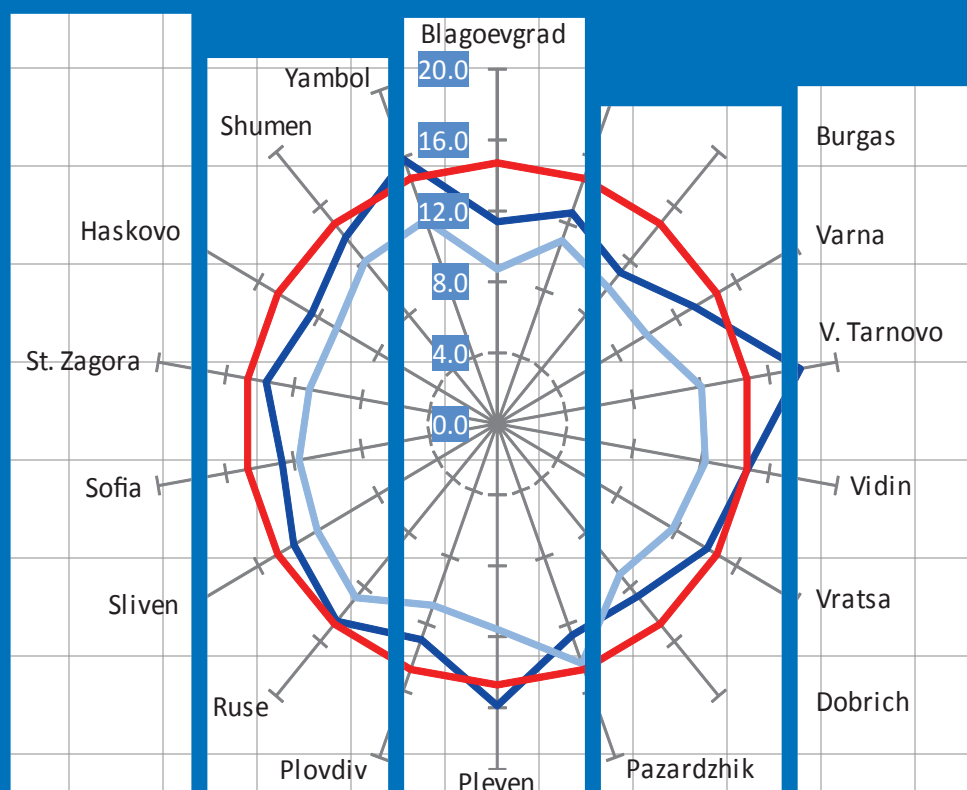


# CITIES AND THEIR URBANISED AREAS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2010 - 2018





# **CITIES AND THEIR URBANISED AREAS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2010 - 2018**

*The European Commission project  
co-financed by the participating countries*

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CITIES AND THEIR URBANISED AREAS IN  
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2010 - 2018

Responsible editor: Antoaneta Ilkova

Authors: Ass. Prof. Yordan Kalchev

Graphs and Maps:  
Ass. Prof. Yordan Kalchev  
Irena Dudova

Pre-print processing and printing:  
Education and Science inc. Co.

## URBAN AUDIT

### The European Commission project co-financed by the participating countries

Main purpose of Urban Audit project is to produce and release comparable information on cities and their functional urban zones based on basic demographic and socio-economic indicators.

The project started with a pilot survey conducted in 1999. The first full coverage Urban Audit is conducted in 2003, incorporating the 15 member states at that time. In 2004 ten new member states started their activities on the project, incl. Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. The second exhaustive data collection Urban Audit 2006/2007 covers 321 European cities within EU-27 (8 of these are the largest Bulgarian cities) and 36 cities in Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. Urban Audit 2009 collected data on 329 variables and on 323 cities in the EU, as well as 47 in Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Croatia.

During the next project stages, National Statistical Institute (NSI) of Bulgaria provided data on 18 cities and 17 FUAs, covering 58 municipalities. These are the cities of Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Pleven, Rousse, Vidin, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Dobrich, Shumen, Pernik, Yambol, Haskovo, Pazardzhik, Blagoevgrad, Veliko Tarnovo and Vratsa and their Functional Urban Areas (FUAs).

Urban Audit methodology and information are constantly developed keeping its basic concepts. The changes aimed at optimizing the comparability, quality and availability of data. New information needs emerging for the purposes of the European Union's urban, regional and cohesion policy are reflected.

In 2010 - 2012 period, NSI collected data on the prepared by Eurostat socio-economic and demographic indicators. Based on these data, a detailed statistical analysis of the economic and demographic development of areas and their centres is prepared.

The main purpose of this publication is to track changes in urban development over the period 2010 - 2012 to 2015 - 2016 based on tabular and graphical presentation of the collected statistical information. Specialised bilingual (Bulgarian and English) publication is issued, containing number of tables, graphs and maps, presenting data gathered at country, areas and city level.

During the next project stage, 2015 - 2016, part of data collected at country and areas level is also analysed and presented in specialised electronic publication, in Bulgarian and English. Analytical comparisons are done of these data to 2010 - 2012 period.

Present publication cover 2010 - 2018 period. Analysis and statistical tables, graphs and maps track out the changes occurred in the demographic and social development of the FUAs and their centers



## I. TENDENCIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POPULATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The average annual population of the Republic of Bulgaria in the period 2010 - 2012 is 7 420 thousand. Due to the negative natural growth and international migration, the population decreased by 267 thousand and in the period 2015 - 2016 decreased to 7 153 thousand. Urban population decreased by 119 thousand and rural one - by 148 thousand. The relative growth of the average annual population for the whole period is minus 3.6%. Decrease of population continues within the next two years - by nearly 102 thousand and in 2017 - 2018 period is 7 050 persons or compared to 2010 - 2012 the relative decrease is almost 5%.

Within 2010 - 2012 and 2015 - 2016 periods, urban population decreased by 119 thousand, while rural - by 148 thousand. Tendency of decrease continues in the next two years and average annual urban population decreased by more than 51 thousand. Nearly the same is the decrease of rural population. For the whole 2010 - 2018 period average annual urban population decrease is 3.2%, compared to 9.6% of rural one.

### Population at 31.12. by years and sex

Years	Total	Male	Female	Population structure by sex remains the same over the whole period - 48.6% male and 51.2% - female. At the end of 2018 male population is 3395.7 thousand or 149 thousand less than in 2012. Decrease of female population is lower - 135 thousand and at the end of 2018 their number is 3604.3 thousand.  Population density in the first period is 67 persons per sq.km and at the end of 2018 - 63.
2001	7891 095	3841163	4049932	
2010	7504868	3629809	3875059	
2011	7327224	3566767	3760457	
2012	7284552	3545073	3739479	
2013	7245677	3524945	3720732	
2014	7202198	3502015	3700183	
2015	7153784	3477177	3676607	
2016	7101859	3449978	3651881	
2017	7050034	3422409	3627625	
2018	7000039	3395701	3604338	

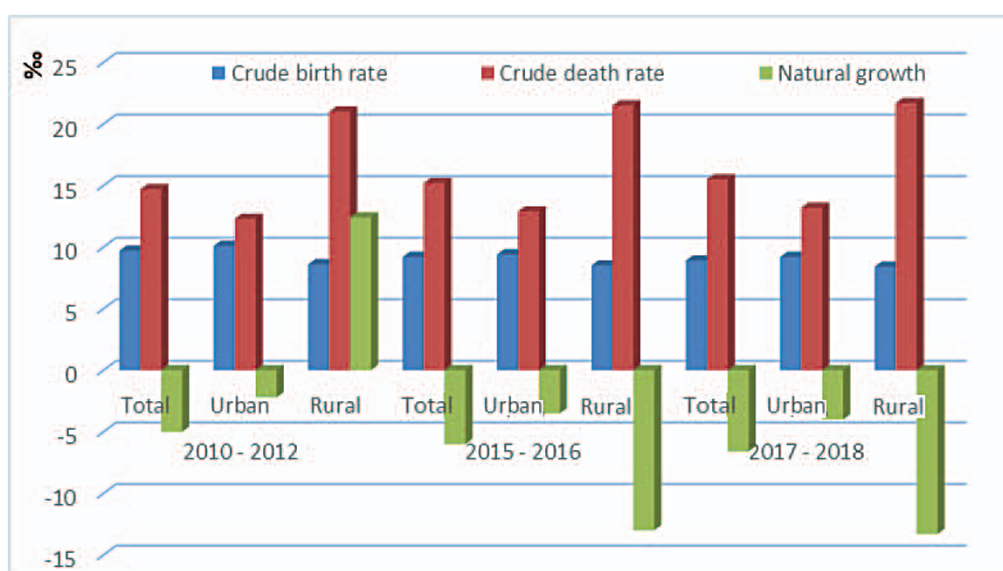
### Natural population growth

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population number	7420100	7152600	7050600
○ urban	5352300	5233000	5181700
○ rural	2067800	1919600	1868900
Average annual number of live births	71827	65467	63076
○ urban	54044	49110	47441
○ rural	17783	16358	15635
Average annual number of deaths	109235	108849	109159
○ urban	65758	67471	68215
○ rural	43 477	41 378	40944
Crude birth rate <sup>1</sup> - ‰	9.7	9.2	8.9
○ urban	10.1	9.4	9.2
○ rural	8.6	8.5	8.4

<sup>1</sup> Average annual number of live births per 1 000 average annual population.

## I. TENDENCIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POPULATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

TFR - number of children	1.50	1.53	1.56
Crude birth rate for EU-28		10.0	9.8
TFR for EU-28		1.58	1.59
Crude death rate <sup>2</sup> - ‰	14.7	15.2	15.5
○ urban	12.3	12.9	13.2
○ rural	21.0	21.5	21.7
Standardized death rate <sup>3</sup> - ‰	x	16.2	16.1
○ urban	14.0	14.2	14.5
○ rural	15.8	17.0	17.6
Premature mortality rate- %	23.0	21.6	21.0
○ urban	25.7	23,6	22.6
○ rural	18.8	18.2	18.2
Infant mortality rate - ‰	8.5	6.5	6.1
○ urban	7.6	5.5	5.2
○ rural	11.3	9.7	8.8
Life expectancy - years	74.02	74.65	74.83
○ urban	74.92	75.54	75.69
○ rural	72.00	72.62	72.80
Crude mortality rate for EU-28		10.2	10.4
Life expectancy for EU-28		80.6	80.9
Absolute natural growth - number	-37408	-43381	-46083
○ urban	-11714	-18361	-20774
○ rural	-25694	-25020	-25309
Natural growth rate - ‰	-5.0	-6.0	-6.5
○ urban	-2.2	-3.5	-4.0
○ rural	-12.4	-13.0	-13.5
Natural growth rate for EU-28		-0.2	-0.4



Crude birth, mortality and natural growth rate (B ‰)

<sup>2</sup> Average annual number of deaths per 1 000 average annual population.

<sup>3</sup> Country population for the respective year is taken as a standard.



Stable tendency of decrease of crude birth rate is observed. The average annual number of live births decreased from almost 72 thousand in 2010 - 2012 to 63 thousand in 2018, regardless the weak increase of fertility. TFR in 2018 is 1.56 children.

Number of deaths remained about 109 thousand during the whole period, but mortality rate increased. Death rate during the last two years is about 15.5‰. The last is too high, nearly 22‰, in rural areas due to ageing of rural population.

Standardised mortality rate increased to above 16‰ at the country level. Discrepancy between the standardised mortality rates in urban and rural areas increased. The last is 1.87‰ in the period 2010 - 2012, 2.60‰. In 2015 - 2016, and reached 3.1‰ in 2017 - 2018. Mortality rate remained higher among male (from 15.9‰ to 16.4‰ for the whole period) than among female 13. ‰7 and 14.2‰ respectively.

Infant mortality decreased during the whole period and is 6.1‰ in 2018.

Premature mortality decreased slightly. In the last two years, the last is due to its decrease among male population - from 30.5% in the first period to 22.6% in 2017 - 2018. Increase is observed for female (from 14.8% to 18.3%), but it is still lower than for male.

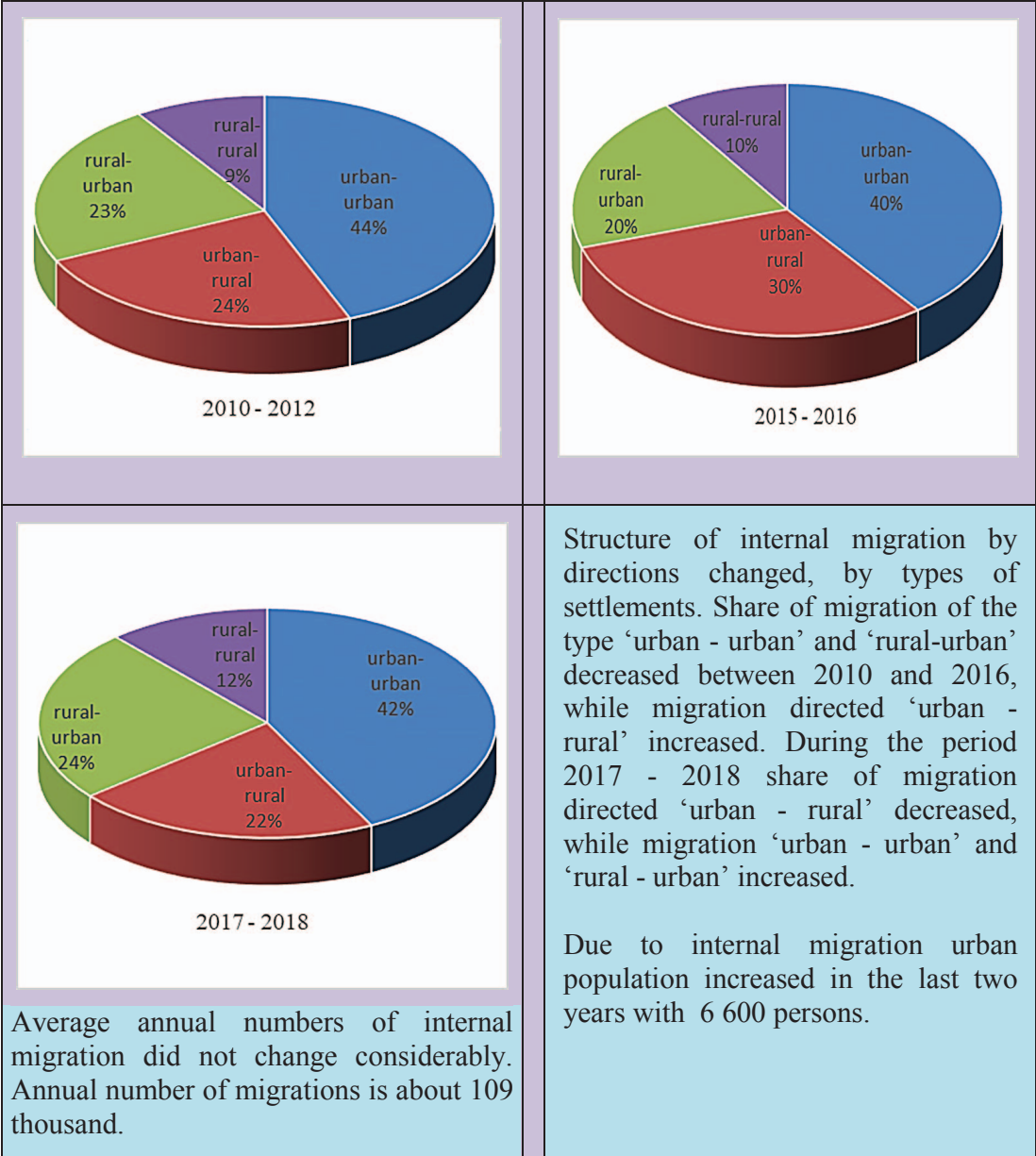
The negative natural growth increased in absolute and relative figures. For the last two years average annual population decrease is 46 thousand or minus 6.5‰.

### Migration

Internal and international migration	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average number of migrations within the country	108179	107608	111641
○ from urban to urban areas	47566	42660	47454
○ from urban to rural areas	25846	32755	24016
○ from rural to urban areas	24809	21958	27315
○ from rural to rural areas	9958	10236	12856
Average number of emigrants	17947	30020	32406
○ male	8634	15377	16559
○ female	9312	14644	15847
Intensity of emigration - ‰	2.42	4.20	4.60
Average number of immigrants	7448	23232	27578
○ male	4165	12217	13529
○ female	3283	11015	14050
Intensity of immigration - ‰	1.00	3.24	3.91
Average annual internal migration growth	-10499	-6788	-4828
Relative migration growth - ‰	-1.41	-0.95	-0.68
○ male	-1.24	-0.91	-0.89
○ female	-1.58	-0.99	-0.50

Internal migration

Structure of internal migration by directions - %

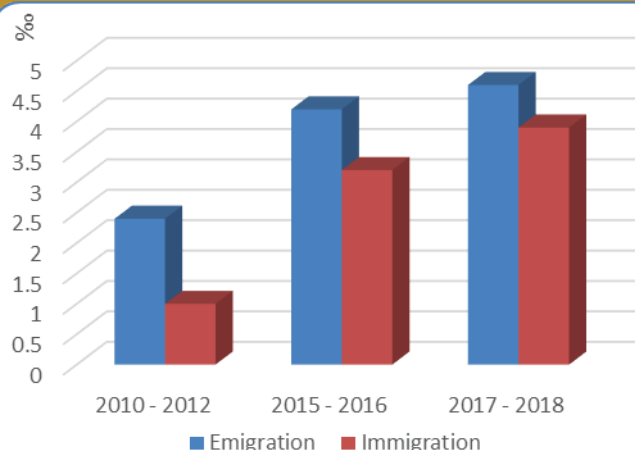




### International migration

International migration continued to influence negatively country population. Due to international migration, the population number decreased during the whole period, age structure and population reproduction are worsened, as a result of migration of young population mainly.

