

REGIONS, COUNTIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES

Public administration, counties, regions

In 1848 all of Hungary (the lands of the crown of St Stephen) consisted of the following administrative units:

Trans-Danubia district
Cis-Danubia district
Cis-Tisza district
Trans-Tisza district
Partium
Trans-Dráva district
Croatia
Free districts
Hungarian military border zones
Transylvania

Of these, the Cis- and Trans-Danubia, the Cis- and Trans-Tisza and the Free Districts, as well as the Partium, belonged to the parent country.

From 1880 until 1919, middle-level administration of the territory of the parent country and Transylvania was conducted via division into 63 counties (There were 8 counties in Croatia-Slavonia.)

In 1919 after the Trianon Peace Treaty, the number of counties fell to 34. Some of the "dismembered" counties cut across by the border were merged in 1923, leaving only 25 counties.

In 1949 the 19 modern counties were created.

After this, there were attempts to set up units of bigger area than counties (planning-economic zones), but their functions remained limited. The present planning-statistical regions were designated by the Parliamentary Resolution on the National Regional Development Plan, which was confirmed by an Act of Parliament in 1999. Their powers are narrow for the moment, but are likely to be widened in future.

Population and demographic trends by county and region, 2000-2001

Budapest. county. region	Population.	Population	Live births	Deaths	Natural decline	Infant mortality
	thousands	density /km ²				
	1 February 2001		per thousand of population			
Budapest	1 775	3 381	8.2	13.9	-5.7	10.0
Pest	1 081	169	10.6	12.5	-1.9	8.5
<i>Central Hungary</i>	<i>2 856</i>	<i>413</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>-4.3</i>	<i>9.3</i>
Fejér	435	100	9.3	11.3	-2.0	8.9
Komárom-Esztergom	317	140	9.5	12.8	-3.3	8.8
Veszprém	374	81	8.7	12.3	-3.6	7.8
<i>Central Transdanubia</i>	<i>1 126</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>12.1</i>	<i>-2.9</i>	<i>8.5</i>
Győr-Moson-Sopron	435	106	9.0	12.2	-3.2	10.7
Vas	269	81	8.5	13.8	-5.3	7.6
Zala	298	79	8.3	13.8	-5.5	11.2
<i>Western Transdanubia</i>	<i>1 002</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>-4.4</i>	<i>10.0</i>
Baranya	408	92	9.4	13.4	-3.9	9.8
Somogy	335	56	9.8	14.6	-4.8	8.0
Tolna	250	68	9.4	14.0	-4.7	11.8
<i>Southern Transdanubia</i>	<i>994</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>-4.4</i>	<i>9.7</i>
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	745	103	11.3	13.8	-2.5	9.6
Heves	326	90	9.4	14.0	-4.6	6.2
Nógrád	221	87	9.9	15.5	-5.5	6.1
<i>Northern Hungary</i>	<i>1 291</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>-3.5</i>	<i>8.3</i>
Hajdú-Bihar	553	89	11.1	12.5	-1.4	8.5
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	416	75	10.2	14.2	-4.1	8.7
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	583	98	12.0	12.5	-0.5	11.7
<i>Northern Great Plain</i>	<i>1 552</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>-1.8</i>	<i>9.8</i>
Bács-Kiskun	547	65	9.9	14.0	-4.1	9.3
Békés	397	71	9.2	14.9	-5.7	8.6
Csongrád	433	102	9.2	14.7	-5.5	8.1
<i>Southern Great Plain</i>	<i>1 377</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>14.5</i>	<i>-5.0</i>	<i>8.7</i>
Country total	10 197	110	9.7	13.5	-3.8	9.2

Regions differ widely in their levels of economic development. Per capita GDP is strikingly high in Central Hungary, above the national average in West Transdanubia and approximately average in Central Transdanubia. The economic level of the two southern regions falls 20-25% short of the national average, and that of the two northern regions, some 35%. Since the beginning of such calculations (1994), the differences have grown: the top three region's advantage, and the latter four's disadvantage, have widened.

Figures for smaller geographical units - the counties and Budapest - show even greater differences than the regions. The differences between the highest and lowest level are 2.4 for the regions, and 3.5 for Budapest and the counties.

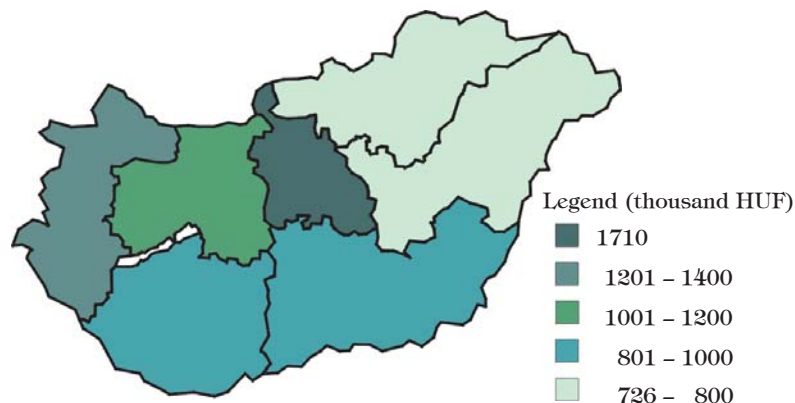
The differences in economic level and their changes are related to, among other things, the size of investment and the presence of foreign capital. These are partly the causes and partly the consequences of some areas' level of economic development. Both indicators show distinctive regional differences.

Per capita investment, foreign capital, 2000

Region	Investment. 2000 thousand HUF	Foreign capital	
		thousand HUF	percentage of national average
Central Hungary	383.6	701.5	244.4
Central Transdanubia	293.0	198.6	69.2
Western Transdanubia	372.6	227.7	79.3
Southern Transdanubia	186.6	52.8	18.4
Northern Hungary	226.7	128.2	44.7
Northern Great Plain	200.3	69.2	24.1
Southern Great Plain	165.9	92.4	32.2
Country total	282.5	287.0	100.0

Per capita GDP by region, 1999

Region	Thousand HUF	Average	Highest	Lowest
		level=100		
Central-Hungary	1 710	151	100	236
Western Transdanubia	1 301	115	76	179
Central Transdanubia	1 061	94	62	146
Southern Transdanubia	880	78	51	121
Southern Great Plain	843	75	49	116
Northern Hungary	751	66	44	103
Northern Great Plain	726	64	42	100



Per capita GDP by Budapest and county, 1999

Regional unit	Thousand HUF	Average	Highest	Lowest
		in per cent		
Budapest	2 159	191	100	349
Győr-Moson-Sopron	1 480	131	69	239
Vas	1 333	118	62	216
Fejér	1 287	114	60	208
Zala	1 014	90	47	164
Tolna	1 009	89	47	163
Csongrád	977	86	45	158
Komárom-Esztergom	934	83	43	151
Pest	911	80	42	147
Veszprém	910	80	42	147
Baranya	885	78	41	143
Heves	817	72	38	132
Hajdú-Bihar	810	72	38	131
Bács-Kiskun	791	70	37	128
Somogy	778	69	36	126
Békés	772	68	36	125
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	763	67	35	123
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	760	67	35	123
Nógrád	620	55	29	100
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	618	55	29	100
Country total	1 132	100	52	183

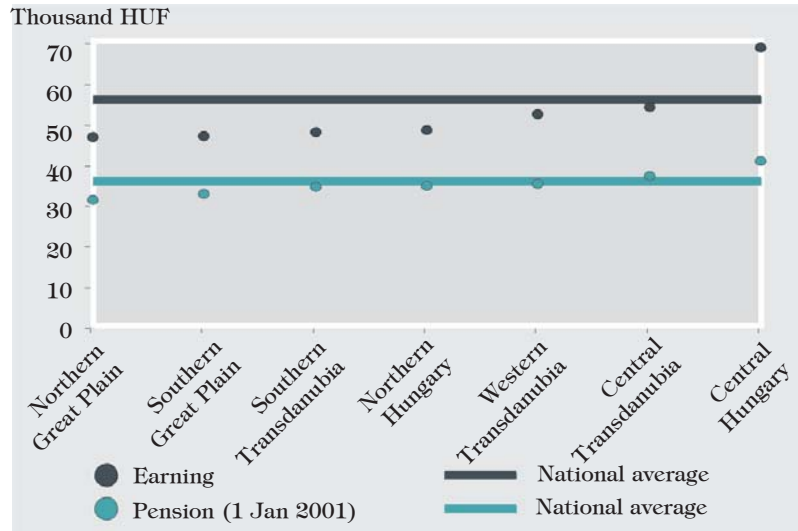
The regional differences in development are also apparent in the employment indicators.

Employment and earnings, 2000

Region	Economically active people among those aged 15-74, %	Unemployment rate among the economically active, %	Average net monthly earnings of people in employment	
			HUF	% of national average
Central Hungary	57.1	5.2	68 353	123
Central Transdanubia	55.7	4.8	53 586	96
Western Transdanubia	58.7	4.2	51 840	93
Southern Transdanubia	51.3	7.8	47 585	86
Northern Hungary	48.7	10.1	48 051	86
Northern Great Plain	48.3	9.2	46 348	83
Southern Great Plain	51.9	5.1	46 469	84
Country total	53.5	6.4	55 650	100

Pensions show similar differentiation to earnings.

Per capita average net monthly earning and pension in 2000



Hungary's capital city and counties

Budapest



The decisive moment in the history of the capital city was the passage of Act XXXVI of 1872, which united the free royal boroughs of Buda and Pest, the market town of Óbuda and Margit Island under the name "Budapest". The first and undoubtedly most dynamic period of the city's development was from unification to the end of the century. This is when it increasingly became the centre of the country's transport, industry, trade, financial and cultural life. This is when the foundations of the municipal system were laid and revolutionary progress was made in public transport. The underground railway was built from Vörösmarty tér to the Zoo, the first on the Continent.

Budapest's population grew from 280,000 in 1870 to 733,000 at the end of the century. In the first four decades of the 20th century, it grew by a further half, to 1.165 million, and that of the towns and villages that were later annexed grew at the same time from 128,000 to 548,000.

The year 1950 brought another milestone to the history of the city: 23 towns and villages were annexed to form Greater Budapest. After this, the city's population growth accelerated further. After industrialization, the number of jobs and vacancies increased, setting off a mass influx from other parts of the country. The population passed 2 million in 1970. In the 1980s, the influx was already not enough to offset natural decrease, and so Budapest's population declined for the first time. This tendency strengthened in the 90s, the population contracting by an average of more than 20,000 every year. At the turn of the millennium, 1.8 million lived in the capital city, 18% of the country's population. At present the reduction in population is greatly influenced by the rising numbers moving from Budapest to Pest county.

The house-building that has taken place since the formation of Greater Budapest has fundamentally changed the disposition of buildings within the city. Two-thirds of the 330,000 homes built up to 1990 occupy areas that were provided with, or could easily be provided with, public utilities.

Housebuilding

Period	Average annual number of homes built	Average floor area. m ²
1951 - 1955	4 202	..
1956 - 1960	8 077	..
1961 - 1965	10 164	..
1966 - 1970	11 788	54*
1971 - 1975	15 467	55
1976 - 1980	17 118	58
1981 - 1985	14 881	60
1986 - 1990	8 944	70
1991 - 1995	3 692	87
1996 - 2000	3 029	102

* Figures for 1969-70.

Between 1950 and 1990, most house-building (70%) comprised multi-storey housing-estate building to meet quantitative accommodation needs; in the same period, the level of connection to public utilities in the city's housing stock greatly improved. In the 1990s, comparatively few homes were built, but their average floor area and level of amenity was higher than in the preceding decades.

At the turn of the millennium, the capital city remained in full possession of its leading role in both economic and cultural life.

Main indicators of economic life, 2000

Description	Budapest	% of the country
Number of active economic organizations	266 762	28.7
of which: enterprises	248 676	29.4
Number of people employed in Budapest-based economic organizations	964 493	35.5
Proportion of white-collar workers among employees	53.2	42.4*
Number of foreign-controlled enterprises**	13 964	52.8
Subscribed capital, billion HUF**	1 786.4	56.6
of which: foreign share	1 500.5	57.2
* Proportion in the country.		
** 1999.		

At the end of 2000, 29% of the country's enterprises (249,000) were operating in Budapest, so that there were 138 active enterprises for each thousand inhabitants, 54 more than the national average. Budapest's role within the country is dominant in terms of education, science, and cultural life.

In 1999, 24% of the country's secondary school students and 41% of university and college students were full-time students in the capital. 57% (14,000 people) of the country's scientific research staff were working in higher educational institution-related and corporate research centres and in independent research institutes.

In recent years, interest in cultural institutions has declined somewhat, but Budapest's leading position has remained unaltered. Standing out among the city's and even European theatres is the Hungarian State Opera House, an architectural masterpiece by Miklós Ybl, which opened in 1884.

Main indicators of cultural life

Description	1990	1999	
		Budapest	Country
Theatre visits per thousand inhabitants	1 478	1 150	399
Cinema visits per inhabitant	4.8	4.3	1.4
Museum visits per thousand inhabitants	1 658	1 334	965

Some museums are located in buildings that are definitive of the cityscape. Such are the Hungarian National Museum, the Budapest Historical Museum and the Hungarian National Gallery. The latter two are in the Buda Castle, which includes the Royal Palace, and is part of World Heritage.

Baranya



In terms of demography, Baranya is put into a peculiar situation by the south-west part of the county, the Ormánság. Nowhere else in the country is there such a large continuous area where the one-child tradition is so entrenched in society.

The people of Ormánság have the unusual custom of founding families with no more than one child. The basic factor - the fear of splitting estates - has been joined more recently by other motives. As well as a means of protecting existing property, propensity to have only one child is driven by ambitions of enrichment.

Under the only-child system, population decrease proceeded as follows: from 100 people, there were only 40 in the following generation, 16 in the next and 6.4 in the third. Also peculiar to Baranya is its ethnic composition. There is

hardly another county in the country where ethnic minorities have constituted nearly one-third of the inhabitants for such a long period.

In the 1941 census, some three-tenths of the population had German as their mother tongue, and many of them declared themselves to be ethnically German. Some of them fled at the end of the war, and many of the rest - under the Treaty of Potsdam - were resettled. The houses of expelled families passed into the property of the state, and had to be filled. They were frequently assigned to resettled people from Czechoslovakia, Romania, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. People from Yugoslavia were mostly from three parts of that country - the "mining triangle", Croatia, and the part of Bácska that belonged to Yugoslavia, from where it was not long-standing residents that came to Baranya, but formerly resettled Székely (or Csángó) people from Bukovina and Moldavia. The expulsions and resettlements made the composition of the population extremely varied. This can be illustrated by examples of a few individual villages, such as Hidas, where of the 319 families living there in 1948, only 16 were formerly local residents, and 303 had come from a total of 52 other places, or Mecseknádasd, where 140 of the 144 families were new, originating from 42 other towns and villages. All this further widened the ethnic spectrum in what had already been a diversely-populated county, although this is not really reflected in the census data. In 1949, for example, compared with 80% in 1941, 99% of the population declared themselves to be Magyar. This was due to caution on the part of the inhabitants - the fear of further resettlement. In the 1990 census, 94% of the population declared themselves to be Magyar, 2.5% German, one-and-a-half per cent Gypsy, one per cent Croatian, and tiny proportions of Serbs, Slovaks and Romanians.

Dominating the economic and social life of the county, including education, is the city of Pécs. It is one of the largest centres of higher education not only of Transdanubia but of the country as a whole. Its University was founded in the Middle Ages by Louis the Great, as part of a wave of university foundations throughout Europe; in the chronological list it is followed by Vienna, and precedes most modern foreign universities.

The founding document was issued in 1367 by Pope Urban V, who granted permission for faculties of Philosophy, Law and Medicine. After the death of Louis the Great, the university fell into decline and probably closed around 1543, when Pécs came under Turkish control. Although some kind of higher education

institution was always running in Pécs for over six hundred years, the modern united University of Pécs dates from the first of January 2000, by the merger of the Janus Pannonius University, the Pécs University of Medicine, the Illyés Gyula College of Education in Szekszárd, and the Pécs branch of the Liszt Ferenc College of Music (the Polláck Mihály Technical College having already been merged with the university.) This has made the University into one of Hungary's largest and most wide-ranging education and research institutions, with faculties of Law, Economics, Engineering (college), Art, Education, Humanities and Science (the latter is an adult education, human resources development and teacher training institution). The Faculty of General Medicine (including Dentistry) includes an English Programme, now itself organized into a faculty, where medical education is conducted in English. The University also incorporates a network of health colleges. In 2000, the University of Pécs was attended by some 25,000 students, of which about 14,000 were full time.

The Mecsek hard coal is the country's only field of coking coal, and has been mined for some two centuries. Its exploitation started in the beginning of the 18th century, and the first coal mine for public consumption was opened in 1782.

The production of the Mecsek mines was still low at the beginning of the 19th century. Their number increased year by year, but were divided among many owners, and changed hands frequently over time until the nationalization of the mines after the Second World War. The command-planning system introduced at the same time displaced the regulatory role of the market and the encouragement of development through competition. After an initial upsurge, then, production stagnated, and then declined at a gradually accelerating rate, so that mining on the coalfield has by now been almost entirely wound up.

The number of coal mining employees was highest in 1965, at 19,133, and then steadily contracted to 9020 in 1990. In 1991, when the winding-up started, the number was only 7411.

