

# POPULATION

*Now the first and principal instrument of the politician is the number of the people; he should therefore know how many, and what they naturally ought to be.*

Aristotle  
(ancient Greek philosopher, 384-322 BC)

The governing of a state is impossible without a profound and comprehensive understanding of the population and its specific sub-groups.

The main source of data on the number and characteristics of the population is a population census.

The history of regular general censuses of the population starts from the United States census of 1790 and population censuses conducted concurrently in England, Scotland, France, Denmark and Norway in 1801. However, for a long time censuses were conducted without being tied to a specific date and included merely 2 to 4 questions. And only by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century a basic scientific understanding of general population censuses was formed.

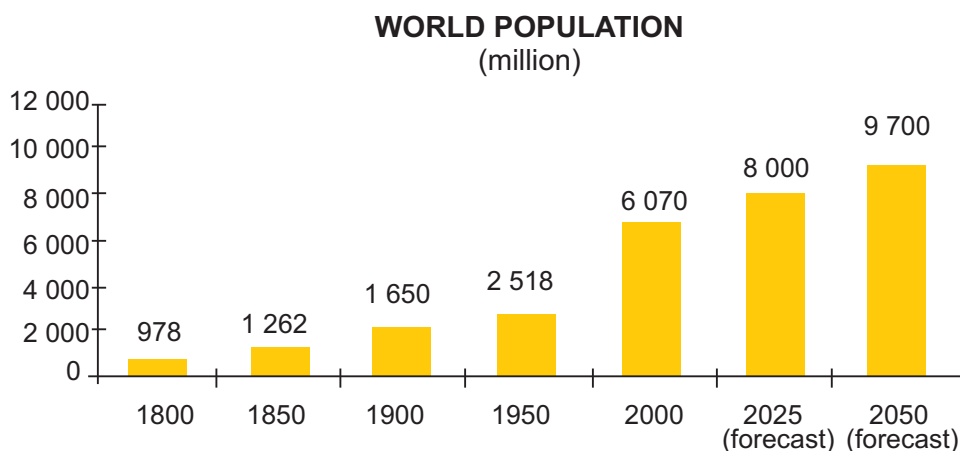
At present, censuses are carried out in all countries across the globe as part of the World Population and Housing Census Programme adopted by the resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The most large-scale census was conducted in July 1982 in China the population of which makes up about one-fourth of the world population.

From 2005 to 2014, the 2010 round of population and housing censuses was carried out across the globe. By July 2013 about 90% of the world population was enumerated. In Belarus the census was conducted in 2009.

**A population census** is a periodic collection of information on the number and composition of the population, obtaining demographic, economic and social data on the inhabitants of countries and territories. The census is usually conducted at least once every 10 years.

More than 7 billion people live on our planet.



The website of the U.S. Census Bureau ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)) has an interactive tool called “*Population Clock*” – a meter that helps to watch the world population changes over time. According to the forecasts, the population number will reach 8 billion by 2025.

*The population of Belarus makes up 0.13% of the world population, the same as the populations of Sweden, Benin and Azerbaijan.*

As of 1 January 2014 the population of Belarus was 9 million 468 thousand people.

***In terms of the population Belarus is ranked 92<sup>nd</sup> in the world.***

***The most populous countries are:***

*China – 1 357 million;*

*India – 1 252 million;*

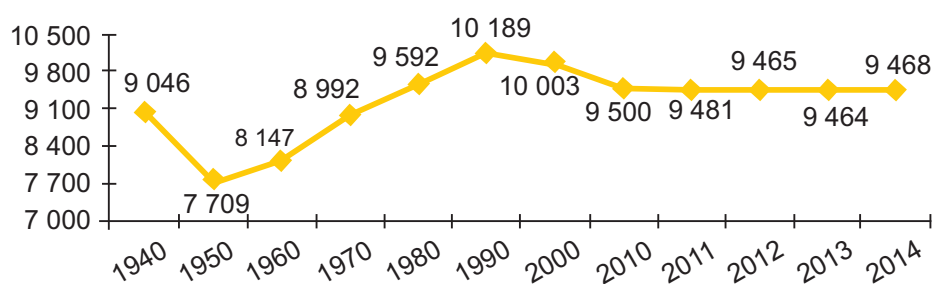
*United States – 361 million;*

*Indonesia – 250 million.*

***The least populous state is the Vatican with about one thousand people.***

## POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

(at 1 January; thousand)



As of the beginning of 2014, 77% of the population of Belarus resided in urban areas.

## URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION

(at 1 January; thousand)

Year	Total population, '000	Of which		Percentage of total population	
		urban	rural	urban	rural
2001	9 956.7	6 979.6	2 977.1	70.1	29.9
2006	9 630.4	6 956.7	2 673.7	72.2	27.8
2012	9 465.2	7 175.0	2 290.2	75.8	24.2
2013	9 463.8	7 220.9	2 242.9	76.3	23.7
2014	9 468.2	7 274.8	2 193.4	76.8	23.2

As of the beginning of 2014, about 60% of the country's population were of working age.

The working age is defined in Belarus as 16 to 59 years for men and 16 to 54 years for women.

## POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

(at 1 January; thousand)

Age	2001	2006	2012	2013	2014
Population:					
under working age	1 989.1	1 615.9	1 522.3	1 548.5	1 580.0
of working age	5 842.5	5 943.8	5 749.0	5 687.1	5 623.1
over working age	2 125.1	2 070.7	2 193.9	2 228.2	2 265.1

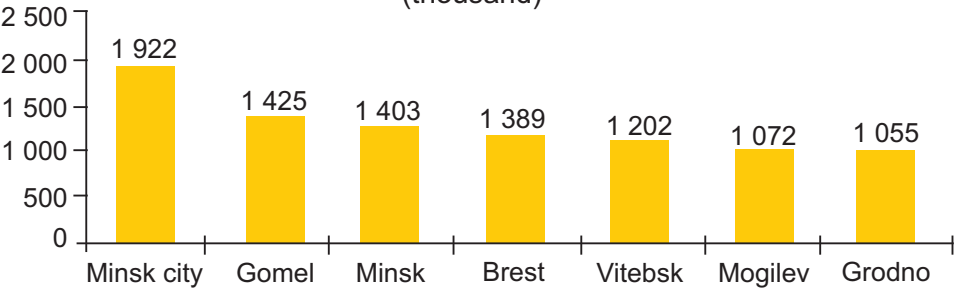
# POPULATION BY REGION

(at 1 January; thousand)

	2001	2006	2011	2012	2013	2014
Belarus	9 957	9 630	9 481	9 465	9 464	9 468
Region:						
Brest	1 477	1 427	1 394	1 391	1 390	1 389
Vitebsk	1 355	1 274	1 222	1 214	1 208	1 202
Gomel	1 532	1 471	1 435	1 430	1 428	1 425
Grodno	1 170	1 108	1 066	1 061	1 058	1 055
Minsk city	1 690	1 759	1 864	1 885	1 901	1 922
Minsk	1 535	1 458	1 412	1 404	1 402	1 403
Mogilev	1 197	1 134	1 088	1 080	1 077	1 072

## POPULATION at 1 January 2014

(thousand)

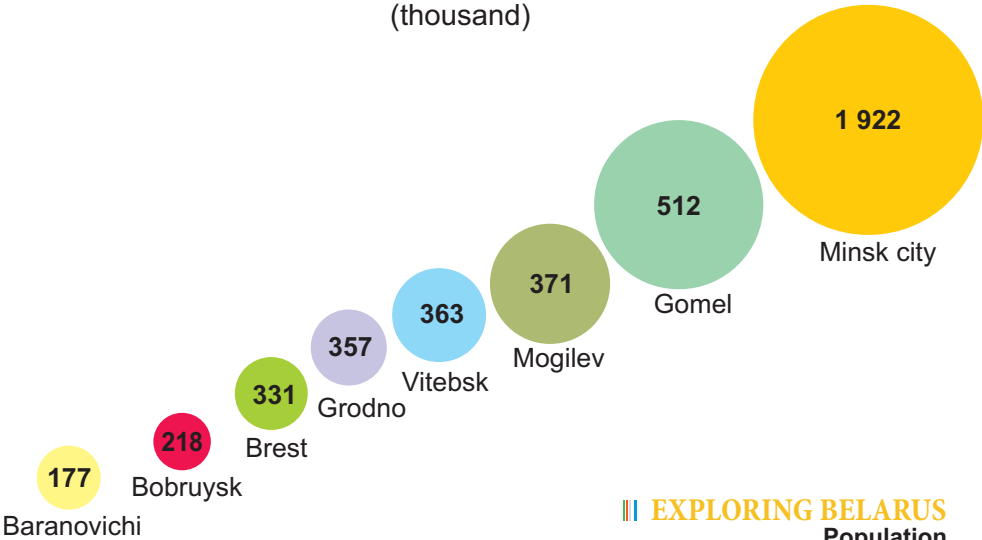


At the beginning of 2014 there were 8 cities in Belarus with the population over 150 thousand.

## CITIES WITH POPULATION 150 THOUSAND AND OVER

at 1 January 2014

(thousand)



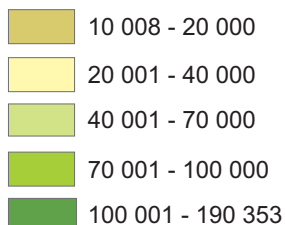


## POPULATION at 1 January 2014 (thousand)



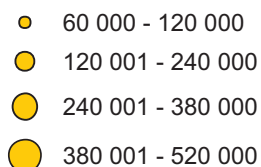
### Number of people:

#### Districts



1 921 807 - Minsk city

#### Cities of regional subordination



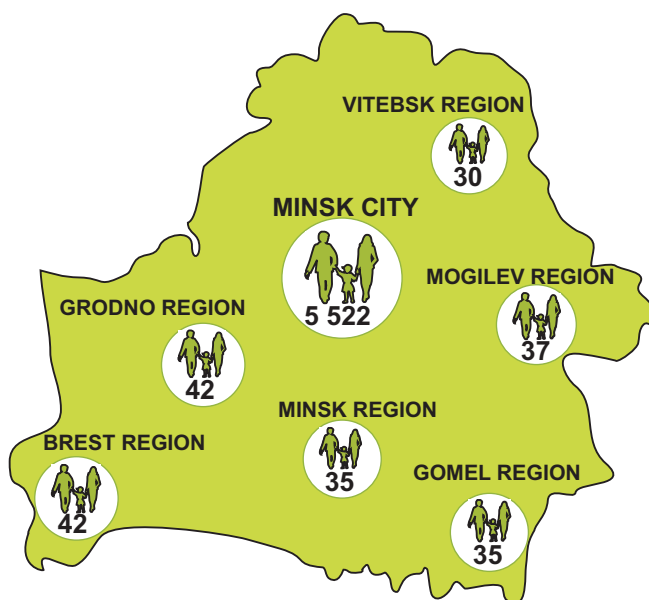
The key measure of population distribution is the **population density**.

The density is calculated by dividing the total number of the population by the land area in square kilometres.

The indicator shows how many people live on an area of one square kilometre.

