

HEALTH, MORBIDITY, and MORTALITY working group meeting
European Association of Population Studies
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FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: INSIGHT INTO EMIGRATION AND MORTALITY OF PARENTS

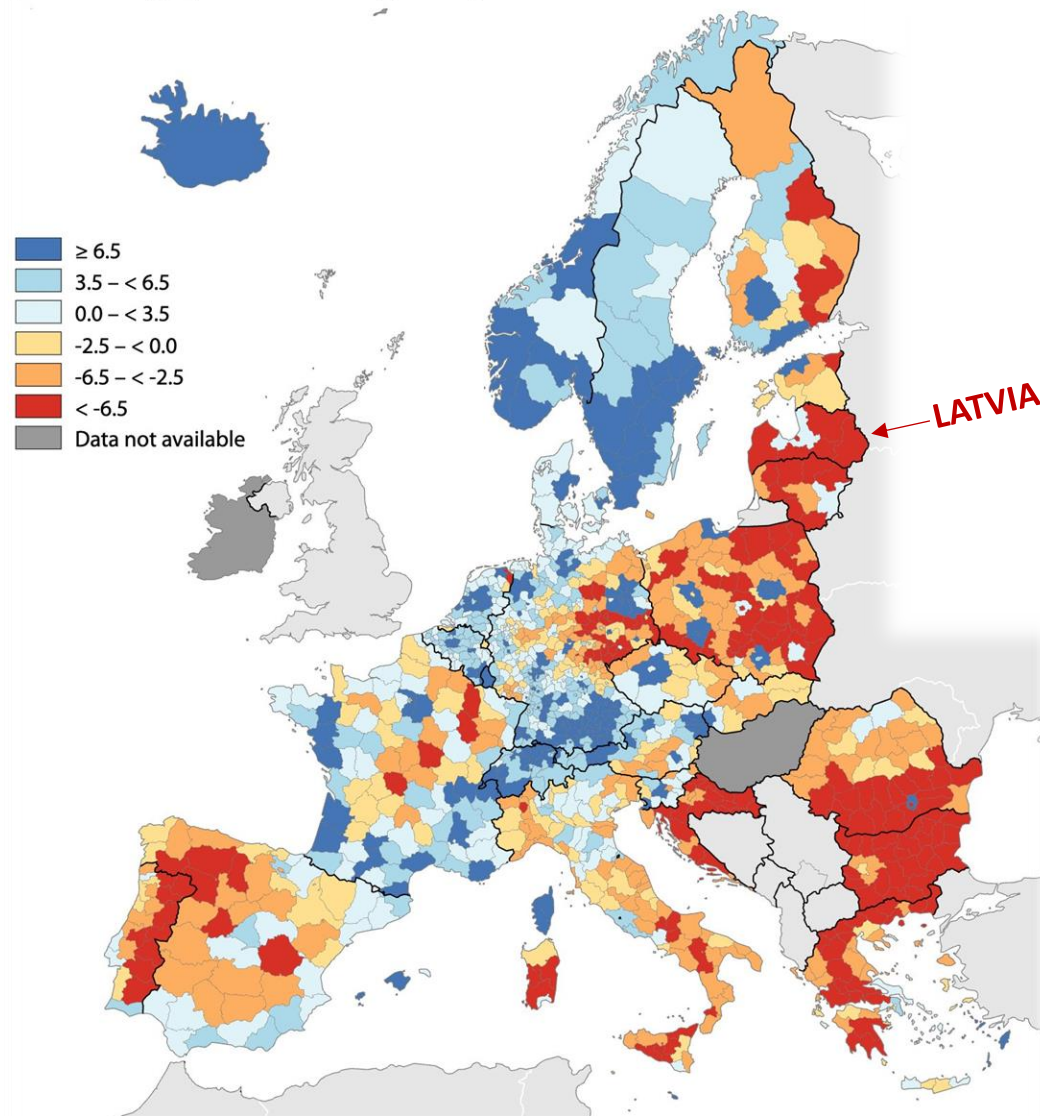
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**“New solutions in the study of demographic and migration processes
for the development of the Latvian and European knowledge society”**
(DemoMigPro)

Population in 2021 compared with 2011 (% change, NUTS 3 regions)



Hungary and Ireland: data not available.
Census 2011 results have been converted to the NUTS 2021 with the help of the NUTS converter provided by the Commission's Joint Research Centre.