In parallel to increasing number of emigrants, a stable tendency of increasing numbers of immigrants is observed, mainly Bulgarian citizens returning, as well as foreign citizens residing on permanent basis in Bulgaria. Due to increased number of immigrants, the negative population growth is compensated to a certain extent.



In the last two years, the country population decreased by 9 650 persons due to international migration, while in the period 2015 - 2016 the negative growth is 13 580 persons. For the period 2010 - 2012, a decrease of more than 30 thousand is observed.

*Intensity of emigration and immigration - in %*

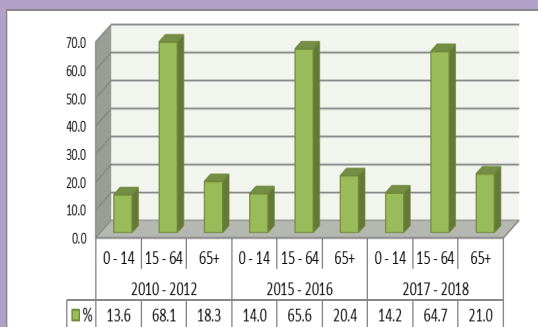
### Age structure

Population age structure and dependency ratios	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average number of population at age:			
○ 0 to 14 years	1007150	999140	1003413
○ 15 to 64 years	5054490	4 695390	4564850
○ 65 years and over	1358460	1458070	1482381
Share of population aged 65 and over - %	18.3	20.4	21.0
Median age - years	42.7	43.5	44.0
Age dependency ratio <sup>4</sup> - %	46.8	52.3	55.0
Demographic replacement rate <sup>5</sup> - %	71.7	62.7	64.7
Share of population aged 65 and over in EU-28	18.9%		19.7%
Median age of EU-28 population	41.3	42.5	43.0

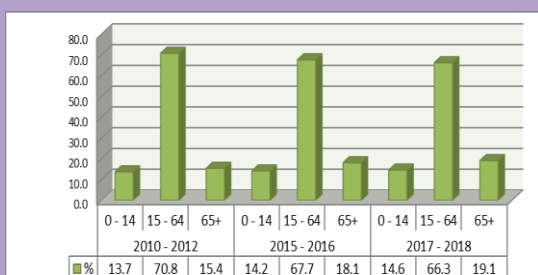
<sup>4</sup> Number of persons in 'dependent' ages (persons under 15 years of age and 65 and more) per 100 persons in 'independent' ages (persons aged 15 to 64 years) calculated in percentage .

<sup>5</sup> Ratio between the number of persons entering working age (15 - 19 years) and number of persons exiting it (60 - 64 years).

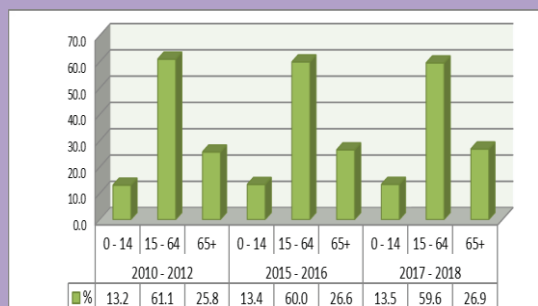
*Total*



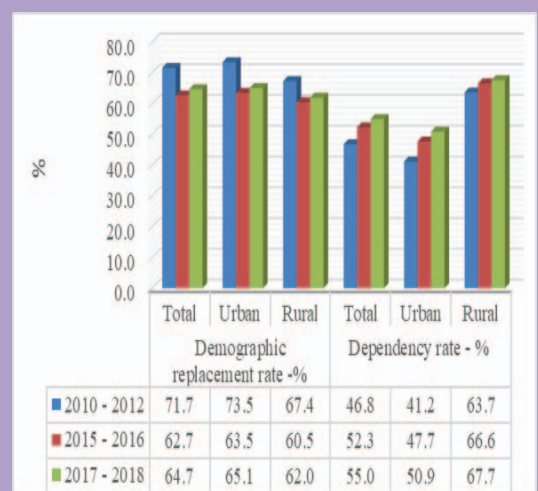
*Urban*



*Rural*



*Structure of average annual population by age*



*Demographic dependencies*

Population aging continued. Share of population aged 65 and over increased, while the number and share of population at working age (15 - 64 years) decreased. The last is most obvious among rural population where population aged 65 and over is nearly 27%, compared to 19% among urban.

There is a slight increase of the share of youngest population (0 - 14 years) in urban areas mainly. The last is due to higher fertility within the period 2008 - 2010.

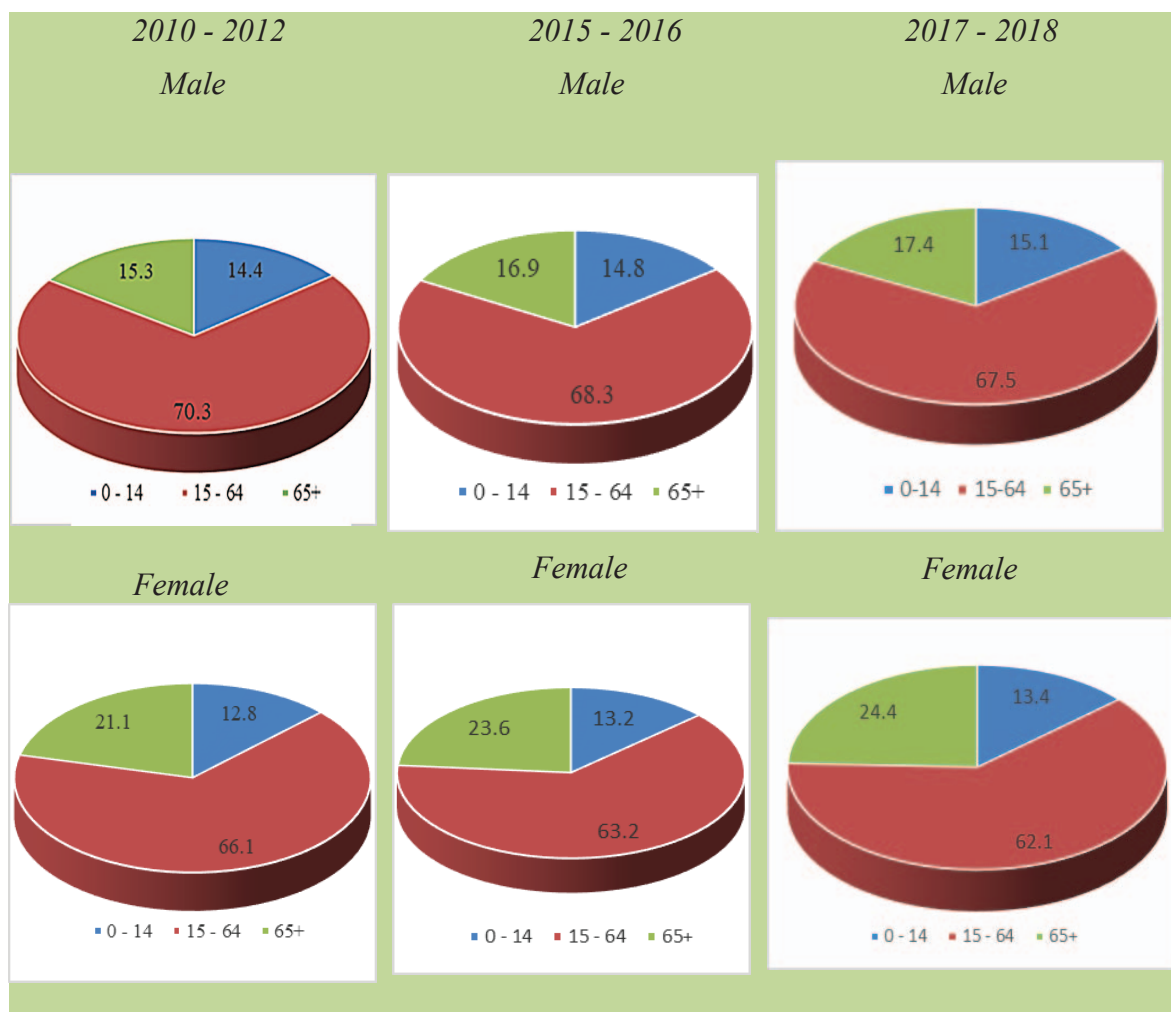
Aging of female population is higher than of male. Share of female aged 65 and over is almost 25% in 2018, compared to 17% for male. The difference is mainly due to the higher overall and premature mortality among male and as a result - lower life expectancy. Moreover, the intensity of the negative international migration growth among female is higher.

Mean age of population increased from 43.5 in 2010 - 2012 to 43.7 years in 2017 - 2018.

The demographic burden rate of working age population increased and reached 55% in 2017 - 2018. Higher is the increase of the demographic dependency in urban areas - from 41% in 2010 - 2012 to 51% in 2017 - 2018. In rural areas, the rate increased less, but has higher value - 64% and nearly 68%.

Due to the negative demographic development, the reproduction of labour force is not ensured. The demographic replacement rate in 2010 - 2012 is almost 71% and decreased to 63% in 2015 - 2016. Due to changes in population age structure in the last two years led to increase of its value to 64.7%. The increase (favorable) of demographic replacement rate is equal in urban and rural areas.





Population structure by sex, age and periods - %

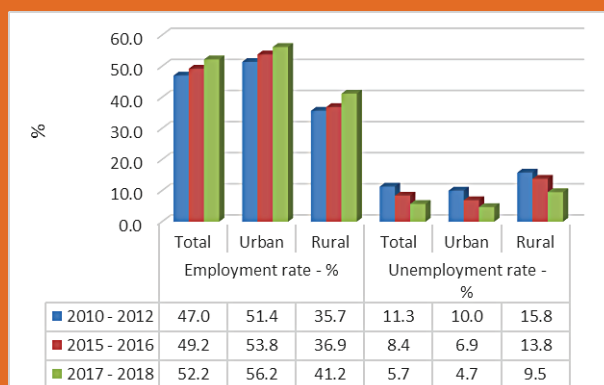
**Economic activity**

Economic activity, employment and unemployment	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Labour force - Average annual number - in thousands	3 371	3 300	3342
Employed - average annual number - in thousands	2991	3 024	3152
Unemployed - average annual number - in thousands	380	276	190
Economic activity rate - %	53.0	53.7	55.4
Employment rate (15+) - %	47.0	49.2	52.2
Unemployment rate (15+) - %	11,,3	8.6	5.7
Employment rate in EU28 (20 - 64 years) - %	68.5	70.6	72.7
Unemployment rate in EU28 - %	9.4	9.0	7.2

Average annual number of employed increased regardless the decreasing number of population aged 15 - 64 years and economically active population respectively. From 2 991 thousand in 2010 - 2012 their number reached 3 152 thousand in 2017 - 2018. Number of unemployed for the same periods decreased twice - from 380 to 190 thousand.

Labor market offers higher employment. Employment of persons aged 15 and over increased from 47% to 52% for the whole period. Male employment (58%) is higher than female - 47%. Highest is the employment of population aged 35 - 54 years - over 82%.

Unemployment rate decreased from 11.3% at the beginning of observed period to 5.7% in 2017 - 2018. Unemployment is lower among urban population. Highest is the unemployment of population aged 15 - 24 years - 12.8% in 2017 - 2018.



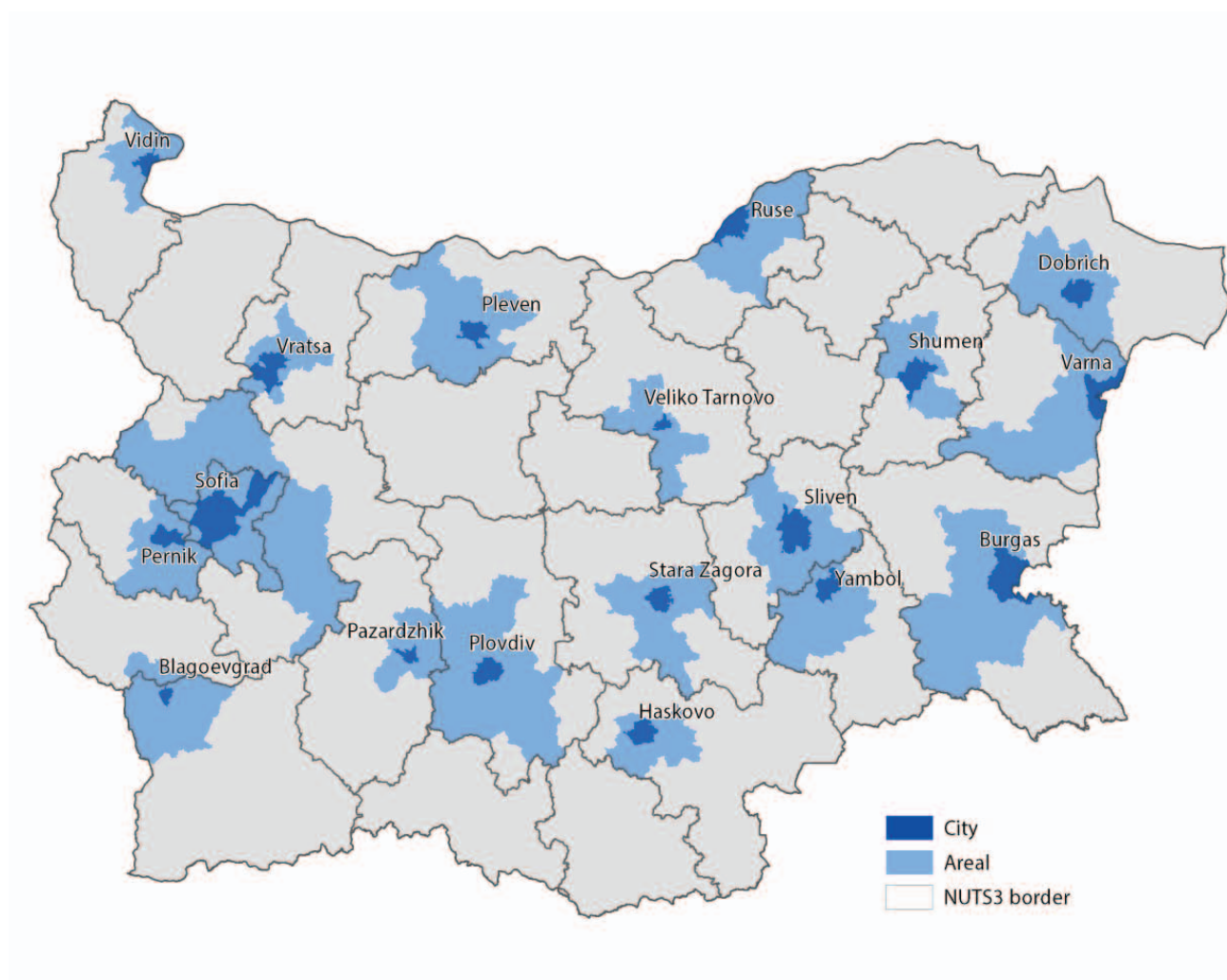
*Employment and unemployment rates of population aged 15 and over - total and by residence - %*



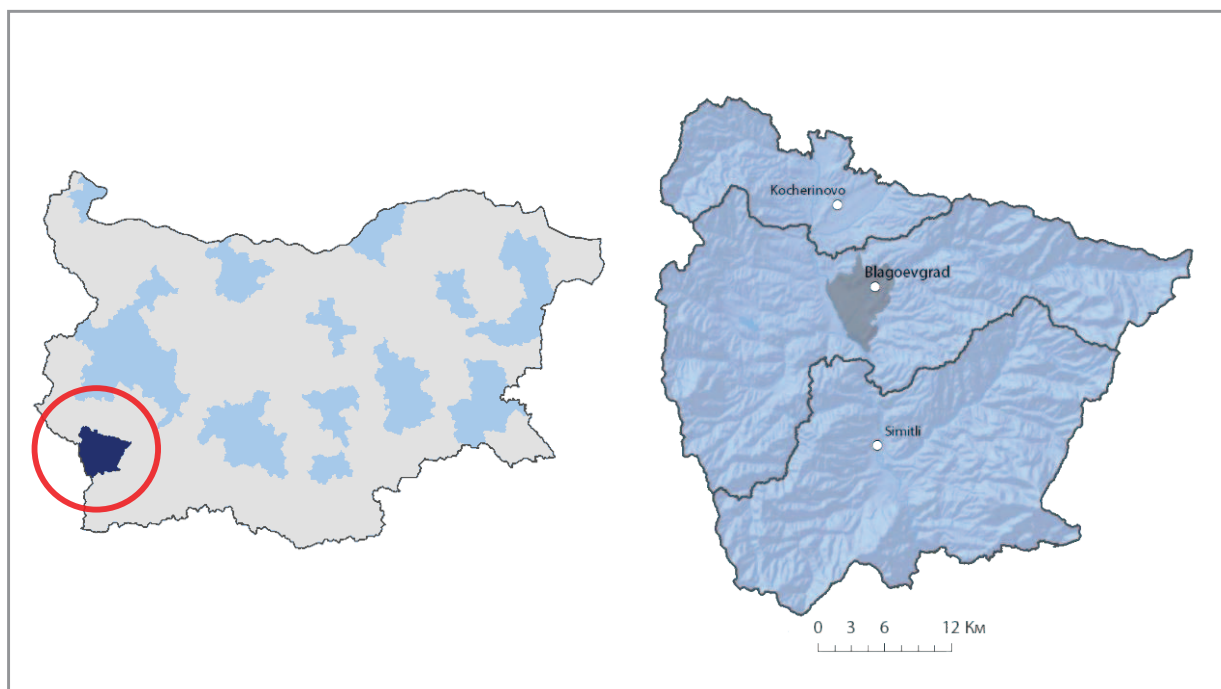
## II. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC TENDENCIES IN THE AREAS DEVELOPMENT

According to the project Urban-Audit 2012 criteria, 17 areals are created in the Republic of Bulgaria and 18 cities are defined having great importance for the country economic and regional development. The average annual population living there in the period 2010 - 2012 is 4 261 thousand and in 2015 - 2016 - 4 202 thousand. During the period 2017 - 2018, the tendency of decrease continue. Average annual population in this period is 4 182 thousand or 20 thousand less. Taking into account that country average population decreased by almost 370 thousand or by 5% in the period 2010 - 2012 and the areals population by 79 thousand or 1.9%, it is obvious that a process of concentration of population in bigger cities and their urbanized areals is going. At the end of 2018, 59.3% of country population lives in the areals under review, while in 2010 - 2012 - 57.4%. Biggest part (76.3%) of areals population lives in areals centres (cities). The respective shares are 76.0% in 2010 - 2012 and 77.8% in 2015 - 2016. The areals cover 25% of the country territory (27 914 sq.km).

