lower extent at older ages as well compared to younger age groups. The dynamics of the fall was higher than the average in the age groups under 35 years of age among men too, and there was a lower decrease than this for married men aged 35–44 years, especially among those aged 40–44 years, for whom otherwise the frequency of divorces was the highest.

### Marriages and ceased marriages

Table 2

Denomination	1990	2000	2017	2018 <sup>+</sup>
Marriages	66 405	48 110	50 572	50 900
Ceased marriages	89 817	79 685	63 112	60 300
due to death	64 929	55 698	44 617	43 800
due to divorce	24 888	23 987	18 495	16 500
Ceased marriages per 100 marriages	135	166	125	118

<sup>+</sup> Preliminary, partly estimated data.

The number of married people increases due to new marriages but declines owing to divorces and widowhood. The balance of marriages compares the number of new and of ceased marriages. If there are more new marriages than ceased ones, then 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 numbers of

newly contracted and of ceased marriages lessened considerably. Because of a decline in the number of deaths and divorces fewer marriages ceased in 2018 than a year earlier, and due to the rising number of marriages, the negative balance of marriages lessened. 60,300 marriages ceased in 2018, some 3 thousand fewer than in 2017, and 50,900 new marriages were recorded, nearly 330 more than one year earlier. As a result, the negative balance of marriages of 12.5 thousand in 2017 was down to 9.4 thousand. The number of ceased marriages per hundred marriages was 118 in 2018, which was more favourable than the value of 125 in the previous year.

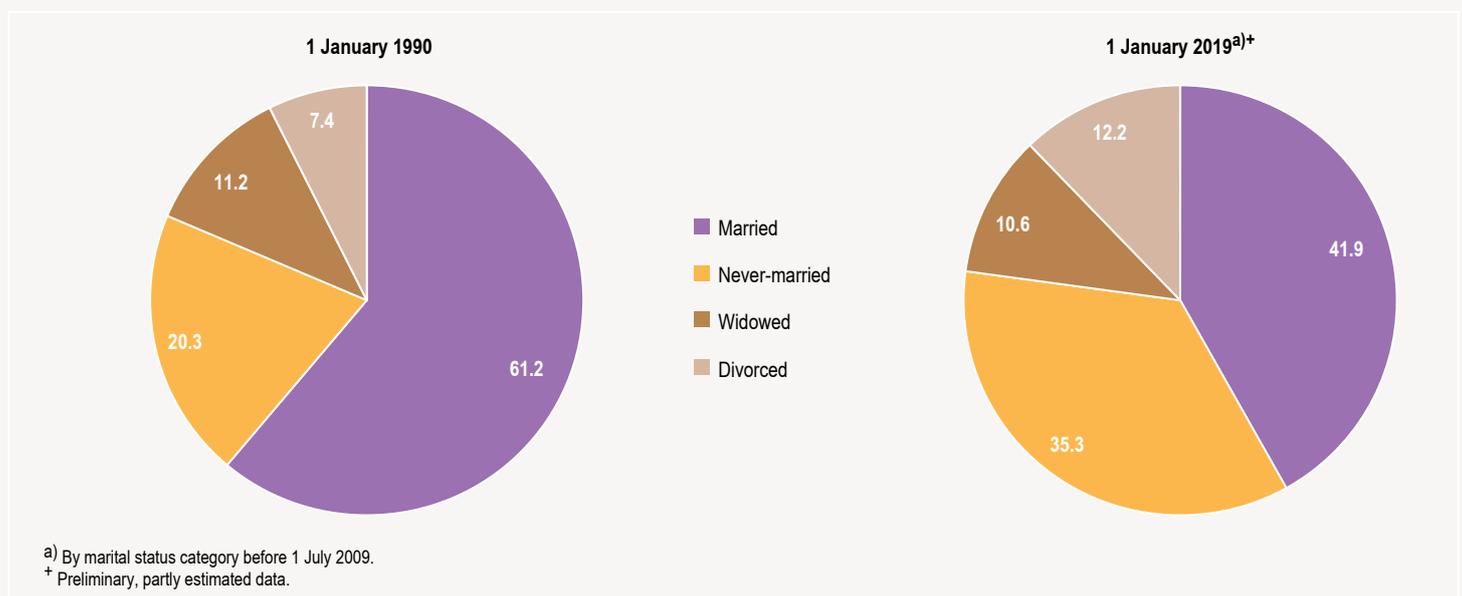
The long-lasting negative balance of marriages significantly modified the composition of the population by marital status. Since 1990 the share of the married population has decreased considerably, from 61% to 42%, in parallel with which the proportion of never-married people has risen from 20% to 35% and that of divorced people from 7.4% to 12% within the population aged 15 years and over. The proportion of the widowed population of about 11% did not change in effect. The dominance of married people ended in 2004, and since that time the dominance of the unmarried population has become more and more evident. The growing number of marriages in recent years could not change this trend, only slowed down the increase in the dominance of the unmarried population. There are significant differences between men and women: the highest proportion is represented by married people for both sexes, while the proportion of never-married people is considerably lower among women than among men, in contrast, the proportion of widowed people is 4.6 times and that of divorced people is nearly 1.3 times as high among women as among men. No real changes were measured in these proportions in 2018 compared to a year earlier. The differences by sex result mainly from the different age structure and mortality of men and women, as well as from the disparities in their habits and chances of marrying and remarrying.