Administrative boundaries: ©
Cartography: Eurostat – IMAG

Introduction

Depopulation in Latvia from 2011 to 2021:

- 4.7% decrease - refer to negative net migration,
- 4.0% decrease - refer to negative natural increase.

Emigration exceeded immigration in all age groups, but in the age group 20-39 years it was largest. At this age, people start families and have children. If one of the parents emigrates, there is a possibility that the children also leave with them.

Usually, in families with children, parents are economically active and of reproductive age. If one of the parents emigrates or dies, it also affects the country's development potential.

Aim of study - to identify and analyze types of families with children, that are affected by parental emigration and mortality.

Data and methods

1. Long-term follow-up of families with at least one child aged 0 - 12 from the 2011 Population census cohort. If families have two and more children under 12 years of age and older, then all such families were included in the cohort. Individual data linkages.
2. Life course of all family members included in the study is tracked from March 1, 2011, to January 1, 2021.
3. In this context, parental emigration and mortality have been analyzed during a period from March 1, 2011, to January 1, 2021.
4. A place of residence of the families are recorded according to what the families indicated in the 2011 Population census.

Limitations of the Study

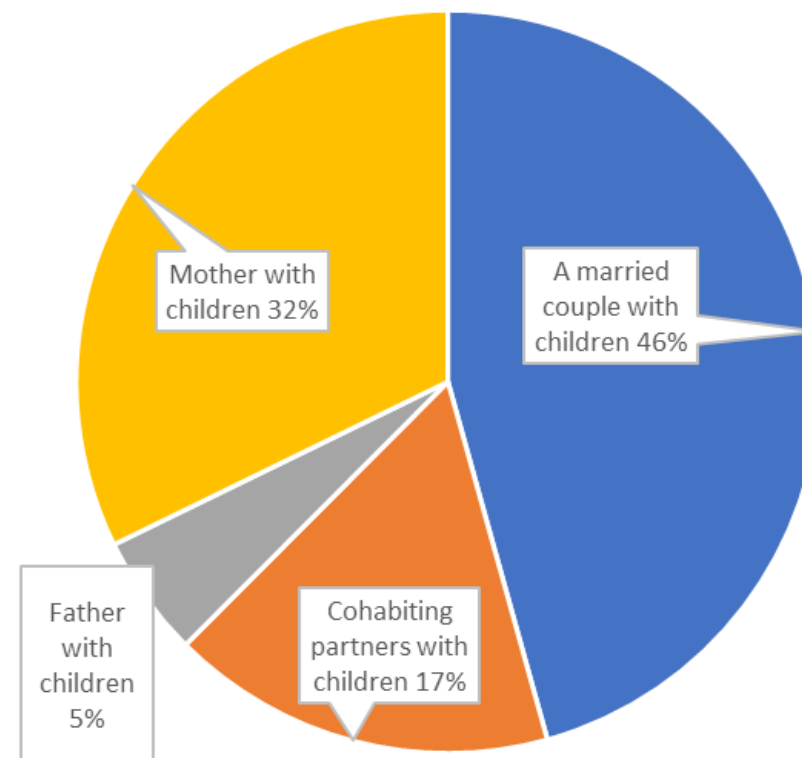
1. Study does not include families in which all children are older than 12 years, because on January 1, 2021, they had already reached age 21 year, when young people mostly start a life separately from their parents.
2. The 2021 Population census information was used only to find out whether a family member is a resident of Latvia, regardless of whether this person lives in the same family and place of residence as at a time of the 2011 Population census, or in a different one.
3. Study does not examine internal migration, changes in family composition because of divorce or separation of partners, as well as children born in families between 2011 and 2020.
4. Initial cohort does not include an individuals who did not live in families at the time of the 2011 Population census, for example – an individuals living in institutional households, a father's partner in the family type "father with one or more children" if a partner lived somewhere else, as well as children who have emigrated without their parents — alone or together with another relative or adoptive parent.