The geology of the Mecsek coal seams was such that accident risk was higher than the average in mining, and the activity was accompanied by many human casualties. In the 47 years between 1 January 1945 and 31 December 1991, 519 mining workers lost their lives, 72 in surface and 447 in underground accidents. The highest mining accident death rate was in 1954, when 28 people died. (There were also many casualties in the past. In the Pécs mining area alone, there were 318 deaths in mining accidents in the 72 years between 1873 and 1944.)

The Zsolnay pottery factory, still working today, was already famous across Europe in the second half of the 19th century. Its products were a successful feature of the Vienna World Exhibition in 1873, and five years later they won first prize at the Paris World Exhibition (and Vilmos Zsolnay was awarded the Prix d'Honneur).

Between 1867 and 1949, Angster, Hungary's largest and most influential organ factory, operated in Pécs. 1300 organs and 3500 harmoniums were produced there, it kept up a high reputation throughout Europe as long as it existed.

Bács-Kiskun



Bács-Kiskun county occupies an area of 8445 km², 9% of the country's territory, between the Danube and the Tisza. Its entire area lies on the plain, the highest point being only 174 m above sea level; nevertheless it is much more varied in terms of relief and landscape than other parts of the Great Plain. As well as variety in its physical geography, the county is highly diverse economically, ethnically, and in terms of its settlements.

The county is now inhabited by around 547,000 people, making it the fifth most populous in the country. The processes shaping its demography over the decades have been adverse. Its rate of live births at the start of the 20th century was nearly 40 per thousand, falling to 20 per thousand in mid-century, and by the end was hardly more than 10. The death rate trend has been opposite, rising steadily from the second half of the 1960s. One reason for this has been the ageing of the population, but deterioration in the life expectancy and higher

death rate among certain sections of the population has also contributed. The death rate rose from 11 per thousand in the sixties to over 14 at the beginning of the eighties.

It is difficult to estimate the ethnic composition of the population. It is measured on the basis of self-declaration in the national census. However, this frequently deviates from reality. The largest ethnic minority in Bács-Kiskun is that of the Gypsies, but the ethnic group with the highest rate of self-declaration is the Germans, followed by south Slavs (Yugoslavs), Romanians and Slovaks. Of the county's 119 towns and villages, 23 may be regarded as of ethnic-minority character in terms of population composition.

The geology of the area does not confer potential for extracting minerals except some hydrocarbons and geothermal energy.

Exploration for hydrocarbons started several decades ago. Most exploratory drillings found thermal water, however. Significant hydrocarbon deposits were found in the central and south-eastern part of the county, however, (in the Szank-Zsana-Kiskunhalas area) and subsequently provided a significant part of Hungary's oil and gas extraction.

Until the middle of the sixties, the economy was fundamentally agriculture-based, and the food economy remained dominant even thereafter. The county has a larger share of agricultural production and produce sales than land area. Its natural features are particularly favourable to viniculture, fruit growing and vegetable cultivation (e.g. some 40% of the country's traded wine and an even larger proportion of its spice paprika comes from here.)

In the sixties and seventies, industry was raised up from an extremely backward condition to take a place alongside agriculture. Progress in two main industries spawned development in several related areas. Nowadays, although the work of some three-quarters of the economically active inhabitants of Bács-Kiskun involves agricultural produce at some stage of production, three times as many now work in industry than in agriculture as their main employment.

Because of its central position, Bács-Kiskun has an important place in the country's transit traffic. The length of national highways crossing its territory is over 2,000 km. In the second half of the nineties, the

M5 motorway was completed up to Kecskemét and subsequently to the southern part of Kiskunfélegyháza, presenting new opportunities to the county capital and surrounding towns and villages. The county is also spanned by a 72 km section of the most important highway (E75) that connects Hungary and, more recently, Western Europe, with the Balkans.

The length of railways in the county is over 600 km, but this is less than 8% of the national system. Most important are the Budapest-Kelebia international line and the Budapest-Szeged main line.

The Danube, which forms the county's western boundary, could provide the opportunity for river navigation and transport. This stands almost completely unexploited at present, however, and awaits future development.

The county's demographic trends have been more adverse than the national average. Bács-Kiskun has among the worst rates of morbidity and mortality. Another unfavourable phenomenon is that certain manifestations of deviant behaviours (alcoholism, suicide) are more frequent than the national average.

The county has an unusual population distribution based on scattered tanyas (homesteads), and the population living outside settlements is relatively higher than anywhere else in the country. This feature has made the laying on of public utilities more costly and time-consuming, although this was largely accomplished in the sixties and seventies, when tanya electrification became a priority county programme.

It is more difficult or impossible for people living on tanyas to access certain services (health, cultural, utilities), and even in recent decades, major tasks have been faced in expanding existing elements of infrastructure, establishing new ones and providing the facilities for their operation. One of the most spectacular changes is in communications, because nowadays satellite antennas and mobile or fixed-line telephones are no longer luxury items on tanyas remote from centres of population.

The most prominent cultural facilities are libraries and museums. Permanent and temporary exhibitions in the county's 45 museums receive 200-300,000 visitors annually. There are several traditional local history museums, some related to particular personalities, and a few institutions unique in Europe, such as the Kiskunfélegyháza Prison Museum, the Kecskemét Szórákaténusz Toy Workshop and Museum, the Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy, the Folk Crafts Museum, the Kalocsa Archbishop's Library, etc.

Kecskemét hosts the county's outstanding cultural establishment, the Katona József Theatre. The famous building was constructed in under 5 years to the designs of Helmer and Fellner in the Hungarian Millennium year (1896). The newest cultural establishment, the Ciróka Puppet Theatre, was opened in an imposing modern building in 2001, also in Kecskemét.

The county's folk art is renowned and sought-after even abroad: Halas lace, and Kalocsa embroidery and painting. Indirectly related to folk art is the Kodály music teaching method, which started out in Kecskemét and has now spread throughout the world.

Békés



The oldest physical relics of Békés county originate from the Körös culture of the 5th-6th millennia BC. The Great Plain's oldest earth fort was also built here, on the outskirts of Pusztaföldvár. In 1241, a countryside densely covered with small villages was burnt to the ground by the invading Mongols, and the people, living on farming and livestock rearing, were butchered. The renewal that gave rise to the modern settlements and their inhabitants only got under way in 1711, after the expulsion of the Turks. The returning Magyars were joined by organized groups of other settlers (Slovaks, Germans, Romanians) in reoccupying the uninhabited plains.

The chief natural treasure of the county is its arable land, the most fertile in the country. The area is poor in mineral deposits, apart from hydrocarbons. A major brick and roof-tile industry (Békéscsaba, Mezőberény) has been built on the abundant alluvial gravel, sand and clay deposits. The area has good geothermal resources, enabling water of over 50°C to be extracted from a depth of 800 m over a wide area of the county. Several towns (such as Gyula and Orosháza) have exploited this to establish internationally-renowned spas.

The county's demography has for decades been characterized by low birth rate, relatively high death rate and the consequent ageing of the population. The population stood at 392,000 in February 2001, 16% less than in 1930. The 70,000 decrease over these 70 years is more than the population of Békéscsaba. Migration losses have also contributed to the decline in population. The inhabitants of the county include constantly decreasing proportions of children and increasing proportions of the elderly. The county has the second largest ageing index, and the highest maintenance rate of the elderly population.

The socio-economic changes of the 1990s have had their main effect on the structure of employment. The number of active earners rose up to the 1960s as broad masses of women went to work, but subsequently, because of the reducing numbers entering the active age groups and the unemployment at the start of the nineties, it steadily declined. The microcensus of 1996 indicates that 31% of the population were active earners, 37% less than at the time of the 1930 census. The level of education of the county's inhabitants has been rising steadily. The same survey showed that eighty per cent of the 15 and over population had completed elementary school, and 28% of people over 18 had completed secondary school. As for higher educational qualifications, Békés county advanced three places in the ranking of counties between 1990 and 1996, but was still below the national average. The level of education of women has improved much more than that of men, so that for every 100 man over 25 with a college or university qualification, there are 102 women of the same status, a situation unique in the country.

The land of Békés county is the most intensively cultivated in Hungary, with the highest proportion of arable land, 77%, but the smallest of forests, only 2%. In the Hungarian system of land classification, the average rating of the county's farmland is 27 gold crowns, the best in the country, and arable land is rated at nearly 30 gold crowns on average. Békés county's agricultural production has rightly earned it the title of the country's breadbasket, since it contains some 10% of the country's cereal production land. The importance of food production in the area is illustrated by one of Békéscsaba's major annual events being

the Csaba Sausage Festival, now internationally renowned. Agriculture is still dominant in its economic life, as is the associated food industry, but the county has a long tradition of manufacturing textiles and clothes, and service industries are now making enormous progress.

The Kner Press, founded in Gyoma in 1882, reached its zenith in the 1920s as a printer of baroque typography books, which made a name for the company abroad. It is still a producer of high-quality books.

Rapid urbanization was steadily, if more slowly, followed by the development of infrastructure: by 1995, all 75 towns and villages had piped water, and by 1997 every one was supplied with piped gas. The sewage system lags behind this somewhat, only serving 25 towns and villages. Despite the improvement in public utilities, there is still a wide gap in this area. The number of homes was 30% higher than seventy years ago, with 15% more having three and more rooms. The number of occupants per hundred homes fell from 347 to 234. Before 1945, only two settlements in Békés county had the status of város (borough). Upgrading since then brought the figure to 17 in 2001, so that seven tenths of the county's population are now town dwellers.

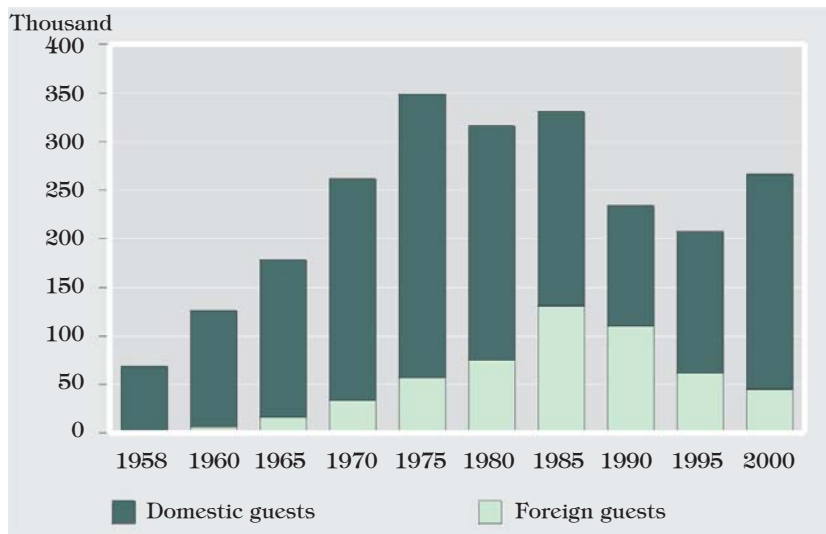
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén



This county has a prominent place in Hungarian history. It was the arena for such defining events as the battle of Muhi against the Mongols in 1241, and the Ónod Parliament in 1707. The past of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and its countryside encapsulates that of Hungary. Archaeological finds here have revealed traces of life in every age. The area was inhabited even in prehistoric times, and has a rich stock of relics of early man. Traces of the hunting Neandarthals have been found in the Subalyuk Cave in the outskirts of Cserépfalu, and the hominid find in Rudabánya is of outstanding significance. A regular excavation of the Szeleta Cave near Miskolc started up in 1906.

The cave system derives from the limestone structure of the karst area of the Bükk Hills and Aggtelek. The Bükk and Aggtelek National Park proliferates in sites for exploring and touring caves. The Aggtelek karst area, part of World Heritage, has a unique cave system. Its natural beauty and health treatment tourism facilities - for the treatment of asthmatic conditions - have made it world famous.

Number of guests in public accomodation in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county



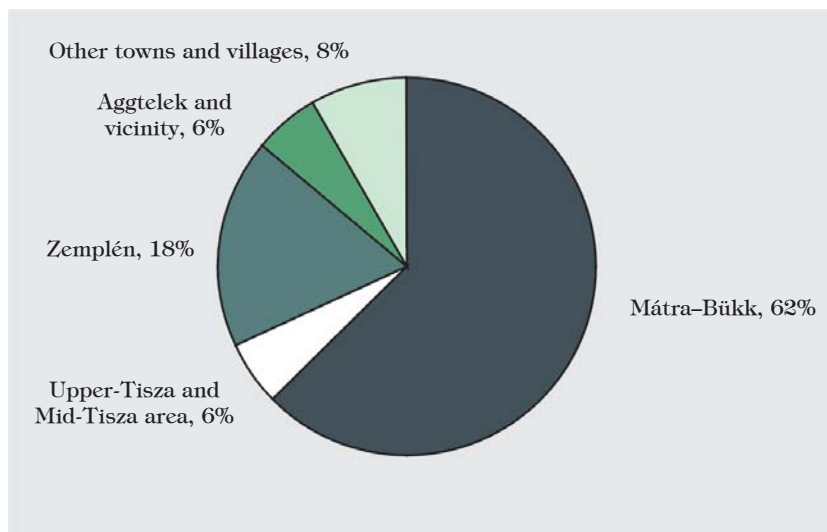
The county is rich in thermal and medicinal waters, and its renowned spas bring in many people seeking therapy and recreation. Bogács is a fast-growing village on the perimeter of the Bükk National Park,

with efficacious sulphurous spa water. Miskolctapolca's thermal cave baths are unique in Europe. The healing power of its springs has been appreciated since ancient times, and the inhabitants have been using them since the 13th century. The other natural medicinal spring is the Zsóry spa in Mezőkövesd, which also attracts many visitors summer and winter.

The county seat of Miskolc is a cultural, economic and tourist centre. Places of interest in its vicinity include Lillafüred, Miskolctapolca, Diósgyőri Castle, and Ávas.

There are many sights in the county outside Miskolc. The "capital" of Matyóföld is Mezőkövesd, whose inhabitants, together with those of neighbouring Szentistván and Tard, are referred to as "Matyós". Their colourful folk costumes, famous folk arts, and lives locked into tradition make them a distinctive ethnographic unit. The most picturesque town of the county is Mezőcsát, which became famous above all for its decorative ceramics. A pottery centre, it created what is perhaps the finest line of Hungarian folk ceramics; it is here that the well-known Miska jugs are made. Particularly noteworthy is the Hollóháza Porcelain Factory, whose products are a common feature of everyday life in Hungary, but it also produces individual pieces for both the domestic and foreign markets.

Distribution of guests in public accommodation in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county in 2000



The pearl of the landscape is the Zemplén hill range, with unspoiled natural wonders, and including the Zemplén Nature Conservation Zone. Its highly diverse and spectacular natural features and historical associations attract many visitors. Its eventful past is marked by a series of surviving castles at Füzér, Boldogkő, Regéc and Sárospatak.

Lying at the south of the Zemplén hills is Tokaj-Hegyalja, the home of Tokaj wine. Made from grapes that take a special flavour from the unique volcanic soil, the "wine of kings, king of wines" has long enjoyed world renown.

Village tourism is going through a renaissance throughout Europe. Accommodation in this style is now a feature of many settlements in the Abaúj area, led particularly by Arka, Füzér, Mogyoróska, Regéc and Teresztenye, and attracting many foreign as well as Hungarian holidaymakers.

92% of visitors to the county went to the holiday areas. The highest guest business was taken in the Mátra-Bükk and Zemplén areas, but Aggtelek and surroundings, the Upper Tisza, and the Central Tisza area are also much visited.

Csongrád



Csongrád county follows the lower stretch of the Tisza as it flows through Hungary. The county is curious in terms of its relief, containing the country's lowest-lying areas, and its lowest point, in the Tiszasziget area, 75.8 metres above sea level.

The area receives the most sunlight in the country, over 2000 hours annually. One of its main natural treasures is its farmland. Running through Csongrád county in the north-south direction, the Tisza has put its defining stamp on both the area's soil and its pattern of habitation, sandy soil stretching westward from the river, and excellent farmland eastward. Fruit-growing and viniculture is long established on the sandy

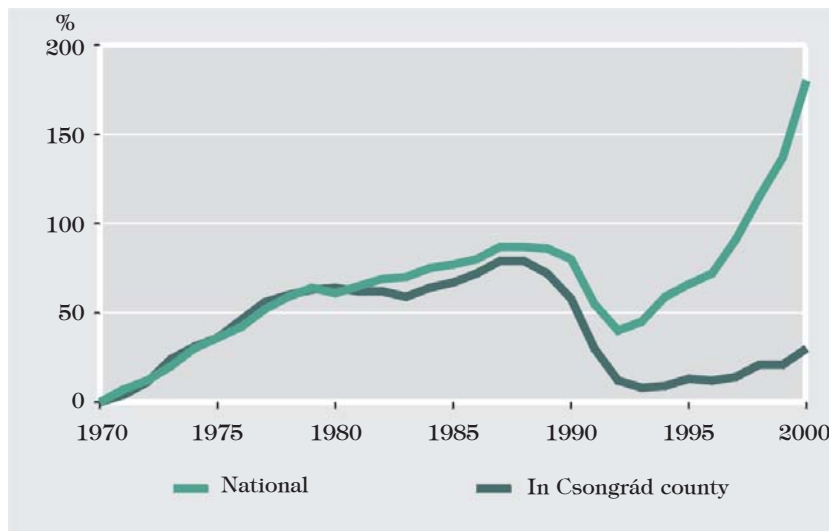
puszta (plain), and chiefly cereal cultivation on the expanses of black soil. Crops especially characteristic of specific areas are spice paprika around Szeged, peaches in Szatymaz, and onions in the Makó vicinity. The county has a higher density of cultivation under glass and plastic sheeting than other areas of the country.