### Deaths

The number of deaths has shown a basically decreasing trend, with some fluctuations though, since the beginning of the 1990s. The more than 150 thousand deaths in 1993 have been the highest figure for long decades. The decrease started from this level, frequently broken by single years of smaller increase or stagnation. The year 2011 was a turnaround in that the number of deaths fell below 130 thousand that year for the first time after a long while and remained below this level until 2014. The number of deceased people rose above 130 thousand again in the last four years except for 2016. The number of deaths estimated at 131,100 in 2018 was only slightly, 0.4% or about 570 lower than in the previous year.

### Distribution of population aged 15 years and over, by marital status, %

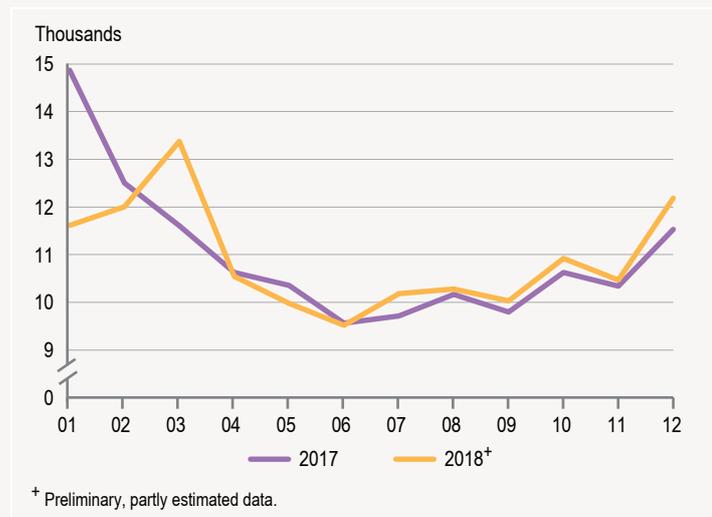
Figure 14



The monthly numbers of deaths changed unevenly in 2018. Data for the beginning of the year showed a promising picture, since there were some 3,700 fewer or 14% less deaths in the first two months compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, due to decreases of 22% in January and 4% in February. However, a significant rise of 15% in March implied a growth of about 1,800 in the number of deaths. Deaths in the first six months of the year as a whole still showed a decline of 2,500 or 3.6% compared to the first half of the previous year. More deaths were registered in each month of the second half of the year than in the same period of the previous year, which resulted in an increase of some 1,900 in the number of deaths. The rises of 4.8% in July and 5.7% in December were especially considerable. These reduced substantially the rate of decrease in the first half of the year, so the number of deaths at an annual level was only slightly lower than in the previous year.