Share of four types of families with children

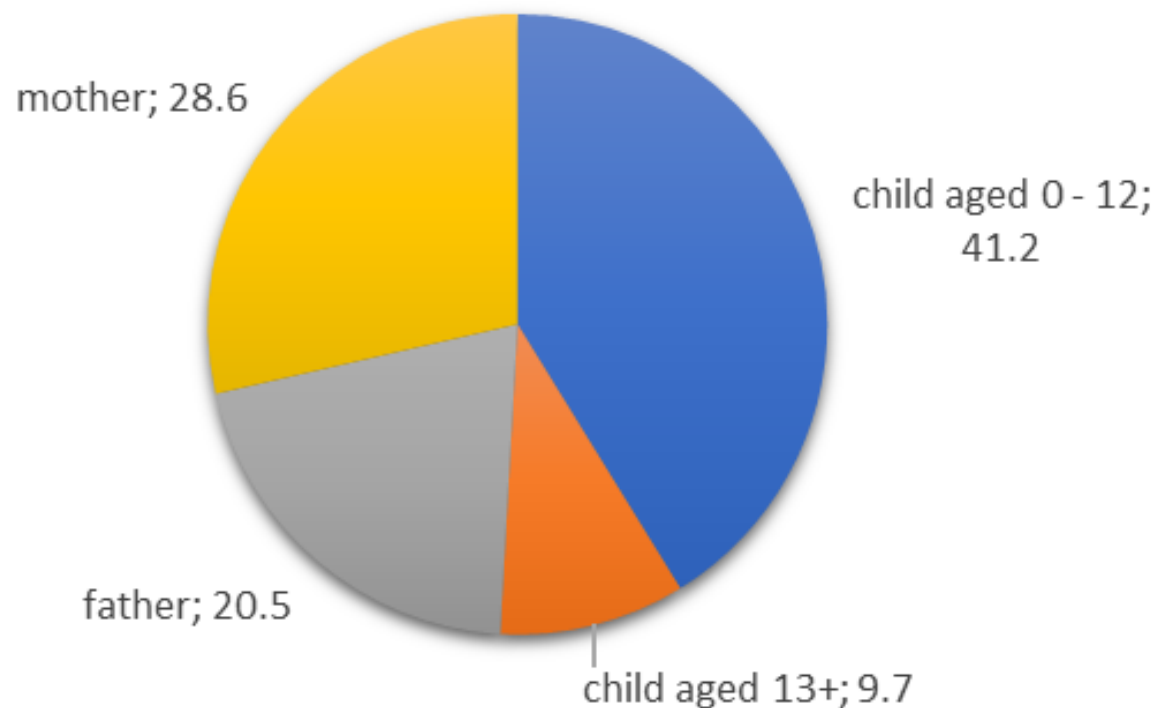
The implementation a regulation 2017/543 of the European Commission (March 22, 2017) states that the core of nuclear family includes no more than two generations of persons and each family belongs to one of the six types.

Among them, in the study are included four types of families with children:

- married couple with one or more children,
- cohabitation partners with children,
- single father with one or more children,
- single mother with one or more children.



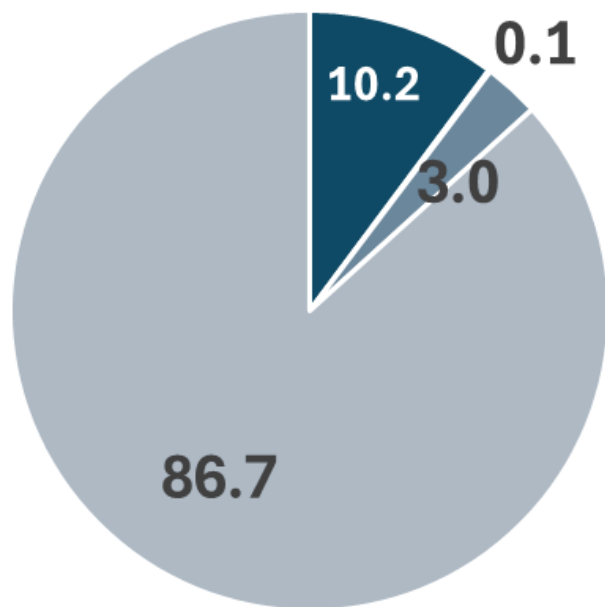
Family members by their status in the initial cohort of families (%)



- 181 904 families,
- 601 989 families' members.

- 70% of families have one child aged 0 – 12 years,
- 30% of families have two or more children aged 0 - 12.