### *Location of areals and their centres*



### Areal with centre city of Blagoevgrad



*Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
BLG03 Blagoevgrad	620.1	76927	124	75929	122	75591	122
BLG44 Simitli	553.0	14486	26	13720	25	13469	24
KNL27 Kocherinovo	182.3	5460	30	4766	26	4516	25
<b>BG016L1 Areal</b>	<b>1355.4</b>	<b>96873</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>94414</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>93576</b>	<b>69</b>

### Population natural growth

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	96873	94414	93576
○ male	46723	45334	44909
○ female	50150	49080	48667
Average number of live births	949	932	865
Average number of deaths	1104	1158	1187
Absolute natural growth - number	-155	-226	-323
Crude birth rate - ‰	9.80	9.87	9.24
Crude death rate - ‰	11.40	12.27	12.68
Natural growth rate - ‰	-1.60	-2.39	-3.45
Average annual population of the areal centre	70466	69589	69387
○ male	33631	32986	32866
○ female	36835	36603	36521



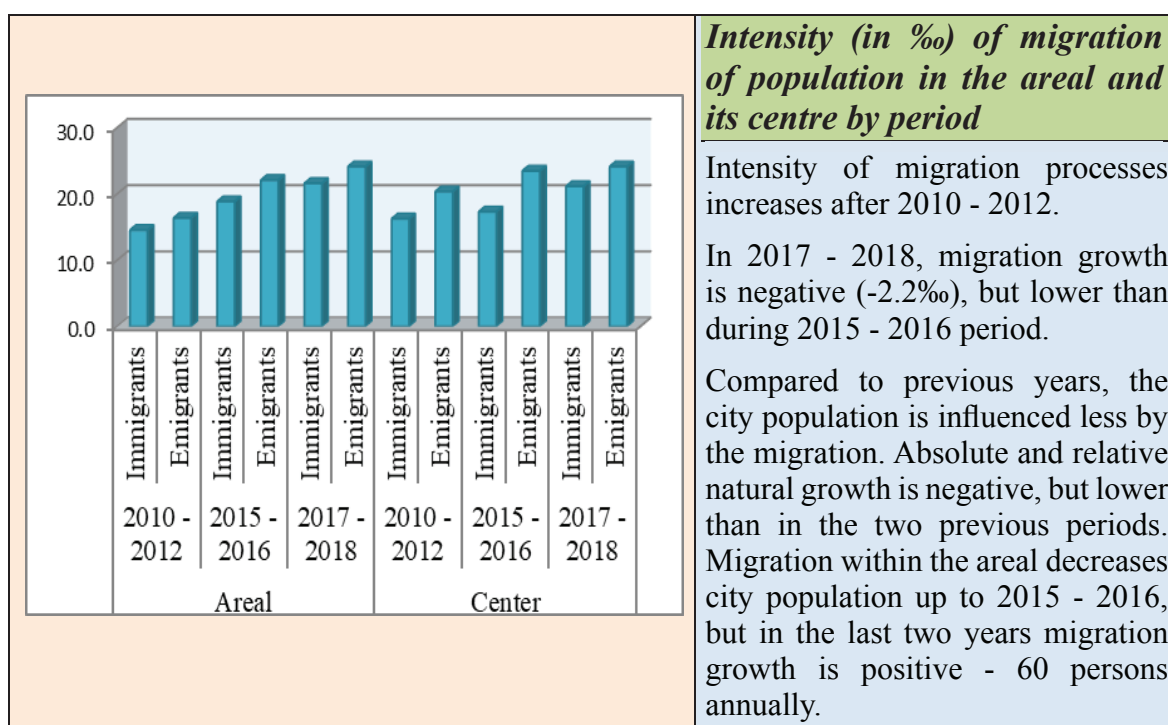
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	742	731	695
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	615	664	734
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	127	67	-39
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.53	10.50	10.02
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	8.73	9.54	10.58
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	1.80	0.96	-0.56

Since 2010, the areal average annual population has decreased by more than 3 thousand. Crude birth rate is higher than the country average, but also decreases and in 2017 - 2018 is 9.2‰. Crude death rate (12.7‰) is lower than the country average, but increases during the period. Natural growth is negative and changes from 1.6‰ to 3.4‰.

Areal centre, (city of Blagoevgrad) population decreases by 1 000 persons. Birth rate is relatively high, but mortality increases by 3‰ and thus the natural increase at the end of period is negative.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	1410	1782	2023
Average annual number of emigrants	1590	2086	2259
Absolute migration growth	-180	-304	-236
Migration growth rate - ‰	-1.84	-3.23	-2.24
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	1146	1205	1469
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1435	1635	1624
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-289	-430	-156
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-4.10	-6.18	-2.24



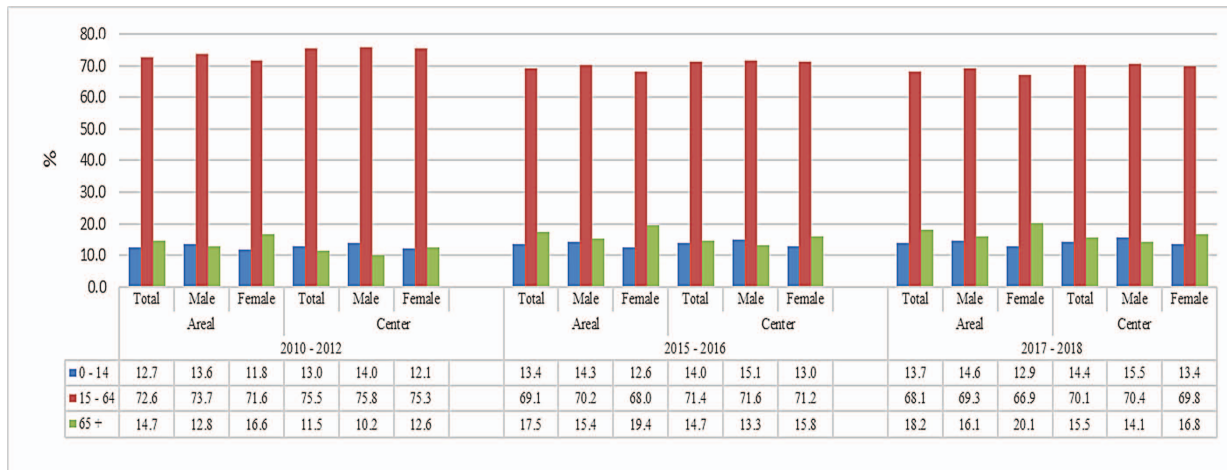
### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	12268	12676	12864
Population aged 15 - 64 years	70317	65231	63703
Population aged 65 and more	14287	16508	17009
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	9165	9730	9987
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	53229	49659	48621
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	8072	10200	10779
Mean age of areal population - years	40.7	42.2	42.6
Mean age of areal centre population - years	39.0	40.7	41.1

Population decrease after 2010 is accompanied by changes in age structure. Areal population below 14 years of age increases by 1%, working age population (15 - 64 years) decreases and population above 65 years increases by nearly 4%.

In the areal centre (Blagoevgrad), youngest population increases by 1.4% and working age population decreases by more than 5%, or more than in the areal. Share of elderly population increases from 11.5% to 15.5%, but this share is 4% lower than the respective one for the areal.

Mean age of population, both in areal and city, increases by 2 years.



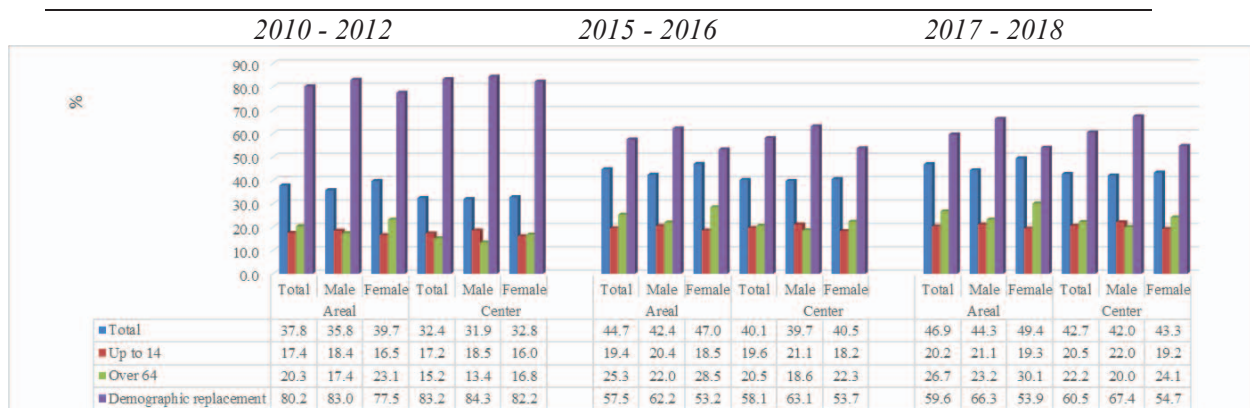
*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

Demographic burden rate of active population, measured by age dependency ratio, is worsening. In 2010 - 2012, to 100 persons in independent ages correspond 38 persons in dependent ones, while in 2017 - 2018 their number increases to 47.

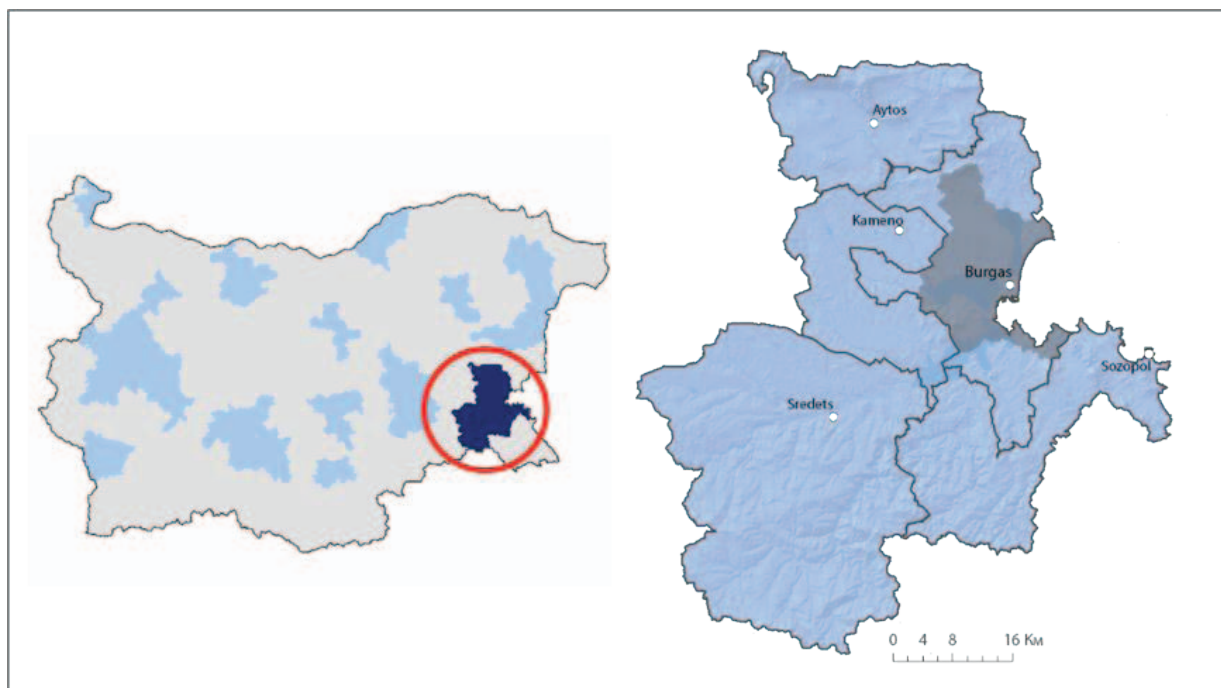
In the areal centre, the increase is by 10 persons and reaches 43%. The increase of demographic burden is mainly due to increase of persons above 64 years.

In 2015 - 2016, demographic replacement rate in the areal decreases by 28%, and in its centre by nearly 30%, but in the last two years a small increase (by 2% both for areal and city) is registered.





### Areal with centre city of Burgas



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018			
	Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density	
	BGS01	Aytos	402.9	29508	73	28231	70	28053	70
	BGS04	Burgas	559.2	209224	374	209472	375	209149	374
	BGS08	Kameno	354.9	11258	32	10121	29	9970	28
	BGS21	Sozopol	480.1	14020	29	12771	27	12893	27
	BGS06	Sredets	1149.9	15468	14	14906	13	14688	13
	<b>BG004L2</b>	<b>Areal</b>	<b>2947.0</b>	<b>279478</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>275500</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>274754</b>	<b>93</b>

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	279477	275500	274754
○ male	135453	132691	132029
○ female	144025	142809	142725
Average number of live births	2874	2674	2520
Average number of deaths	3537	3556	3610
Absolute natural growth - number	-155	-882	-1090

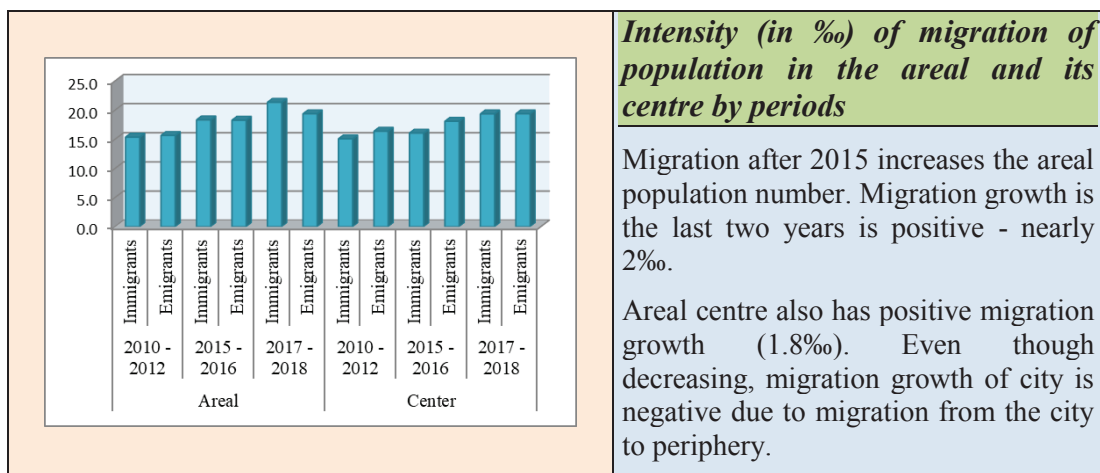
Crude birth rate - ‰	10.28	9.71	9.17
Crude death rate - ‰	12.66	12.91	13.14
Natural growth rate - ‰	-2.37	-3.20	-3.97
Average annual population of the areal centre	196491	202892	202631
○ male	94589	96872	96469
○ female	10192	106020	106163
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	1956	1 883	1801
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	2158	2 300	2342
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	127	-417	-541
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	9.96	9.28	8.89
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.98	11.33	11.56
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-1.03	-2.05	-2.67

Fertility and mortality indicators in the areal are more favourable compared to the county ones, but nevertheless the average annual population decreases by nearly 4 700 persons over the whole observed period. Crude birth rate in the areal decreases from 10.3‰ in the beginning of observed period to 9.2‰ in 2017 - 2018. Mortality increases and as a result, the natural growth increases its negative value and reaches minus 4‰.