Figure 15

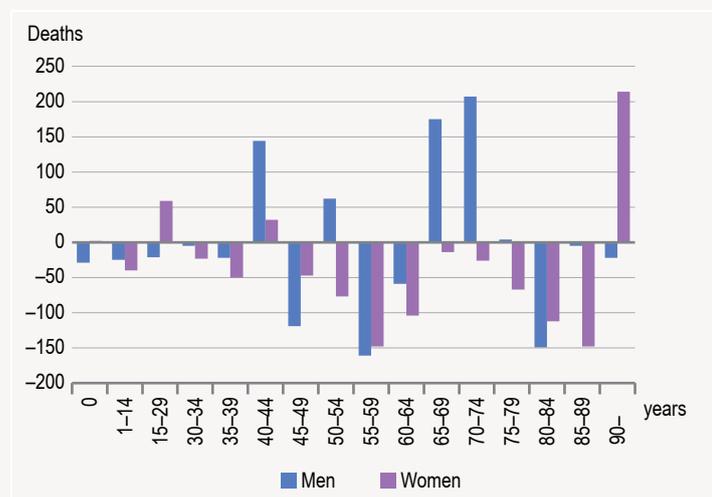
**Number of deaths per month**



The slight decrease in deaths affected people of different age and sex in different ways. Among men the number of deaths rose in certain age groups and declined in others, but the growths and decreases in deaths offset one another in terms of their impacts. On the whole, the preliminary figure of 64,000 male deaths in 2018 was unchanged in magnitude compared to 64,025 one year earlier. The decline in the number of deaths in 2018 was recorded almost completely among women and in their age groups.

Figure 16

**Change in number of deaths compared to previous year, by age group of men and women, 2018<sup>+</sup>**

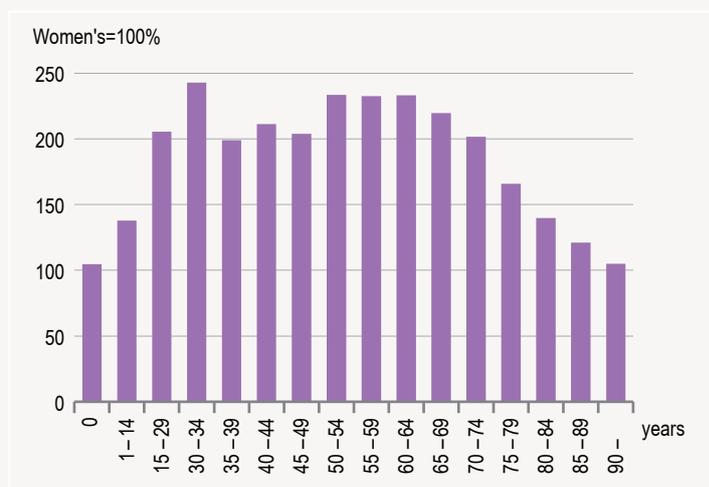


There were 13.4 deaths per thousand population in 2018, as differentiated by sex: 13.7 for men and 13.2 for women. The crude death rate compared to the previous year remained unchanged for both men and women. The slight decrease in the number of deaths did not cause considerable or real changes in mortality by sex and age. The level of mortality was the same as in the previous year in the majority of cases, only slight decreases or rises were observed in case of disparities.

Due to the unchanged mortality of men and the lessening one of women, the difference between the mortality of the two sexes was significant in 2018 too. There were no age groups among men where mortality would have been more favourable than among women, what is more, the mortality of men at least doubled the mortality of women in almost all age groups of 15–74-year-olds. The lowest differences between the two sexes were measured for new-born babies and the oldest age group of people aged 90 years or over. Men have a considerably smaller chance of reaching this high age of life, however, the mortality of those who reached it did not already differ substantially from that of women of similar age.

Figure 17

**Mortality surplus of men by age group, 2018<sup>+</sup>**



In respect of the marital status of deceased people there are significant differences between men and women. This is mainly due to differing mortality by sex and the difference in life expectancy. The vast majority, some 87% of deceased people were aged 60 years or over. The higher the age of life, the larger the difference in the composition of male and female population by marital status. In 2018 the half of deceased men were married before their death, the proportion of deceased married women was considerably lower, 18%. Mostly women are widowed, therefore, 63% of deceased women were widows before their death, while only 20% of men were widowers. The proportion of never-married people was more than twice as high among deceased men (14%) as among deceased women (6.0%). The smallest difference by sex was observed between the proportions of divorced men and women.

