



## Vital events, 2014

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### Summary

On 1 January 2015, the number of the population was 9 million 849 thousand in Hungary, 28 thousand fewer than a year earlier. In 2014, favourable trends occurred in all major demographic processes compared to the previous year. The number of live births and marriages increased, fewer deaths and divorces occurred, the number of induced abortions considerably decreased and infant mortality rate fell to a historic low. Only international migration showed a less favourable picture, since its positive balance continued to decrease compared to the previous years. According to preliminary data, in 2014, 91,500 children were born, 126,100 people deceased and the positive net international migration was 6,600 persons.

Table 1

### Main vital events

Vital event	1990	2010	2013	2014 <sup>+</sup>	2014 <sup>+</sup> /2013 2013=100,0
Live birth	125 679	90 335	88 689	91 500	103.2
Death	145 660	130 456	126 778	126 100	99.5
Infant death	1 863	481	454	420	92.5
Marriage	66 405	35 520	36 986	38 700	104.6
Divorce	24 888	23 873	20 209	19 500	96.5
Induced abortion	90 394	40 449	34 891	32 700	93.7
Natural decrease	-19 981	-40 121	-38 089	-34 600	90.8
Actual decrease	-1 670	-28 602	-31 433	-28 000	89.1

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

Following the historic low of 88 thousand births in 2011, the number of births slightly grew in 2012, and then, in 2013, fewer children were

born again than a year earlier. In 2014, the number of births was 3.2 per cent and more than 2,800 infants higher than in the previous year and it represented the highest number of births in the past five years.

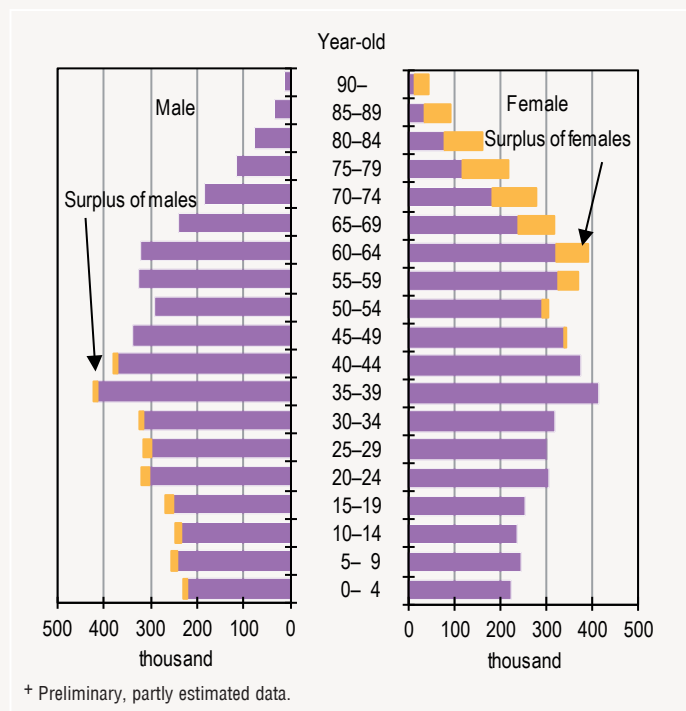
The number of deaths has been continuously more than 130 thousand for a long time, while in the last four years it was below this level despite the fluctuations. In 2014, the number of deaths was 126,100, 0.5 per cent and 678 persons less than one year before. Despite the ageing of the population, in the past four decades, the number of deaths was the lowest in 2014. The downward trend of infant deaths stopped in 2013, since, from the level below five per mille in the previous two years, it rose again above this. In 2014, however, in addition to the increase in the number of births, the number of deaths under one year of age decreased, thus, infant mortality rate fell to 4.6 per mille, the lowest level observed so far.

The decreasing trend of marriages stopped in the past four years, and a slow but continuous increase started. The number of marriages fluctuated on a low level, or rather stagnated after the turn of the millennium, but it considerably fell (by one fifth) between 2006 and 2010. Then, an increasing trend began. In 2014, 38,700 marriages were registered, 4.6 per cent and 1,714 couples more than in the previous year.

The annual number of divorces was around 24–25 thousand in the decade after the turn of the millennium; however, it was steadily below 24 thousand in the past few years. Following the considerable drop in 2012, the number of divorces continued to decrease in 2013 as well. The number of marriages dissolved by courts was 19,500 in 2014, 3.5 per cent and 709 fewer than a year earlier.

Figure 1

### Population by sex and age groups, 1 January 2015<sup>+</sup>



The increase in the number of births and the slight decrease in the number of deaths moderated the rate of natural decrease. Due to the negative balance of births and deaths, natural decrease was 34,600 in 2014, 9.2 per cent and 3,500 persons lower than in 2013. The invariably positive balance of international migration can only moderate the decline in the number of the population resulting from natural decrease, but cannot stop it.