As of 1 January 2014, there were on average 46 inhabitants per square kilometer in Belarus.

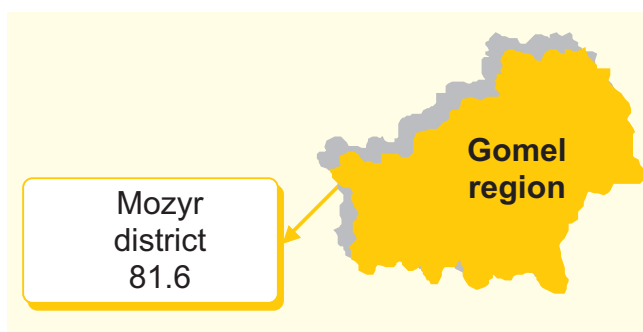
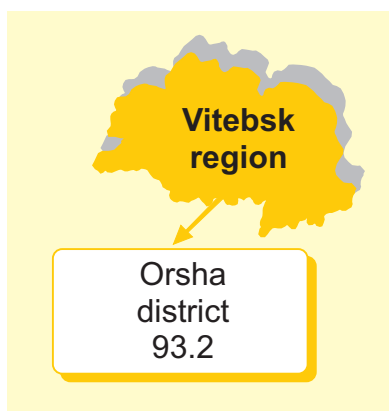
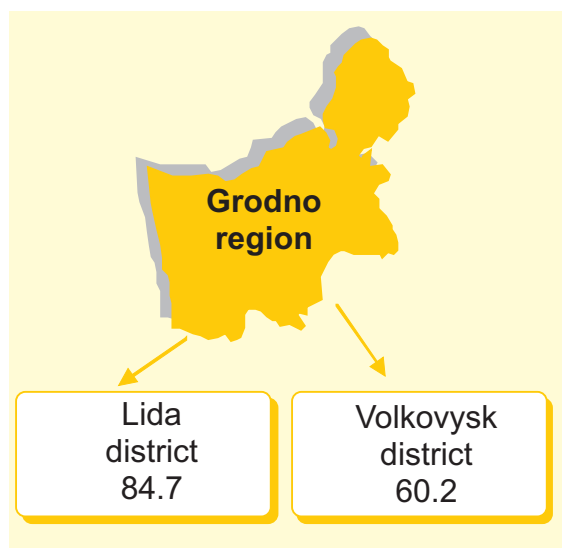
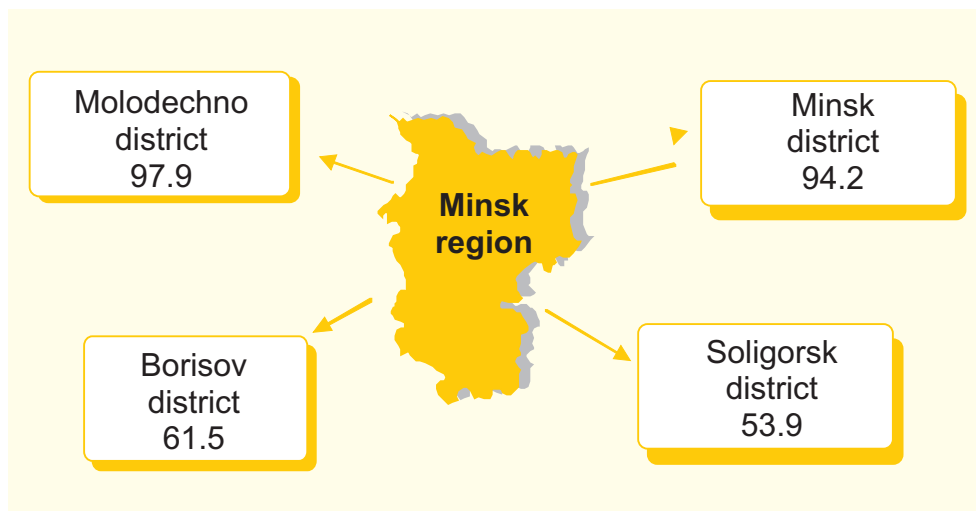
**POPULATION DENSITY IN BELARUS at 1 January 2014**  
(inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>; by region)



The most densely populated countries and territories in the world are:

- Monaco – 17 815 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>;
- Singapore – 7 437 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>;
- Hong Kong – 6 787 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>;
- Malta – 1 432 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>;
- Maldives – 1 328 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>;
- Bermudas – 1 207 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>;
- Bahrein – 1 110 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>;
- Bangladesh – 1 084 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>;

**MOST DENSELY POPULATED DISTRICTS OF BELARUS**  
**at 1 January 2014**  
(inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>)

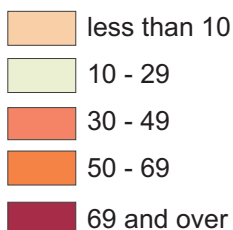


## POPULATION DENSITY at 1 January 2014 (inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>)



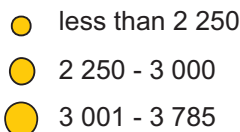
Population density, inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>:

### Districts



5 522 - Minsk city

### Cities of regional subordination



*Among the districts of Belarus, the biggest number of people live in Borisov district of Minsk region (183.8 thousand), while the smallest number of people live in Rossony district of Vitebsk region (10 thousand).*

*The smallest in terms of the population locality is the town of Disna in Vitebsk region (1 633 people).*

The qualitative characteristics of a population are depicted by the data on its distribution by gender, age and ethnicity.

According to the 2009 population census, Belarusians made up 83.7% in the total population of Belarus, Russians 8.3%, Poles 3.1%, and Ukrainians 1.7%.

### ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF POPULATION

(2009 population census data; people)

Ethnicity	Total	Of which		Urban	Rural
		men	women		
Total population	9 503 807	4 420 039	5 083 768	7 064 529	2 439 278
of which:					
Belarusian	7 957 252	3 716 458	4 240 794	5 812 984	2 144 268
Russian	785 084	346 450	438 634	666 437	118 647
Polish	294 549	130 615	163 934	180 905	113 644
Ukrainian	158 723	71 615	87 108	122 550	36 173
Jewish	12 926	6 692	6 234	12 611	315
Armenian	8 512	5 013	3 499	6 165	2 347
Tatar	7 316	3 399	3 917	6 061	1 255
Roma	7 079	3 409	3 670	4 800	2 279
Azerbaijani	5 567	3 807	1 760	4 426	1 141
Lithuanian	5 087	2 711	2 376	3 291	1 796
Moldovan	3 465	1 812	1 653	2 100	1 365

*According to the 2009 census, 4.7% of the population of Belarus are fluent in English, 1.5% in German, 1.2% in Polish, and 0.7% in Ukrainian.*

### POPULATION BY AGE

(at 1 January; thousand)

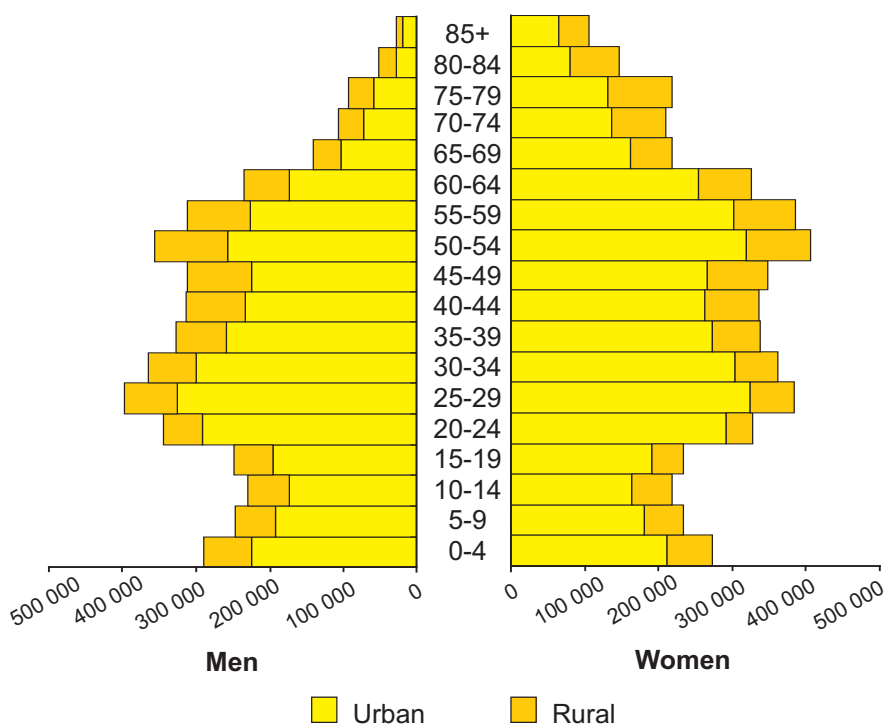
Age group	2001	2006	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total population	9 957	9 630	9 481	9 465	9 464	9 468
of which by age:						
0-10	1 175	997	1 050	1 068	1 097	1 129
11-19	1 456	1 249	950	908	870	843
20-29	1 416	1 476	1 523	1 513	1 496	1 453
30-39	1 468	1 345	1 352	1 359	1 368	1 394
40-49	1 548	1 572	1 390	1 357	1 331	1 309
50-59	982	1 226	1 402	1 425	1 443	1 460
60-69	1 021	836	812	832	871	921
70-74	439	369	407	392	361	317
75-79	260	323	279	289	295	310
80-84	103	164	210	207	209	198
85 and over	89	73	106	115	123	134

## NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN IN BELARUS (at 1 January; thousand)

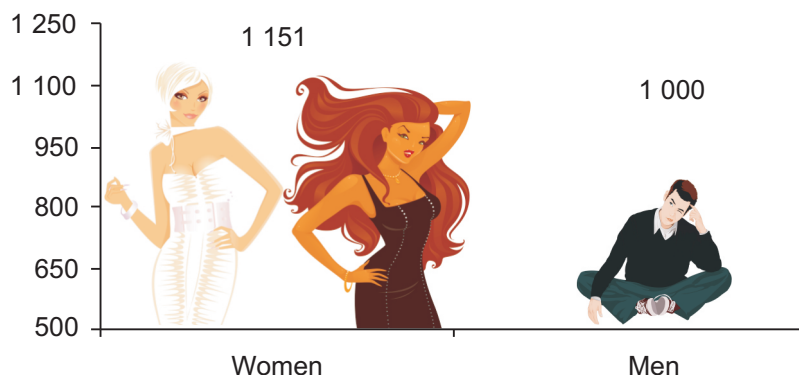
Year	Men	Women
2001	4 668.2	5 288.5
2006	4 489.2	5 141.2
2011	4 408.2	5 073.0
2012	4 398.3	5 066.9
2013	4 397.5	5 066.3
2014	4 401.3	5 066.9

A **population pyramid** is a graphical illustration which shows the age and sex distribution of a population. It typically consists of two back-to-back bar graphs, with the population plotted on the X-axis and age groups on the Y-axis (in bottom-up order), one showing the number of males and one showing females in a particular population in five-year age groups. Males are conventionally shown on the left and females on the right.