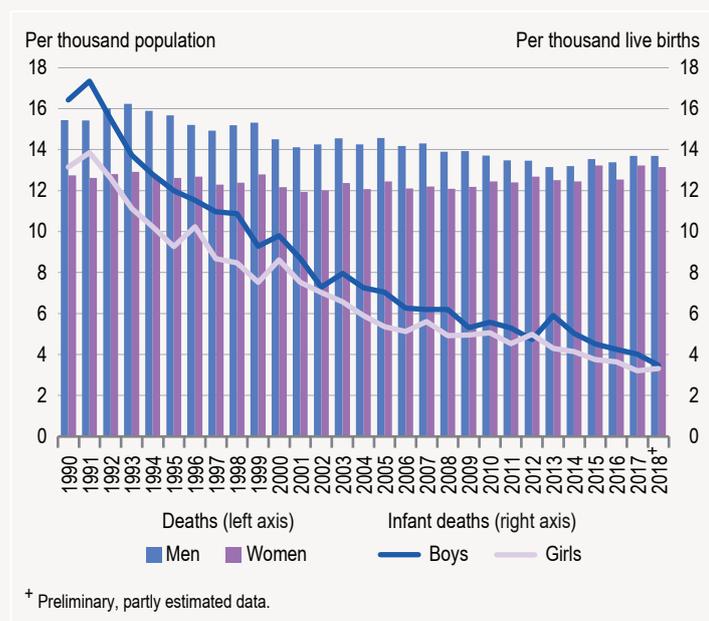
There was a decline only in the number of deceased married men, growths in that of deceased men with other marital status, the highest of which in the number of deceased divorced men in 2018 compared to the previous year. The number of deceased women went down in all categories of marital status, that of deceased never-married and married women to the highest extent.

Infant mortality has a decreasing significance in the total number of deaths, yet it is an indicator of outstanding importance: it is an internationally recognised measure of the state of development of the health care system and the level of prenatal and neonatal care in a country. Infant mortality has a key role in average life expectancy at birth, since the mortality probability before 1 year of age is especially high compared to mortality risks at later ages. According to the life table of 2017, the mortality probability of infant boys and infant girls was of the same magnitude as or of a similar one to that of 46-year-old men and 50-year-old women, respectively.

As a result of a general improvement in infant mortality, the mortality of new-born babies fell below 5 per mille in 2011 for the first time, and after small fluctuations it plunged below 4 per mille in 2017. In 2018, 34 of ten thousand new-born babies (3.4 in one thousand) died before one year of age, which has been the lowest-ever-recorded value in the history of official vital statistics. Infant mortality diminished among boys and slightly rose among girls compared to the previous year. However, more new-born boys died before 1 year of age than girls. The infant death rate of 3.5 per mille for new-born boys in 2018 has been the historically lowest value, while the figure of 3.3 per mille for girls was higher than the value in 2017 (3.2 per mille), which has been a historic minimum.

Figure 18

### Death and infant death rates by sex



### Internal migration

In addition to births and deaths, the direction and extent of internal migration also has an important role in changes in the number and composition of the population in a particular area.

279 thousand people changed permanent and 297 thousand changed temporary residence in 2018, which was a growth of 4 thousand or merely 0.7% in total internal migration compared to the previous year. The rate of increase was substantially lower than what was recorded in the last years, which can be attributed to a decline in temporary migrations. As long as the number of permanent internal migrations rose by 14 thousand, the number of temporary migrations was down by 10 thousand, to the level observed in 2016.

In respect of total net internal migration, the trends of mobility among the different types of settlements, as observed since 2016, continued in 2018, though basic differences became apparent in migration patterns compared to 2016 and 2017 when distinguishing permanent and temporary migrations.

Following the turnaround in the trend in 2016, the total net migration of the capital was negative in 2018 too, the migration loss increased to 3,100, presumably as an impact of a stronger sub-urbanisation process. In Budapest a loss of 5,900 came from permanent migration, while a growing gain of 2,800 was observed in temporary migration, compared with 495 in 2017. In the other towns, inward migration was typical in 2018 again, a total migration gain of 850 was measured for these settlements, which was approximately twice as high as in 2017, when it was 462. The growth was due to net temporary migrations being positive again (350) after 2016, while a gain of only 500 came from permanent migrations,

compared with 1,265 in 2017. The population number of villages was also increased by the positive net migration. The loss of 3,150 owing to temporary migrations was offset by the outstandingly high surplus (of 5,400) of permanent migrations, which resulted in a total gain of 2,250 for villages.