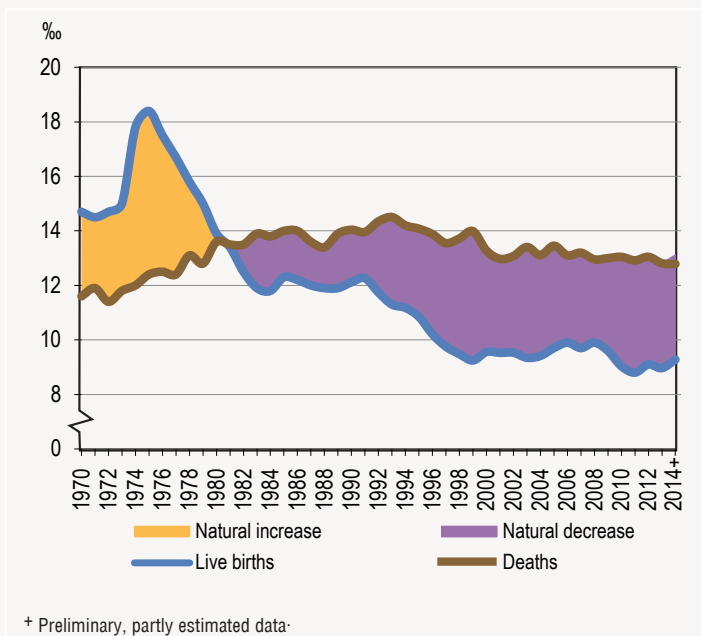
The changes in the structure of the population by age having been experienced for a long time continued. The ageing process of the population accelerated. The number and rate of people aged 60 years and over exceeded those of the 0–14 year-old child-age population in 1992 for the first time, but since 2005, even the number of people aged 65 years and over has been higher than that of child-age population. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, the number of 65 year-old and older people per hundred children was 124, which number was 121 a year before.

### Natural and actual increase, decrease

The number of the population was 9,849 thousand on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 based on the 2011 census data. Although at a varying pace, natural decrease has been continuous for thirty-four years. In the intervening years, the greatest natural decrease was recorded in 1999, when, over one year, the population decline was more than 48.6 thousand due to the negative balance of live births and deaths. After the turn of the millennium, 2003 was the least favourable year with a population decline of nearly 41.2 thousand. In 2014, the rate of natural decrease moderated compared to the previous year: the number of deaths exceeded by 34,600 that of births, so, as the difference between the two major vital events, the population number decreased that much. However, the actual decrease in the number of the population was somewhat moderated by the positive net international migration. In 2014, the immigration surplus was estimated at 6,600 persons, thus, on the whole, 28 thousand fewer people lived in Hungary on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 than a year earlier.

Figure 2

### Natural demographic processes



The number of deaths was higher than that of births in every region and county of Hungary. However, the extent of natural decrease was different by regions. Natural decrease per thousand inhabitants was the highest in Southern Great Plain, Southern Transdanubia and Western Transdanubia, while it was the lowest in Central Hungary and Northern Great Plain. In respect of counties, the rate of natural decrease is considerably higher than the national average in Békés, Nógrád, Vas and Zala counties due to the below average birth rates and above average death rates. At the same time,

mainly due to the age structure younger than the national average, birth rates are relatively high and death rates are relatively low, and, consequently natural decrease is the lowest in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Pest and Hajdú-Bihar counties.

In 2014, there were only four larger territorial units in the country where the number of the population actually grew due to internal and international migration. These were: Budapest and Pest county (comprising Central Hungary), as well as Győr-Moson-Sopron and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg counties. In Central Hungary and Győr-Moson-Sopron county, both internal and international migration showed a positive balance which offset the decline resulting from natural decrease. At the same time, in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county bordering Ukraine, the extremely high positive balance of international migration compensated the population decline resulting from natural decrease and internal migration.

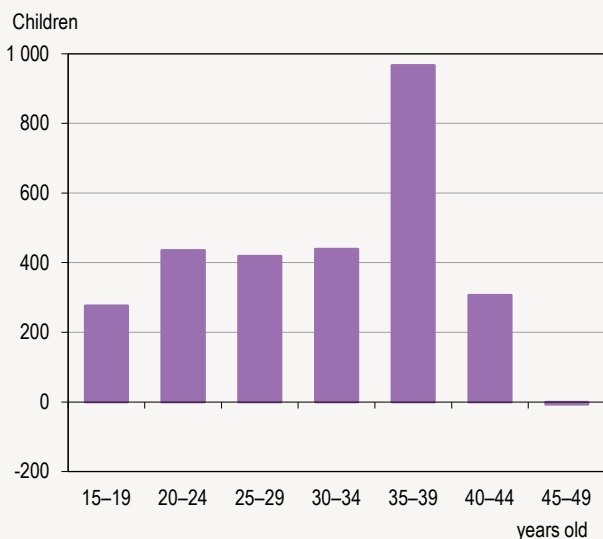
### Births

The number of births fell below hundred thousand in 1998 for the first time, while it was on a basically low level around 94–100 thousand with some fluctuations in the decade after the turn of the millennium. After another considerable decrease had occurred in 2010, the number of births was not even 90 thousand in 2011. The 88,049 live births registered that year was the lowest number in the 139 years' history of vital statistics in Hungary. Then, a slight increase started in 2012, which stopped and a decrease began in the following year: in 2013, and the number of births fell again below 90 thousand. The number of births was 91,500 in 2014, 3.2 per cent and 2,811 children more than in the previous year. The increase affected differently the age groups of women in childbearing age: the number of births rose in each age group except for the oldest one over 44 years. The increase was the largest among women aged 35–39 years, and more than half of the surplus in births occurred among women in their 30s. The postponement of the age of childbearing is reflected in the more frequent childbearing of women in their early 40s as well; among them, the number of births increased by more than 10 per cent compared to the previous year. Since 2010, more than half of newborn babies have been born to mother aged 30 years or older, and their proportion was 53.7 per cent in 2014.

The increase in the number of births in 2014 took place in parallel with the decrease in the number of women of childbearing age. Compared to the previous year, the number of women aged 15–49 years fell by 16.3 thousand. The decrease affected very differently the various age groups. The number of women younger than 40 years decreased more or less in each age group, and their overall number was 34.4 thousand fewer than in the previous year. At the same time, the number of women aged 40–49 years increased by more than 18 thousand. This means that not only the age structure of the total population but also that of women of childbearing age is gradually 'ageing'. Due to the basically low and decreasing number of births in the past two decades, the number of women entering childbearing age (aged 15–19 years) fell by 11.3 thousand in 2014 compared to the previous year. The most significant decline of about 18.7 thousand, however, occurred among women aged 30–34 years. This was primarily due to the large difference between the number of the generation entering this age group (born in 1984) and that of the generation leaving that (born in 1979).