In the areal centre, fertility is low and decreases to the country average (8.9‰), while the mortality increases. Natural growth increases from -1‰ in 2010 - 2012 to 2.7‰ in 2017 - 2018.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	4294	5049	5865
Average annual number of emigrants	4376	5035	5323
Absolute migration growth	-82	14	542
Migration growth rate - ‰	-0.03	0.05	1.97
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	2962	3257	3923
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	3220	3671	3549
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-258	-414	375
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-0.13	-2.04	1.85



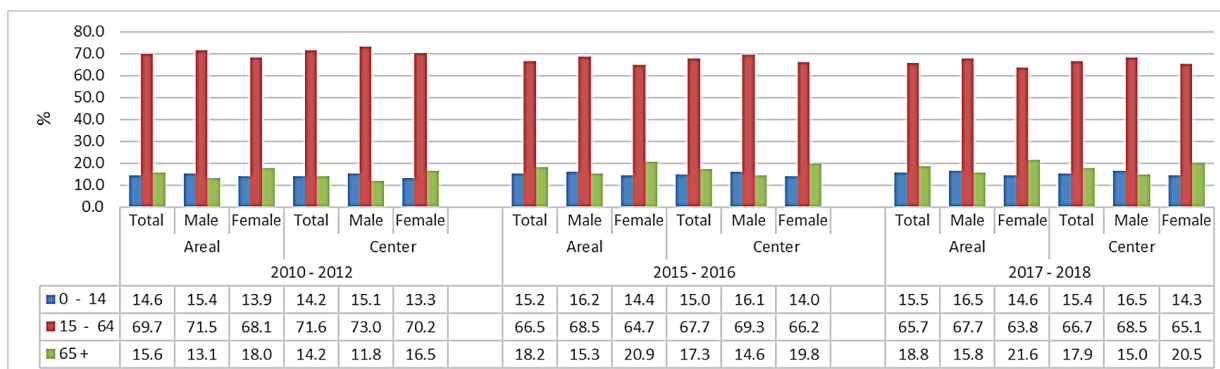
### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	40905	41992	42679
Population aged 15 - 64 years	194924	183306	180419
Population aged 65 and more	43648	50202	51656
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	27839	30494	31193
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	140669	137302	135189
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	27983	35096	36250
Mean age of areal population - years	41.0	42.2	42.5
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.7	42.0	42.2



Changes of the age structure are expressed by insignificant increase of the share of population up to 14 years of age, decrease of population aged 15 - 64 and increase of the eldest population.

The last is characteristic both for the areal and its centre. The decrease of working age population in areal centre is higher. Mean age of both areal and its centre population increases by more than 1 year.



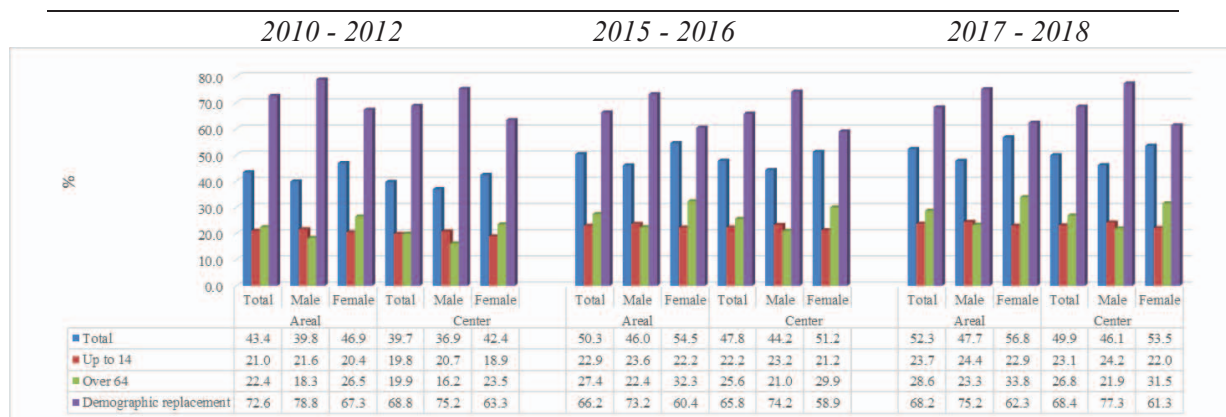
*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

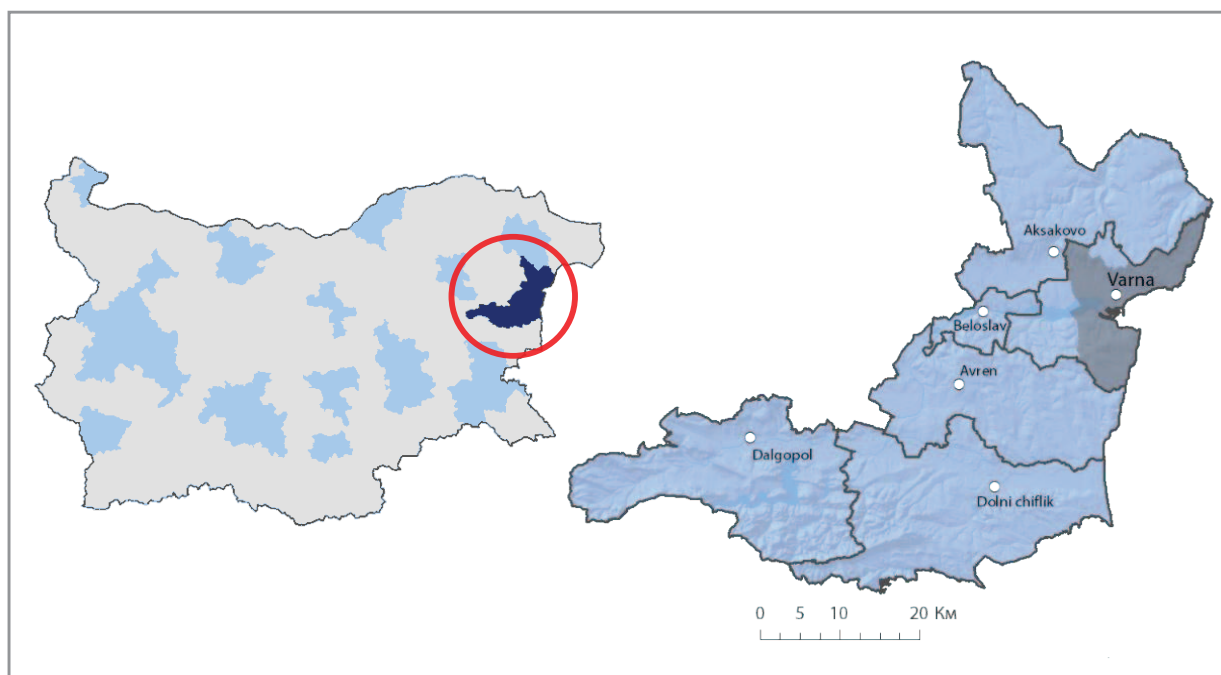
There is an increase of number of persons in dependent ages compared to number of those in independent ones. Age dependency ratio in the areal increases from 43% in 2010 - 2012 to 52% in 2017 - 2018 period.

Little higher is the increase in areal centre - from 40% to 50%. Increase of demographic dependency is mainly due to increase of elderly population.

Reproduction of labour force is worsening. Areal demographic dependency rate decreases by 4% for the whole period, while in the city it remains at 2010 - 2012 level.



### Areal with centre city of Varna

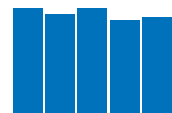


### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by period.*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
VAR01 Avren	353.8	8835	25	9603	27	9343	26
VAR02 Aksakovo	460.5	21218	46	20934	45	20749	45
VAR04 Beloslav	60.1	11117	185	10654	177	10507	175
VAR06 Varna	237.5	336677	1418	343646	1447	344703	1451
VAR13 Dolni chiflik	485.1	19228	40	18838	39	18651	38
VAR16 Dalgopol	440.9	14227	32	13647	31	13435	30
<b>BG003L2 Areal</b>	<b>2037.9</b>	<b>411302</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>417321</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>417388</b>	<b>205</b>

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	411301	417321	417388
○ male	200367	203195	202947
○ female	210934	214126	214441
Average number of live births	4455	3978	3888
Average number of deaths	4574	4962	5040
Absolute natural growth - number	-119	-984	-1152
Crude birth rate - ‰	10.83	9.53	9.31
Crude death rate - ‰	11.12	11.89	12.07
Natural growth rate - ‰	-0.29	-2.36	-2.76
Average annual population of the areal centre	328088	334822	335845
○ male	159148	162121	162373
○ female	168940	172701	173472



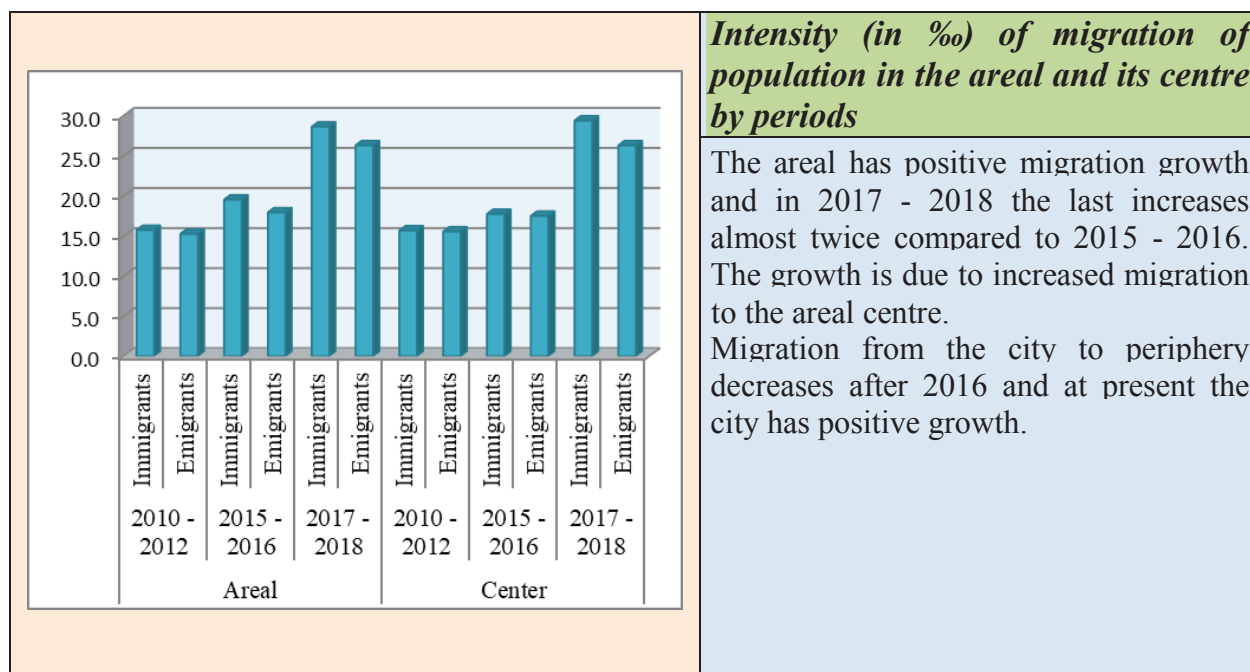
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	3612	3183	3137
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	3282	3652	3687
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	329	-470	-550
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	11.01	9.51	9.34
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.00	10.91	10.98
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	1.00	-1.40	-1.64

Areal population increases by 6 thousand or by 1.46% from 2010 to 2016. The increase is due to positive migration growth. Natural growth is better than the country average, but decrease of crude birth rate and slight increase of crude death rate is observed during the whole period. As a result, natural growth is worsening from minus 0.3‰ in the beginning of period to minus 2.8‰ in 2017 - 2018. The last is compensated by the positive migration growth and thus the population number does not change in the last two years.

Population of areal centre, city of Varna, increases by 1 200 persons due to migration. Birth rate decreases slightly and mortality remain the same as in 2015. Regardless the last, natural growth in the areal centre after 2015 is negative - 1.6‰ in 2018.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	6479	8156	8498
Average annual number of emigrants	6280	7491	7473
Absolute migration growth	199	665	1025
Migration growth rate - ‰	0.48	1.59	2.46
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	5147	5947	6690
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	5106	5863	5476
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	41	84	1214
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	0.13	0.25	3.61



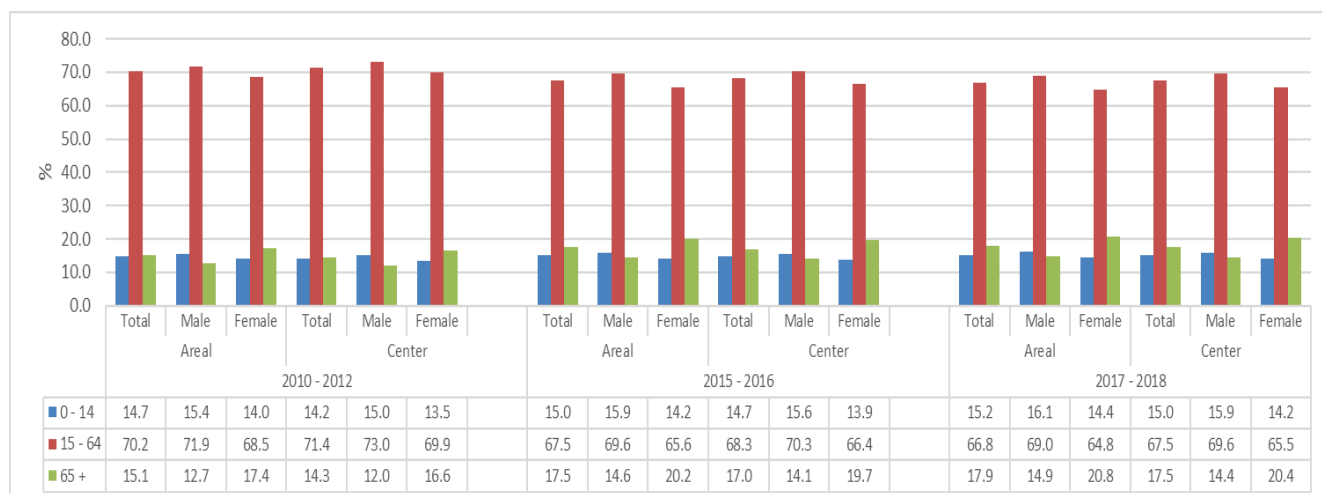
### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	60523	62638	63539
Population aged 15 - 64 years	288586	281810	279018
Population aged 65 and more	62193	72873	74831
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	46717	49282	50436
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	234320	228628	226623
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	47050	56912	58786
Mean age of areal population - years	40.3	41.6	41.9
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.1	41.5	41.8

Areal population below 14 years of age increases by 1 000 persons in the last two years. Population at working age decreases by nearly 2 800 persons and at the end of 2018 is nearly 67% of the areal population, compared to 70% in 2010 - 2012 period. Number and share of population above 65 years increases. Compared to 2010, the increase is with more than 12 thousand or from 15 to 18%.

The changes in age structure of areal population are mainly due to changes of city population. For the whole period, population aged 15 - 64 years decreases by 4%, while population above 65 increases by over 3%.