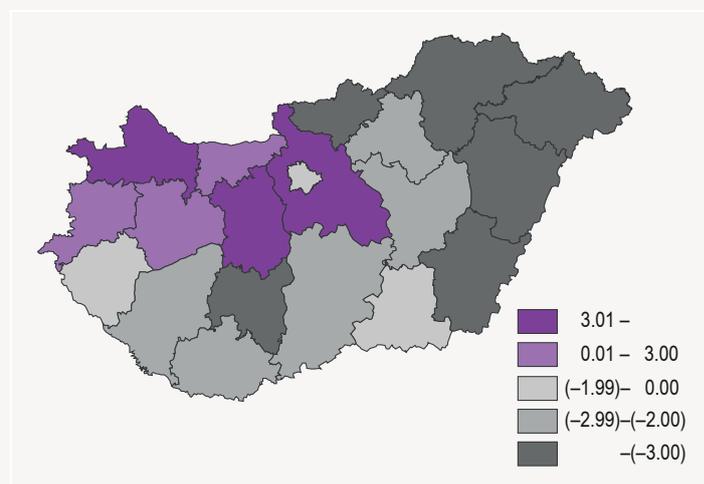
In regional comparison, net internal migration was positive in Pest Region (16,800), Western Transdanubia (4,800) and Central Transdanubia (2,300), similarly to earlier years. The migration surplus increased in Pest Region and Western Transdanubia alike, while a growing outward migration was typical in the areas of the Great Plain and Northern Hungary compared to 2017.

Among counties, Pest, Győr-Moson-Sopron, Fejér, Vas and Komárom-Esztergom Counties were the most attractive in 2018 as well, and internal net migration has also been positive in Veszprém County since 2016. Net internal migration per thousand population was outstanding in Pest and Győr-Moson-Sopron Counties, with rates of 13.2 per mille and 9.5 per mille, respectively.

The migration gain of Pest County was made up mainly by people migrating there from Budapest, 14,000 more people migrated from the capital to Pest County than vice versa. The migration gain of 4,400 of Győr-Moson-Sopron County, having the second largest positive internal net migration, resulted mostly from Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (550), Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (500) and Hajdú-Bihar County (450). A part of the migration surplus of Komárom-Esztergom, Vas and Veszprém Counties was also made up by people migrating there from Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. The other two counties from where the migration gain was the highest were Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Hajdú-Bihar Counties for Komárom-Esztergom County, Veszprém and Hajdú-Bihar Counties for Vas County and Békés and Csongrád Counties for Veszprém County. The positive net migration of Fejér County was made up mainly by processes of migration with Pest County and Budapest.

Figure 19

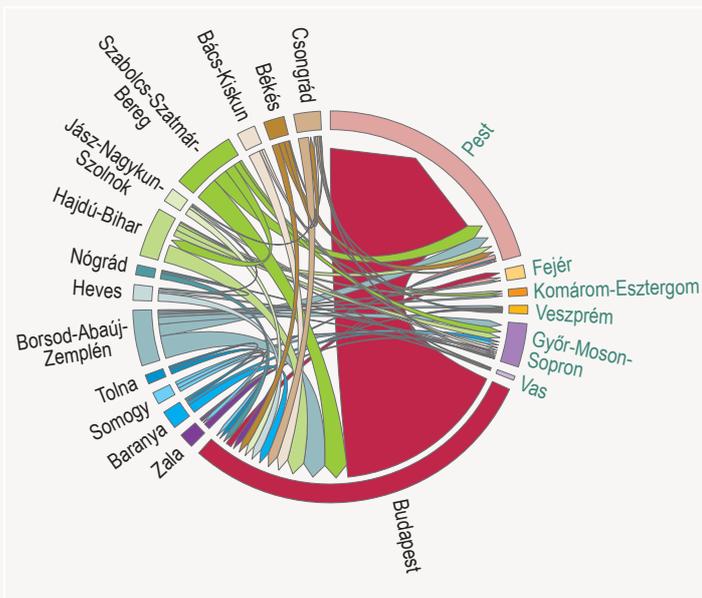
### Net internal migration per thousand population by county, 2018<sup>+</sup>



Among regions, the population retaining capacity was the weakest in Northern Great Plain and Northern Hungary on the whole, in which regions the population number decreased by 8,750 and 5,850, respectively, due to internal migration. As for counties, outward migration continued to be the highest from Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Counties in 2018, similarly to earlier years, resulting in migration losses of 5,500 and 4,600, respectively, there, which were equal to -9.9 and -7.1, respectively, per thousand population. The outstandingly negative net migration of both counties was mostly owing to outward migration from there to Budapest and Pest County. Outward migration to the capital was the most typical in other areas east of the Danube, too.