If the number of births is increasing along with a decrease in the number of women of childbearing age, this is definitely due to the increase in the frequency of childbearing or, in other words, fertility. The number of potential mothers is lower, but they give birth to more children than earlier. In each age group of women under 45 years of age, the level of fertility increased, and the increase was the largest, 9.4 per cent among teenagers, which is remarkable. The fertility of women aged 30–44 years also considerably grew (by 6–9 per cent), while, despite the significant increase in their number, fewer children were born to women aged 45 years and older, so, their fertility fell as well (by 9.8 per cent). At this age, women are much more cautious about giving birth to their first or subsequent child, and the outcome of conceptions is more uncertain as well, and they end in

**Birth surplus in 2014 by age groups of women\***

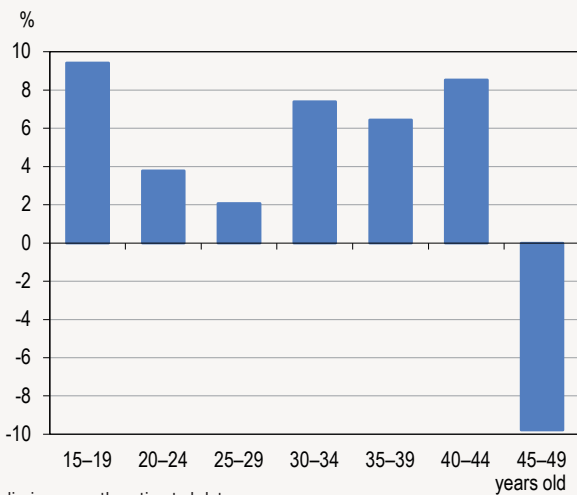


\* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

miscarriage more often than the average. It is also noteworthy that the fertility of women aged 25–29 years, which is probably the most ideal age in terms of childbearing, only slightly increased and, even so, it did not reach the level of 2012.

Figure 4

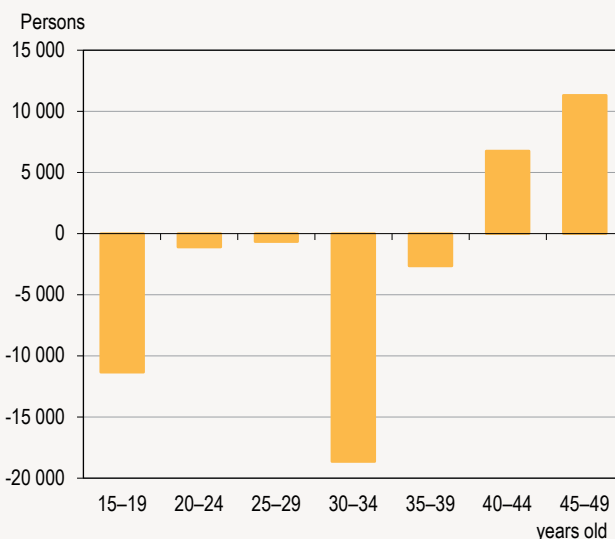
**Change in the fertility in 2014 compared to the previous year by age groups of women\***



\* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

An important factor of the annual number of births is the proportion of births within and outside marriage. The proportion of births outside marriage continuously increased in the decade following the turn of the millennium, then, after a short break, it began to rapidly grow again and reached 47.6 per cent in 2014, which was the highest proportion measured so far. The reason for this is the dynamic increase in the number of cohabiting partnerships. (According to the 2011 census data, the number of families based on cohabiting partnership became one and a half times larger over ten years, and it increased more than threefold compared to 1990. 28 per cent of women of childbearing age living in partnership lived in such a cohabiting partnership.) Compared to the previous year, the number of children born outside marriage grew by 6.2 per cent in 2014, which represented nearly 2,550 more children, i.e. they accounted for 91 per cent of the surplus of births. At the same time, the number of children

**Change in the number of childbearing-aged women\* by age group\***



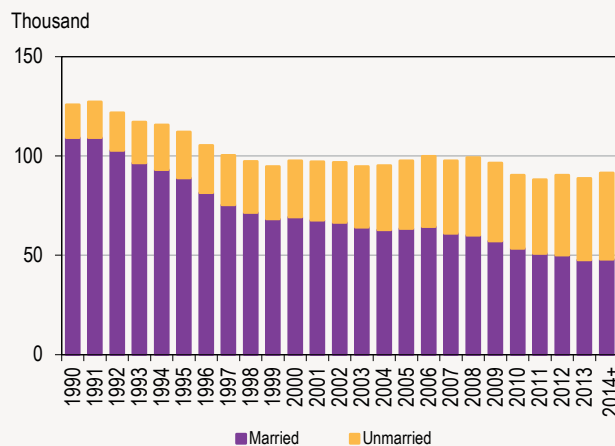
\* In 2014 compared to the 2013 mid-year population.

\* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

born within marriage grew only slightly, by 0.5 per cent. In respect of the age of the mother, it is worth mentioning that the number of births outside marriage rose in each age group (with the exception of children under 15 years of age), while a significant drop could be observed in the number of children born within marriage in the age group 20–34. Accordingly, the number of both marital and extramarital births increased among women aged 35 years and older, while in the 20–34 age group, only the number of extramarital births grew year on year.

Figure 5

**Live births by marital status of mother**



\* Preliminary, partly estimated data.

