RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS Nº 15

HUNGARIAN POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 2013

Researcher: Erzsébet Földházi
Contact: foldhazi@demografia.hu

New population projections were released for Hungary by HDRI in 2013. Using the final results of the 2011 census and vital statistics the projections are based on the population in 2012. The projection technique is the cohort-component method, which calculates the population size by age and sex for every successive year.

Three scenarios are calculated based on assumptions about future demographic changes. The medium variant shows the most likely scenario while the low and high variants indicate the lower and upper limits considered still possible at the time the projections were made. The initial data and the long-term assumptions for the calculations are in Table 1.

Table 1. Base year population data (2012) and the long-term assumptions for population projections

Indices	2012	2060 Low	2060 Medium	2060 High
		assumptions for the calculations		
Total fertility rate	1.34	1.45	1.60	1.75
Life expectancy at birth, men	71.5	76.8	80.1	83.3
Life expectancy at birth, women	78.4	83.8	86.1	88.3
Net migration	16044	0	10000	15000

Since 1981 the population of Hungary has been decreasing and according to all three scenarios this tendency will continue over the coming decades. The magnitude of population loss varies between 1.3 million for the high variant and almost 3 million for the low one over the projection period (Figure 1). In order to realize population growth total fertility rate should be much higher than the assumption according to the high variant. However this is unlikely considering the rapidly declining fertility of recent decades.

As a result of low fertility and higher life expectancy, the structure of the population will also continue to change: the ratio of the young (ages 0-19) and middle-aged people (ages 20-64) will decrease while the proportion of the elderly (ages 65 and older) will continue to rise (Figure 2). Changes in the age structure will be similar for all three variants throughout the projection period.

Figure 1. Size of the population in Hungary according to the medium, low and high variants of population projections, 1990–2060
Source: HDRI. Author's calculation

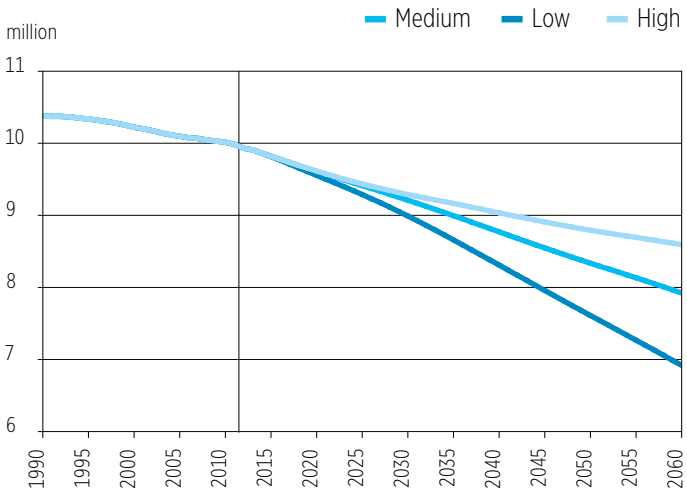

Figure 2. Change of age structure in Hungary according to the medium variant of population projection, 1990-2060
Source: HDRI. Author's calculation