The wide use of plastic-sheet greenhouses is a longstanding feature of the county, and is especially noticeable around Szentés, Szeged and Kistelek. Suitable climatic and soil conditions have led to some three-tenths of the country's area under glass and plastic sheeting to be located in the county, a total of 758 hectares, cultivated by more than 5,000 farms producing vegetables and flowers. It is now private farms that dominate in this area. Every tenth small farmer has some greenhouse production, on an average of 1300 square metres.

The other natural treasure in the area is its hydrocarbon reserves. The oil and gas discovered in 1965 in the Algyó area, still the country's largest hydrocarbon field, has been a major contribution to the area's economic development.

Csongrád's industry was typified by crafts until the Second World War. Most of the light industrial units processing local agricultural produce are concentrated in Szeged. The wave of industrialization that came to the county in the nineteen fifties led to a heavy industry presence, and several engineering works now in operation started up at that time. This process was reinforced by the inception of hydrocarbon extraction at Algyo. The economic changes of the 1990s broke the back of the county's industry, and recovery only got under way at the end of the decade, at a more modest rate than elsewhere in the country. No industry has yet been established in the county capable of acting as a driving force for the industrial economy as a whole.

Rise of industrial production over the 1970 level



Hungary's thermal energy stocks are substantial even in world terms. Despite being almost inexhaustible, they remain hardly exploited. Estimates put Csongrád's share of national extraction at 25-30 per cent (nearly 15.8 million m³/year), the highest of any county. The highest proportion of thermal water brought to the surface is used in agriculture, mostly for heating greenhouses. Homes are also heated with it, some is used for medicinal purposes, and Szeged even pumps drinking water from the aquifer (which is what makes Szeged water warm). Large projects to properly exploit geothermal energy are still absent.

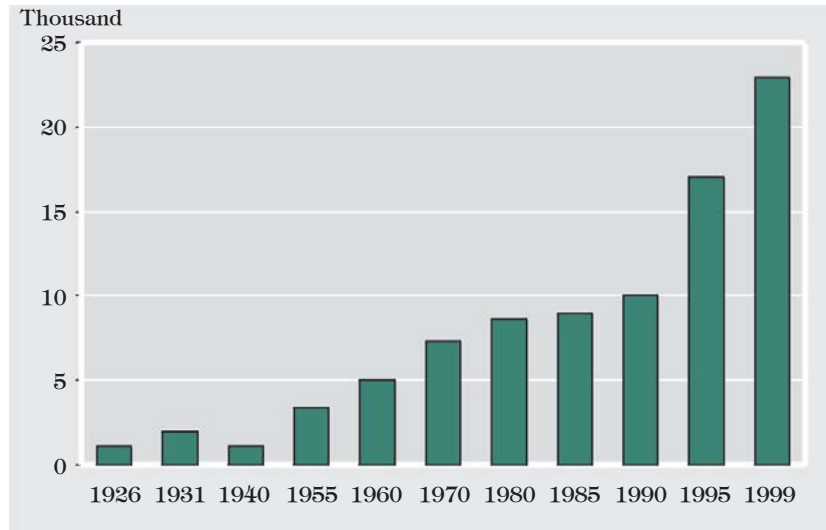
In terms of area and population, Csongrád is of average size, 433,000 people living in 60 settlements on an area of 4263 km². Csongrád is Hungary's most urbanized county, since more than seven-tenths of the population live in the county's 8 boroughs. There are large numbers of isolated tanyas on the Homokhát area in the west of the county, and their inhabitants account for nearly 10 per cent of the population. The population of the county has been decreasing since the beginning of the eighties.

Csongrád's main resources are its outstanding intellectual potential and highly-trained workforce, due to its substantial research and education base. Higher education in the county started in 1921 when the University of Kolozsvár (now Cluj) was moved to Szeged. Student numbers in the 1920s were only around one thousand, but swelled to 23,000 by the end of the century. There are 55 university and college students per thousand of the county's population, twice the national average.

Szeged is one of the main non-Budapest centres of research and development. 8 per cent of the country's R&D centres are located here. Research in some fields (such as biology) is of national significance.

Szeged's cluster of teaching hospitals are of outstanding importance in health care well beyond the county's borders in Hungary. They were set up with the teaching staff that resettled from Kolozsvár in the 1920s, and ever since have been a constantly-broadening basis for education, research and treatment.

Number of students in higher education in Csongrád county



The departments it was endowed with on foundation - internal medicine, surgery, maternity-gynaecology, paediatrics, neurology, dermatology, dentistry, ear-nose-and-throat, and ophthalmology - have since been joined by traumatology, orthopaedics, oncology and intensive care. In the 1990s, a further four privately-operating health establishments have been set up in association with the hospitals.

In 1931, on the pattern of Salzburg, at the suggestion of Gyula Juhász and Ferenc Hont, and with the patronage of Minister of Culture Klebelsberg, one of Szeged's most popular series of theatrical events was founded - the Szeged Outdoor Theatre. Following its revival at the end of the nineteen fifties, most of the audience was drawn from local city inhabitants, but has evolved over the years into a national, indeed international, event. The peak was the 1960 series, which drew a public of 114,000. The contraction of capacity caused by the mid-90s auditorium modernization temporarily depressed audience numbers, a trend which was countered by raising the number of performances. Nearly 62,000 people attended events in 2000. The Outdoor Theatre put on 142 works over 40 years at nearly 657 performances, to audiences totalling more than 3.1 million.

There are also many sights outside the county capital. One of the most popular is the Ópusztaszer National Historical Memorial Park. According to tradition, it was here that the conquering Hungarian tribes held their first national assembly, dividing amongst each other the lands of the newly-conquered Carpathian Basin. The Memorial Park has been made famous by the siting here, at the end of 1995, of Árpád Festy's spectacular 1800 square metre painting, The Arrival of the Magyars. After a surge of interest at the start, visitor numbers stabilized at a relatively high level, and one in every thirty of the country's museum visits is to Ópusztaszer.

Fejér

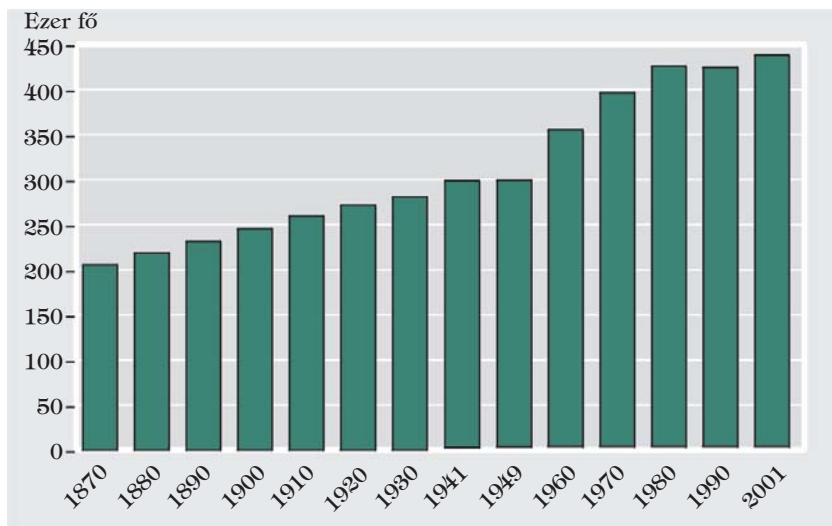


A unique role in Hungarian history has been assumed by Fejér county and Székesfehérvár, in the centre of the Carpathian Basin.

As written in the Illustrated Chronicle, "*Árpád struck camp together with the other Magyars on Noe Hill in the vicinity of Alba. This was the place Árpád chose first in Pannonia, and this is why St Stephen, who descended from him, founded the town of Alba nearby.*"

The Romans had already discovered the good features of this area, as is attested by the town remains from the Roman Age. Under the Hungarians, Alba Regia bore a unique sacred and legal status among Hungarian cities for over half a millennium: it was the coronation city, the burial ground of kings, and the host city of legislatures. In the basilica founded by the first Hungarian king, St Stephen, the medieval state guarded the symbols of power, the coronation regalia, wrote and maintained the chronicles and kept the country's archives. Naturally, the proximity of the royal capital had its effect on Fejér county as a whole.

Population of Fejér county



During the Turkish occupation, many of the county's inhabitants fled or perished. The long process of repopulation only reached an advanced stage in the mid-18th century with the settlement of Germans and Slovaks, as well as Magyars, in the county.

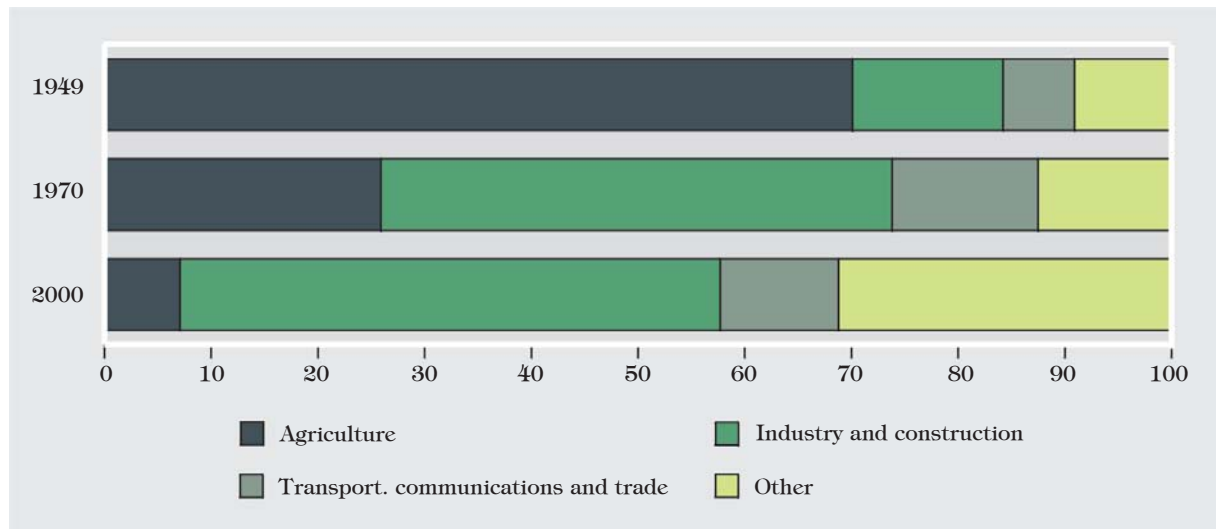
Its economy for a long time was based on agriculture and the related food industry. Capital accumulation took place primarily in agriculture and related industries (milling, sugar refining and alcoholic beverage production). Land ownership in the 19th century and right up the mid-20th century was dominated by large farming estates. Population growth took on momentum at the beginning of the 1950s when the industrialization-driven labour demand attracted several tens of thousands here. There were fifty per cent more people living in the county in 1980 than in 1949, Székesfehérvár's population growing by a factor of two and a half, and Dunaújváros' by a factor of fifteen, while village populations remained effectively constant.

Live births in the county exceeded deaths until 1992, but there has been a natural decrease since then. However, the population is younger than the national average, the ageing index standing at 72.8% against 85.5 nationally.

Differing life expectancies have caused women to outnumber men, the number of women per thousand men being 1037 in 2001. (At the time of the 1781 census, this figure was 954.)

In 1999, 48% of GDP was generated by industrial operations and 43% by the service sector. Agriculture accounted for only 4.6%.

Employment in Fejér county, by branches, %

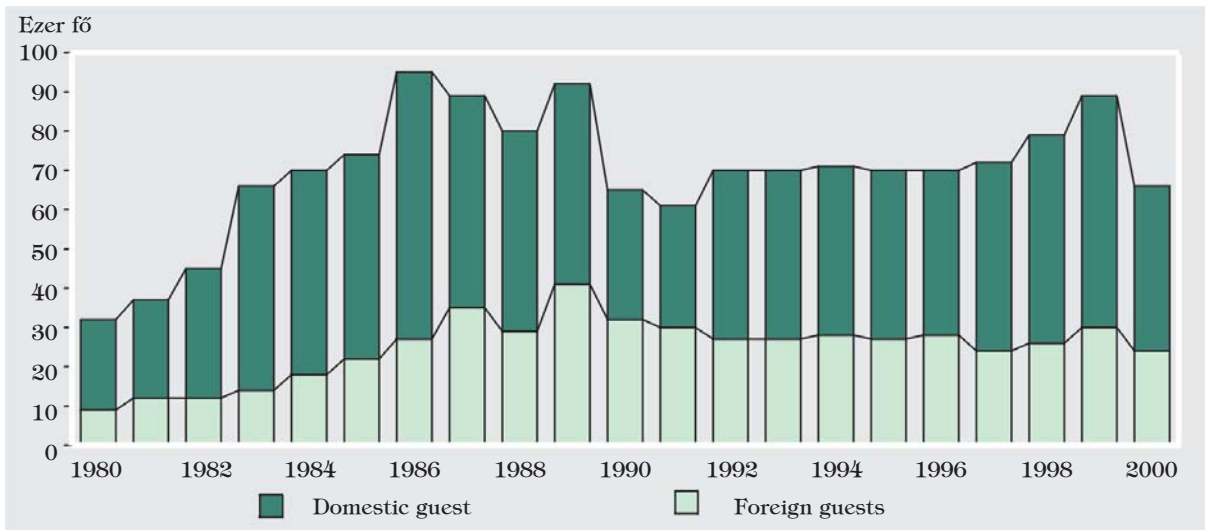


The county's industry has gone through rapid changes of ownership and structure, and many foreign-controlled enterprises have located in its industrial parks.

Manufacturing industry dominates, accounting for 97% of industrial production in 2000, and exporting four-fifths of its output in that year. Engineering is the largest industry, representing 70% of production.

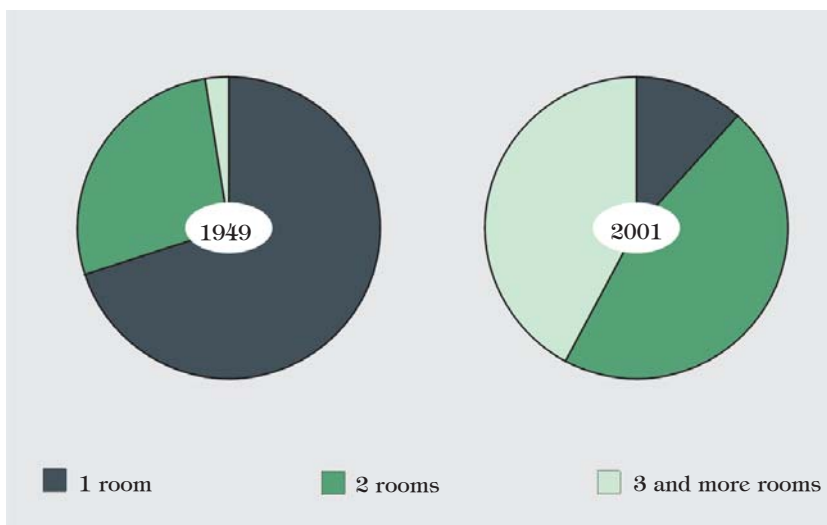
A focus point of tourism in the county is Lake Velence, the second largest waterside holiday centre after Lake Balaton. On the northern shore of this shallow freshwater lake is a range of hills with fine excursion sites, and the southern shore is lined with beaches, campsites and hotels.

Number of guests staying in the Lake Velence area



Every year, more than 70,000 guests stay in public and private accommodation. The many historical monuments of Székesfehérvár also receive many visitors all year round.

Fejér county homes by number of rooms



The county's housing stock has risen steadily over the decades, and its composition has also changed, with a remarkable rise in the number of homes with 3 rooms and more.

The level of Fejér county's infrastructure is, like the rest of the country's, of uneven standard. The standard of public utilities in small villages and some remote areas is often well behind that in the boroughs. Healthy drinking water is available everywhere, but sewage is not led into a public drain everywhere. There has been major progress recently in the fixed-line telephone system.

A prominent place in the county's cultural life is held by the Vörösmarty Theatre in Székesfehérvár, which since 1995 has had its own company and programme of productions. Apart from this, facilities for cultural recreation comprise museums, galleries, libraries and the new multiplex cinemas, mostly in the county seat.

Fejér county has a legacy of highly varied and colourful folk arts and traditions: these were not confined to lifestyle and the external form of architecture, clothing and art; they are manifest in farming methods, values and even mentality. Traditions such as the annual fairs, tikverozés and sibálás (ancient fertility rituals involving - symbolically, nowadays - young men taking sticks and beating hens and girls respectively), the May-tree dance, and the Lucy Day fertility customs survive to this day.

In Nagykarácsony ("Grand Christmas"), there is a traditional series of events for Advent unique in Hungary. Greetings delivered via "charity post" in Nagykarácsony are given a special stamp. Visitors to the Mikulásház, from the middle of November up to Christmas, meet Santa Claus (Mikulás).