At the fertility level of 2014, hundred women would give birth to 141 children during their lifetime, 7 more than one year earlier. Thus, total fertility rate per hundred women increased from 134 last year to 141 in 2014. This means a 5.3 per cent growth in fertility as opposed to the 3.2 per cent increase in the number of births. The difference is due to the fact that the increasing fertility comes from fewer women of childbearing age, which, in this case, was 'only' enough for a 3.2 per cent rise in the number of births. In other words, the increasing fertility managed to offset the decline in the number of women of childbearing age, and even resulted in a rise in the number of births. The fertility level of 2014 was still far below the average of 210 children necessary for simple reproduction. The gross

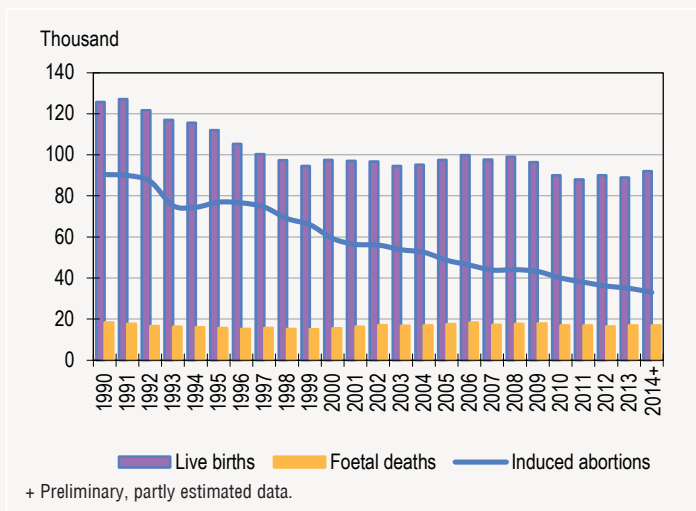
reproduction rate was 0.687, i.e. at the fertility level of 2014, thousand women would give birth to 687 daughters during their lifetime, and thus, the number of the children generations going to grow up would be 31 per cent lower than the number of the parents' generations.

### Induced abortions

The decreasing trend in induced abortions having been observed for a long time stopped in 2008, but then it continued in the past years. The number of interventions was 32.7 thousand in 2014, nearly 2,200 and 6.3 per cent fewer than in the previous year. The number of abortions per thousand women in childbearing age was 14.1 as opposed to the 15.0 a year earlier. The decreasing trend was characteristic of each age group except for teenagers. Among teenagers, the frequency of abortions neither increased nor decreased. This means that the number of induced abortions per thousand teenagers was in 2014 the same as one year before, which was still higher than the one two or three years earlier. Teenagers represent potential mothers of the future, so, induced abortion may have a particular risk among them, as often their first pregnancy is interrupted by abortion. The number of abortions fell in every age group above 20 years of age, and the decrease was the largest, 8.2% among the 35–39 year-olds, which may be connected with the more frequent childbearing among women of this age. The decrease was also significant, 7.9% among women above 40 years of age due to similar reasons. In terms of the age profile of abortions, induced abortions were the most frequent among women in their 20s in 2014 as well, among them the number of abortions per thousand women was 22–23. The number of induced abortions fell, while that of births increased year on year, as a result of which, the number of abortions per hundred live births was 35.7 in 2014, as opposed to nearly 40 interventions (39.3) in 2013.

Figure 6

### Obstetrical events



Besides induced abortions, the number of foetal deaths, i.e. the total number of spontaneous abortions and stillbirths, did not decrease. The estimated number of 16.5 thousand foetal deaths showed stagnation or a very slight increase in the past two years. Due to the increase in the number of births, the number of foetal deaths per hundred live births was slightly less (18.0) in 2014 than in the previous year (18.6).

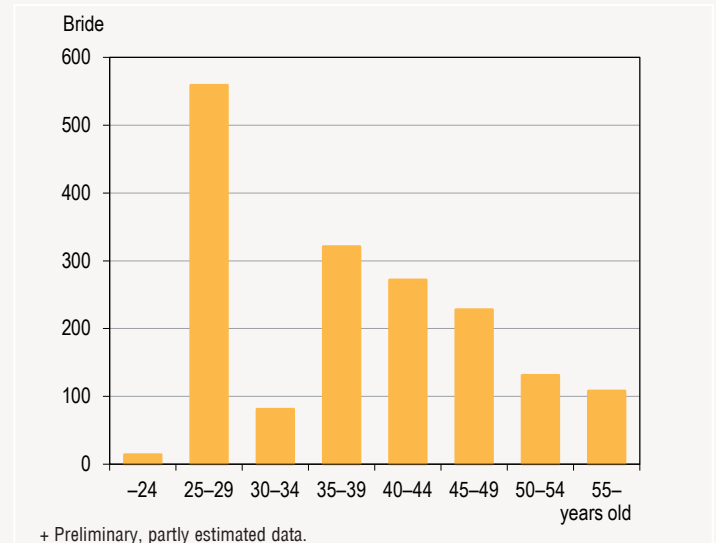
### Marriages

The decreasing trend of marriages having lasted for a long time stopped in the past years and turned to a slow increase. In the years after the turn of the millennium, the registered annual 44–46 thousand marriages did not

even reach half of the annual 90–100 thousand marriages in the 1970s. In the 1970s, a large number of the generations born in the Ratkó era got married, while after the turn of the millennium, the similarly large number of their children entered the age of marriage. Despite this, the number of marriages continued to decrease and reached a local low in 2010, which was one of the lowest levels in the history of vital statistics so far. There was a slight increase from this low in the last four years. The number of 38,700 marriages in 2014 was 4.6 per cent and some 1,700 couples more than in the previous year and 9.0 per cent and 3,180 couples more than in 2010. Half of the surplus of marriages in 2014 comes from two age groups, i.e. women aged 25–29 and 35–39 years, where the increase in the number of marriages was above average, and another nearly 30 per cent was connected to the surplus of marriages among women in their forties.