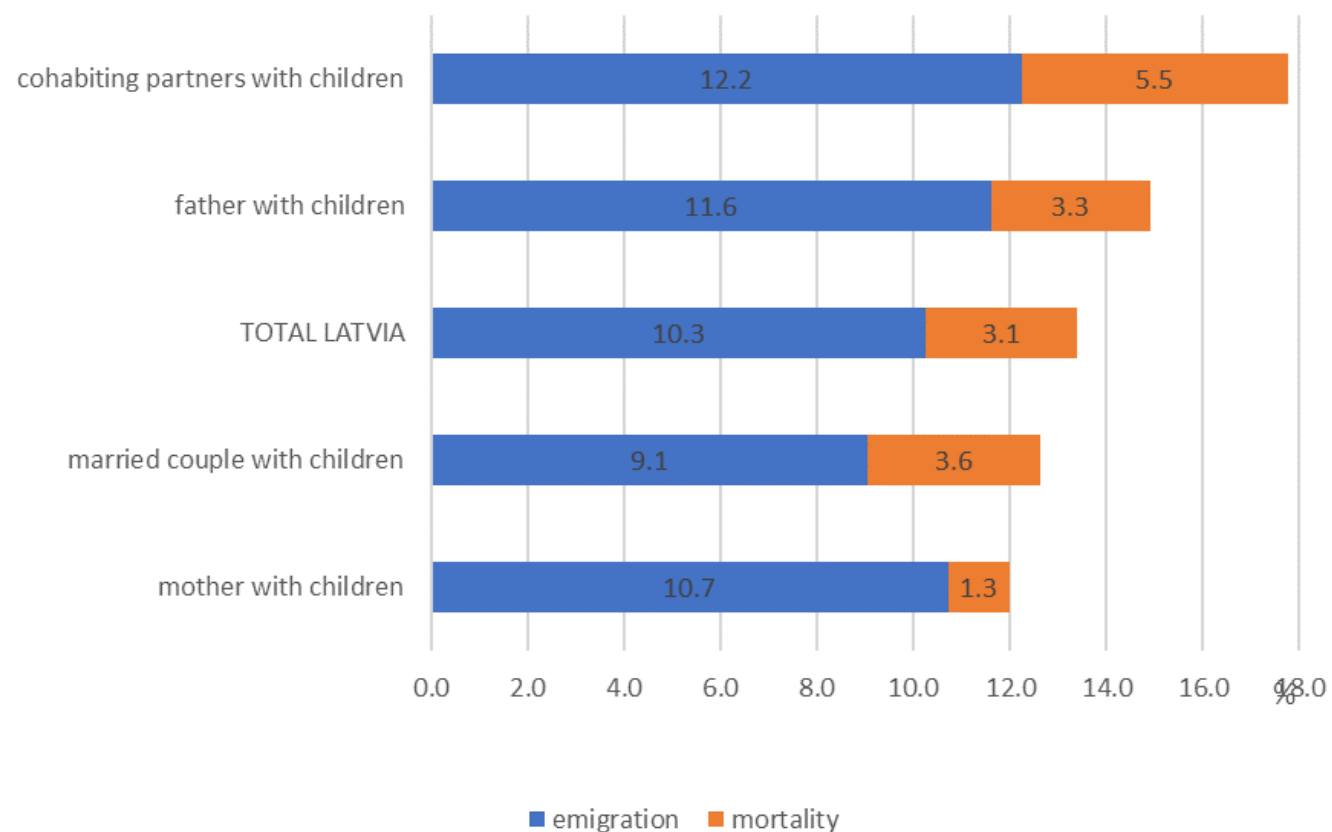
The main figures which characterizes families with children from initial cohort included in the study