The county also has an outstanding sporting record, athletes from here having won many world and European championship titles. Its teams - handball, basketball, ice hockey, football - have won many national titles and placings.

Győr-Moson-Sopron



Győr-Moson-Sopron county is the "gateway to the West". It is traversed by the main routes connecting Hungary to Central and Western Europe, the double-track Budapest-Vienna railway line (the first in the country to be electrified), the M1 motorway and the ever more important waterway of the Danube. The county's fortunate geographical situation has always influenced its social, economic and intellectual life. With its varied relief and wealth of rivers, it attracted the Romans, who built excellent roads in the 1st and 2nd centuries connecting Arrabona into the circulation of the Empire. Many roads criss-crossed the county north-south and east-west. Sopron (Scarbantia) became important because of the major trade route, the "Amber Road" that ran through it.

After the Hungarian Conquest, it was the same geographical features that earned Győr, Sopron and Moson, under the state disposition ordered by King Stephen, key defensive roles as border control centres.

Lying on the border between Turkish occupation and the lands held by the Hungarian crown, Győr became a key east-west trade intersection. The railway that connected the county with Vienna in 1855 made Győr into the main Hungarian cereals trading point. Between 1858 and 1869, an average of 2 million mázsa (=100 kg) arrived in the port of Győr on 510 ships, and was transferred to the railway for destinations in Western countries. When the railway was expanded through the country, Győr lost its cereal trading hegemony, but this was the spur for the town's rapid industrialization.

The guilds that formed in the 16th-17th centuries extended into nearly every branch of industry. The food industry made great strides, and there was a veritable proliferation of sugar factories. Győr had a central position in industrial progress from the start, a vinegar factory, steam mill and agricultural machinery factory operating from the first half of the 19th century. 1851 saw the opening of the oil factory, where steam power was used to press oil for the first time in Hungary. In 1852, the famous Győr Match Factory was established, and it was here that the non-toxic Swedish match was first produced in Hungary. Gas lighting was introduced in 1869, and in 1884 (the first city after Budapest), water was brought to the city's inhabitants from a water works. The Wagon Factory was built in 1896, and after the turn of the century the textile industry took shape.

1949 census data show that 21% of active earners in the county worked in industry. In 1990, this figure was 34%, and 37% in Győr.

Győr-Moson-Sopron has developed into one of the country's most advanced economic areas. In 1999 it had the highest per capita GDP after Budapest, and its industry produced goods of value 1160 billion forints, after a one-year increase of 35%, a record unique in the country. Engineering still dominates industrial development, and its exports increased by fifty per cent in one year, 97% of its products being sold abroad.

The area's geographic advantages and well-established industrial traditions have prompted many international companies to set up operations in Győr. Hungary's first and still most successful industrial park, Győr Industrial Park, was set up in 1991, and 31 companies from 8 countries have located there. An inno-

vation centre has been operating in the park since the first quarter of 2000, assisting small- and medium-sized enterprises.

The Győr basin is rich in thermal waters, and hot water has been brought to the surface by drilling in several places. 7 km from Sopron lies the Balf spa which has a history stretching back to Emperor Marcus Aurelius (121-180 AD). Documents first mention the spa in 1199 under the name "Farkasd". The spa establishments are fed from three springs supplying hydrogen sulphide water, which is efficacious in treating motor-organ conditions, and by slightly carbonated, lithium alkaline water used in drinking cures. In Győr, on the bank of the Moson-Danube, the swimming pool designed by Alfréd Hajós was opened in 1931, to where water from the first thermal well was led in 1962. Since then, the baths have been fed by two thermal wells providing medium salt-concentration, sodium bicarbonate- and chloride-containing mineral water. Its high iodine-ion concentration classifies it in the iodic mineral water category, applicable for relief of motor-organ conditions. Mosonmagyaróvár was the first town in the county to have accredited thermal water, which is also in the iodic category. The Thermal Baths in Csorna opened in 1973 with alkali bicarbonate-containing thermal water of high dissolved salt content. Kapuvár has iodine-, sulphide- and bromine-containing medicinal water wells, used in the treatment of chronic bronchial conditions and circulatory diseases.

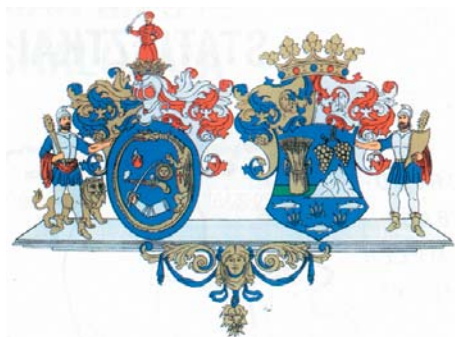
Several settlements in the county have histories stretching back many centuries. Standing out among these is thousand year-old Pannonhalma. The village started life when the Benedictines came in 996 and built the monastery founded by the king. This was the country's first Christian church, mentioned in St Stephen I's deed of privilege (judged by some to be a deed of foundation). The monastery on St Martin's hill has survived the storms of centuries (burned down many times, but always rebuilt), the first and undoubtedly the most distinguished of Benedictine monasteries in Hungary.

The Pannonhalma Benedictine Abbey, by virtue of its intellectual heritage and cultural traditions, was made part of the World Heritage in 1996.

Sopron is the only venue in Hungary offering the full range of forestry education (secondary and tertiary). The need for Hungarian-language training in forestry trades was first recognized at the end of the 19th century. The forestry school founded in 1885 moved to its modern site in Sopron in 1950, where it started life as the Forestry Technicum. It now grants vocational secondary-school and technician qualifications. Education to the professional forester qualification stretches back somewhat further, to the beginning of the 19th century. The forestry faculty was set up in the Selmechánya Academy in 1808, and transferred to Sopron in 1919. Here teaching was first at college level, upgraded to university status in 1962. At the beginning of the nineties, the university - to meet the requirements of the age - set out to strengthen forestry training vertically and widen the training profile horizontally. In recent years, forestry has been joined by courses in environmental management, game management, nature conservation and botanical conservation.

Forestry student numbers in both the secondary school and the university have increased substantially. The vocational secondary school had 406 students in 1999, three-quarters more than in 1980. The training profile of this school also broadened during the nineties; there are now four different vocational courses. University student numbers have risen by a factor of 2.3 over the last twenty years. In 1980 there were 240 students on the traditional forestry course, rising in 1990 to 282, and in 1999 there were 560 students on 4 different courses.

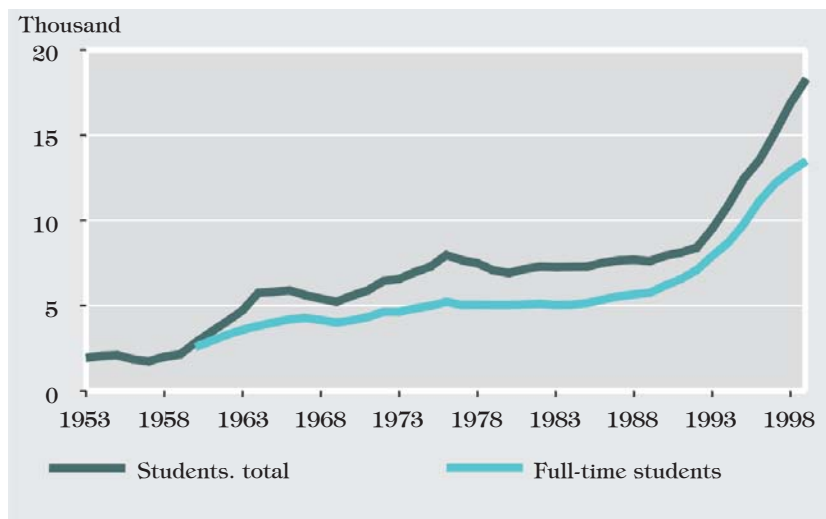
Hajdú-Bihar



The modern county of Hajdú-Bihar is a relatively youthful administrative unit, its present borders having been set in 1950. Its development is largely the history of Debrecen, the "capital of Tiszántúl", and of the county. The city, also dubbed the "Calvinist Rome" has also been the country's temporary capital on two occasions (1849 and 1944).

The towering intellectual centre of the area looks back on more than four and a half centuries of higher education. The story started in the 1550s with the Reformed Church College, where basic humanities subjects and divinity were taught to some 100-200 students annually.

Number of students in higher education in Hajdú-Bihar



Education was increasingly infused with the national spirit at the beginning of the 19th century, and from 1831, Hungarian became the language of education in all of the College's courses. A major change came with the 1912 Parliamentary resolution to set up a state university in Debrecen, to which the College offered its academic faculties. This set off a period of expansion in which the various higher education

establishments accumulated 57 departments and a thousand students by 1940. The total number of students is now 20,000.

**Famous students of the Debrecen Reformed Church College
(1775-1918)**

Mihály Fazekas
Mihály Vitéz Csokonai
Ferenc Kölcsey
János Arany
Zsigmond Móricz
Endre Ady
Lőrinc Szabó
Pál Gulyás
Zoltán Bay
Imre Törő

The county's higher education establishments now offer courses in education, agriculture, medicine, engineering, law, economics, theology and music.

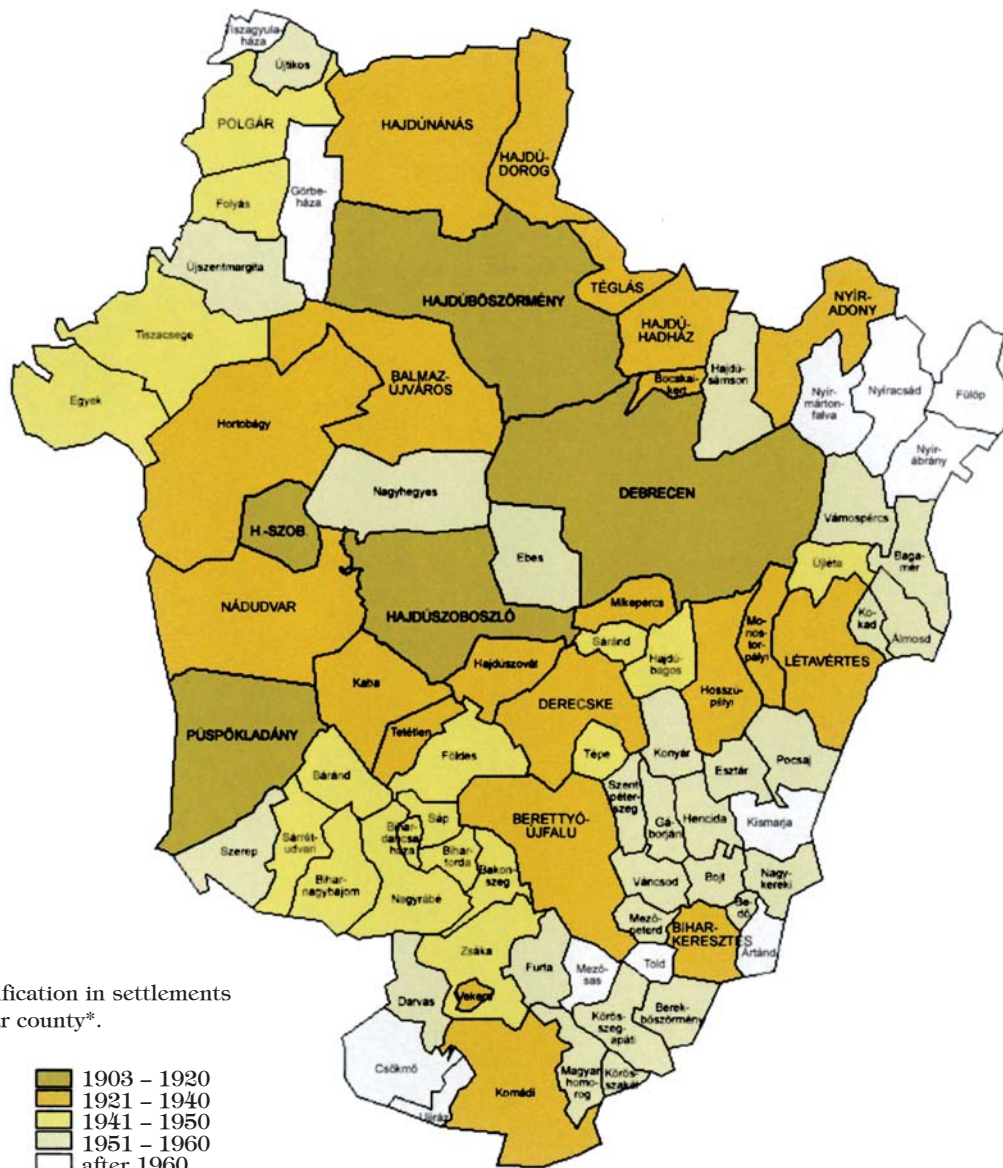
Electrification of towns and villages started in the first years of the 20th century, but took nearly six decades to complete. The electricity system was first laid in the larger boroughs. 24 settlements were connected by 1940, containing nearly seven tenths of the county's inhabitants.

Hungary's largest national park lies in Hajdú-Bihar county. In December 1999, the Hortobágy National Park was awarded the World Heritage title in the "biosphere reserve" category.

Hortobágy is a former flood plain of the Tisza, and was regularly inundated before the river was regulated. It is basically grassland, dotted by backwaters, swamps and woods. The regulation of the Tisza in the second half of the 19th century resulted in a dry, flat expanse of "secondary land" with low-lying tracts turned to swamp by rain and groundwater. Some three-fifths of its area is pasture, followed by arable land, but it has a unique wealth of fish lakes. These lakes are central to the preservation of the Hortobágy birdlife, a national and an international rarity.

The entire area of the Hortobágy National Park is part of the UNESCO MAB biosphere reserve. This treaty covers two highly-protected bird species found in the area, and which nest only here: the collared pratincole and the Hungarian short-toed lark.

Electrification in Hajdú-Bihar county



* In case of settlements effected by regional organization changes the year of electrification of mother village or town, and the in care of district notary office the later date of electrification are regaded.

Heves



Development in 11th-12th century was dominated by foundation of churches and their endowment with estates. The highlight was the foundation of the Eger episcopate in 1009.

By 1332, nearly three hundred settlement names had been recorded. The papal tithes register mentioned some hundred parishes, so one-third of settlements had independent churches. The largest revenues were taken from four parishes in the episcopal seat of Eger, and three villages in the Eger valley. These large sums were made possible by their status as privileged vine-growing hospes settlements.

Priests' tithes in Heves county parishes (annual average 1332-1335)

Description	Parish	Monastery	Together
Eger episcopal seat	202	-	202
Felnémet	85	-	85
Maklár	80	-	80
Nagytálya	77	-	77
Total	1 448	258	1705

(garas)

Now strongly associated with the Turkish conquest, the castle of Eger was one of the main links in the border castle system at the beginning of the 16th century. In 1552, detecting the approach of the Turkish army, the captain of the castle, István Dobó, sent a letter to the king and the Bishop of Eger requesting reinforcements, but was refused. With a handful of troops, Dobó defended the castle against a forty-times larger Turkish force. The story of this magnificent military achievement is immortalized in Géza Gárdonyi's novel, *Eclipse of the Crescent Moon*. The Dobó István Castle Museum is now Hungary's most-visited historic monument.

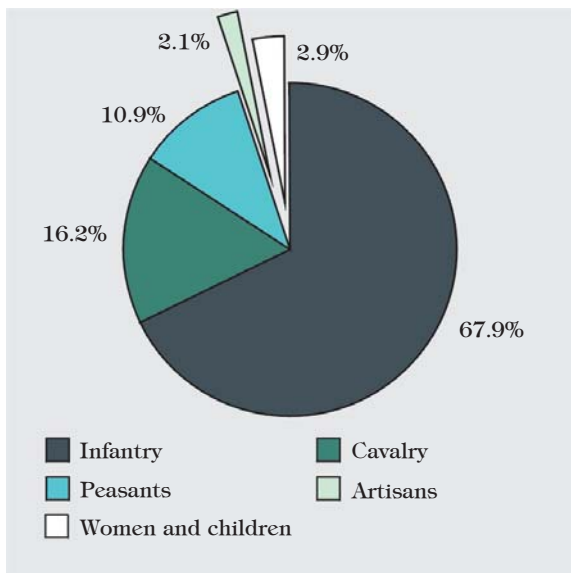
In the 18th century and before, the rulers ordered surveys of various sections of the population mainly for taxation and military purposes.

The first full census in Hungary was carried out under the reign of Joseph II between 1784 and 1787. At that time, the population of Heves county within its present borders was some 120,000.

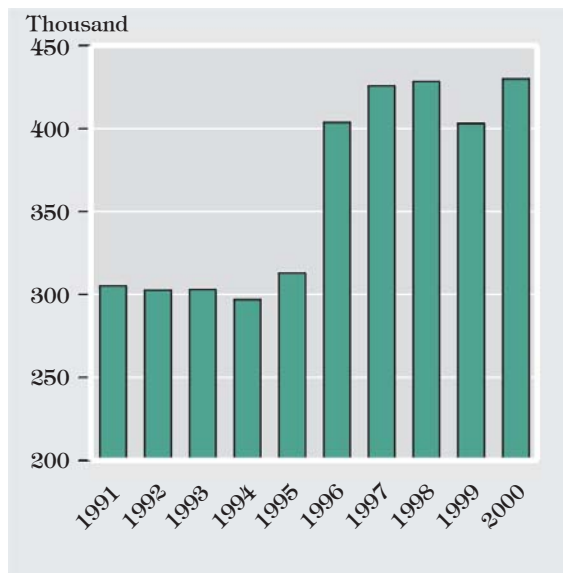
The 1784-87 census found the town of Eger to have a population of 17,083, most of these being peasants and cottars (65%).