### POPULATION PYRAMID at 1 January 2014 (people)

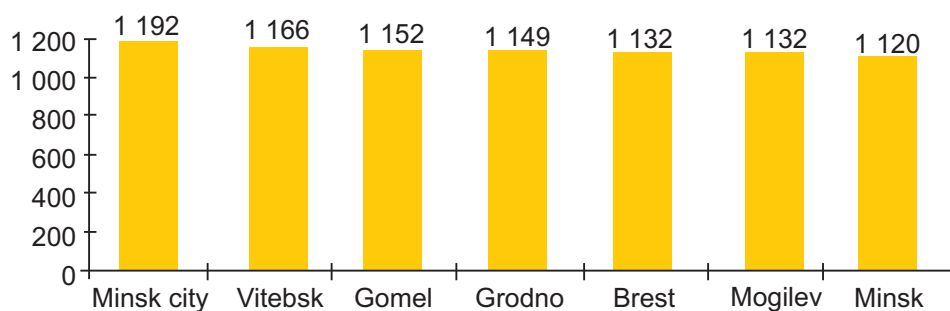


# **NUMBER OF WOMEN PER 1 000 MEN IN BELARUS** **at 1 January 2014** (people)



*Men are generally a little more numerous in the world than women. Among the countries where the male population prevails are China, India and Turkey.*

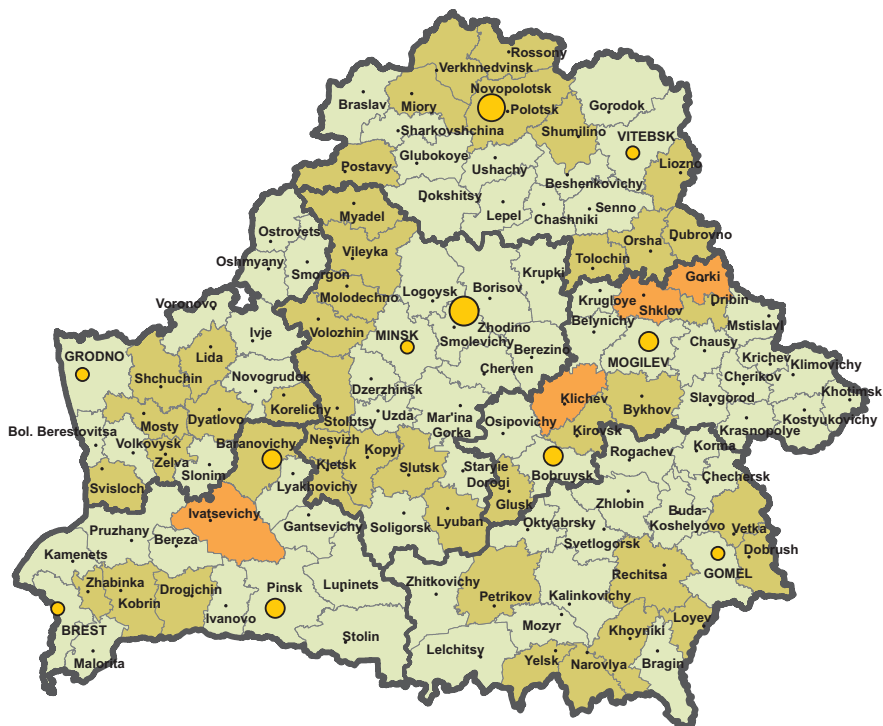
## **NUMBER OF WOMEN PER 1 000 MEN** **at 1 January 2014** (people)



There are some cities in Belarus where men are more numerous than women. These cities are Shklov, Klichev, Gorki and Ivatsevichi.

The most 'female' cities are Vitebsk, Nesvizh and Bykhov.

**PERCENTAGE OF MEN IN TOTAL POPULATION**  
**at 1 January 2014**  
(percent)

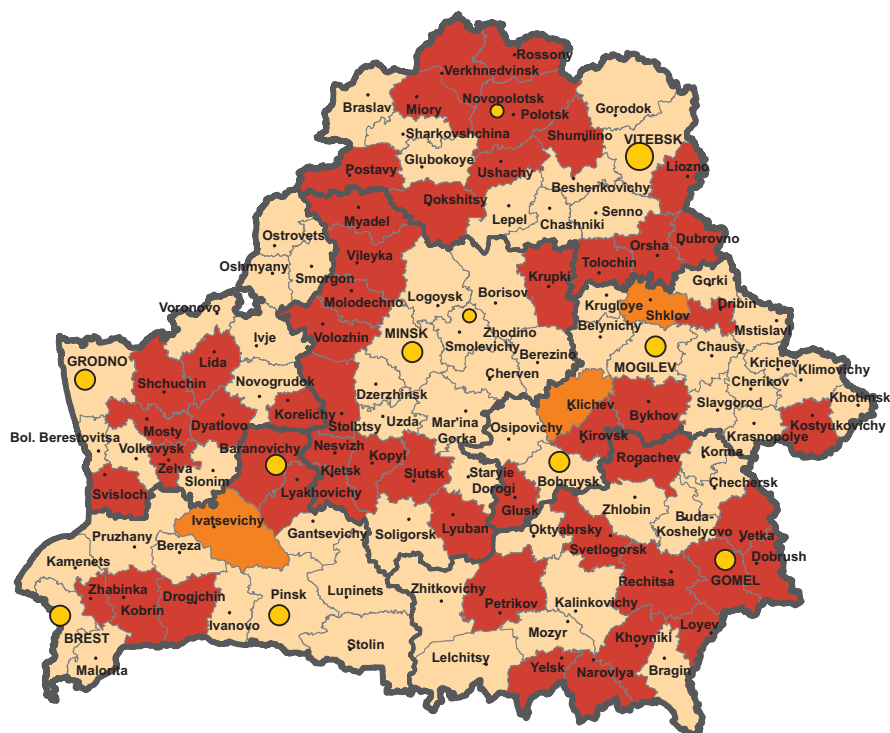


**Percentage of men in the total population:**

Districts	Minsk city, cities of regional subordination
44.9 - 46.9	44.3 - 45.9
47.0 - 48.9	46.0 - 46.9
49.0 - 50.4	47.0 - 48.4