Figure 7

### Surplus of marriages by age group of women, 2014+



The intensity of marriages is measured by the number of marriages per thousand single women/men of corresponding age. The value of this indicator is not only influenced by the number of people of corresponding age but, within them, also the proportion of singles, i.e. of those who may potentially enter into marriage. The upward trend can be observed in each age group of women, but, among men, only the marriage rate of unmarried men over 25 years of age increased. By the postponement of the age at marriage, mainly couples over 30 years of age entered more frequently into marriage than in the previous year. In 2014, the distribution of marriages by age groups did not change, marriage continued to be the most frequent among women in the second half of their 20s and men at the beginning of their 30s. Among young people under 25 years of age, the willingness to marry continued to be low, the frequency of marriage decreased among men and was rather stagnant among women compared to the previous year. Among teenage women, a slight increase could be observed, but, even so, out of thousand unmarried teenagers, only 3 entered into marriage as opposed to 12 measured at the turn of the millennium, not to mention the 51 marriages in 1990.

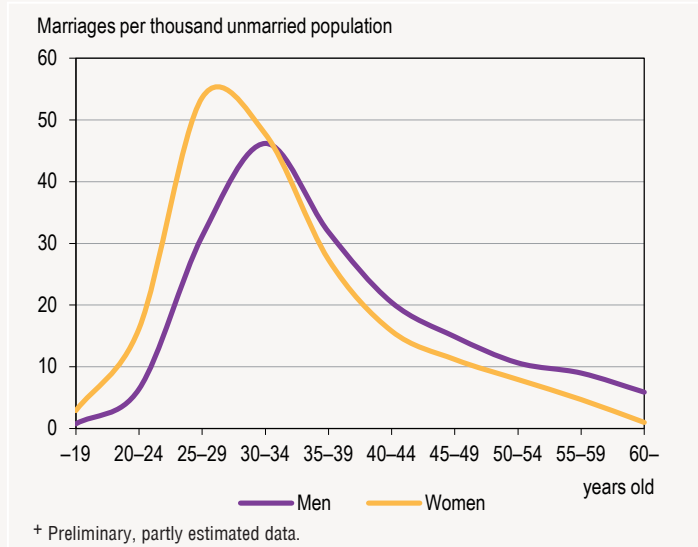
On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, a new category of marital status, namely the registered partnership was introduced.<sup>1)</sup> In the second half of 2009, the number of registered partnerships was 67, while it was 80 in 2010, the first whole year. Until 2013, this number was decreasing year by year, and the number of such partnerships registered by the registrars that year was only 30 couples, less than four tenths of the one registered three years earlier. In 2014, the decrease stopped, 38 couples established such a partnership. Among them, there were 27 male and 11 female couples, and

<sup>1)</sup> On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, the Act XXIX of 2009 on Registered Partnerships and Related Legislation, which regulates the establishment and termination of same-sex partnerships, entered into force.

more than half of them were inhabitants of Budapest or Pest county. The average age of men entering into registered partnership was 38 years, while that of women was 32.1 years. The average age difference was 8.4 years among male and lower, 6.5 years among female partners.

Figure 8

**Marriages by age groups of men and women, 2014+**



previous year (175) but was the most favourable figure in the past nearly two decades, however, it was still much higher than at the beginning of the 1990s or earlier.

Table 2

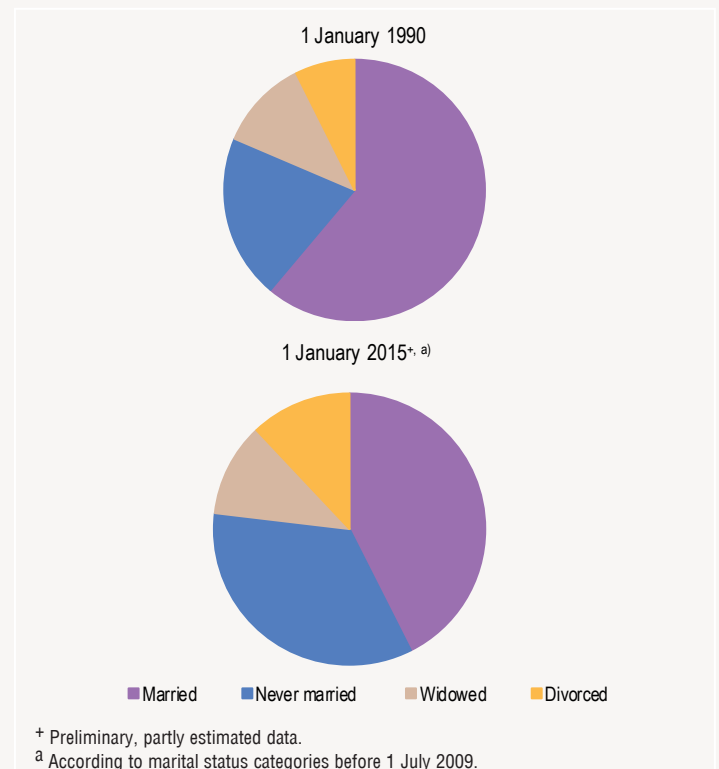
**Marriages and ceased marriages**

Type of event	1990	2000	2013	2014+
Marriages	66 405	48 110	36 986	38 700
Ceased marriages	89 817	79 685	64 772	63 600
due to death	64 929	55 698	44 563	44 100
due to divorce	24 888	23 987	20 209	19 500
Ceased marriages per 100 marriages	135	166	175	164

+ Preliminary, partly estimated data..

Figure 9

**15 year-old and older population by marital status**



+ Preliminary, partly estimated data.