■ emigration
 ■ emigration and mortality
 ■ mortality
 ■ still lives in Latvia

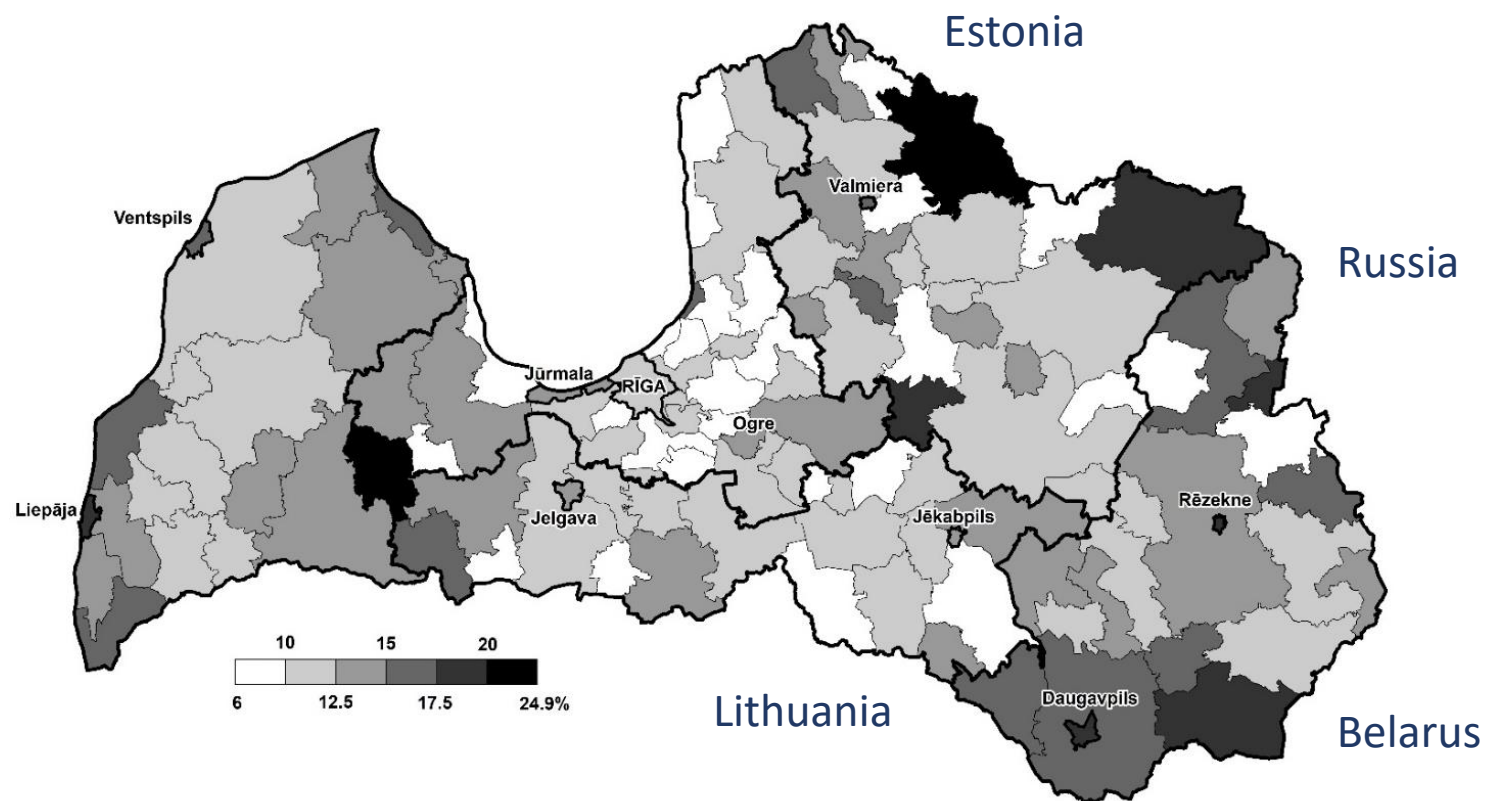
- **13.3%** of the examined families, one of the parents who was in the family in 01.03.2011, no longer lives in Latvia on 01.01.2021, of which:
 - emigration has affected **10.3%** of families,
 - mortality has affected **3.1%** of families,
 - in **0.1%** of families one parent has emigrated, the other has died.

Share of families in which one or both parents during the 2011-2021 have emigrated or died, by a type of family (% to an initial number of an appropriate type of family)