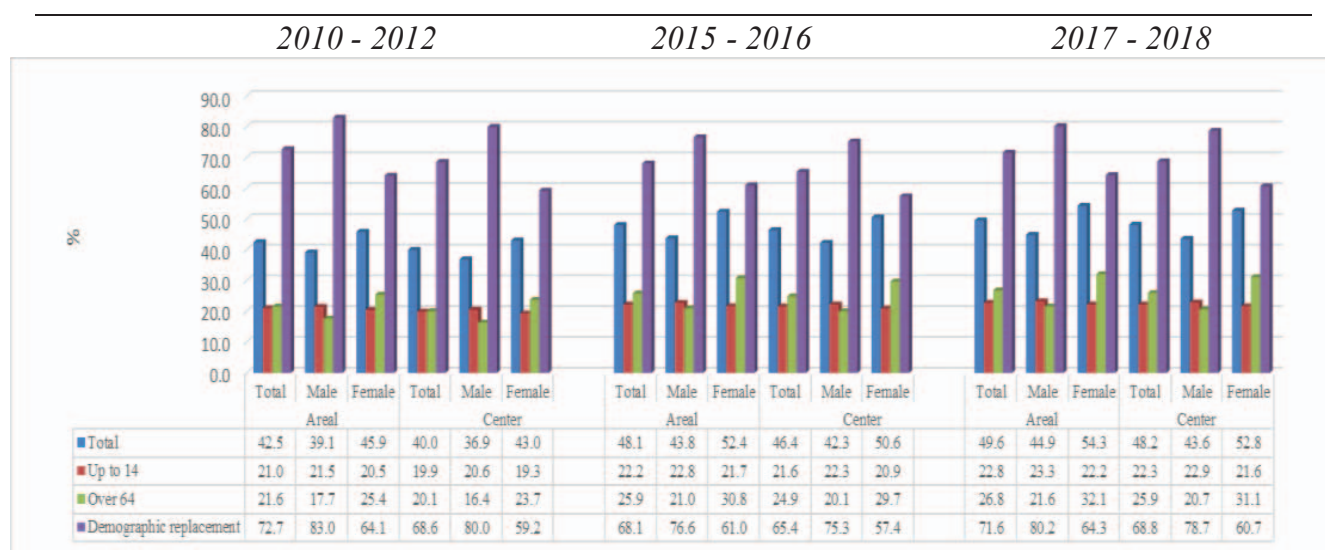
Mean age of both areal and city population increases and reaches 42 years.



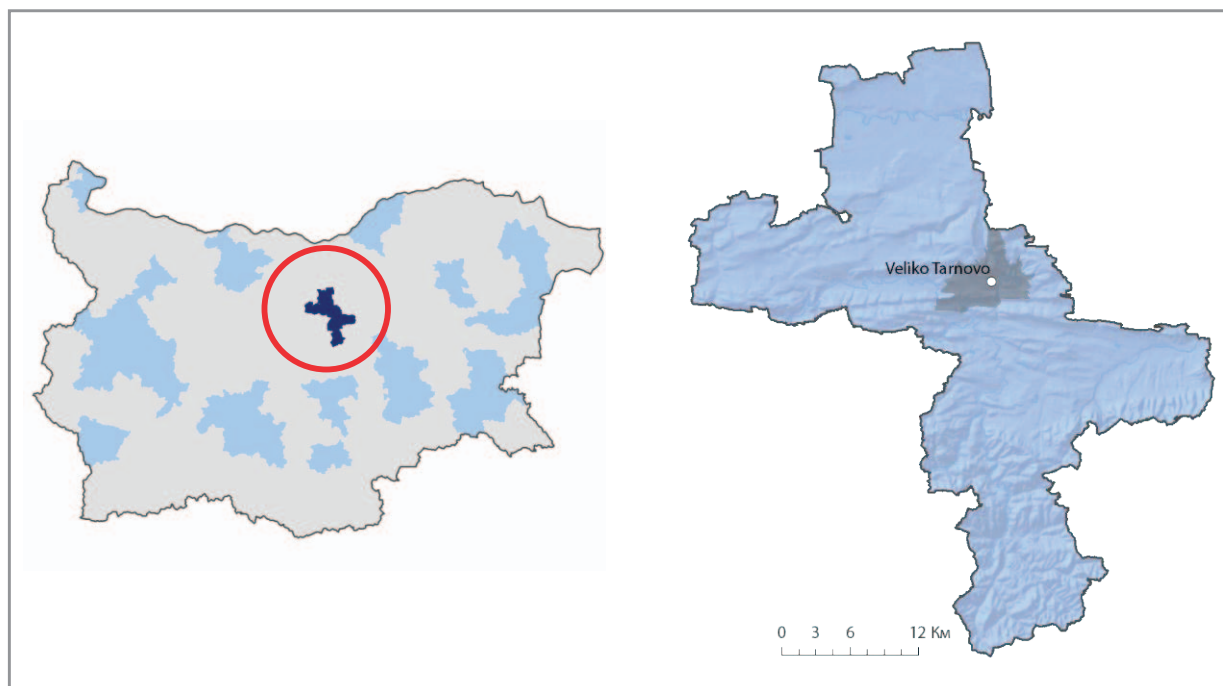
*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

Demographic burden of areal and areal centre population increases. In 2017 - 2018 to each 100 persons aged 15 - 64 years correspond 48 persons in dependent ages or 7 more compared to 2010 - 2012. Demographic replacement rate decreased in 2015 - 2017, but in 2017 - 2018 it is again at 2010 - 2012 level - about 72%. Possible the last may be explained by migration to the areal and the city in the last two years and namely that mainly young population migrate.



### Areal with centre city of Veliko Tarnovo



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
VTR04 Veliko Tarnovo	885.3	88455	100	87220	99	87042	98
<b>BG017L1 Areal</b>							

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	88455	87220	87042
○ male	42084	41776	41655
○ female	46371	45444	45387
Average number of live births	806	797	754
Average number of deaths	1169	1113	1118
Absolute natural growth - number	-362	-316	-364
Crude birth rate - ‰	9.12	9.14	8.66
Crude death rate - ‰	13.21	12.76	12.84
Natural growth rate - ‰	-4.10	-3.62	-4.18



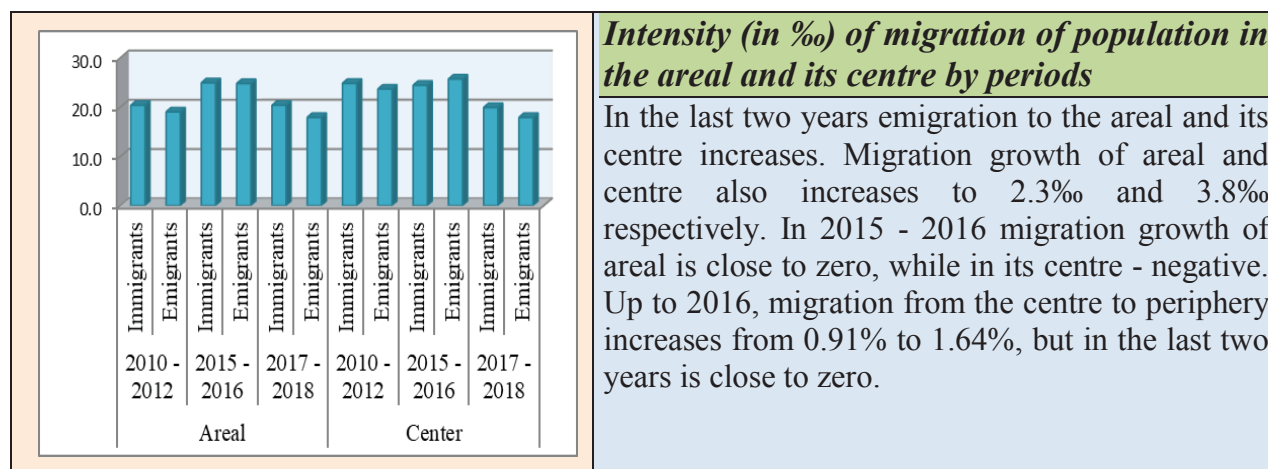
Average annual population of the areal centre	67978	68399	68706
○ male	32049	32560	32669
○ female	35929	35840	36037
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	665	667	639
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	681	680	707
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-16	-14	-69
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	9.78	9.74	9.29
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.02	9.94	0.29
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-0.24	-0.20	-1.00

Since 2015, population of areal and its centre do not change significantly. Areal crude birth rate up to 2016 is 9.1‰, but in the last two years it decreases and is even lower than the country average. Mortality rate (12.7‰ - 12.8‰) does not change in the last four years and is lower than 2010 - 2012 period. Due to decreased fertility, natural growth also decreases and in 2017 - 2018 is minus 4.2‰ compared to minus 3.6‰ in 2015 - 2016.

The same are tendencies in the areal centre, but fertility is a little higher and mortality lower than areal and country values. Natural growth, close to zero up to 2016, in 2017 - 2018 is minus 1‰.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	1801	2175	2494
Average annual number of emigrants	1682	2162	2290
Absolute migration growth	119	13	204
Migration growth rate - ‰	1.35	0.15	2.34
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	1687	1672	2021
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1609	1757	1762
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	79	-86	259
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	1.16	-1.25	3.77



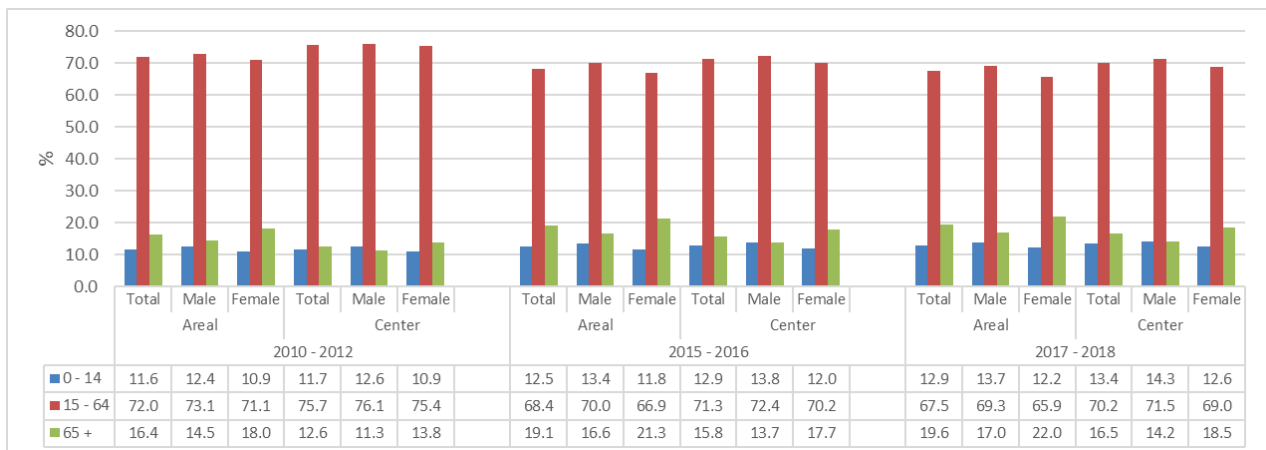
### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	10259	10935	11231
Population aged 15 - 64 years	63715	59654	58772
Population aged 65 and more	14481	16632	17039
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	7953	8817	9182
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	51459	48762	48211
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	8567	10821	11312
Mean age of areal population - years	41.7	42.6	42.8
Mean age of areal centre population - years	39.8	40.9	41.1

Population aged 0 - 14 in the areal increases by nearly two thousand in 2017 - 2018, compared to 2010 - 2012. Increase by 2 600 persons or 18% of the population over 65 years is also observed. In parallel, population in active ages decreases by 5 thousand or by 8%.

These changes are more visible for areal centre population. Decrease of working age population in areal centre is by nearly 3 250 persons, while elderly population increases by 2 750 or by 32%.





*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

Demographic dependency indicators continue to increase. Demographic burden of working age population increase from 39% in 2010 - 2012 to 48% in 2017 - 2018. Number of persons aged up to 14 increases by 3 per 100 persons aged 15 - 64, while for population aged 65 and over the increase is by 6 persons.

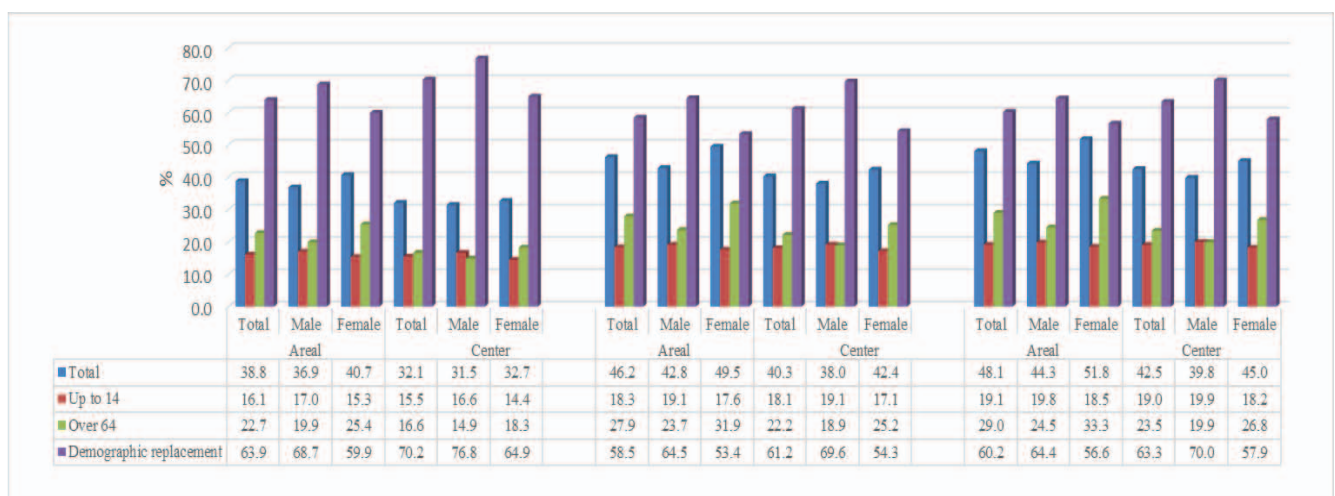
In the city, the demographic dependency increases by 3 and 7 persons for the respective age groups and in a total by 10 per 100 persons in independent ages.

Compared to 2010 - 2012 period, the demographic replacement rate decreases less (by 4%) in the areal, than in the city (by 7%), but compared to 2015 - 2016 these values are more favourable.

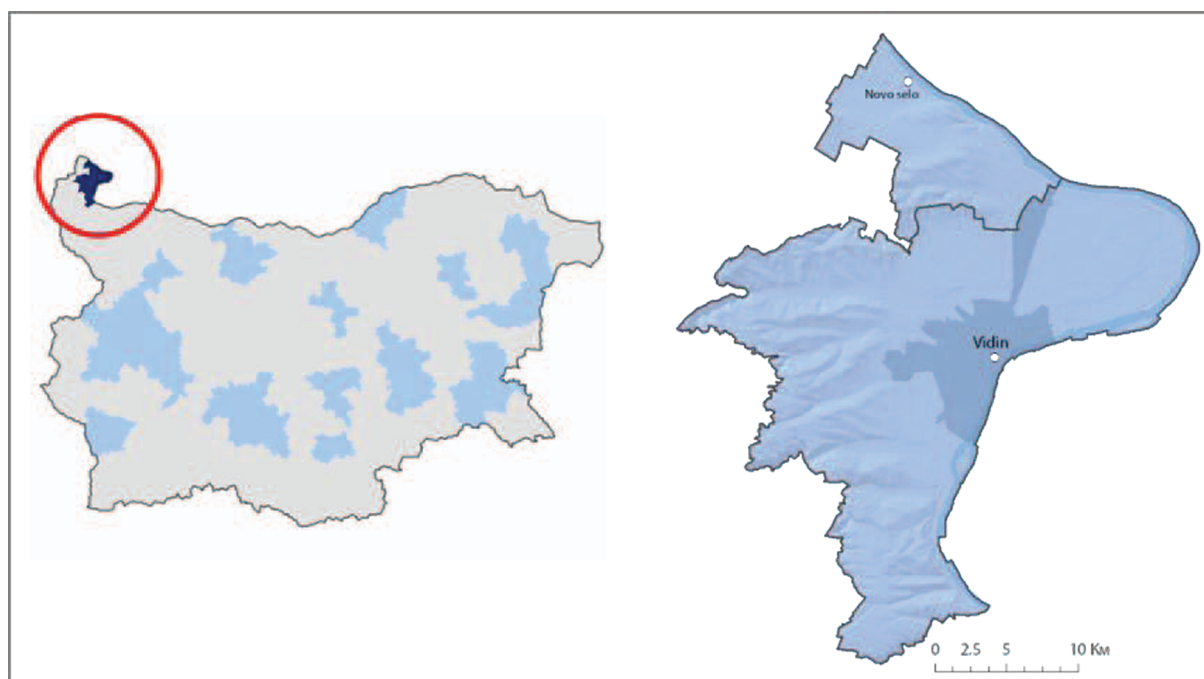
2010 - 2012

2015 - 2016

2017 - 2018



### Areal with centre city of Vidin



*Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012			2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018		
	Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density	
	VID09	Vidin	512.9	63703	124	56396	110	54764	107
	VID30	Novo selo	109.5	3115	29	2737	25	2595	24
	<b>BG007L2</b>	<b>Areal</b>	<b>622.4</b>	<b>66818</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>59133</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>57358</b>	<b>92</b>

### Population natural growth

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	66818	59133	57358
○ male	32350	28661	27775
○ female	34468	30472	29583
Average number of live births	494	350	351
Average number of deaths	1193	1122	1070
Absolute natural growth - number	-699	-773	-719
Crude birth rate - ‰	7.39	5.91	6.12



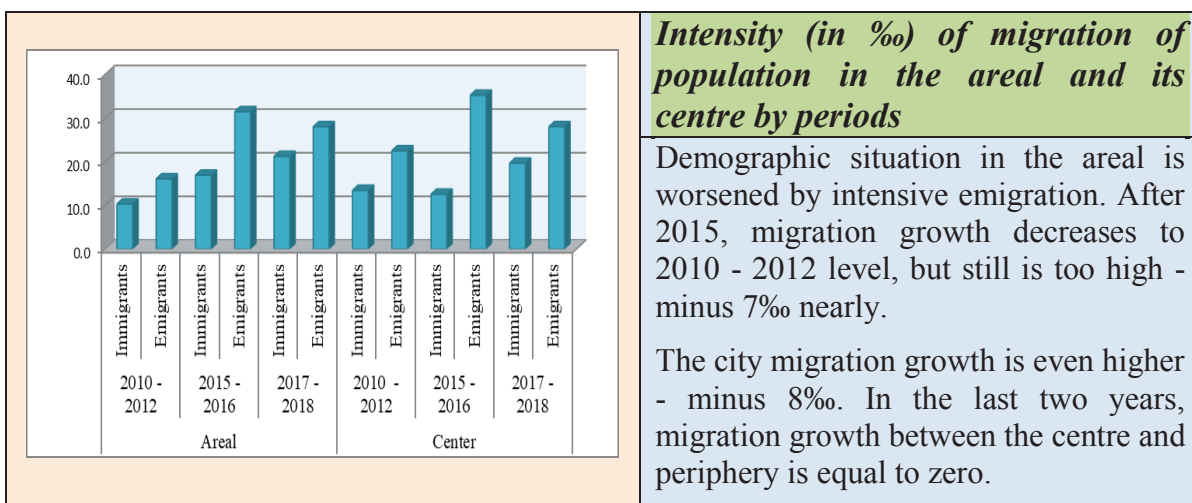
Crude death rate - ‰	17.85	18.97	18.65
Natural growth rate - ‰	-10.46	-13.06	-12.54
Average annual population of the areal centre	48138	43198	42193
○ male	23298	20956	20433
○ female	24840	22242	21760
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	406	286	281
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	580	569	549
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-174	-284	-269
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	8.44	6.61	6.65
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	12.05	13.17	13.01
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-3.61	-6.56	-6.36

Since 2010, the areal population has decreased by 9 500 persons or by 14%. Crude birth rate (6‰) is considerable lower than the country average and lowest compared to rest of the areas reviewed. Due to population ageing, mortality is too high, about 18‰ during the whole period and natural growth, being negative worsen from minus 10.5‰ in 2010 - 2012 to nearly minus 13‰ in following years. Natural growth for the country in 2017 - 2018 is minus 6.5‰.