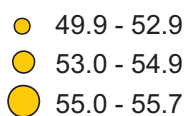
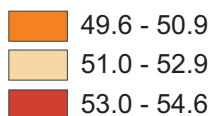
# PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN TOTAL POPULATION at 1 January 2014 (percent)



Percentage of women in the total population:

Districts

Minsk city, cities of regional  
subordination



The mean age of the population in Belarus is 39.9 years. The mean age of women is 42.3 years, of men 37.1 years.

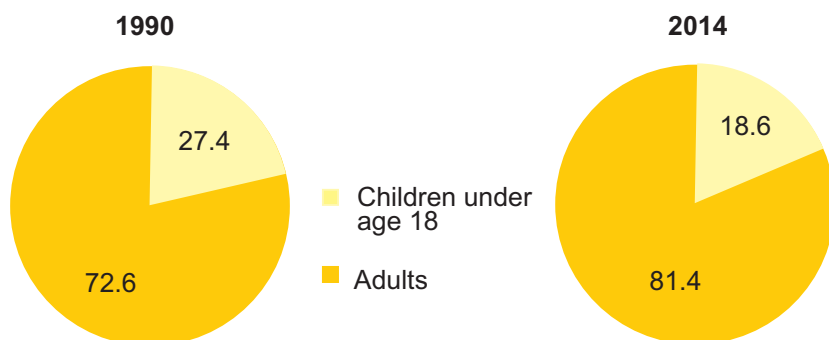
*The mean age of the population in the world is 29 years, in Europe 39.9 years.*

In 2013, 87 thousand marriages were registered in Belarus. This is 10.9 thousand marriages more than in the leap year 2012.

### AVERAGE AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE (years)

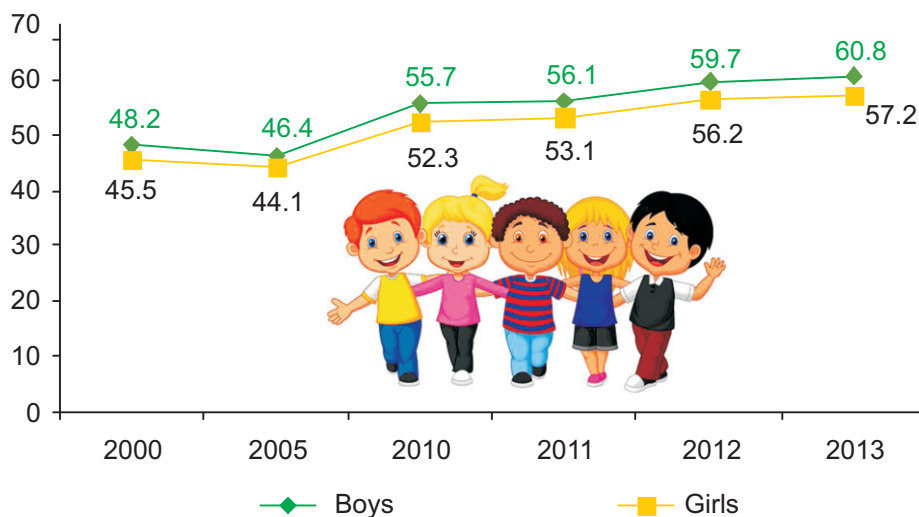


### PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 (at 1 January; percent of total population)



Nearly 118 thousand children – 60.8 thousand boys and 57.2 thousand girls – were born in Belarus in 2013. A half of the babies were first-borns.

## NUMBER OF BOYS AND GIRLS BORN (thousand)



As a matter of fact, more boys than girls are born annually. However, by the age of 30 their number becomes relatively equal.

*In 2013 twins were born to 1 220 mothers, and triplets to 26 mothers.*

### **Let's count.**

*If we divide the number of babies born (117 997) by the number of days in a year and the number of hours in a day, we shall get a figure that shows how many babies were born every hour.*

*There were 365 days in 2013; one day has 24 hours.*

*If we divide 117 997 by 365 and then by 24, we shall get 13. So, 13 children were born every hour in Belarus in 2013.*

*And for example in China more than 1.5 thousand babies are born hourly.*

## MOST POPULAR BABY BOY AND GIRL NAMES in 2013

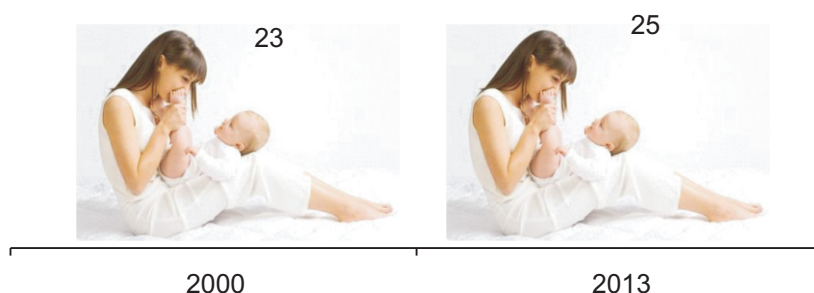


Rare male names: Robert, Darij, Ales', Dorotheus, Algerd, Abraham, Teimur, Tigran.