<sup>a</sup> According to marital status categories before 1 July 2009.

**Divorces**

The 19.5 thousand divorces declared by the court in 2014 was by more than 700 and 3.5 per cent less than in the previous year and 2,330 (nearly 11 percent) lower than two years earlier. Compared to the number of divorces, which stagnated on a high level in the past decade and increased between 2004 and 2007, the definite decrease in the past years was a remarkable phenomenon. However, the considerable decline in divorces does not necessarily mean a similar improvement in the stability of partnerships, since both the number and rate of people living in marriage considerably fell in the long run, and a slow but constant increase could be observed in the number of marriages only in the past four years. In 2014, the frequency of divorces did not decrease in all age groups. In this regard, the dividing line is the age of 40 in case of women and that of 45 in case of men. The frequency of divorces fell in each age group under this age and mostly increased among married couples older than this. This phenomenon may be related with the later age at marriage and the more frequent divorces after a longer duration of marriage as well. It is difficult to judge the spectacular fall in the number of divorces among teenagers, since the rate of people living in marriage is very low in this age group, so the number of divorces is relatively low as well, and its annual fluctuation may significantly affect the frequency of divorces. Divorce continued to be the most frequent among women in their 20s and men aged 25–34 years, but in respect of its dynamics, the frequency of divorces fell the least among couples over 40 years of age. In some age groups, the frequency of divorces rose not only year on year but compared to 2010 as well.

The number of those living in marriage is increasing due to new marriages, but decreasing due to divorces and widowings. The balance of marriages compares the number of new and dissolved marriages. If the number of new marriages is higher than that of dissolved ones, the balance is positive, otherwise it is negative. The balance of marriages has been continuously negative for 37 years, i.e. more marriages end due to divorce or widowings than the number of new marriages. In 2014, the number of the former was 63,600, while that of the latter was only 38,700. This means, that the number of ceased marriages per hundred new marriages was 164 in 2014, which was not only lower than in the

The negative balance of marriages lasting for a long time considerably changed the composition of the population by marital status. Since 1990, the proportion of people living in marriage has significantly fallen – from 61.2 per cent to 42.5 per cent and, in parallel with this, the proportion of singles has grown from 20.3 per cent to 34.3 per cent and that of divorced people from 7.4 per cent to 12.0 per cent. At the same time, the proportion of widowed persons did not basically change and fluctuated between 11 and 12 per cent in the past twenty years. In the population aged 15 years and over, the dominance of those living in marriage stopped in 2004 for the first time, and since that time, the dominance of unmarried persons has become more and more evident. There are significant differences between men and women: the proportion of married persons is the highest among both genders, the proportion of singles is much lower among women than among men, and among women, the proportion of widows is 4.7 times as high as that of divorcees is 1.3 times as high as among ‘the stronger sex’. The differences mainly result from the different mortality and age structure of men and women, as well as from their different habits and chances in marrying and remarrying.

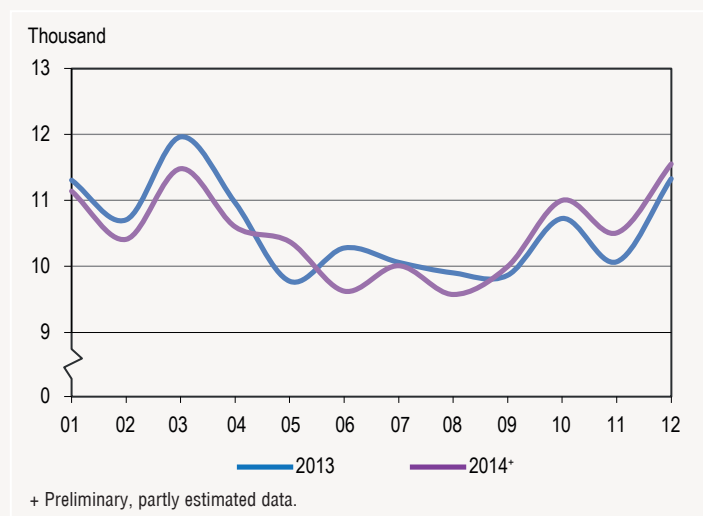
## Deaths

The number of deaths has been showing a basically decreasing trend with some fluctuations since the beginning of the 1990s. The more than 150 thousand deaths in 1993 was the highest figure after long decades. The decrease started from this level frequently broken by years of stagnation or smaller increase. The year 2011 meant a turn in this respect, since the number of deaths fell below 130 thousand that year after a long time, and has remained below this level since that time. After a slight increase in 2012, the number of deaths was 2.1 per cent and 2,662 lower in 2013 than in the previous year. The number of deaths continued to decline in 2014, the rate of improvement has however slowed down, since the estimated number of 126,100 of deaths was only 678 persons and 0.5 per cent lower than in the previous year.

The number of deaths changed unevenly during the year. In the first months of the year, the declining number of deaths showed promising picture, since nearly 3.0 per cent less people deceased between January and April than in the corresponding months of the previous year. The 6.2 per cent, in some ways surprising, increase in May could be offset by the even greater decrease in June. In the first eight months of the year, the number of deaths still showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent and 1,752 persons compared to the same period of the previous year. However, in the remaining months of the year, the positive trend turned negative, and an excess mortality was recorded in each month between September and December; so, the considerable decline registered earlier became a slight one. As a result of all these, the decrease in the number of deaths was 0.5 per cent and 678 persons.