Traditions persisted up to the beginning of the 19th century, but the practical, hard-working people strove to meet the changing requirements of the time. The introduction of new farming methods was assisted by public libraries set up in each village. It is remarkable that by 1900, 64.3% of the population could read and write.

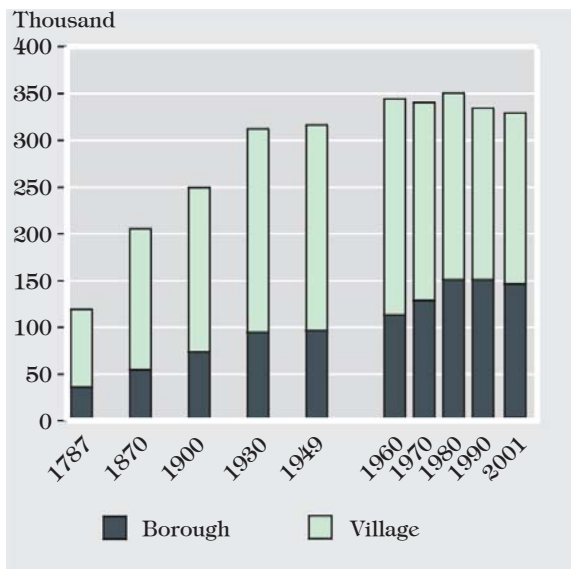
Breakdown of the Eger Castle defenders (total 2012)



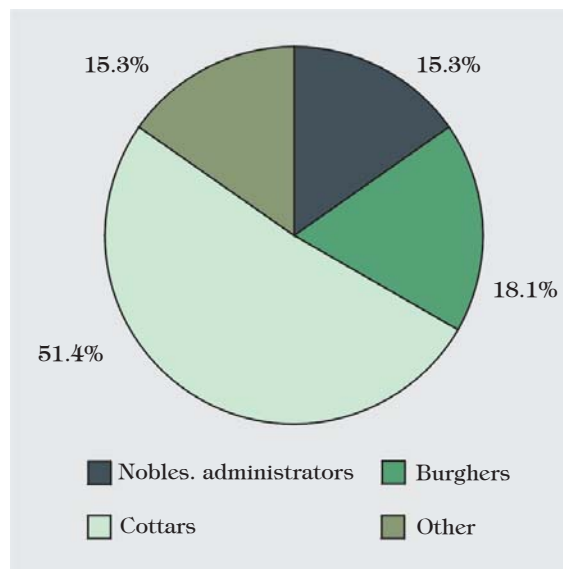
Number of visitors to the István Dobó Castle Museum



Population of Heves county



Breakdown of the population of Eger by the Joseph II census



Production of the Hatvan Sugar Factory

Year	Sugar beet processed, quintals (100 kg)	Sugar output, quintals
1889	600 000	58 400
1894	1 000 000	..
1897	1 500 000	..
1909	2 200 000	350 000

Wine tithes of the Eger episcopacy in 1594

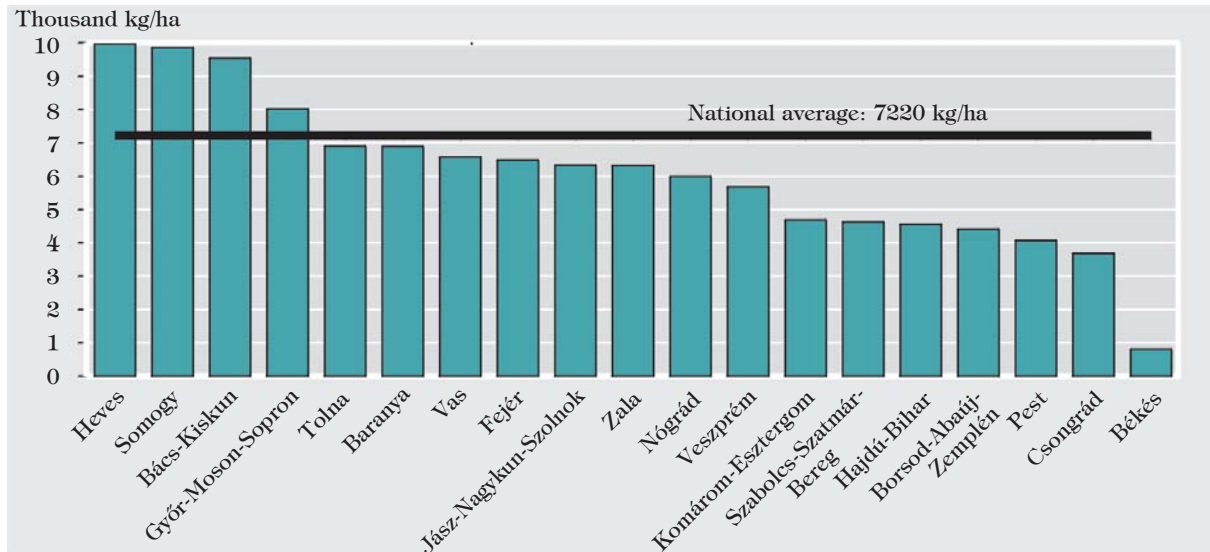
Area	Ordered		Collected	
	köböl*	icce**	köböl*	icce**
Total	4 916	26.5	3 459	0.5
Of which:				
Egri episcopal estates Egerben	695	15.0	435	10.0
Felnémet	1 734	-	1 235	-
Felsőtárkány	117	24.5	57	26.5
Szőlőske	612	11.5	444	0.5
Nagytálya	420	-	306	-
Maklár	265	5.0	166	-

* Köböl - egri köböl - cubulus agriensis = 25.452 l.

** Budai icce = 0.85 l.

The character of the county was agricultural in this period. Industry consisted mainly of coal mining, but there was some home crafts, and significant tobacco manufacture. It was difficult to find sources of income other than tilling the land. The Hatvan Sugar Factory, founded in 1889, processed agricultural produce, and pioneered Hungary's sugar exports. Hatvan was the biggest sugar factory site in Europe.

Average grape harvest per county, 2000

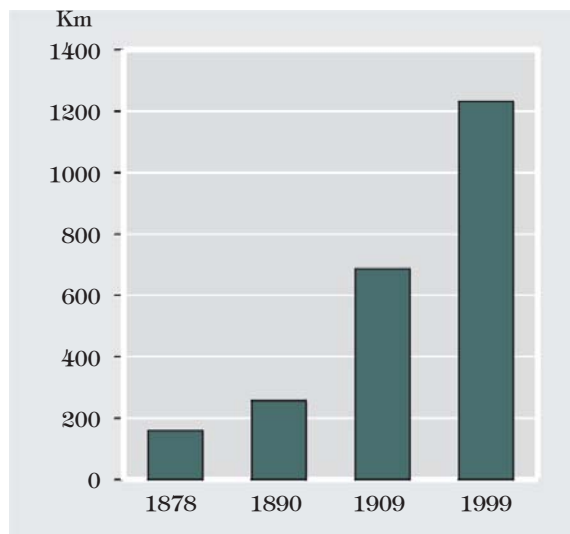


The natural feature of the county gave rise to outstanding vine-growing and wine-making culture. The episcopate and the monks' orders were instrumental in the development of viniculture in the Eger area.

Wines from the Eger and Mátraalja regions are world famous. The most distinguished red wine from the Eger region is bikavér, (Bull's Blood), which was Hungary's first protected-origin wine. Distinctive wines from the Mátraalja region include Olaszrizling, Rizlingszilváni and Muscatel.

The county has a diversity of tourist attractions. It is rich in thermal and medicinal waters. There are three kinds of thermal water in Eger, used by townspeople since ancient times. The Turkish baths built during the Turkish occupation still operate. The new indoor swimming pool designed by Imre Makovecz was opened in 2000. Bükkszék has a working spa, but the hot spring in Egerszalók, declared medicinal water in 1992, still awaits exploitation.

Length of public roads in Heves county



Road building and maintenance progressed slowly in the past, and up to the beginning of the 20th century, transport conditions in Heves county were extremely primitive. Certain road-building accomplishments were the sacrifice work of some noble-thinking landowners or priests (such as the Eger-Szarvasko road, constructed by huge cuttings through the stone of the narrow Eger Brook valley, initiated by the Archbishop of Eger, János László Pyrker, in 1840).

Prior to the organization of royal architectural offices, the county had 158.6 km of made roads. To develop transport, the county received customs collection rights in 1905. Through great efforts, the length of public highways was increased by a factor of 4.3 between 1878 and 1909.

Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok

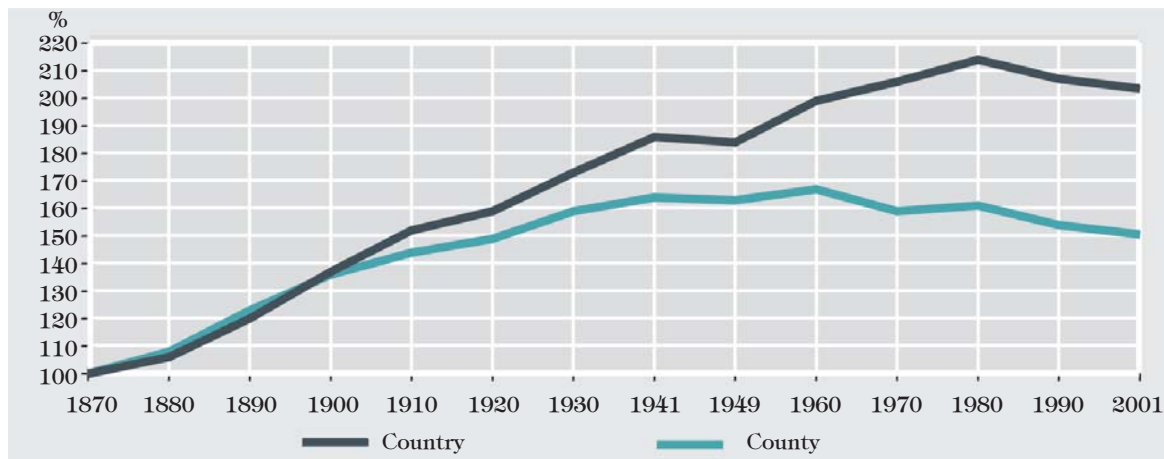


The county was set up with almost exactly its modern borders under the civil administrative reform following the Compromise. Under Act XXXIII of 1876, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county was created by the merger of Jazygia, Greater Cumania, the Transtisza parts of the double county, and some Pest county villages, centred on Szolnok, with 5 districts, 9 corporate towns and 42 villages. The new county was made up of parts of widely differing historical development, social structures and economic features. Nevertheless, the merger survived and has remained to the present. The modern inhabitants of the county are essentially the descendants of the Jazygian and Cuman peoples. Since the first official census, the county population has basically followed the national trends.

Past population of Jazygia and the Cumanias

Year	Total	Of which		
		Jazygians	Great Cumans	Lesser Cumans
1495	14 190	5 640	5 550	2 900
1571	12 000	5 000	5 000	2 000
1699	9 252	6 930	648	1 674
1713	9 088	6 880	1 013	1 195

Population of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county (1870=100)



Located in the heart of the Great Plain, it is bounded by seven other counties. The surface of the area is a perfect plain, dotted by the curious tumuli, the "Kunhaloms". These are conical or semi-spherical deposits 5-10 metres high and 20-25 metres across, usually beside water, but sometimes in dry places. They are in the main burial grounds, grave-mounds, defensive mounds or border markers. They have been the subject of hundreds of studies, surveys, and descriptions.

Throughout history, up to the last few decades, agriculture has been definitive for the economy of the area and its development. The county is still one of the country's principal "larders".

Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county by form of land cultivation

(in cadastral holds – 0.57 ha)

Description	Jazygia		Greater Cumania		Heves areas	
	1789	1850*	1789	1850	1789	1850**
Arable	65 598	93 064	41 826	63 645	107 916	166 886
Meadow and garden	36 579	35 742	19 620	26 438	175 125	81 446
Vineyard	1 231	3 389	1 031	2 283	3 894	5 386
Pasture	51 413	38 304	75 582	96 097	197 230	184 829
Forest	466	2 419	290	..	1 117	100
Reed-bed	..	1 426	4 405
Unproductive	..	18 737	..	6 495	..	47 928

* With Alattyán, Jánoshida, Monostor and Kerekudvar.

** With Újszász.

Distribution of livestock in 1850, number of animals

Description	Jazygia*	Greater Cumania	Heves areas
Horses	12 872	14 609	20 878
Donkeys	281	219	217
Bullocks	8 951	3 484	7 278
Cows	12 853	6 989	12 590
Sheep	84 211	107 544	100 620

* With Alattyán, Jánoshida, Monostor and Kerekudvar.

There are 500 km of railways in the county. It is crossed by the Budapest-Záhony line that leads to the Ukraine and Russia, and the Budapest-Lökösháza line towards Romania. North-south railway links are long the Salgótarján-Hatvan-Szeged lines. Szolnok has one of the country's busiest and most modern stations, although it is used below its capacity.

There are some hundred and fifty thermal wells in the county. Exploitation is most diverse in Szolnok, but the iodine waters of Berekfürdő and Europe's hottest natural spring at Cserkeszölő are renowned abroad.

Lake Tisza, the country's second largest, is an important tourist feature. This part of the county is an extraordinary landscape where unspoiled nature coexists with man-made features. The progress of tourism here is illustrated by the figures below:

Tourism in Lake Tisza: public accommodation figures June-August 1999

Description	Total	Of which: foreign
Number of guests	20 241	3 455
Number of guest nights	90 492	25 611
Average period of stay (guest nights)	3.9	7.4

The venerable traditions of the Szolnok theatre are continued today in the Szigligeti Theatre, whose reputation attracts audiences from beyond the county's borders.

The Artists' Colony founded in 1902 and still running has hosted some of the great figures of Hungarian painting. Folk traditions are primarily manifested in pottery, embroidery, weaving, woodcarving and furs.

Komárom-Esztergom



The modern county of Komárom-Esztergom comprises two separate historic counties south of the Danube, and have been variously joined and separated throughout the centuries. Esztergom was one of the oldest counties and castle governorships in Hungary, centred on Esztergom Castle. The chronicles date its foundation to 1001. It was here that the first Christian church was built, and it was the birthplace of St Stephen, whose wedding to Gizella was also held here. On 1 January 1001, Stephen was crowned king and from that day forward Esztergom was the ecclesiastical and royal seat. The historical county of Komárom also dates to the reign of Stephen I, centred on Komárom Castle. The Komárom castle governorship is the only one whose estate register has survived: dating from 1268, it lists 22 vil-

lages under the control of the castle. After the ravaging Mongols, the pattern of habitation and ethnic composition fundamentally changed; about a third of the villages in both counties were completely wiped out and the population greatly reduced. Nonetheless, both counties were even then among the most densely populated in the country (with 138 people per km² on the present area). Settlers appeared in Esztergom and other settlements, and the king made widespread grants of land. In such a way castles of Tata, Füzito, Komárom, moreover almost entire territory of the county became possession of Csák tribe, then since 1320 were owned by Archbishop of Esztergom as royal estate again. The rise of Tata started in the second half of the 14th century, and the castle came into the possession of King Sigismund in 1397. Lake Öreg in Tata was converted into a fishing lake during his reign. Later, from 1467, it was owned by King Matthias, who added to the castle, as he did in Komárom and Esztergom. After his death, Tata slid into decline. The 1510 Parliament was held here in refuge from the plague. For 140 years, Esztergom Castle was one of Hungary's principal defensive castles against the Turks.

According to surveys made at the end of the 15th century, there were 2162 serfs' households in Komárom and 1322 in Esztergom. The 1553 survey counted 506 households in Komárom's 49 settlements, and 142 in Esztergom's 17. Constant strife again emptied a large number of settlements by the end of the 17th century, and the territory several times changed hands between the Habsburgs and Rákóczi's Kuruts (Hungarian) forces.