Rare female names: Armina, Vesta, Laura, Lolita, Yaroslava, Seraphima, Iolanta, Esther.

## AVERAGE AGE OF MOTHERS AT FIRST BIRTH

(years)



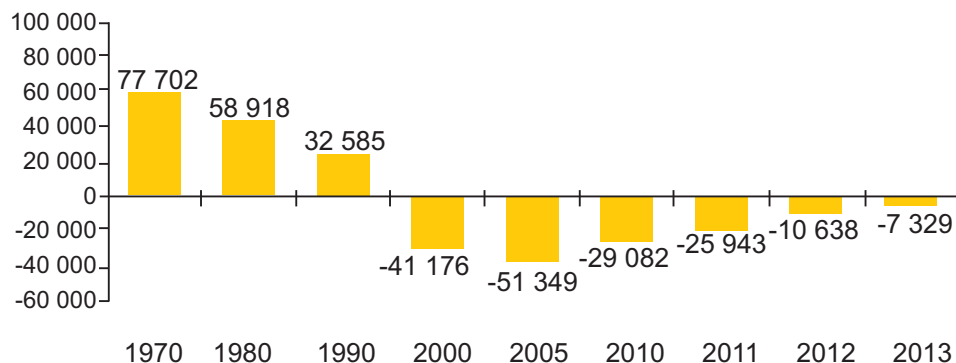
According to the annual international *Save the Children* ranking, Belarus is rated 26<sup>th</sup> in the world for the most beneficial conditions of motherhood and childbirth among 178 countries.

*Since 1995, 7 thousand and 443 women were awarded Mother's Medals, of them 310 received the award in 2013. In total, 247 social babysitters provided assistance to 350 families with children in Belarus in 2013. The number of babysitters grew 2.5 times over the past year.*

Natural changes in the population over a specific time period are measured using the indicator of **natural increase/decrease of the population**.

To calculate the **natural population increase/ decrease (natural population change)**, we have to subtract the total number of deaths from the total number of live births.

### NATURAL POPULATION CHANGE IN BELARUS (people)



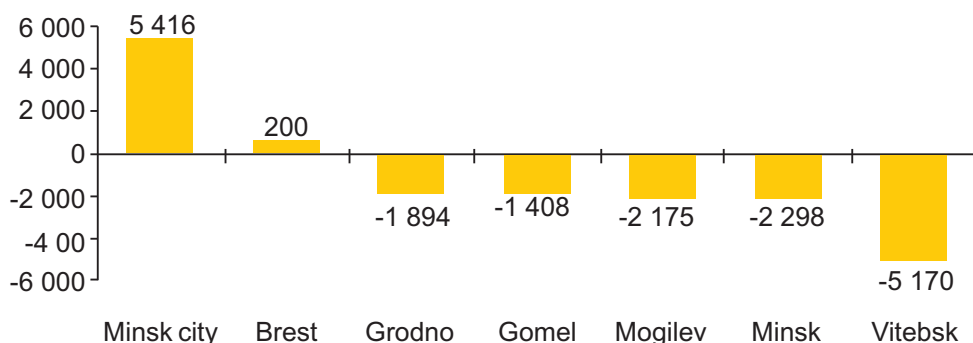
### NATURAL POPULATION CHANGE IN BELARUS in 2013 (people)

Year	Births	Deaths	Natural increase (+), decrease (-)
1970	146 676	68 974	77 702
1980	154 432	95 514	58 918
1990	142 167	109 582	32 585
2000	93 691	134 867	-41 176
2005	90 508	141 857	-51 349
2010	108 050	137 132	-29 082
2011	109 147	135 090	-25 943
2012	115 893	126 531	-10 638
2013	117 997	125 326	-7 329

In most countries of the world a positive natural population change is observed, for example in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Mexico, and India.

The phenomenon of depopulation, that is prevailing of mortality over natality, is characteristic of many European countries – Bulgaria, Latvia, Ukraine, Romania, Germany.

## NATURAL POPULATION CHANGE BY REGIONS OF BELARUS in 2013 (people)



The levels of natality and mortality of the population over a specific time period are estimated using the crude **birth rate** and crude **death rate**.

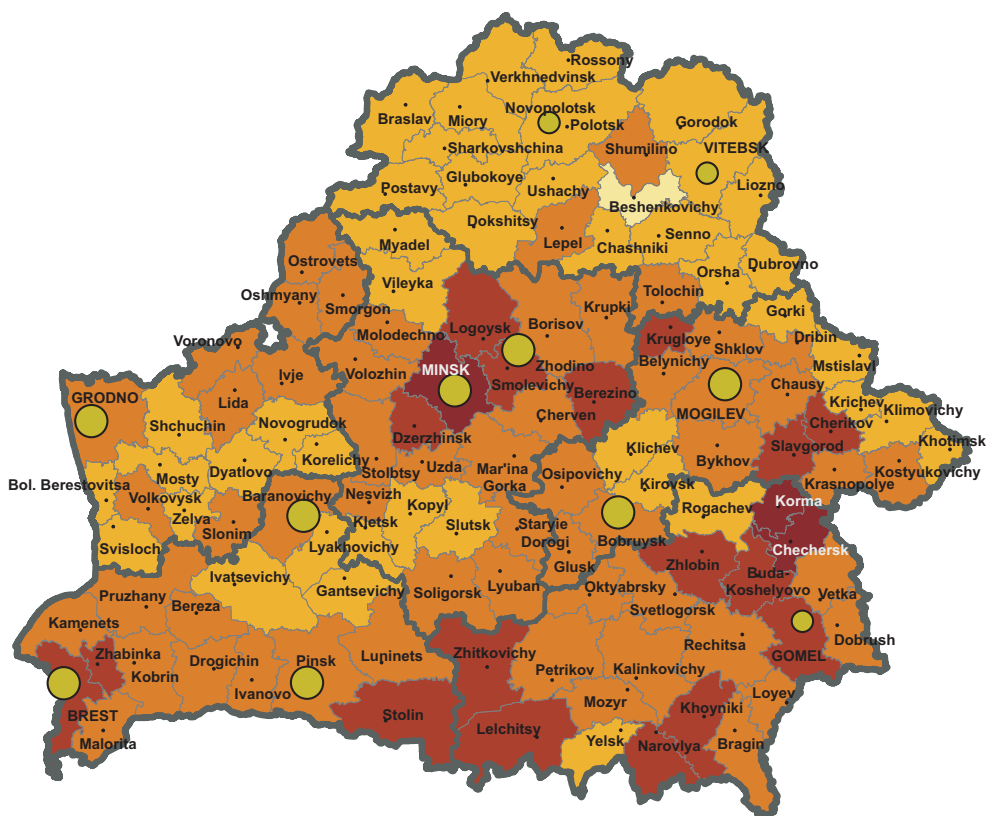
**Crude birth rate** is calculated as a ratio of the number of live births over a calendar year to the average annual population. It shows the number of births per 1 000 population.