Also negative are the demographic processes in the areal centre - city of Vidin. For the whole period, the population decreases by 6 thousand or 12%. Crude birth rate is low and cannot compensate mortality rate of about 13‰. After 2015, natural growth is over minus 6‰. Demographic situation in the areal and its centre is too complicated and difficult to be prognosticated.

### Migration

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	687	1000	1216
Average annual number of emigrants	1073	1860	1606
Absolute migration growth	-386	-860	-390
Migration growth rate - ‰	-5.78	-14.54	-6.79
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	646	542	829
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1082	1522	1170
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-436	-980	-341
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-9.06	-22.67	-8.07



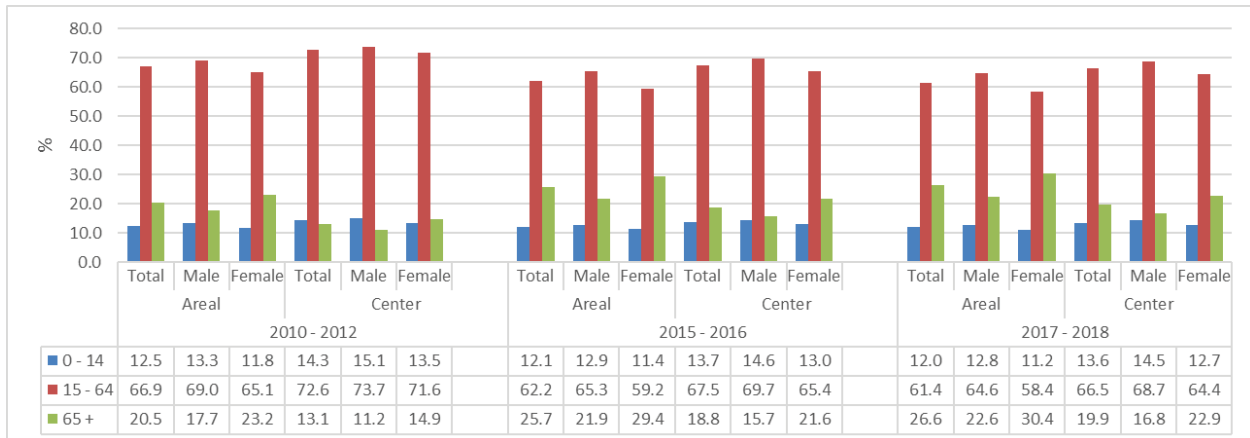
### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	8362	7151	6879
Population aged 15 - 64 years	44732	36766	35234
Population aged 65 and more	13723	15216	15245
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	6886	5935	5732
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	34952	29155	28062
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	6301	8109	8399
Mean age of areal population - years	44.6	46.7	47.3
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.9	43.5	44.4

The negative demographic tendencies lead to population ageing. After 2015 - 2016, more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of population is aged 65 and over. Share of population below 14 remains the same (12%), but lowest compared to rest of the areals. Population aged 15 - 64 decreases by 9 500 persons and in 2017 - 2018 is 61%.

Population ageing in the city follows the same tendencies. Population below 14 stays about 14%, but decreases in absolute figures. In 2017 - 2018 it decreases by 7 thousand compared to 2010 and at represents 66% of the total population. Number and share of elderly population increase from 13% in 2010 - 2012 to 20% in the last two years.

Mean age of population increases and in 2017 - 2018 is 47 years in the areal and 44 in its centre.



*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

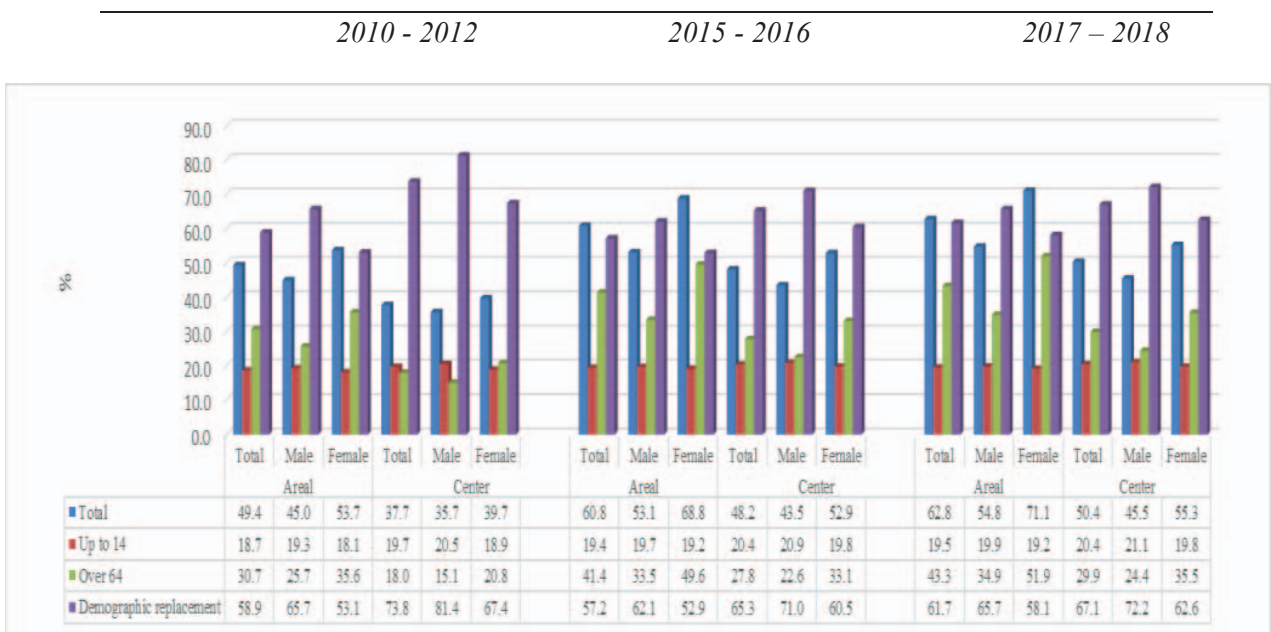
### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

Demographic dependency is highest compared to rest of the areals. It increases from 49% in 2010 to 63% in 2017 - 2018. Increase is mainly due to increase of share of oldest population.

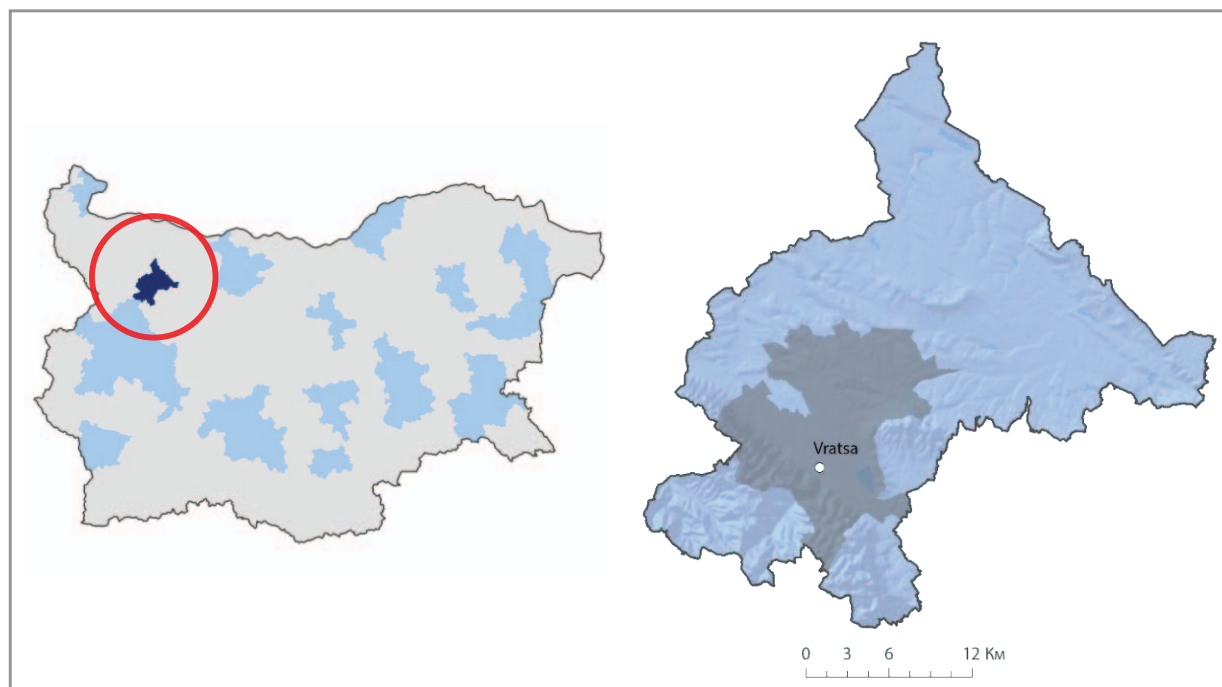
Demographic dependency in the areal centre also increases - from 38% in 2010 - 2012 to 50% in the last two years. Demographic burden of population in active ages is fully due to increased number and share of population over 65 years.

Reproduction of working age population is also unfavourable, regardless the small increase of replacement rate from 57% in 2015 - 2016 to nearly 62% in 2017 - 2018.

Better is the value of replacement rate in the areal centre - city of Vidin. Compared to previous two years it increases by 2%, but decreases from 74% in 2010 - 2012 to 67% in 2017 - 2018.



## Areal with centre city of Vratsa



*Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
VRC10	Vratsa	706.2	73767	105	66347	94	65179
BG018L1	Areal						92

*Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	73767	66347	65179
○ male	35903	32355	31684
○ female	37864	33992	33495
Average number of live births	574	526	531
Average number of deaths	1088	1040	1029
Absolute natural growth - number	-514	-514	-498
Crude birth rate - ‰	7.79	7.92	8.15
Crude death rate - ‰	14.75	15.67	15.79



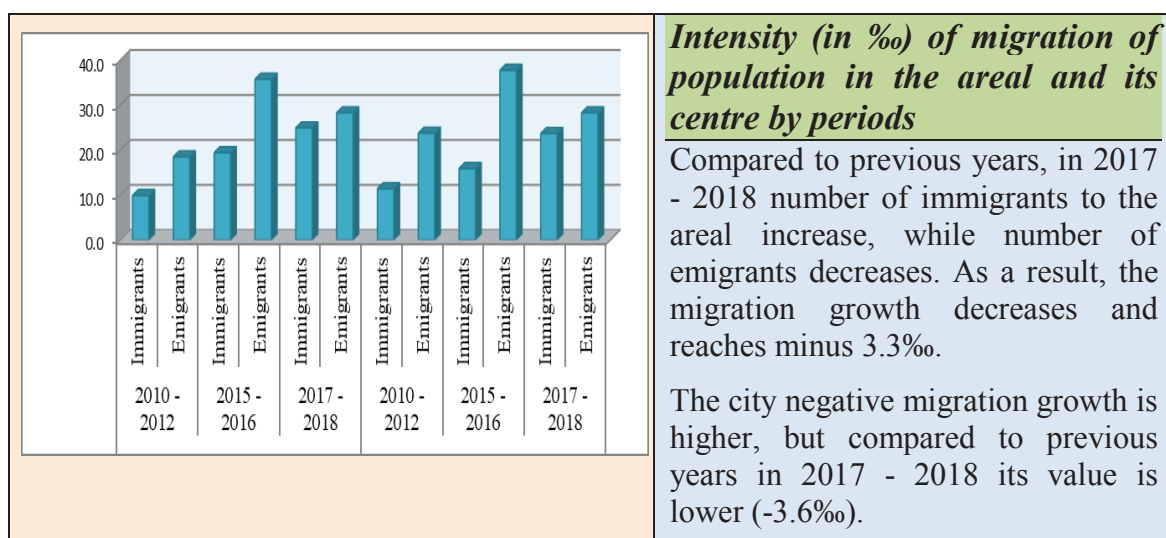
Natural growth rate - ‰	-6.96	-7.75	-7.64
Average annual population of the areal centre	59835	53860	53102
○ male	28975	26061	25578
○ female	30859	27799	27524
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	463	423	430
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	734	721	715
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-271	-298	-286
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	7.74	7.85	8.09
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	12.26	13.38	13.46
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-4.52	-5.52	-5.38

The negative tendencies in areal with centre city of Vratsa continue to worsen. For the whole period, population decreases by 8 600 persons. Vital events indicators are below the country average. Mortality remains about 15.7‰ and regardless the light increase of fertility, the natural growth has too high negative value - minus 7.6‰.

Similar are the tendencies in the city. Its population decreases by more than 6 thousand or a conclusion is that the decrease of areal population is mainly due to decrease of city population. Crude birth rate over the whole period stays lower than the country average and in 2017 - 2018 is 8.1‰ (7.7‰ in 2010 - 2012). In the last four years, the crude death rate is about 13.4‰ and the natural growth - minus 5.4‰.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	730	1288	1625
Average annual number of emigrants	1363	2372	1843
Absolute migration growth	-634	-1084	-218
Migration growth rate - ‰	-8.59	-16.33	-3.34
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	682	856	1257
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1420	2032	1448
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-738	-1176	-191
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-12.33	-21.83	-3.60



### Age structure

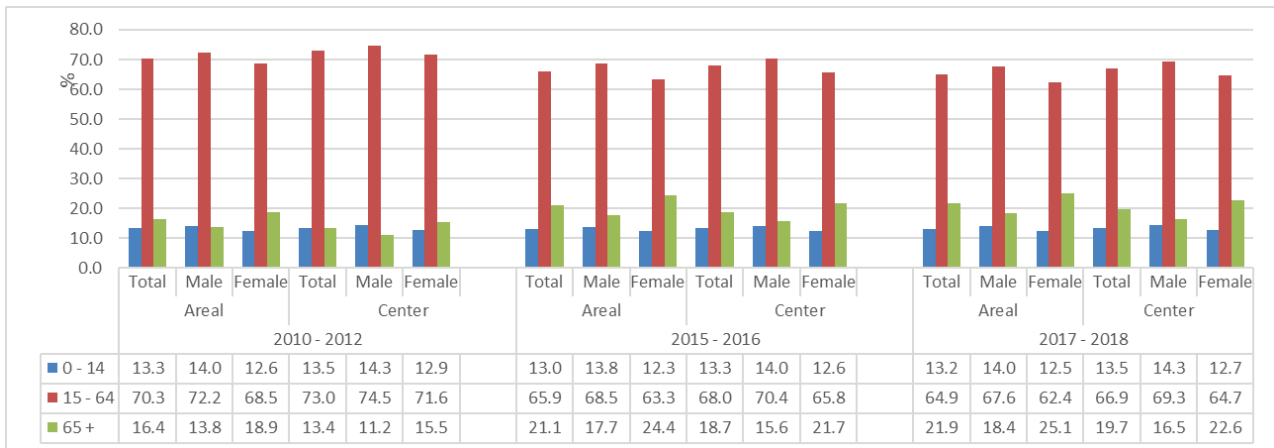
Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	9779	8657	8633
Population aged 15 - 64 years	51882	43692	42300
Population aged 65 and more	12106	13999	14246
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	8107	7152	7149
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	43687	36620	35512
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	8041	10089	10442
Mean age of areal population - years	42.5	44.8	45.2
Mean age of areal centre population - years	41.3	43.9	44.5

Areal population aged 15 - 64 decreases by more than 9 500. The last is mainly due to decrease of respective population in the city of Vratsa by nearly 8 thousand. Number and share of youngest population remain the same. Compared to 2010 - 2012, population over 65 years increases and in 2017 - 2018 is 22%.