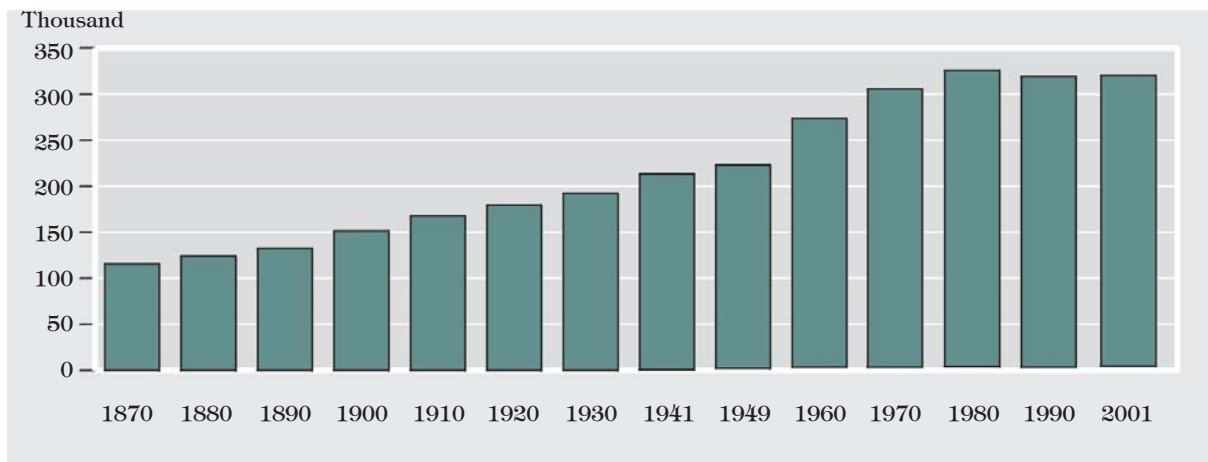
The population rise after 1711 was the result of natural increase, internal migration and organized settlement (it was mainly Catholic Germans who were settled here, receiving five years' tax exemption, or 15 years if the foreign settler was a craftsman). Pilisszentlélek, Piliscsév, Kesztlöc, Dág, Sárissáp, Mogyorós and Tardos, and later, between 1730 and 1746, Bánhida, Bokod, Oroszlány and Vértesszolos were settled with Slovak people. Alsógalla, Agostyán, Baj, Dunaszentmiklós, Felsógalla, Kecskéd, Környe, Tarján, Vértessomló, Vértestolna and Szomód (to where Slovaks also came), and later Ácsterszér, Bakonyszombathely and Szomor became German settlements. Magyars were moved into Hánta and Csatka in 1724. By the end of the 18th century, the area was truly multi-ethnic.

In 1720, a census of taxed lands was taken, and counted 3033 taxpaying heads of families in 79 settlements in Komárom, and 1613 in 46 settlements in Esztergom.

The figures for language use produced by censuses in the second half of the 20th century show that these settlements still preserve the linguistic legacies of historical events (resettlement, expulsion, population exchange).

The census ordered by Joseph II found Komárom county to be inhabited by 111,039 people in 83 settlements, and Esztergom county by 41,000 people in 45 settlements. These figures had changed to 110,935 and 55,793 respectively by 1920. The two counties were again united in 1923, with the capital in Esztergom.

Population of Komárom-Esztergom county



The counties had major economic power even at the time of Stephen I, and were settled by many artisans and traders, many drawn by the status of the Danube ferry as a customs point. Agriculture started a process of improvement in the 30s and 40s of the 18th century, and guilds were established at the same time. In 1720, there were 86 craftsmen working in Esztergom, and in 1772 there were 279 master craftsmen, 221 junior craftsmen and 63 apprentices. In Tata, 12 guilds existed (pottery, fulling and feltmaking). Esztergom's strength lay in cereals and the Danube watercourse. Coal outcrops were discovered in Vértessomló in 1745, coal extraction started in the 1780s, but there was a lack of capital and skilled labour. In 1781, coal was also discovered in Dorog and Csolnok, and coal extraction got into full swing in the second half of the 19th century. In 1891, the Hungarian General Coal Mining Company was founded to exploit the coal deposits of the Tata Basin. The first bogie of coal was brought to the surface in 1896. There were 1250 miners working in Tatabánya in 1898, when 124,000 tonnes of coal were produced. Production rose to 110,000 tonnes in 1905 and more than 2 million tonnes in 1913.

Industrial development got under way in the second half of the 19th century. There were 5000 artisans working in the county (one thousand craft guild members in Tata and Esztergom). In the fifties, two sugar factories, a leather factory, a blanket factory and several vinegar factories (Ászár, Esztergom, Kisbér, Tata) were formed.

In 1745, Maria Theresia made Komárom a free royal burgh, and it became a centre of cereal trading and navigation. Railway transport also developed, with lines extending in many directions. The Erzsébet Bridge in Komárom was built in 1892 and the Mária Valéria Bridge in Esztergom in 1892, which was to be blown up in the Second World War and only rebuilt in 2001.

In the 1860s and 70s, a series of new factories were built, including the sugar and starch factories in Ács, the carpet factory and saddlemaker in Tata, and the cement factory in Lábatlan. Many of these still run today. After the Second World War, Komárom county became a major industrial centre, its capital located in Tatabánya. After 1990, the change of system brought the restructuring of the county's industry, with the predominance of heavy industry giving way to manufacturing, and the mines dwindling to a rump. The traditional industrial operations were joined by a major presence of car and parts manufacture.

Agriculture also kept pace with industry. Stud farming expanded in the second half of the 19th century in Bábolna, and English thoroughbreds became the basis of the military stud at Kisbér. Sheep were raised around Tata, and cattle and pigs in the Esztergom area. Nowadays it is pig and poultry breeding that dominates (Bábolna). Cereals are grown on the flood plains and grapes on the slopes of the hill areas. In 1865, 60-70% of agricultural produce in Esztergom and environs perished when the ice broke up, and between 1880 and 1890, phylloxera almost completely devastated Esztergom's vines and 80% of those on the hill slopes of Tata.

The list of famous names starts with the founder of the State of Hungary, St Stephen. The area is represented in the works of writers János Vitéz, Bálint Balassi, Mihály Vitéz Csokonai, Mór Jókai, and Mihály Babits, who all spent many years in the area. It was here that László Németh produced some parts of his major works "Impromptus", "The Magyars and Europe", "Cherry Orchard" and "To a Wednesday Gambler". Mari Jászai, Hungary's greatest tragic actress, was born in Ászár. The famous historical figure Mihály Táncsics was also born in the county, and his birthplace in Ácsterszér is now a museum. Major works were produced here by, to mention only a few, Jakab Fellner, Ottó Bláthy, Dezső Korda, and in recent decades Imre Makovecz. Mór Fischer Farkasházy also worked for many years at the Tata Pottery Factory before founding the Herend Porcelain Factory.

It was here that Olympic gold medal winning hammer-thrower Gyula Zsivótzky started his sporting career, as did handball player Dóra Lowy. For decades, Hungary's leading sportsmen and women have prepared for international events in the Tata training camp. 74 Olympic competitors have originated from the county over the century, five of them winning gold medals (Imre Földi, Jenő Buzánszky, Zoltán Czibor, Tibor Csernai and Gusztáv Szepesi), five silver, and seven bronze.

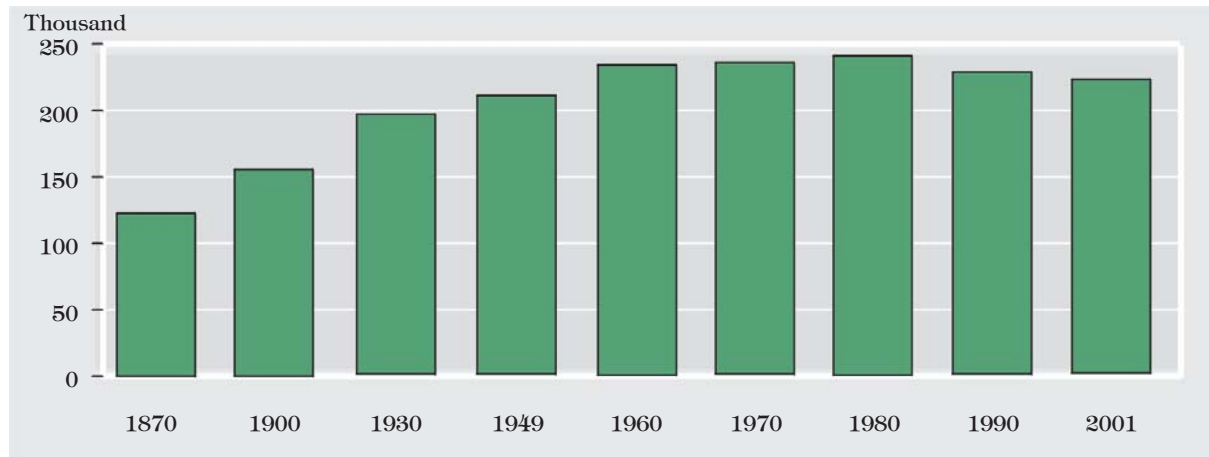
Nógrád



Ringed by the counties of Pest, Heves and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and the Slovak border, Nógrád is Hungary's second smallest county in area after Komárom-Esztergom, and its smallest in population. Established in 1950, it has an area of 2544 km², 2.7% of the country's. From preliminary results of the latest census, give the number of inhabitants as 221,000, 2.2% of the country's population.

The landscape is dominated by rolling hill area. The country's three major hill ranges intersect here: the Börzsöny, the Cserhát and the Mátra. The Karancs-Medves rises in the north, near the national border. The Cserhat gradually flattens out to the north, and gives way to the Nógrád Basin stretching to the river Ipoly. Nógrád's settlements are typically small villages, more than half of them inhabited by less than one thousand people.

Population of Nógrád county



Archaeological finds in the county have yielded valuable insights into every age. Around the birth of Christ, it was inhabited by nomadic, animal-rearing Jazygians and Quads. The area's first settlement Philecia (Füleek) grew up on the northern trade route. Later Cotins of Gallic origin, the Celtic Oz people, and Germanic, Bulgar, Turkish, and Slav tribes lived here.

The conquering Hungarians found Slavs and Székely people in the habitable river valleys and the Cserhát forests. Prince Árpád divided Nógrád among the Gyarmat, Jenó, Keszi and Tarján tribes. The county became an distinct regional unit at the end of the 10th century. By virtue of its defensive position,

it was the site of 42 castles in the 14th and 15th centuries. The border was guarded by the Palóc people, probably descended from the Székelys. After the Compromise of 1867, capitalism came to the area. Large-scale coal mining started up from the deposits discovered in Tarján in 1768, and new industries, such as iron and glass making, appeared.

At the turn of the century, the Budapest's entire energy supplies came from the Nógrád Basin, transported along the Budapest-Salgótarján railway line.

Brown coal extraction in Nógrád county



Dynamic growth petered out between the wars, but resurged afterwards, with major developments in the Salgótarján industrial basin and spreading to the western, hitherto purely agricultural, areas of the county. Over-concentrated on heavy industry, the county's factories had stable markets as long as the planned economy lasted, but were cast into crisis when the system changed.

The fall in industrial production at the beginning of the 1990s was more severe for the county than for Hungary as a whole. In the last 2-3 years, industrial volume has recovered somewhat through the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises and the operations of foreign companies.

Nógrád's natural vegetative cover is forest, and Nógrád is the country's most forested county. Soil conditions do not favour agriculture, and so there is little arable land. Until the change of system, losses in crop production and animal breeding were compensated by remunerative sidelines. Separation of the two led to the collapse of most agricultural operations. Berry-growing is still prosperous, but processing capacity has only been improved over the last 1-2 years.

The tourist attractions of Nógrád county are not exploited. The county is the home of the sophisticated Palóc folk art. The village of Hollókő is a unique conservation of vernacular architecture, and now part of the World Heritage. There are many ruined castles in the area, most notably at Drégelypalánk, Hollókő, Nógrád, Salgó, Somoskő and Szécsény.

At Ipolytarnóc, beside the Slovak border, is one of the world's richest fossil finds, originating from the Lower Myocene, 19-24 million years ago. From tooth remains, 25 prehistoric shark species, and from 2762 footprints, 11 animal species have been identified. More than ten thousand plant fossils of 65 species, and petrified trees of another ten species, have also been found. The Salgótarján Mining Museum is also famous across Europe. Interest in folk art is promoted through annual events in Bánk, Buják, Kazár and Ráróspuszta. Every year, several tens of thousands of pilgrims visit the shrine to the Virgin Mary at Mátraverebély-Szentkut.

Pest



Until 1 January 1950, Pest-Pilis-Solt-Kiskun county was Hungary's largest administrative unit. The regional reorganization of that time gave rise to Pest county, covering an area of 6393 km². The county remains one of Hungary's largest and most populous administrative units. It is the most densely populated part of the country after the capital city, and accommodates one-tenth of the national population.

Due in large part to inward migration drawn by Budapest's demand for labour, the population of the county has risen steadily since the end of the 19th century, faltering only in the 1980s.

Some of those seeking their fortunes in the capital city, partly for administrative reasons, could not actually settle there, and so chose to live in surrounding towns and villages.

At the end of the 20th century, however, as well as receiving migrants from other parts of the country, more and more city residents moved to more pleasant environments in the county. Between 1990 and 2000, the number moving out of Budapest grew from 20,300 to 32,600.

Number, density and growth of inhabitants in Pest county, 1870–2000

Year	Population (thousand)	Population density per km ²	Population as a percentage of the	
			1870	latest
			census figures	
1870	330	51.6	100.0	-
1880	354	55.3	107.2	107.2
1890	395	61.8	119.7	111.7
1900*	450	70.4	136.0	113.6
1910	524	82.0	158.8	116.5
1920	572	89.4	173.2	109.0
1930	633	99.0	191.8	110.8
1941	683	106.8	206.8	107.8
1949	687	107.4	208.1	100.6
1960	768	120.1	232.5	113.8
1970	879	137.4	266.2	114.5
1980	974	152.3	295.0	110.8
1990	950	148.5	287.7	97.5
2001	1 081	169.1	327.6	113.8

* Civil population: 448 939.

Note: 1870–1949 population present. 1960–2000 resident population.

In the period up to the Second World War, 5 county-status towns in Pest-Pilis-Solt-Kiskun county around Budapest - Budafok, Kispest, Pestszenterzsébet, Rákospalota, and Újpest - underwent dramatic population increases.

Pest is the only county that does not have an independent county seat, this role being filled by Budapest. The county thus has a unique pattern of habitation, with many more boroughs than in other counties, but with average populations of less than 20,000.

At the turn of the century, the modern territory of Pest county included four towns of város (borough) status - Cegléd, Nagykorös, Szentendre and Vác - and these had been market towns or boroughs since the Middle Ages. The number of boroughs did not change for a long time. Upgrading first occurred during the nineteen sixties, and in the last 10 years, urbanization has progressed at a remarkable rate. The large number of upgrades has naturally incorporated some towns with relatively few inhabitants. Some one-fifth of boroughs now have populations less than 10,000, two-fifths 10-20,000 and the remainder 20-50,000. Only one borough (Érd) has a population of more than 50,000.

Budapest agglomeration

Year	Number of towns and villages	Of which: boroughs*	Area, km ²	Population, thousand**
1930	21	5	262	415
1949	23	6	314	532
1970	44	2	1150	340
1997	78	8	2 024	608
2000	78	11	2 013	641

* By administrative status as of 1 January each year.

** Up to 1970 cesus data. 1 January 1997 and 1 January 2000 data census-based estimations.

The interweaving of Budapest and its neighbouring towns and villages is the legacy of extremely rapid economic development and population growth that started in the last decades of the 19th century. Traditional villages expanded and new settlements grew up. Greater Budapest was created in 1950 with the annexation of 23 surrounding towns and villages that had largely merged with the city.

The agglomeration ring embraces more and more area of the county. The 78 towns and villages included in 1997 accounted for three-tenths of the county's area and nearly two-thirds of its population.

It is a general phenomenon among residents of the agglomeration that they live and work in different places. For many, their job, school or college is in Budapest. At the same time, the county's natural attractions - the Danube Bend, the Buda Hills, and the Ráckeve Branch of the Danube - are traditional recreation areas for people from the metropolis. According to 1996 figures, more than half of active earners in Pest county are daily commuters, and even more than that in the agglomeration zone, mostly to Budapest.

Somogy



An archaeological site of European significance is the "loess find" beside Ságvár in Somogy, revealing remains of a prehistoric settlement. After the birth of Christ, Celts (the Oseriat tribe), Romans, Huns, Germanic peoples (Ostrogoths and Longobards), Avars, Slavs and Magyars settled in the land that now makes up the county. One of the most famous chieftains was Koppány, whose memory is preserved in the name of Törökkoppány village.

As an administrative unit, the county dates back to just after the Hungarian Conquest, when it bore the name of the Segösd (now Segesd) castle governorship.

The withering of the population during the Turkish occupation is illustrated by the number of serfs' households:

In 1720, there were 5 market towns in Somogy, 9 noble villages, 207 serf villages and 1 uninhabited site. There were 4731 households.

Serfs' households during the Turkish occupation

Year	Number
1495	11 085
1534	7 348
1582	280
1622	235
1671	106

Balaton

The average volume of water in Lake Balaton is 2 billion m³.

In the middle of July 2001, according to figures of the Siófok Water Office, the lake surface dropped by one centimetre every three days.

Greatest Balaton storms on record:

- 19 August 1960: wind storm of 37 m/s
- 19 May 1972: hurricane of 39 m/s (140 km/hour)

In the morning of 6 January 1941, an atmospheric temperature of -27°C was measured in several towns and villages on the shore of the lake. The ice on the water surface grew to an average thickness of 60 cm.

Sad superlatives on the Balaton

- 9 July 1976: the ferry between what is now Balatonboglár and Révfülöp was caught in a severe storm, and 58 people lost their lives.
- 30 May 1954: after the capsizing of the steamboat Pajtás, 22 dead bodies were found.

Transport

In 1861, the Southern Railway, constructed by the Imperial and Royal Patented Southern Railway Company, was opened. Subsequently extended and developed, it permitted travel between Budapest, via the Balaton and Zagreb, to Fiume. The Dombóvár-Zákány line was opened to traffic in 1872. This enabled the county capital to connect with international traffic between Budapest and Fiume.