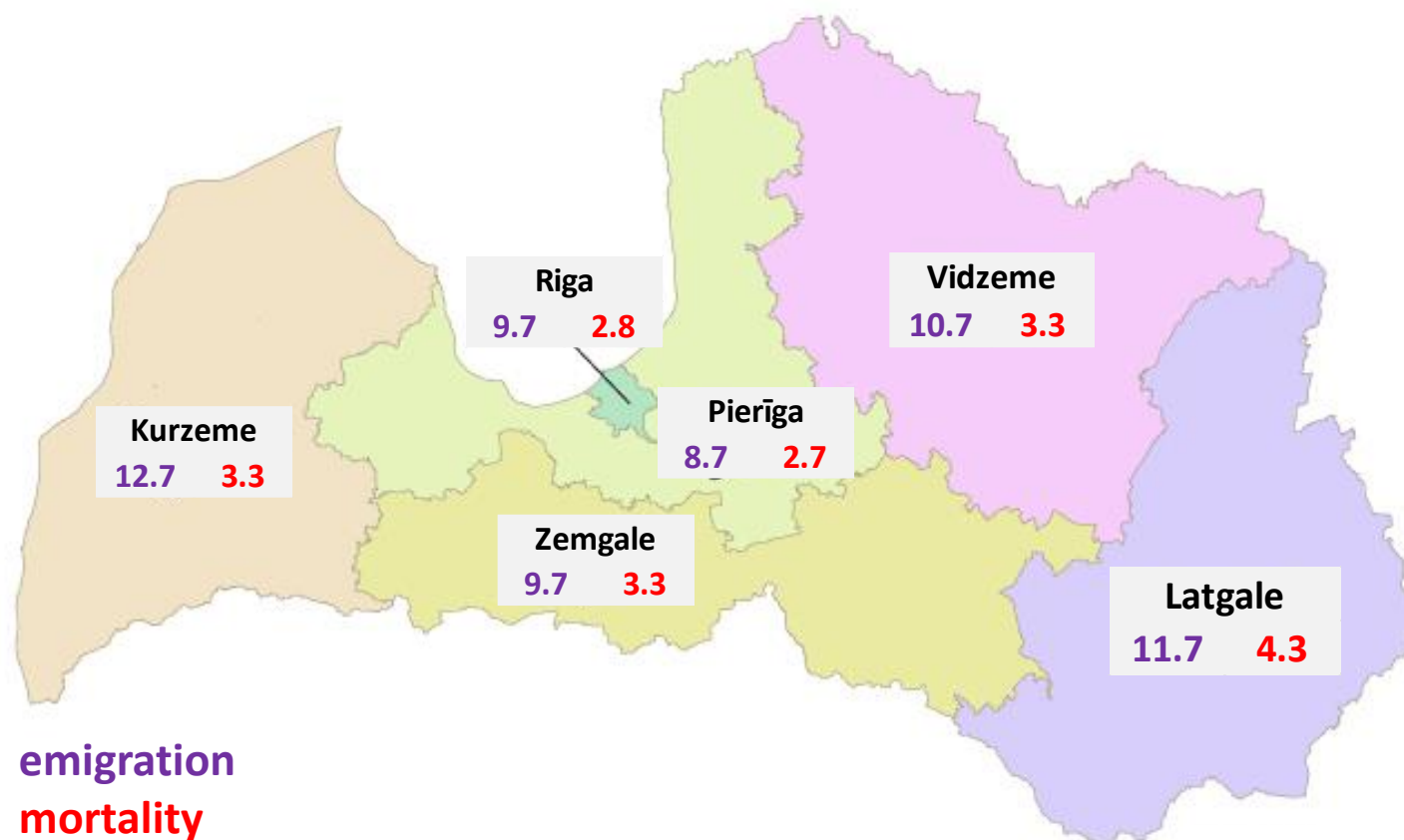
Depending on the type of family, the greatest probability that one of the child's parents no longer lives in Latvia at the end of the analyzed period is «cohabiting partners with children» or «father with children».

Share of families in which one or both parents during the 2011-2021 have emigrated or died, by municipality (% to an initial number of families by municipalities in 2011)