In the city, oldest population for the same period increases from 13% to 20%.

Population ageing both in areal and city continue. Mean age of population is about 45 years.





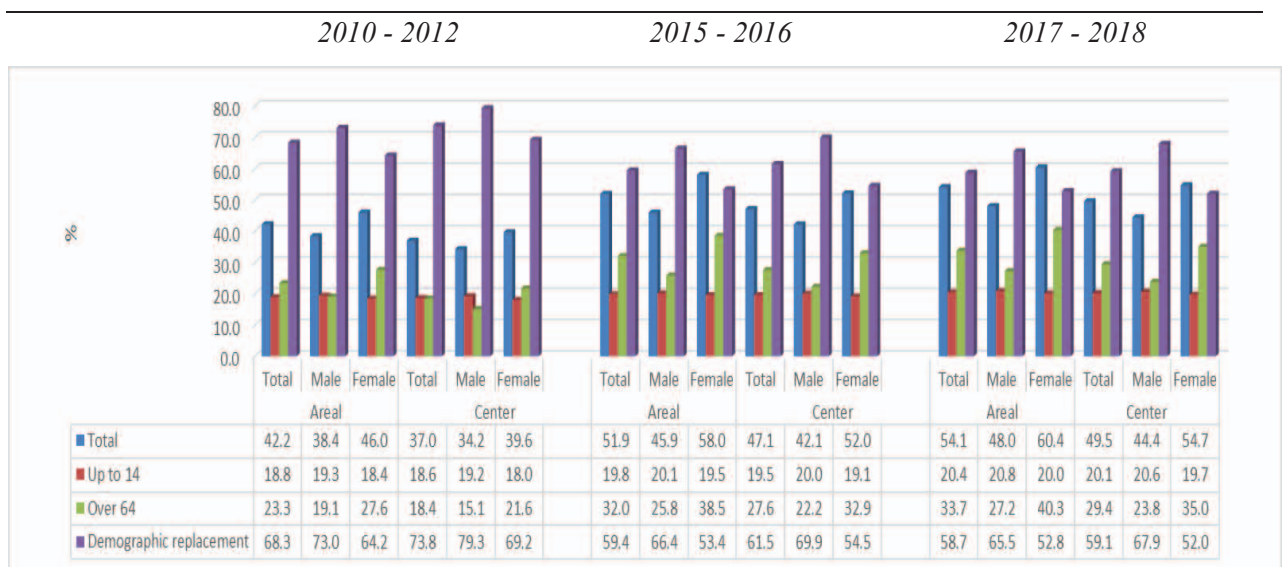
*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

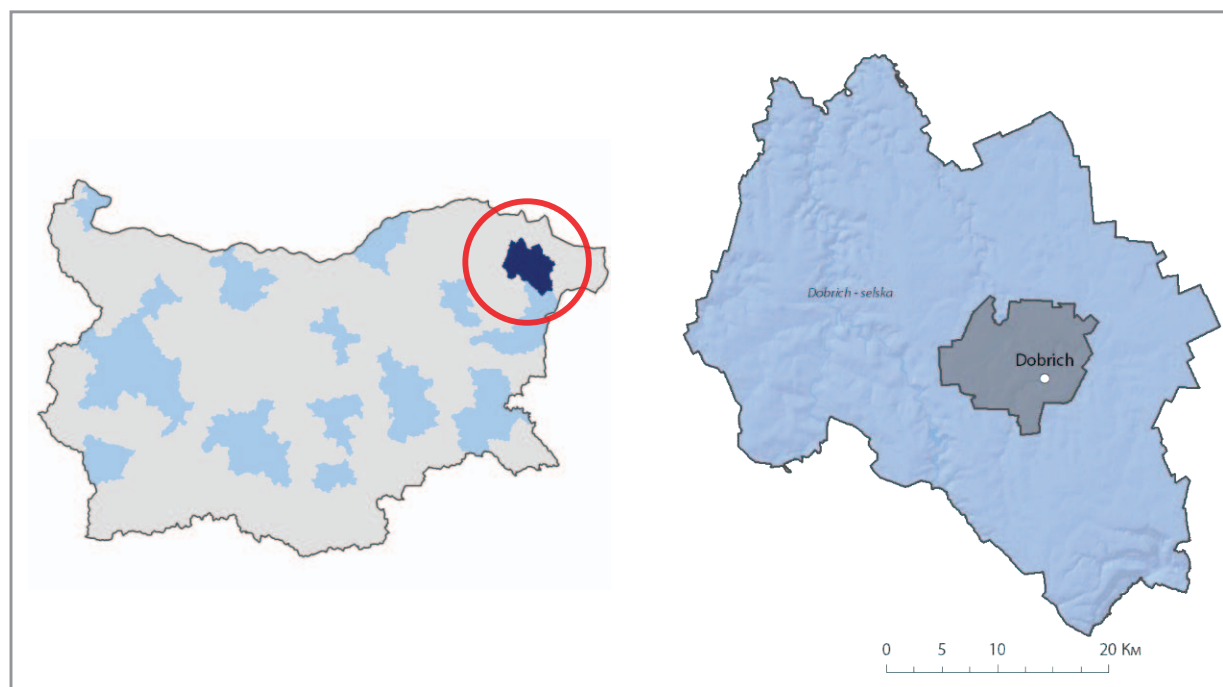
Demographic dependency rate increases by nearly 12% both in the areal and city. In 2017 - 2018 to each 100 persons aged 15 - 64 in the areal correspond 54 persons in dependent ages, while in the city - 50. Demographic burden increases due to increase the share of elderly population.

Reproduction of active population is also negative. Demographic replacement both in the areal and city decreases - 10% in the areal and 12% in the city. In 2010 - 2012, each 100 persons exiting working age in the areal are replaced by 68 persons entering it, while in 2017 - 2018 - by 59.

In the city, the respective ratios are 100:74 and 100:59 persons.



### Areal with centre city of Dobrich



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
DOB15 Dobrich	1296.2	22868	18	21038	16	20600	16
DOB28 Dobrich-grad	109.0	91185	836	85847	788	84496	775
<b>BG010L1 Areal</b>	<b>1405.2</b>	<b>114053</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>106885</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>105096</b>	<b>75</b>

### *Population natural growth*

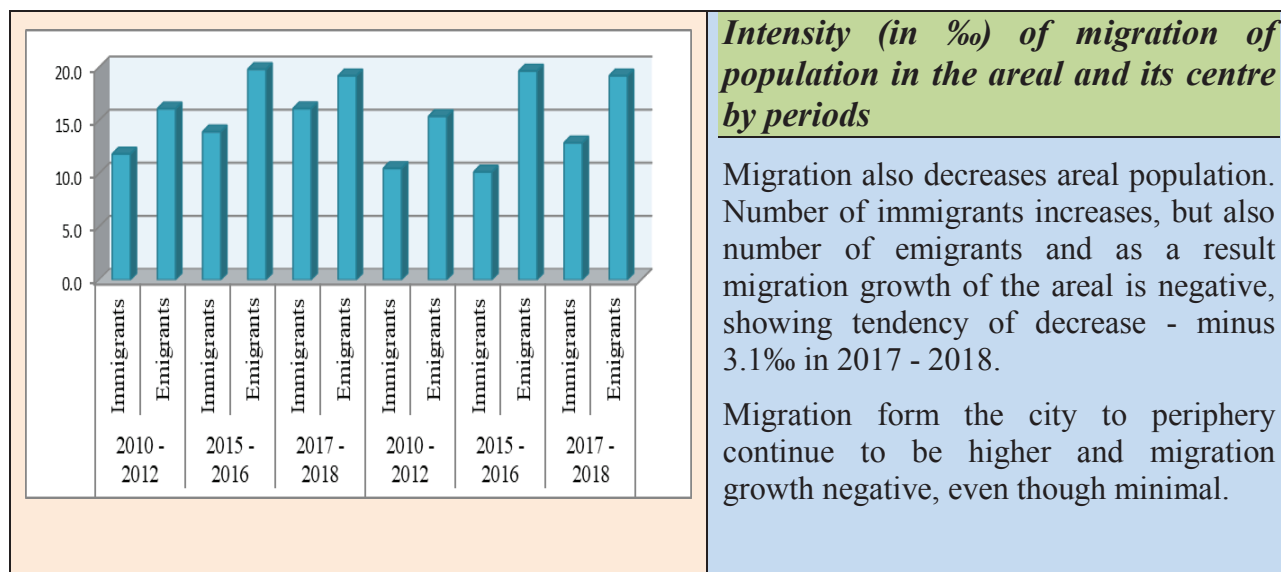
Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	114053	106885	105096
○ male	55267	51668	50655
○ female	58787	55217	54441
Average number of live births	1054	864	808
Average number of deaths	1603	1574	1660
Absolute natural growth - number	-550	-710	-853
Crude birth rate - ‰	9.24	8.08	7.68
Crude death rate - ‰	14.06	14.72	15.80
Natural growth rate - ‰	-4.82	-6.64	-8.11

Average annual population of the areal centre	91185	85847	84496
○ male	43825	41139	40361
○ female	47360	44708	44135
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	834	691	643
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	1074	1083	1166
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-240	-392	-523
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	9.15	8.05	7.61
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	11.78	12.61	13.80
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-2.63	-4.56	-6.19

Areal population decreases by 9 thousand or by 7.8%. Nearly 74% of decrease is due to decrease of areal centre (city of Dobrich) population. Mortality is high and increases slightly, but fertility considerably decreases and is lower (7.7‰) than the country average. Thus, the negative values of absolute and relative natural growth increases and in 2017 - 2018 is minus 8.1‰.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	1353	1492	1696
Average annual number of emigrants	1838	2119	2021
Absolute migration growth	-485	-628	-325
Migration growth rate - ‰	-4.26	-5.87	-3.09
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	958	873	1091
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1404	1689	1447
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-446	-816	-386
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-4.89	-9.51	-4.57

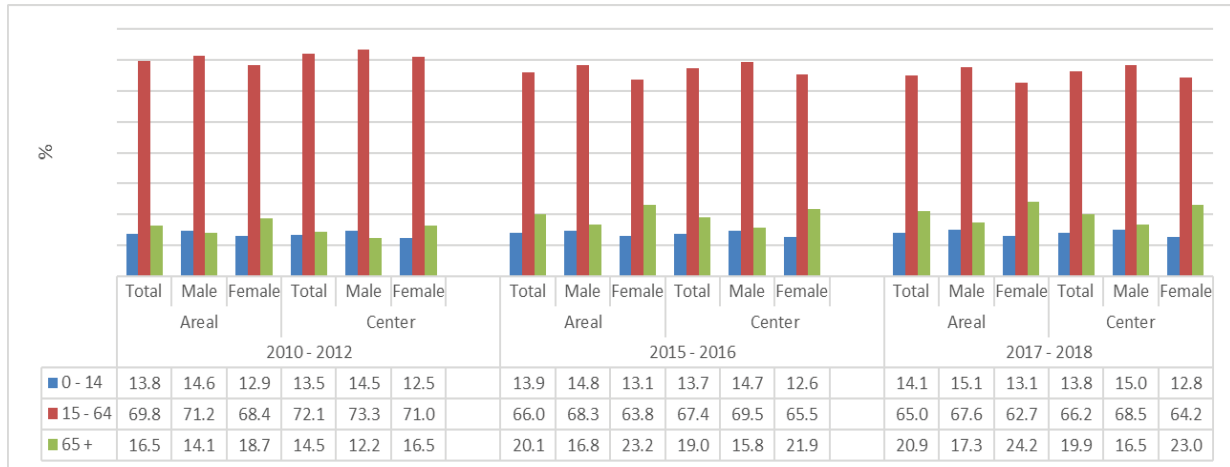


### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	15687	14875	14793
Population aged 15 - 64 years	79585	70527	68353
Population aged 65 and more	18782	21484	21951
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	12271	11720	11697
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	65735	57857	55975
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	13180	16271	16824
Mean age of areal population - years	42.0	43.7	44.2
Mean age of areal centre population - years	41.4	43.6	44.1

Population aged 15 - 64 decreases by more than 11 thousand or by 14%. Its share decreases over the whole period - from 70% to 65% of the total population. 89% of the decrease is due to decrease of city population. In the last four years, the number and share of youngest population remain unchanged. Population over 64 years increases from 16.5% to 21% for the whole period.

Same tendencies are observed in the areal centre. In the last years, number and share of youngest population do not change, active age population decreases, while oldest population increases.

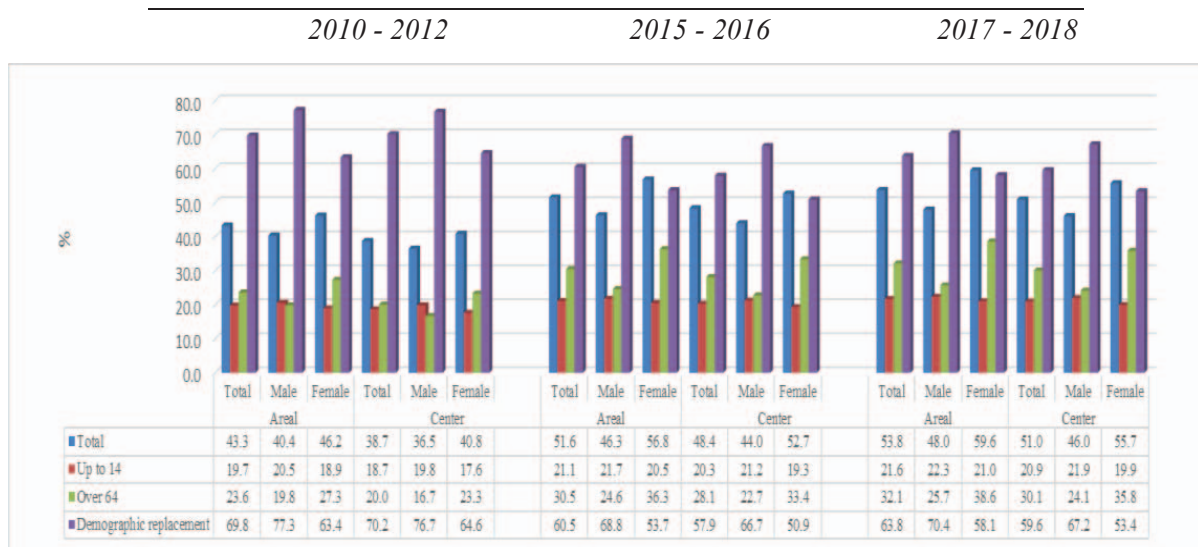


*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

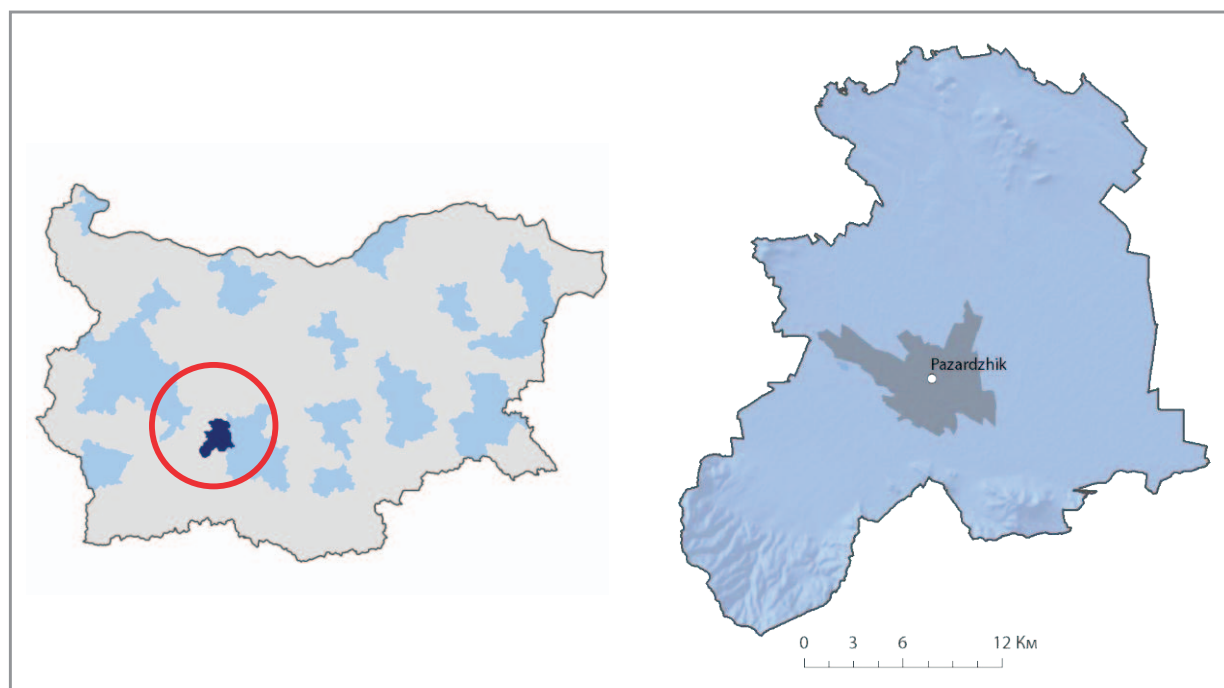
### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

Age dependency rates worsen due to worsened age structure. For the whole period, number of persons in dependent ages corresponding to 100 persons in independent ones increase by 10 persons in the areal and by more than 12 - in the city. 80% of the increase of demographic dependency rate is due to oldest population.