**Net internal migration among counties, 2018\*\***

Figure 20



\* The chart shows the migration connections of counties, based on differences between inward migrations to and outward migrations from the different counties. To each of the counties with positive net migration, we assigned the three counties where its greatest migration gain came from, while to each of the counties with negative net migration, we linked the three counties against which it had the largest loss in the migration processes. The direction of the arrows in the chart indicates where more people migrate, while the colour of the arrows indicates where they migrate from. The size of the arrows reflects the size of net migration. Counties with positive net migration are marked in green type colour.

+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

**International migration**

In addition to internal migration, international migration also has a significant impact on the demographic situation of a particular area, immigration and emigration are fundamental pillars of population change. Positive net international migration lowered the natural decrease of the population of Hungary by 27,000 in 2018.

Positive net international migration reduced the population decrease mainly in Budapest as well as in Komárom-Esztergom and Győr-Moson-Sopron Counties. The capital has stood out for years in terms of international migration, the number of people arriving from abroad was much higher in Budapest than the average in 2018 again. International migration had a negative impact on the population number only in Baranya County.

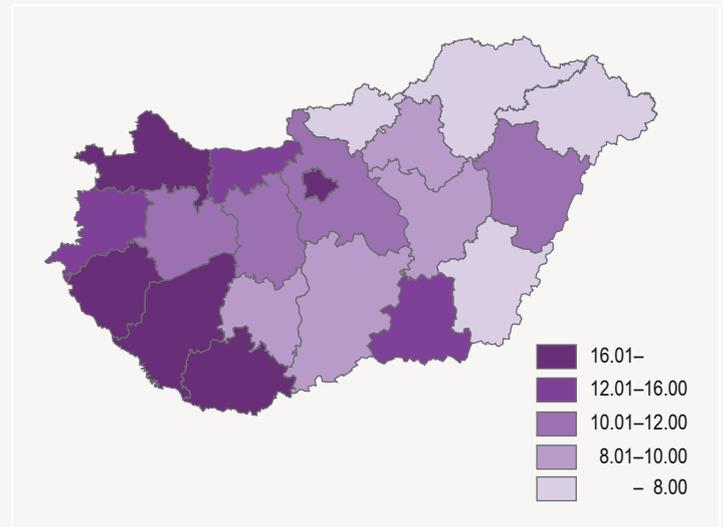
The number of foreign citizens residing in Hungary for a long time with valid permits was 172,600 on 1 January 2019, they accounted for 1.8% of the total population of Hungary. The vast majority, 64% of the foreigners living here came from Europe, within which mostly from the surrounding countries, especially from Romania (12%), Ukraine (12%) and Slovakia (5.4%), as well as from Germany (9.3%). Another 28% were from Asia, 3.9% from Africa and 3.5% from the continent of America. Primarily people from China and Vietnam migrated to Hungary from Asia.

47% of foreigners residing in Hungary lived in Budapest, 36% in towns other than the capital and 17% in villages. Their proportion per thousand

population was the highest in the capital as well as in Győr-Moson-Sopron, Baranya and Zala Counties and the lowest in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County. There were more men (58%) than women (42%) among foreigners living in Hungary, and their age structure was younger than that of Hungarian citizens. Among both sexes, the number of people was dominant in the age group of 20–39-year-olds, who made up in total 48% of foreigners living here.

Figure 21

**Number of foreign citizens per thousand population by county, 1 January 2019\***



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

To accurately measure the emigration of Hungarian citizens runs into difficulties due to several factors, but data available from administrative registers reveal that the increase in their number stopped and then turned in recent years. 18,150 Hungarian citizens emigrated in 2018. 31% of emigrating Hungarians moved to Germany, 30% to Austria and 15% to the United Kingdom. The members of younger age groups emigrated predominantly: 45% of emigrating Hungarians were under 30 years of age and 71% did not yet reach the age of 40 years. These proportions differed significantly from the age structure of the resident population in Hungary (32% and 45%, respectively). 53% of emigrants were men and by marital status the vast majority (66%) of them were never married.

20,000 Hungarian citizens who had emigrated returned in 2018. 31% of Hungarians migrating back came home from Austria, 25% from Germany and 22% from the United Kingdom. The proportion of people returning from Austria and the United Kingdom showed an increasing trend within their group, while the proportion of those migrating back from Germany diminished compared to the data of 2017. 65% of people returning home were aged under 40 years and 29% under 30 years. 56% of them were men, they were typically never married (53%), though the proportion of married people was higher among them compared with emigrating Hungarians (35% and 24%, respectively).

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

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