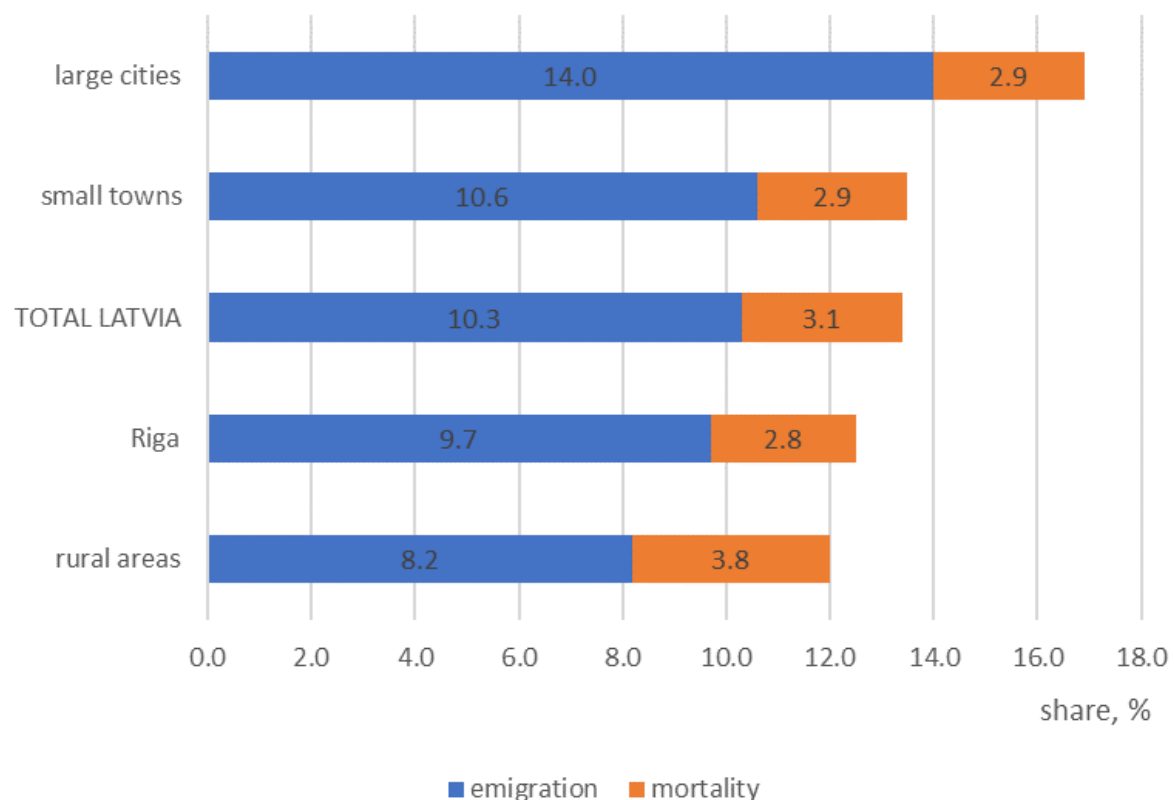
- Emptying of a territorial units is largely related to a distance from the Riga,
- The lowest share is in the capital city Riga and its surroundings,
- Eastern part of Latvia the loss of parents is the greatest,
- This is the external border of the European Union, therefore, the depopulation of these areas also has political significance.

Share of families in which one or both parents during the 2011-2021 have emigrated or died, by a region (% to an initial number of families by regions in 2011)



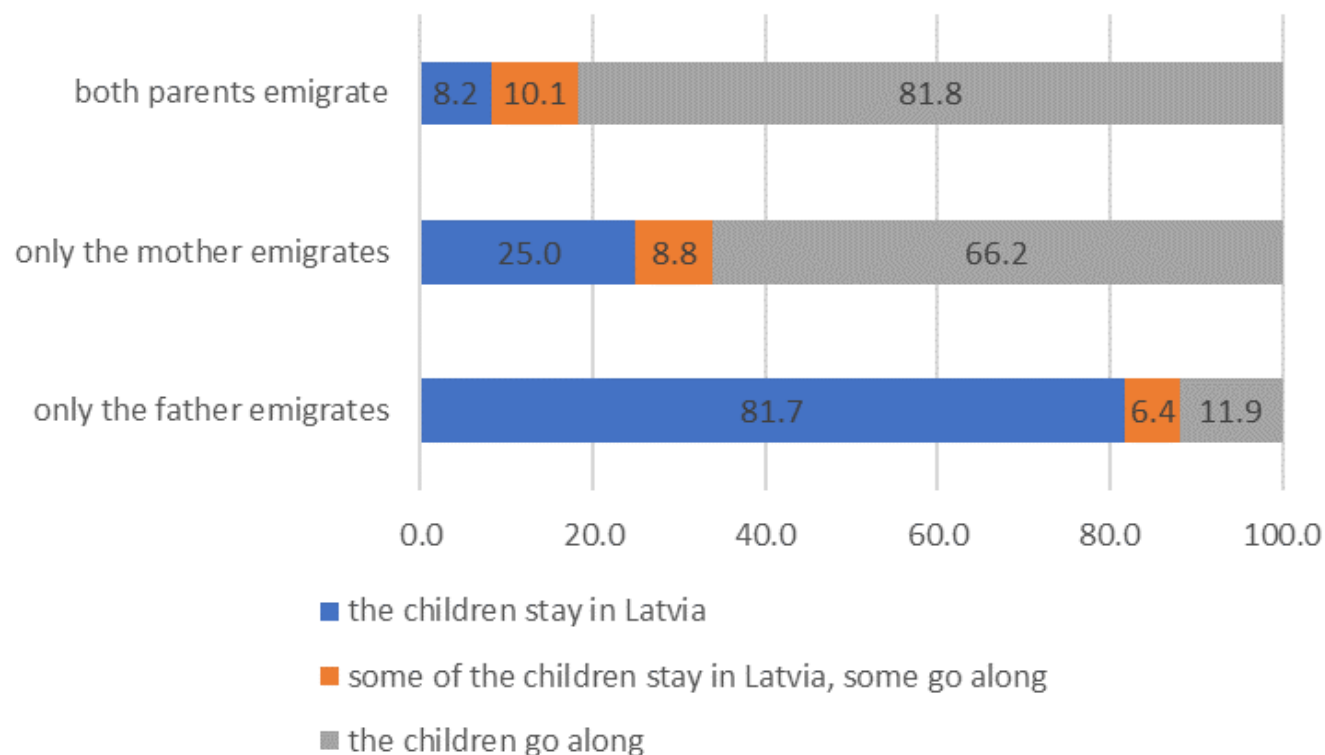
- The biggest losses are in the most distant regions from Riga - in Kurzeme and Latgale.
- In Kurzeme, emigration rate exceeds the country average (10.3 %)
- In Latgale, impact of mortality exceeds country average (3.1 %)