Figure 10

### Number of deaths by months



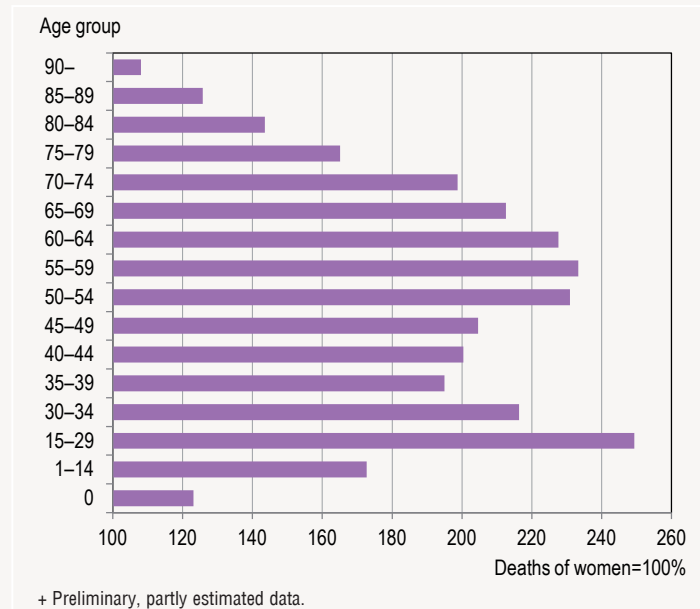
In 2014, the number of deaths per thousand inhabitants was 12.8, 13.2 in case of men and 12.4 in case of women. Crude death rate slightly increased (by 0.1 per mille point) year-on-year among men, while it decreased to the same extent among women. The change in the rate of deaths by age was different in case of the two genders.

Mortality decreased or remained stagnant in each age group of women, but, in numerous age groups of men, a smaller or larger increase occurred compared to the previous year. The nearly 20 per cent increase in the mortality of 1–14 year-old boys is striking, but it must be mentioned that, due to the low number of cases in this age group, only a small drop or rise in the number of deaths may considerably modify the annual level of mortality. In 2013, a significant, some 14 per cent decrease occurred just in this age group, so, the level two years ago was essentially restored. In any case, it is a warning sign that the mortality of boys and young men aged 15–34 years increased, although slightly. In contrast, an improvement can be observed among 45–54 year-old middle-aged men and in each age group of men over 75 years of age. The declining mortality of 45–54

year-old women and the considerable fall in the mortality in some age groups of women aged 70 years or older is also a positive phenomenon. On the whole, mortality indicators of men did not become more favourable, thus, compared to women of same age, the mortality surplus of men remained unchanged or even increased in some age groups. The difference is the most considerable in the ages between 15 and 74 years, when the mortality of men is nearly or more than twice as high as that of women in each age group.

Figure 11

### Death surplus of men by age groups, 2014+



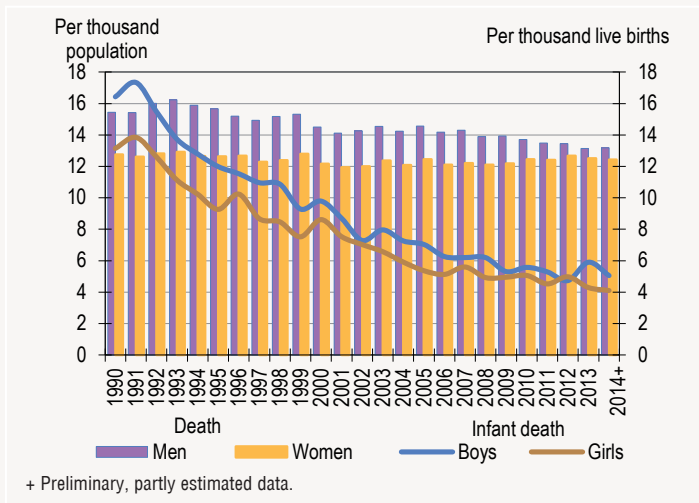
Infant mortality in itself does not represent a significant role in the total number of deaths, but it is yet an indicator of great importance. It is an important, internationally recognized indicator of the state of development of the health care system, the level of prenatal and neonatal care in a country.

As a result of the general improvement in infant deaths, infant mortality fell below 5 per mille in 2011 for the first time, and it remained below this level in 2012 as well. The improving trend stopped in 2013, and infant mortality rose again above 5 per mille. In 2014, as a result of another favourable turn, out of ten thousand newborns 46 (4.6 out of one thousand) died before one year of age, which was the lowest ever recorded rate in Hungary. The decrease could be observed among both genders; however, its extent was different. The significant, nearly 15 per cent decrease in the infant mortality of boys reduced infant death rate from 5.9 per mille to 5.1 per mille, but this was even so higher than the rate two years earlier (4.7 per mille) which was the lowest value measured so far. At the same time, among newborn girls, infant death rate dropped to the ever recorded lowest level, 4.1 per mille as a result of a smaller decrease. Due to the different extent of decrease, the gender gap in infant mortality diminished compared to the previous year.

The total number of deaths was 678 lower than in the previous year. Due to the different change of mortality by sex, the decrease affected entirely the mortality of women. The number of deceased women fell by 684, while that of deceased men increased minimally, by 6 persons compared to the previous year. In respect of the marital status of deceased people, the mortality of married and widowed men decreased, while that of single and divorced men increased to the same extent. Among women, the number of deaths decreased in each marital status except for the divorced one. As a result of the different life expectancy of men and women and the different marital status of the elderly, the majority of deceased men (52 per cent) lived in marriage before their death, while among deceased women the proportion of widows was determinant, more than 63 per cent.

**Death and infant death rates by sex**

Figure 12



**Internal migration**

The direction and extent of internal migration can considerably change the population number of a certain area determined by the number of births and deaths. In 2014, differently from the decreasing trend in the previous years, the number of permanent migrations increased to nearly 215 thousand thus approaching the level 5 years ago. In the number of temporary migrations, an increase of nearly 5 per cent was measured in 2014 compared to the previous year. By the registered 275 thousand changes in place of stay, the decreasing trend observed in 2013 turned.