**Crude death rate** is calculated as a ratio of the number of deaths over a calendar year to the average annual population. It shows the number of deaths per 1 000 population.

The most important indicator of the population health status and a complex measure of the level of mortality is **life expectancy**.

**Life expectancy** at a certain age is the average number of years that a person of that age is expected to live, if subjected throughout the rest of his or her life to the current mortality levels.

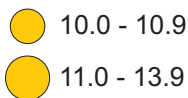
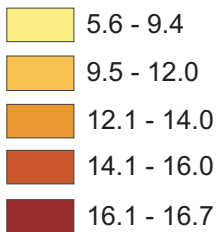
**CRUDE BIRTH RATES in 2013**  
(live births per 1 000 population)



**Number of live births per 1 000 population:**

## Districts

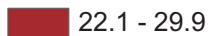
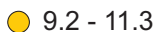
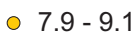
### Minsk city, cities of regional subordination



(deaths per 1 000 population)



### Minsk city, cities of regional subordination





In 2013 life expectancy at birth in Belarus was 73 years – 67 years for men and 78 years for women.

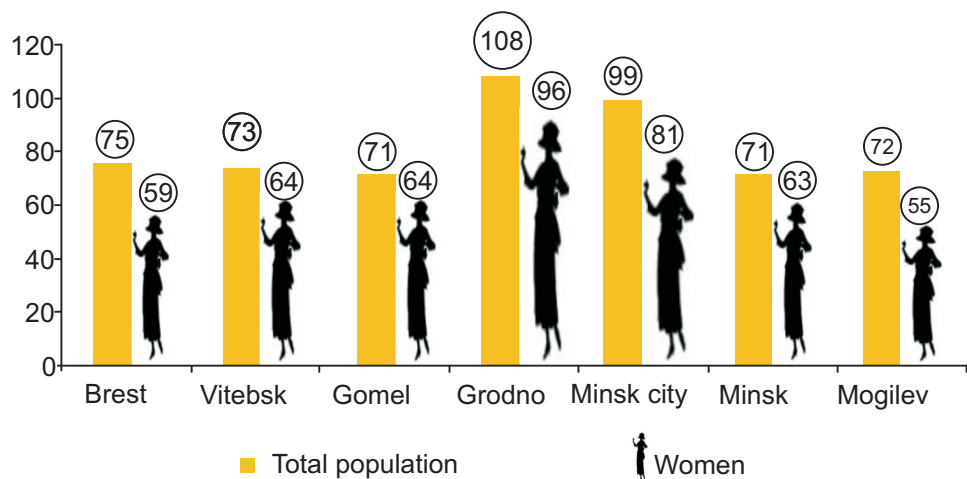
**LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH**  
(number of years)

Year	Total population	Men	Women
less than 1917	38	37	38
1988	72	67	76
2000	69	63	75
2005	69	63	75
2010	70	65	77
2011	71	65	77
2012	72	67	78
2013	73	67	78








In 2013 the highest life expectancy among the regions of the country was in the inhabitants of the city of Minsk – 75 years, with 70 years for men and 80 years for women.

*As of 1st January 2014, there were 569 centenarians in Belarus. The representatives of the fair sex outnumber males 5.5 times – the 100-year milestone was passed by 482 women. The biggest number of long-livers is in Grodno region (108 people who have already celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday).*

**POPULATION OVER AGE 100 at 1 January 2014**  
(people)



**LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH  
IN SELECTED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD**  
(number of years)

Country	Total	Men	Women
 Switzerland	82.7	81.0	85.0
 Japan	83.1	79.9	86.4
 Australia	82.1	79.9	84.4
 Israel	81.7	79.9	83.6
 France	82.6	79.2	86.1
 Germany	80.9	78.6	83.3
 United States	78.7	76.4	81.2
 Poland	76.8	72.7	81.1
 China	75.2	73.9	76.5
 Lithuania	73.9	68.4	79.6
 Latvia	73.8	68.9	78.9
 <b>Belarus</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>77.9</b>
 Ukraine	70.9	66.1	76.0
 Russia	70.5	64.9	76.3
 Ethiopia	63.0	61.4	64.6
 Afghanistan	60.5	54.1	57.9
 Zimbabwe	58.0	57.3	58.8
 South Africa	56.2	48.9	50.8
 Mozambique	49.8	59.3	61.8