The county first published a bus service timetable in 1934.

The Balaton's first paddle-wheel steamboat, the Kisfaludy, was launched on 21 September 1846.

In the 3 top years of the Balaton's passenger navigation/passenger transport history (1975, 1978, 1982) the number of passengers surpassed 2.3 million. In 2000, the equivalent number was only 1.082 million.

The highest motor ferry traffic between Szántódrév and Tihanyrév was carried in 1990: 2,675,000 passengers, 632,000 cars, 8,000 motorcycles, 6,000 trucks, 8,000 buses and 11,000 other vehicles, in nearly 13,000 crossings.

Cultural life

After one-and-a-half years in construction, the Csiky Gergely Theatre in Kaposvár opened in September 1911, the largest and finest theatre of its age.

The county's great painters include Mihály Zichy, József Rippl-Rónai, János Vaszary, Gyula Rudnay, Lajos Kunffy and, currently living in the village of Várda, Endre Szász.

Standing out among the endless list of literary figures are Mihály Vitéz Csokonai, Dániel Berzsenyi, István Fekete, András Fodor and Gyula Takáts.

Famous for their folk art are the villages of Buzsák, Csököly, Karád and Szenna.

Siófok's famous son is Imre Kálmán. Attila József's legacy is preserved in the Balatonszárszó memorial museum, and the Arts Centre in Balatonszemes is named after the great actor, Zoltán Latinovits.

Agriculture, hunting, forestry

Bőszénfa boasts one of Europe's largest enclosed herds of red deer, around one thousand head.

One of Europe's largest continuous walnut plantations is to be found on the outskirts of Lengyeltóti in Somogy county, covering an area of 144 hectares.

At the 1st Budapest World Hunting Exhibition in 1971, 521 Hungarian trophies were displayed, and 73 of these, or 14%, came from Somogy county. 14 (!) Somogy red deer antlers won gold medals, and the 2nd and 3rd-place gold medal trophies were from its two world-famous hunting areas Gamás and Lábod.

1981 was another major landmark in the history of Hungarian hunting. In the outskirts of Pusztakovácsi in Somogy county, a German hunter (Werner Petzник) bagged antlers weighing 16.04 kilograms, a result that the international jury of the Zagreb World Hunting Exhibition qualified as a world record, at 269.89 I.P.

Somogy is renowned in Hungary as potato and tobacco producing county. The places most notable in this respect are in the south-west of the county: Szulok, Homokszentgyörgy, Lad, Lábod, Kadarkút and Nagyatád.

A large part of the county is blanketed in forest. The rate of forest cover was 29.3% in the mid-1999. The equivalent figure is 19.1 for the country as a whole, and 23.8% for South Transdanubia.

Under first division of the country into "breeding districts" in 1881, Somogy county was designated a breeding district for Hungarian grey cattle.

In June 1909, the International Milk Farming Congress found that there were 11 Simenthal-, 3 Bern-, one Innthal- and one Bonyhád-cattle farms in Somogy.

The 1948 Budapest Breeding Animal Fair and Exhibition was the occasion of high honours for Somogy county. Of the 453 animals on display, 159 (31%) were from the county, and 66 of these were awarded prizes by the jury. 47% of the prizes for cattle breeders went to farmers from Somogy.

Industry

A survey of the Kaposvár domain 1820 gives an account of a flourishing milling industry in 14 villages. In 1880, Nagyatád experienced a severe earthquake.

The first Hungarian survey of manufacturing industry indicates a spinning and weaving factory in Nagyatád. This was the county's only factory in this industry at the time: Wollák and Berkovits' button and braid factory. It employed 46 workers.

Others

During the First World War, Kaposvár became an "army town". It billeted the no. 44 infantry regiment, the famous Somogy "Devil Soldiers".

Ferenc Csík, born in Kaposvár, was the 100 m freestyle swimming champion at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

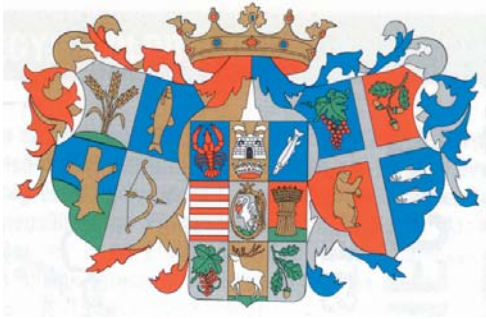
During the Second World War, more than 3,000 Polish military and civil refugees were accommodated in the Balaton area, in Boglár, Zamárdi and Kiliti.

Near the village of Somogyvámos, the Krishna-Valley Indian Cultural Centre and Organic Farm was set up on a 120 ha area in 1991-1992.

Europe's largest (12 ha) daffodil field is to be found in the outskirts of Babócsa in Somogy, in the Pasha Garden that remains from Turkish times.

A gastronomic event unique in the county and nationally is the Royal Chefs' Contest, recently held for the seventh time in the village of Nagyszakácsi (whose name means "great chef"). Dishes from specific eras are prepared purely with ingredients, spices, etc of the time, in an authentic environment.

Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg



In the 1930 census, the number of employees in the county's only industrial company was under one hundred. During the countryside industrialization of the sixties and seventies, this situation improved, but it is still one of the least industrialized counties.

Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg has a rate of natural population increase considerably higher than the national average, but its migration losses are high. This is due to the county's economic and social backwardness. Inland migration was particularly marked in the nineteen sixties, well illustrated by the fact that at the beginning of 1960, the 611,000 inhabitants of the county were depleted by more than 100,000 permanent and temporary migrants. Most of the migration losses, some 60,000, were the result of change of permanent address.

Migration has caused a severe drop in villages' population, even though more than half of the migration loss has been compensated by natural increase - the difference between births and deaths. These settlements are in social and economic decline.

County population change

Period	Natural increase	Migration differential	Actual increase or decrease (-)
1960-1969	56 230	-101 735	-45 505
1970-1979	49 645	-28 759	20 886
1980-1989	14 574	-36 102	-21 528

The exodus was motivated by a search for better standard of living, later moderated by the countryside industrialization that reached the county.

Záhony is an internationally-important railway intersection, a borough since 1989. Once a small village in the county of Ung, it was inhabited by 1200 people in the 1900s, rising to 4700 today. The country's only and Central-Eastern Europe's largest transloading site was set up there in the fifties, and includes a wide range of infrastructure. The Záhony transloading site, covering some 80 km², with an extensive system of transloading, receiving and marshalling yards and their service facilities, is the county's most important transport and economic operation, and the town has become the "gateway to the East".

In its heyday, at the beginning of the 1980s, it employed 7200 people. Its daily traffic rose from 700 tonnes in 1945 to 32,000 in 1973 and 46,000 in 1980. In the 1980s, one-fifth of Hungary's rail-transported exports left the country via Záhony, and half of its imports entered here. It is still the point where goods are transferred between wide-gauge Ukrainian railway and Hungarian trains. The transloading site's employment significance and economic performance is now a fraction of what it was.

Electricity came last to the village in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Bátorliget, in 1963. The first village electrification in Hungary, in 1888, was also in the county, in Mátészalka.

In the 1970 floods, 5000 of the county's then housing stock of 158,000 were destroyed. The victims were given good terms for building, but building was banned in villages at risk. The losses in Nagygéc were so high that the village ceased to exist as an administrative unit, and only 22 inhabitants remained. After the flood, Garbolc, Kishódos, Nagyhódos and Komlódtótfalu were left between the flood protection embankment and the national border.

The east of the county (east of the Kisvárdá-Nyírbátor line) has a wealth of historic monuments, by virtue of its escaping the ravages of the Turks.

The county and Nyíregyháza have the most diverse religious composition, devotees of the Roman Catholic and Reformed Church denominations being accompanied by many people declaring themselves Evangelical and Greek Catholic.

The county is the orchard of the country, providing one-third of national fruit area (apples, sour cherries, plums, etc.).

Tolna



Historians estimate that there were some 500 settlements in Tolna in the Middle Ages, on an area larger than the present, inhabited by around 100,000 people. After the devastation caused by the Turks, many of the settlements were abandoned and the population dwindled. The Turkish taxation censuses of 1570-80 enable the following reconstruction of the number of settlements and inhabitants in the 4 sanjaks laid out in the territory of the county:

The census carried out ten years after the expulsion of the Turks, in 1696, found one thousand families (approx. 10,000 people) living in 42 inhabited places in Tolna county, half of whom were Rác (Serb) people who had fled from the Turks or been settled by the occupiers.

There were also many Magyars in the latter place. After the Rákóczi War of Independence, the Serbs migrated to the area between the Danube and the Tisza, partly for the reason that the pastoral-military people did not want to pay taxes to the county. Their memory is preserved in the Grábóc Greek Catholic Church and district names in many villages, e.g. Ráctemető (graveyard), Rácvölgy (valley), Ráchegy (hill). The only place where a small number of ethnic Serb people now live in the county is Medina.

Population of Tolna county settlements around 1570

Sanjak	Settlement counted	Taxpaying farms	Estimated population
Szekszárdi	87	2 688	19 000
Simontornyai	77	1 400	10 000
Koppányi	36	465	3 200
Budai legdélibb része	8	155	1 100
Összesen	208	4 708	33 300

Most populous Serb settlements, 1696

Settlement	Families
Tolna	29
Újpalánk	58
Grábóc	34
Döbröggköz	15
Paks	28
Ozora	25

The male population by occupation, 1784–1787

Occupation	Priest	Noble	Administ-rator	Burger	Peasant	Heir of burger or peasant	Cottar	Freed soldier	Offspring*	Other
Number	182	1 372	27	1 025	10 748	10 519	14 823	48	23 482	2 945

* 1–17 year old children of cottars, freed soldiers and others.

Resettled with Germans and Magyars, the population of the county was first counted by the Joseph II census of 1784-1787. This recorded 131,317 people living in 17 market towns, 87 villages and 53 puszta (areas). The occupations of half of the population, the men, were distributed as follows:

An interesting figure from this survey is that in Dunaszentgyörgy, with 1177 inhabitants, two-thirds of the 614 men were "nobles".

In the decades up to the First World War, the scarcity of land resulting from the large-estate system led, as in other counties, to an exodus of people first to Slavonia and then, in ever greater numbers, to America and Germany. (As well as land hunger, other factors as the phylloxera epidemic and the scarcity of industrial work also played a part.) Statistical Office figures show that in terms of emigrants, Tolna was in fifth place among Transdanubian counties in 1905, but had risen to first place by the years immediately preceding the First World War.

In the period following the Second World War, a major change in the life of the county was the population exchange by which the German inhabitants were expelled to Germany and in their place came Magyar families from beyond the national borders or from other parts of the country. In the 1941 census, the population of the county was 269,606, of which 72,182 declared themselves German-speaking. Ethnic German people lived in the highest numbers in the Völgység and Simontornya districts. The post-war displacements took place in three stages. In the first, people were taken to the American Occupation Zone (later the German Federal Republic) and in the second and third stages to the Soviet Occupation Zone (later the German Democratic Republic).

Displacements of ethnic Germans from Tolna county*

Year	1946	1947	1948	Total
Village	24	44	64	..
Number of people displaced	15 992	7 228	12 031	35 251

* From research by Miklós Füzes and György Zielbauer.

The places of the displaced Germans were taken mainly by Székely people from Bukovina and Magyar families from Upper Hungary.

Number of people resettled in Tolna

Origin	Year of resettlement	Number of villages	Number of resettled people
Székely Upper Hungary	1945	28	10 032
	1947-1948	55	6 022

In education, the period of progress really started after the 1848-49 Revolution. The achievements of the Revolution (freedom of serfs, introduction of civic freedoms) raised demands for education. This is reflected in the following figures of the Imperial-Royal county authority.

Number of elementary schools in Tolna county, 1852

District	Number of villages		Numbers subject to compulsory schooling	Number attending school
	with school	without school		
Szekszárd	15	-	5 459	4 722
Földvár	12	-	5 714	4 418
Bonyhád	33	1	5 960	5 823
Simontornya	31	2	4 777	4 489
Dombóvár	26	-	5 609	5 062
County total	117	3	27 519	25 514

The sub-prefectorial documents show 1909 to be the year when the county surveyed the privately-owned private and goods-carrying automobiles, voitures (small cars) and motorcycles.

Automobiles and motorcycles in Tolna county, February 1909

No.	Village	Owner	Type. manufacturer	Horsepower	Note
1.	Felsőtengelicpuszta Gindli family	Count RezsőBenyovszky	Benz-Mannheim private automobile	28-32	4 seats
2.	Tolna	Jakab Fichol	Puch petrolpowered motorcycle	3	with sidecar
3.	Tolna	Lajos Szászi	Puch petrolpowered motorcycle	5	with sidecar
4.	Bonyhád	József Csik	Ladvonecz and Heiszles Budapest private automobile	12	4 seats
5.	Bonyhád	Mauthner and Schwartz Company	Reich János Graz motorcycle	5	with sidecar
6.	Szekszárd	Müller Brothers Company	Puch-voiturette	8-9	4 seats

An illustration of the spread of tobacco growing is provided by an Imperial Decree of 27 March 1860 listing the villages in Tolna county "entitled to cultivate tobacco". The 66 on the list correspond to 54 Tolna county villages under today's administrative classification. Tobacco is no longer grown either by either enterprises or private farmers in the county.

After the Compromise, the effect of accelerating economic development was felt in the county. Although many industrial and commercial enterprises were formed in Tolna at that time, the character of the county remained agricultural. Great progress was made in cultivation, through a widening diversity of produce, rising levels of processing and greater producer cooperation. An example of the latter was the rise of silk-worm production. This has a history stretching back to the reform era when the eminent politician and

economist István Bezerédj was one of the first to introduce the activity on his estates and to propagate it. (One consequence of this was the foundation of the Tolna Silk Factory in 1852.) In the following decades, silkworm production gradually spread throughout the county, as attested by a sub-prefectorial report of 1905, which states that production of silk cocoons had increased between 1880 and 1905 from 3415 kg in 32 villages and manors to 78,595 kg in 130 settlements.

The development of bee-keeping at the end of the 19th century is reflected by the report of József Abaffy, bee-keeping supervisor, to the sub-prefect in 1902, which states that "regarded 10-15 years ago as a sideline occupation of no merit, bee-keeping is now a source of substantial income."

Around the turn of the century, village milk cooperatives were of major significance in the county, assisting - principally in Völgység and Hegyhát - the structure of production to adapt to the nature of the land and, through the processing of milk into butter, sowing the seeds of the food industry. A Ministry of Agriculture register for the county issued in 1902 shows that there were milk cooperatives running in 50 settlements classified as administrative units at the time, the largest being in Bátaszék, Cikó, Mőzs, Bonyhád, Mórág, Zomba and Grábóc.

At the beginning of the 20th century, a large part of the county's population derived their income from agriculture, and the great estates were dominant. This is shown from the list of the highest taxpayers published by the newspaper "Tolna Vármegye" on 19 September 1909.

Ten highest taxpayers in Tolna county

Name	Occupation	Address	Tax payable, crowns
Count G. Apponyi	Prefect. estate owner	Hőgyész	42 960.84
Count S. Széchenyi	estate owner	Nagydorog	18 356.14
Count S. Apponyi	estate owner	Lengyel	14 871.75
Károly Kunfi	estate owner	Tolna	13 818.26
Count Rezső Benyovszky	estate owner	Felsőtengelicpuszta Gindli family	11 203.87
Henrik Wolf	estate owner	Szekszárd	11 045.30
Vilmos Stramer	tenant	Simontornya	10 678.94
János Bischitz	tenant	Majsa	8 758.31
J. Sztankovánszky	estate owner	Kajdacs	8 713.64
János Hanzély	estate owner	Bölcske	8 251.66

Vas



Vas is the country's most westerly county, and has been inhabited since the 4th millennium before Christ. From the 2nd millennium BC, it lay on an extremely important trade route, the Amber Road, connecting the Baltic with Italy. Emperor Claudius Tiberius founded Savaria, the predecessor of Szombathely, the modern county seat, and conferred on it the rank of colonia. It became a major commercial and administrative centre in the region. In the mid-11th century, Vasvár was designated the seat of the western border county, giving its name to the county, and was one of the first iron-smelting centres in Hungary.

In the Middle Ages, to deal with the constant attacks by the Holy Roman Emperors, a defensive system was built along the border. Important links in the chain were the castles of Koszeg and Sárvár, and the south-west corner of the county, Órség ("guard"). Órség is the only place in Hungary whose population have lived there continuously since the Conquest. It is now the country's largest nature conservation zone, covering 37,911 hectares.

The county thrived under the reign of Maria Theresia, the prospering nobility spending some of their wealth on the construction of splendid castles. In the second half of the 19th century, family mansions began to appear as the signs of the new bourgeoisie. A 1970 survey recorded 49 castles and 74 mansions. One-third of these had lain empty since the Second World War or were being used inappropriately, and as a result, their condition had decayed severely. In 1981, the county leadership, amidst great publicity, announced the "Vas castle refurbishment programme". This involved letting to tenants and managements free of rent if they undertook to renovate the property within a specified time and arrange for its operation. The nationally-acclaimed initiative was extremely successful, and the vast majority of castles and mansions have found new owners and been restored.