Share of families in which one or both parents during the 2011-2021 have emigrated or died, by the size of place of residence (%, to an initial number of families by the size of place of residence in 2011)



- The highest share of families in which one parent has **emigrated** live in the eight largest cities (except Riga).
- The highest share of families in which one parent has **died**, is from rural areas.
- Emigration from a rural areas to other countries is the lowest, however that migration does not include internal migration flows, which stimulate urbanization.

Share of families (%) in which one or both parents 2011-2021 have emigrated depending on whether their children stay in Latvia or emigrate



- When parents emigrate, the question arises whether to leave a children in Latvia with other parent or relatives, or to emigrate together with children.
- If both parents or only a mother have emigrated, then usually children emigrate together.
- If only a father has emigrated, then usually children have stayed in Latvia with other parent or relatives .

Return migration

Life courses for a family that has emigrated:

- both or one of the parents return to Latvia,
- all family members emigrate to a new place of residence abroad,
- family members continue to live in different countries,
- etc.

Return migration is one of the issues that has received a lot of attention in Latvia in recent years.

Many families with children have returned from abroad.

Conclusions

1. Parental health is an important factor that needs attention to reduce mortality.
2. Families exposed to the greatest risk of parental migration and mortality are:
 - «cohabiting partners with one or more children» and «fathers with one or more children»;
 - families living far from the central part of Latvia, especially in the East of country;
 - families living in large cities (except capital city Riga).
3. If both parents or only mother emigrate, then usually children emigrate together with them.
4. It is necessary to continue the return migration policy measures so that families with children return to Latvia.

Selected publications

Krumins, J., Berzins, A., Dahs, A., Lece, K. (2024). Changes and evaluations of demographic situation. In book: Demogrāfijas un migrācijas procesu izpēte zināšanu sabiedrības attīstībai Latvijā. Riga: University of Latvia. 12 pages (manuscript to be submitted).

Dahs, A., Krumins, J., Berzins, A., Lece, K. (2024). Vanguard and laggard rural population clusters in Latvia. Proceedings: 2024 International conference «Economic science for rural development». Jelgava: LBTU, 15-17 May 2024. 10 pages (in print).

Dahs A., A. Berzins, A., Krumins, J., Lece K. (2023). Territorial variation of gender ratio in Latvia - causes and implications. Proceedings: The 15th International Scientific Conference “New Challenges in Economic and Business Development – 2023: Recovery and Resilience”. Riga: Univ. of Latvia, 11-13 May 2023. Pp. 50-57.

https://www.bvef.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/LU.LV/Apaksvietnes/Fakultates/www.bvef.lu.lv/Proceedings2023.pdf

Krisjane, Z., Krumins Juris, Dahs, A., Lece, K., Krumins Janis. (2021). Innovations in the use of territorial and individual data in analysis of Latvia's demographic development, 2011-2021 / Proceedings of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Section A, No. 4, 76-93 (in Latvian, English summary) <http://www.lasproceedings.lv/publikacija/teritorialo-un-individualo-datu-lietojuma-inovacijas-latvijas-demografiskas-situacijas-analize-par-2011-2021-gadu/>

Thank you for your attention!



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