There was no considerable year-on-year change in the mobility between settlement types. Net migration continued to be positive in case of Budapest amounting to nearly 5,400, which meant again a year-on-year increase. Other towns continued to be characterized by out-migration also in 2014; its extent increased further and an internal migration loss of 3,600 was observed in these settlements. The out-migration of the population decreased (by nearly 400 persons) in case of villages, which, even so, resulted in a negative balance of 1,800 persons. In case of temporary migrations of Budapest, the number of in-migrations was again higher than that of out-migrations, however, a considerable decrease could be observed in the positive net migration (4,650 persons) of the capital city. At the same time, in other towns, the trend having begun in 2013 continued, and out-migration decreased significantly, by some 80 per cent and in 2014, the number of temporary out-migrants was only 200 higher than that of in-migrants. In case of villages, there were more and more registrations of temporary place of residence in the last few years, as a result of which the balance of changes in place of stay became positive in 2012. This trend turned in 2013, and out-migration was dominant in 2014 as well when the migration loss of small settlements was nearly 4,500.

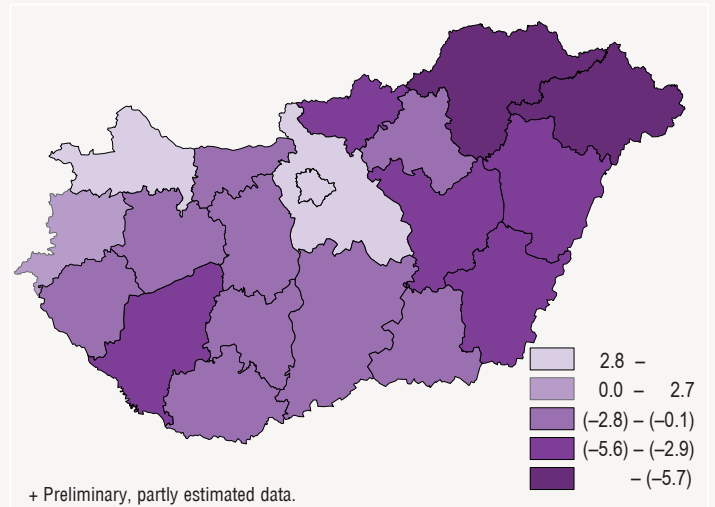
In regional comparison, net internal migration was positive in Central Hungary (16,650 persons) and Western Transdanubia (2,950 persons), while in the other regions, out-migration continued to be characteristic. While the migration surplus increased in Central Hungary compared to the previous year, it was around the level of the previous year in Western Transdanubia. Among counties, Győr-Moson-Sopron county continued to be the most attractive in 2014 as well. Among regions, the population retaining capacity of Northern Hungary and Northern Great Plain was the weakest, where the population decreased by 5,750 and 7,000 persons, respectively due to internal migration. Among counties, similarly to the previous years, out-migration continued to be the highest in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar and Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok counties in 2014 as well. In addition to Győr-Moson-Sopron and

<sup>2)</sup> Based on the results of the SEEMIG-project, at the beginning of 2013, in the order of magnitude, 350 thousand such Hungarian expatriates lived in the world, who left Hungary after 1989, and at least one year before the pilot survey. More information can be found on the website [www.seemig.eu](http://www.seemig.eu).

Pest counties, net internal migration was positive only in Vas county, i.e. in areas east of the Danube out-migration continued to be characteristic.

Figure 13

**Difference in internal migration per thousand persons, 2014<sup>+</sup>**



**International migration**

International migration has a determinant role in moderating the population decrease, and in some areas it modifies the changes resulting from natural decrease and internal migration and mitigates the losses, while in other areas it further strengthens them. This is the situation in Central and Southern Transdanubia as well as in Northern Hungary, where international migration enhances the natural decrease, while in Central Hungary, Northern and Southern Great Plain as well as in Western Transdanubia, it reduces the population decline. Its positive impact is the largest in Northern Great Plain where Hungarian citizens from across the border gladly settle. Within this, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county bordering Ukraine has an outstanding role. An opposite trend can be observed in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Baranya counties, where the losses from international migration are the largest.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, the number of foreigners residing in Hungary with valid permits was 139,700. At present, foreign citizens account for 1.4 per cent of the population of the country. The vast majority, 70 per cent of immigrants came from Europe, especially from the neighbouring countries such as Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia, as well as from Germany. Another 22 per cent came from Asia, while the proportion of those having arrived from Africa and America was 3–4 per cent. Among Asian countries, people from China and Vietnam favour Hungary. Among foreigners, there are more men than women on the whole. The age structure of immigrants is younger than that of Hungarians. The number of the 20–39 age group was the highest among both genders, their proportion was 45 per cent among foreigners living in Hungary. 45 per cent of foreigners live in Budapest, 35 per cent in towns other than the capital and 20 per cent in villages.

In recent years, the pace of emigration accelerated, but it is difficult to accurately measure this. Based on the data available from administrative registers, in 2014, 31,500 Hungarian citizens went abroad for at least one year, 46 per cent more than a year earlier. Mostly members of the younger age groups move abroad: 44 per cent of Hungarian migrants are under 30 years of age and 77 per cent of them have not yet reached the age of 40. These rates significantly differ from the age distribution of the resident population of the country. The majority of emigrants (54 per cent) are men and most of them (63 per cent) are single. The vast majority of Hungarian citizens emigrating from Hungary live in EU member states and, within them, mostly in Germany, the United Kingdom and Austria.<sup>2)</sup>

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

Telephone: (+36-1) 345-6789

[www.ksh.hu](http://www.ksh.hu)