Per capita GDP, 1999

Description	Thousand HUF	In PPS*	Percentage of		
			national	national nonBudapest	EU (15)
			average		
Vas county	1 333	12 546	118	147	59.2
Western Transdanubia	1 301	12 550	115	144	57.8
Country total	1 132	10 655	100	-	50.3

* Purchasing Power Standard: Euros converted to country's actual purchasing power.

Around the castles and noble buildings, beautiful parks and arboretums were laid out abounding in the wonders of nature. The most notable of the county's 11 protected arboretums are those at Jel, Kámon, Sárvár, Szeleste and the Castle Park at Körmend. The Jel Arboretum in Vasihegyhát is famous abroad for

its rhododendrons, and the Kámon Arboretum in the centre of Szombathely is one of the richest in the country, with a collection of 3000 wood-stemmed plants. Kámon was a major research basis for forestry improvement.

The terms of the Trianon Peace Treaty following the First World War were extremely punitive on Vas county. Of its former territory of 5036 km², 1767 km² were detached. In the Second World War, Nemesmedves, the smallest village in the country, was the last to be liberated from German occupation.

After 1945, industrialization in the county accelerated, and the change of system in 1990 started off a flow of capital into the county, invested by large companies. By recent calculations, Vas county is one of the economically most advanced in the country. In terms of GDP per capita, the county was in second place in 1999.

In Vas county's economy, industry generates about a half of the GDP, but tourism is also prospering. High standard tourism is based on the wealth of thermal and medicinal waters which attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. There are 18 thermal wells in 9 towns and villages in the county, and a further 47 await future exploitation. The citadels of health tourism are the internationally renowned spas of Bük and Sárvár. These two towns are visited by more than half of the guests that stay in the county's public accommodation facilities, and their share of guest nights is even higher.

Public accommodation guest business in Vas county, 2000

Description	Guest	Guest nights	Average period of stay. nights
	number		
Bük and Sárvár together	87 302	490 420	5.6
Vas county	210 407	805 458	3.8

Vas county is densely populated, typically in small villages. At the end of 1999, there were 65 settlements per 1000 km², twice the national average. It contains Trandania's highest point, Írottko, on the Austro-Hungarian border, 882 m above sea level. Kőszeg, at the foot of the hill, is the highest-situated town in Hungary, at 274 m.

In 1990, only 2.5% of the county's inhabitants, 6827 people, belonged to some ethnic minority. Nonetheless, the population is ethnically varied, with Gypsies, Croats, Germans, Slovenes and Vends all living there. The Vend country in Órség, whose 6 villages preserve and practise their traditions, holds 68% of the country's Slovenian/Vend population.

Veszprém



The geographical features of Veszprém county, in the middle of Transdanubia, are among the most varied in Hungary. The bulk of its territory consists of the entire Bakony country, an area of natural beauty, complemented by the fine countryside the perimeter areas: the Balaton Uplands and Lake Balaton's northern shore. The land has always provided a good living for its inhabitants. The distinctive surface rocks lie above valuable mineral resources deep underground which served industrialization in the 19th and 20th centuries, and even at the end of the 20th century mineral deposits of national significance were still being worked.

Industry and tourism have both grown up and developed over the last century on the strength of the county's natural resources. The face of Veszprém county has of course been formed by many other factors over the centuries. The soil is not well suited to agriculture. The large continuous areas of forest do serve commercial purposes, but are also important for nature conservation and tourism, and present ideal conditions for game management. Veszprém county has the third highest forest cover in Hungary.

Who is unfamiliar with its famous wines? Of the four historical wine regions, three gain their sunlight enriched by reflection from the surface of the Balaton. Wines famous abroad come from the regions of Badacsony, Balatonfüred-Csopak and the Balaton Uplands, and include the Furmint and Juhfark wines from grapes that grow on Somló Hill. The beauty of the landscape is sufficient in itself as a tourist attraction, but visitors from both Hungary and abroad are also drawn by wine tours and gastronomic delights.

At the end of 2000, 42% more people lived in Veszprém county than 100 years ago, and some 60% more than in the time of the first official census in 1870.

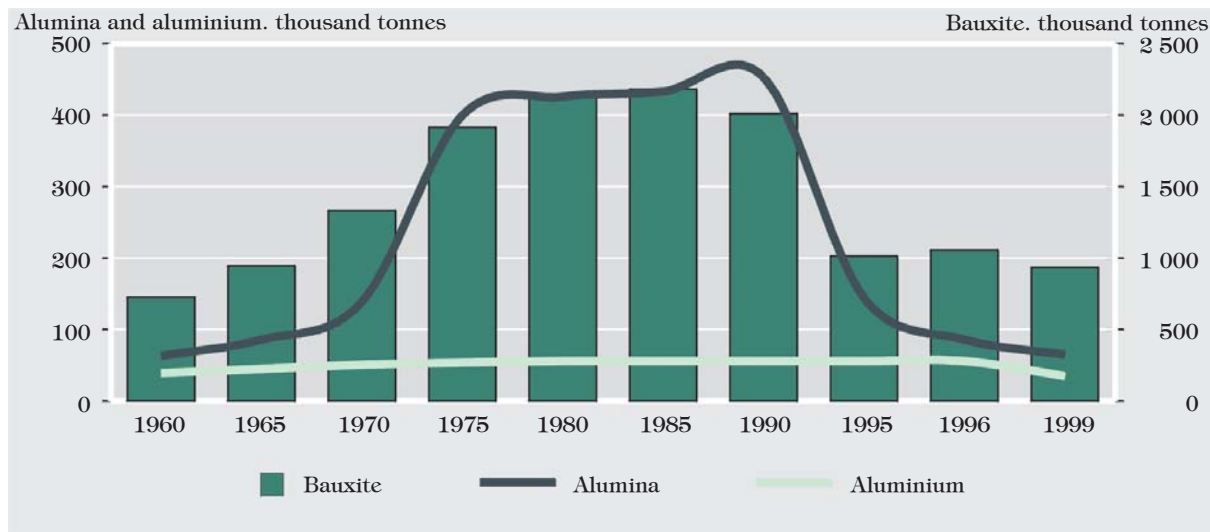
The rise in population was driven by work opportunities that expanded slowly up to the end of the 1920s and more rapidly in the 1930s. Losses in the Second World War caused a setback, but socialist industrialization again brought more inhabitants into the county. The momentum was sustained up to the end of the 1970s, since when the population has steadily contracted, the result of economic failures and increasingly adverse demographic processes.

Some one-third of the economically active population were working in industry at the time of the 1996 micro-census. The industries operating today started operation in the 19th century. Celebrating its 175th birthday, the Herend Porcelain Factory has long enjoyed world renown. The Balatonfüred Shipyard was opened in 1841, extraction of the lignite field in Várpalota started in 1876, and brown coal mining in Ajkacsinger got under way at about the same time. The pace of industrialization stepped up in the 1920s. The predecessor of Nitrokémia in Fuzfo was founded in 1921, and the "chemical industry pentangle" was established in the thirties, the other four sites being Pét, Peremarton, Papkeszi and Várpalota. Preparations for war brought the first large engineering concerns to the county, and the foundation of the Hungarian Bauxite Mine Company founded by some big industrialists in 1937 to extract bauxite from the deposits around Halimba discovered at the beginning of the twenties. At first, the raw bauxite was exported, but with the involvement of German capital, the alumina factory in Ajka, with a capacity of 20,000

tonnes, and an aluminium smelter of capacity 10,000 tonnes, were started up in 1941. Under postwar bilateral international treaties, ownership of the entire complex was assigned to the Hungarian-Soviet Bauxite-Aluminium Company, and only became fully Hungarian state property in 1955.

Coal extraction rose steeply up to the end of the nineteen fifties, and then, after attempts at revival following the oil crisis, was finally restructured in the middle of the eighties. Lignite mining in Várpalota ended, and by the end of the millennium, brown coal extraction survived only for power station use.

Bauxite, alumina and aluminium production in Veszprém county



After getting under way at the turn of the 19th and 20th century, industry in the county developed to process local raw materials in industries serving the war machine, and expanded further during the years of socialist industrialization. Up to the last decade of the century, it featured above all mining, electricity generation, iron and steel, and some engineering and chemical operations related to military and strategic requirements.

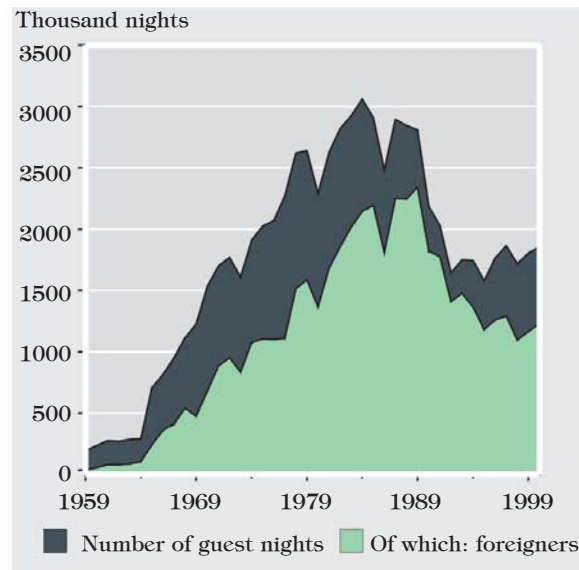
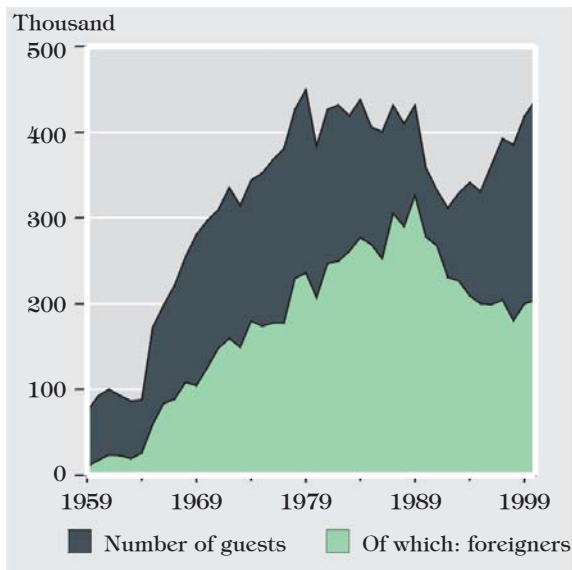
The established industrial structure has been gradually changing since 1990. Lower output has been accompanied by restructuring. Industrial output in 2000 stood at 70% of the 1989 figure. Metallurgy and metal manufacturing stand at the top of the industrial ranking, followed by engineering and chemicals. These branches account for some two-thirds of industrial production, food industry a further 12%, and non-metal mineral products 11%. Mining had shrunk to only 3% by the end of the millennium.

The renewal of industry has been made possible by inflow of foreign capital. More than a half of industrial projects in the last decade have been set up by foreign-owned enterprises. One-quarter of the county's industrial enterprises are foreign owned.

The geological features of Veszprém county demand heightened environmental protection efforts. The entire area of the Transdanubia Central Range of Mountains is a continuous karst aquifer, with enormous reserves of cold karst water. The injuries inflicted by industrial activity have to be healed, and the soil must be managed with great care. Protection of the Balaton area is of particular importance. The Balaton Uplands National Park was formed on 17 September 1997, its 57,000 hectare area incorporating 6 notable districts, those in Veszprém county being the Tihany Peninsula, and the Badacsony, Pécsely and Tapolca basins (the others being the Keszthely hills and Little Balaton).

After Budapest, Lake Balaton is the greatest tourist attraction in the country. In the fine words of Lajos Lóczy, written in 1894, "High lakeshores, stepped hillsides, conical volcanic hills - whose masterful arrangement and regular are without parallel - deeply penetrating bays, and flat countryside lie side by side on the enchanting banks of the Balaton".

Guest business in public accommodation in Veszprém county



The graph shows the numbers of visitors to the county since 1959. Tourist traffic increased steadily from the mid-sixties to the end of the seventies, and then remained largely at this level for the next ten years. The drop at the beginning of the nineties was followed by a resurgence in which the distribution of visitors by country changed. In place of visitors from neighbouring (formerly socialist) countries coming for long stays, holidaymakers from the west of the continent now come to the lakeshore for varying periods.

"The Balaton is the largest lake in the western part of Europe..." begins the precise description of the lake by geographer Jenő Cholnoky, written in 1918. The coordinates he mapped out have not essentially changed since, and the natural landscape is still as breathtaking. The county is a magnet for visitors, with a wealth of fine countryside, protected natural treasures and historic settlements.

The city of Veszprém, the capital of the county, was for centuries the ecclesiastical and cultural centre of Transdanubia. It is a little known fact that, in the 13th century, its college of law and the liberal arts had a reputation abroad equal to that of Paris. (It was razed by the armies of Péter Csák, but was revived as a cultural centre at the end of the Middle Ages, under the reign of King Matthias.) Stephen I made the city the capital of queens. The Bishop of Veszprém was the queens' chancellor, furnished with the right of coronation of queens (Francis Joseph's wife Elizabeth was crowned by the Bishop of Veszprém in 1867, and Queen Zita in 1916).

Veszprém is now a university city. It initially trained chemical engineers and was a centre of research for the chemical industry. Founded 50 years ago, the university has undergone radical changes in the last decade, and expanded rapidly. New faculties and courses have been established. Under the university integration programme, it has merged with the Georgikon faculties of the University of Agriculture in Keszthely, and now has nearly seven thousand students.

Zala



In Göcsej settlements emerged from "szeg"-s. The "szeg" was the name borne by the tiny villages that had adapted to the relief and water flows in the Göcsej area, though it also appears in the name of Zalaegerszeg, the county seat.

The lower third of the hills and the southern slopes were the most suited parts of the area for families - and there were few of them at first - to settle and seek their living. The land around their houses was made cultivable by forest clearing, and population later spilled over, settlers occupied further hillsides. The names -szeg and -szer are etymologically related. They basically mean "edges" of rivers, roads, valleys or forests, "perimeter markings" of area taken into cultivation.

In the distant past, there were some 30 "szeg" settlements or parts of settlements in the county. Now 6 settlements, among them Zalaegerszeg, bear such names, the average population of the five village being 260. The administrative

unit of Becsvölgye was created by unification of five "szegs".

The Turkish occupation necessitated new forms of border defence. Because of the almost impassable swampy nature of the land, a deep defensive system of tiny outposts and "little forts built of earth pressed between hedges" was built up. Few remains of this survive, such as the castle hill in Kemend and the meadow undulations in Pölöske and Szentgyörgyvár. In their places, the county house was built in Zalaegerszeg, a monks' house in Túrje, and a castle in Zalaszentgrót, but all traces disappeared in Zalalövő, Salomvár and Zalavár.

Geology has been kind to the county, providing it with high-temperature water relatively close to the surface. In addition, the mezozoic strata forming the base of the neocene aquifers receive virtually unlimited replenishment.

There are presently 5 towns and villages with medicinal water in the county, and 29 with thermal water, so that every eighth town and village has the potential for exploiting thermal energy.

The curative powers of Hévíz water has been known for many centuries, even millennia. The bottom of the lake has given up many prehistoric and Roman pottery fragments, and silverware from the 2nd and 3rd centuries. The first written references are over 400 years old. Zalakaros spa has developed strongly over the last quarter of a century.

The warm water of thermal springs is man's oldest medicine. The words of the medieval captain of Kanizsa have been borne out: "Spa water and wine do harm to the health of the body, but spa water and wine restore the health of the body."

Extraction of oil and gas in Hungary started out in Zala county in 1937. Long and intensive exploration by the Anglo-American company EUROGASCO were ultimately rewarded by finds in the Budafapuszta area. A prominent part in the explorations was played by geologists Ferenc Vajna Pávai and Simon Papp. The first well produced 60 m³ of oil and 10,000 m³ of gas daily. The success gave rise to the foundation of the Hungarian-American Oil Company (MAORT) in 1938. Zala oil production met the country's entire needs in 1940. MAORT brought world-class technology, high standard work culture and outstanding social benefits to the county. Under the state of war, the oil wells were taken into Treasury possession in 1941,

and overproduction caused their yields to fall very quickly. After the war, the company became a bone of political contention, leading to the notorious MAORT show trial of 1948, and to nationalization. The rich oilfield of Nagylengyel was discovered in 1951. But wasteful overexploitation soon led to water ingress here, too. From the beginning of the 1970s, the Great Plain oilfields gradually came into production, and oil and gas extraction on the Zala fields continued by secondary and tertiary methods.

Restoration of the Little Balaton, drained between 1835 and 1922, was commenced in 1980, with the purpose, by recreating close-to-original conditions, of causing the contamination brought down by the Zala river to deposit here and not in Keszthely Bay of Balaton. (Drainage had interrupted the swamp's filter function, and the original wildlife of the Little Balaton had been confined to a very narrow area.) The work led within a short time to the return of a wealth of flora and fauna. More than 200 species of birds have now been observed, of which 100 nest in the area.

An extensive continuous habitat (the nature conservation zone covers 147.5 km², of which 14 km² are strictly protected) is a treasure unique in Europe. It ensures the survival and proliferation of the water and wetland wildlife, with ample space to feed, shelter and reproduce. Kányavári Island, with a recreational park and lookout tower, is the only place in the nature conservation area with completely free access.

The Cyrill-Methodius memorial in Vársziget, Zalavár (designed by Frigyes Janzer), commemorating the 866-867 stay of the two Christian evangelists and reformers of the Slav alphabet, was erected in 1985.