Demographic replacement also is worsened. For the whole period it decreases form 69.8% to 63.8%. The decrease is higher in the areal centre - from 70.2% to 59.6%.



### Areal with centre city of Pazardzhik



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
PAZ19 Pazardzhik							
<b>BG015L1 Areal</b>	636.7	117293	184	109858	173	108431	170

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	117293	109858	108431
○ male	57494	53783	53002
○ female	59799	56075	55429
Average number of live births	1150	1031	970
Average number of deaths	1489	1567	1521
Absolute natural growth - number	-339	-536	-552
Crude birth rate - ‰	9.80	9.38	8.94
Crude death rate - ‰	12.69	14.26	14.03

Natural growth rate - ‰	-2.89	-4.88	-5.09
Average annual population of the areal centre	73186	69174	68576
○ male	35404	33414	33061
○ female	37782	35760	35515
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	737	638	609
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	809	843	884
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-72	-206	-276
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.07	9.22	8.87
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	11.05	12.19	12.89
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-0.98	-2.97	-4.02

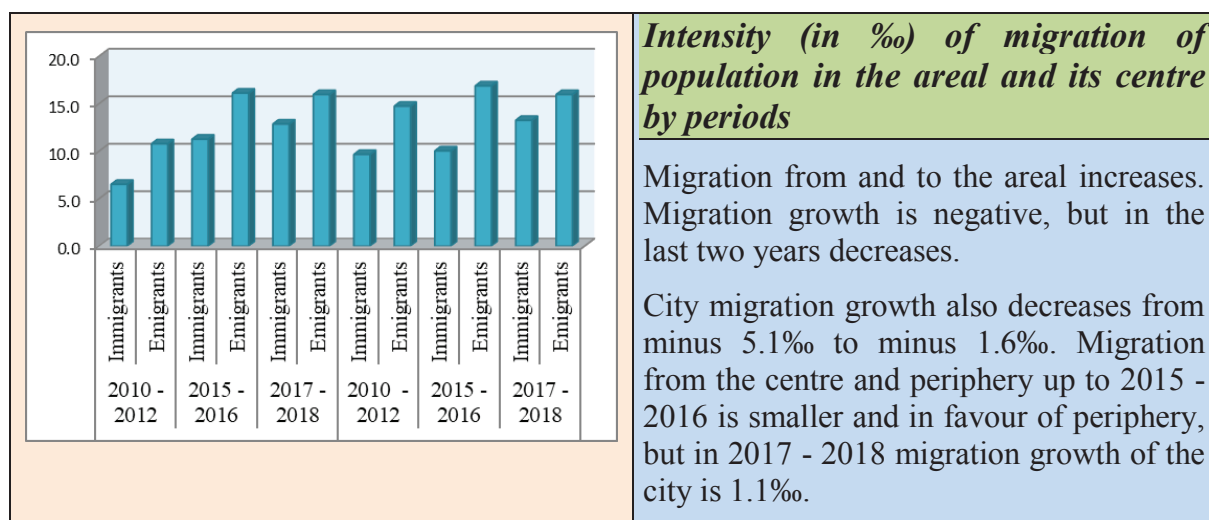
Areal population decreases by nearly 9 thousand or by 7.6%. Birth and death rates are lower than the country average. Natural growth rate, negative one, increases from 2.9% in 2010 - 2012 to 5.1‰ in 2017 - 2018.

City population tendency is also negative. Decrease of 6% is registered. Mortality increases, but remains lower than the country average. For the whole period, the birth rate decreases from 10.1% to 8.9‰. In the last two years, the natural growth is minus 4‰.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	764	1238	1394
Average annual number of emigrants	1264	1771	1732
Absolute migration growth	-500	-533	-338
Migration growth rate - ‰	-4.27	-4.85	-3.11
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	706	694	909
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1079	1168	1018
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-372	-474	-108
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-5.09	-6.85	-1.59





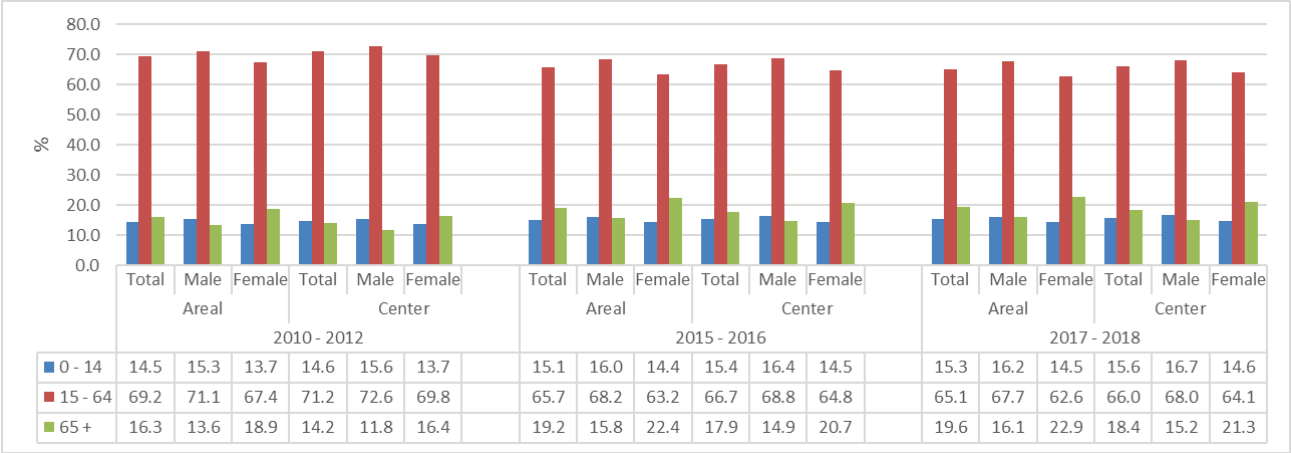
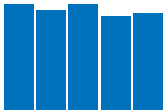
### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	17041	16643	16600
Population aged 15 - 64 years	81169	72151	70625
Population aged 65 and more	19084	21064	21206
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	10704	10650	10720
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	52093	46154	45266
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	10389	12370	12590
Mean age of areal population - years	41.4	42.9	43.2
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.7	42.5	42.8

Working age areal population decreases by 10.5 thousand or by 13%. In 2017 - 2018, its share in the total areal population is 65%. In the last four years, number and share of population below 14 years remain almost the same. Number of persons over 64 years increases, but less compared to rest of the areal under review.

In the areal centre, working age population also decreases by 13% and in 2017 - 2018 is 66%. Number of youngest population remains about 10 700 persons or 15%. Number of oldest population increases and respectively its share - from 14% to 18%.

Mean age of areal and city population are lower than the country averages.



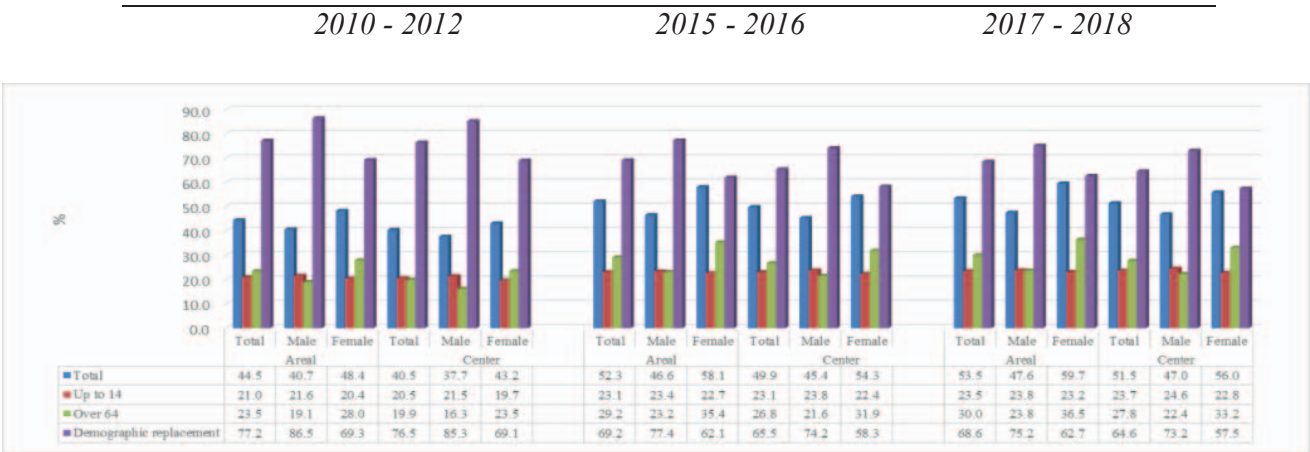
Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre

**Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex**

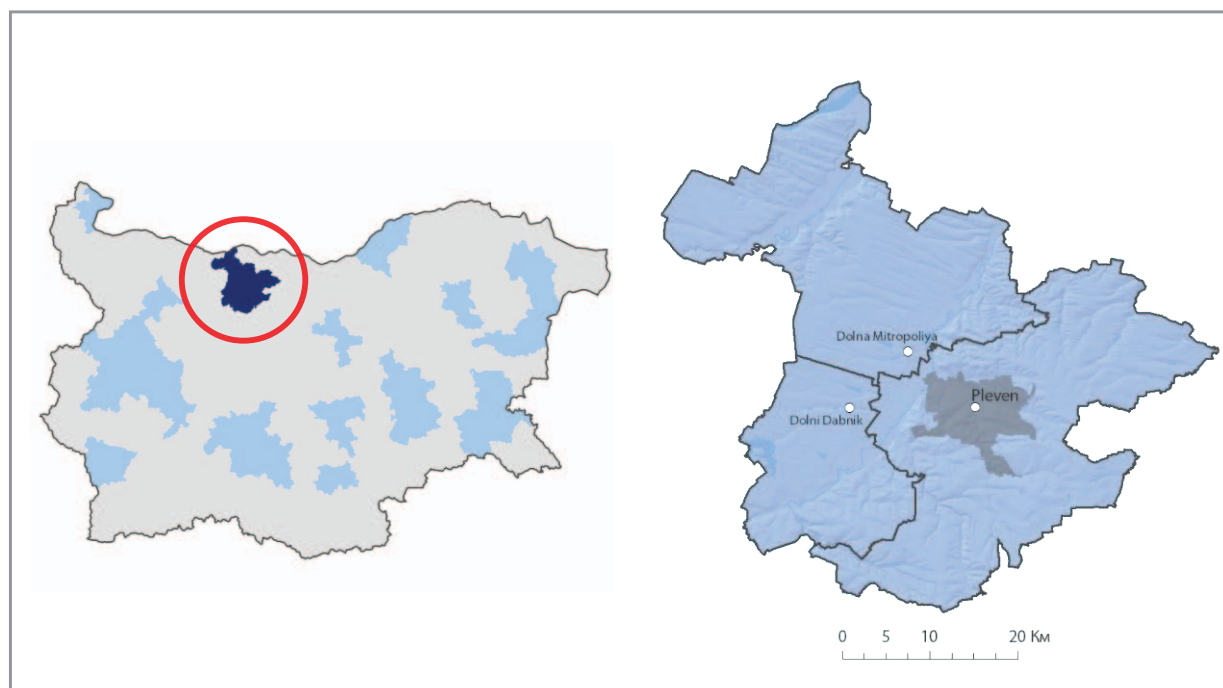
Between 2010 and 2018, number of persons depending on working age population increases by 9 persons in the areal and 11 - in the city. Demographic dependency rate in the areal is 53.5% in 2017 - 2018 and in the city - 51.5%, value equal to country urban population.

Demographic replacement is worsening, but still higher than the country average. Replacement rate in the areal in 2017 - 2018 is by 9% lower than in 2010 - 2012.

In the city, for the same period, the decrease is by 12%.



### Areal with centre city of Pleven



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012			2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
	Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
PVN10	Dolna Mitropoliya	674.9	20440	30	18633	28	18128	27
PVN11	Dolni Dabnik	307.6	12933	42	11082	36	10852	35
PVN24	Pleven	809.7	133310	165	122927	152	120913	149
<b>BG005L1</b>	<b>Areal</b>	<b>1792.2</b>	<b>166683</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>152642</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>149893</b>	<b>84</b>

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	166682	152642	149893
○ male	80749	73732	72272
○ female	85933	78911	77621
Average number of live births	1501	1389	1292
Average number of deaths	2649	2471	2436
Absolute natural growth - number	-1148	-1082	-1144

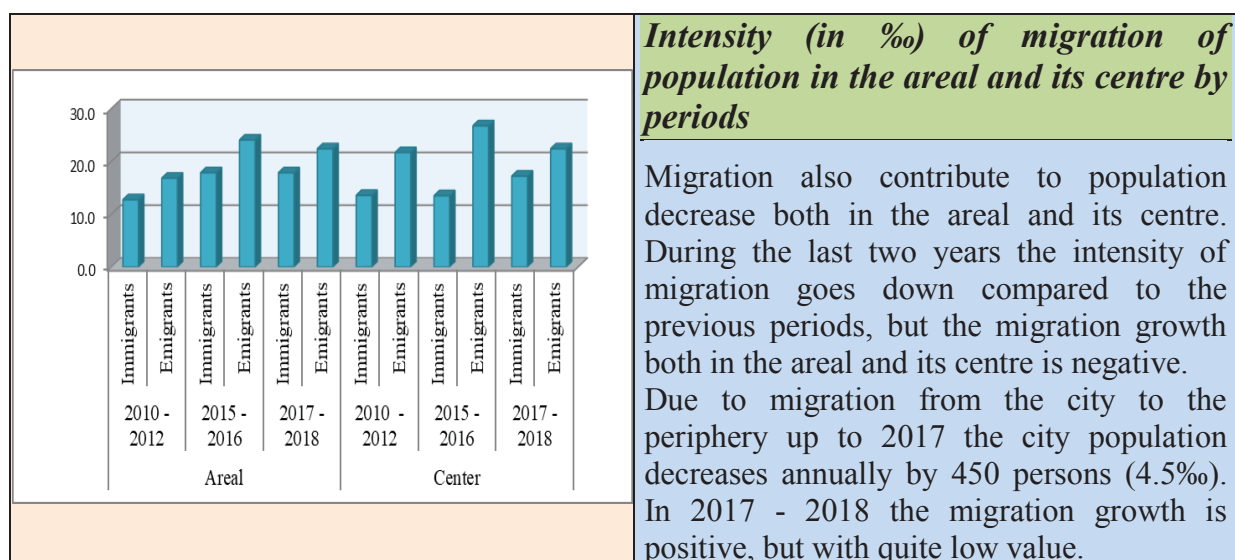
Crude birth rate - ‰	9.01	9.10	8.62
Crude death rate - ‰	15.89	16.18	16.25
Natural growth rate - ‰	-6.89	-7.09	-7.63
Average annual population of the areal centre	108038	99048	97545
○ male	52027	47400	46529
○ female	56011	51648	51016
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	929	799	757
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	1251	1243	1257
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-322	-444	-500
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	8.60	8.07	7.76
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	11.58	12.54	12.89
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-2.98	-4.48	-5.13

Highest in the country is the decrease of population in the areal of Pleven. From 2010 to 2018, the areal population decreases by nearly 16 800 persons, of which 10 500 in the city. Crude birth rate in the areal is below the country average, while death rate - above. Natural growth is negative, with a high value and trends to increase. Annually areal population decreases by more than thousand persons. Natural growth for the last two years is minus 7.6‰.

In the city, birth rate is too low and shows stable tendency of decrease (757 live births in 2017 - 2018). Natural growth is negative and its negative value is the highest compared to the rest cities reviewed. On one hand, the values of vital indicators and present demographic situation prove the heavy problems existing in the areal, and on the other, tendencies in their development and the demographic crisis in the areal centre, city of Pleven, should be considered.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	2125	2728	2678
Average annual number of emigrants	2806	3674	3359
Absolute migration growth	-681	-946	-681
Migration growth rate - ‰	-4.09	-6.20	-4.54
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	1468	1338	1681
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	2343	2650	2109
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-876	-1312	-429
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-8.11	-13.25	-4.39

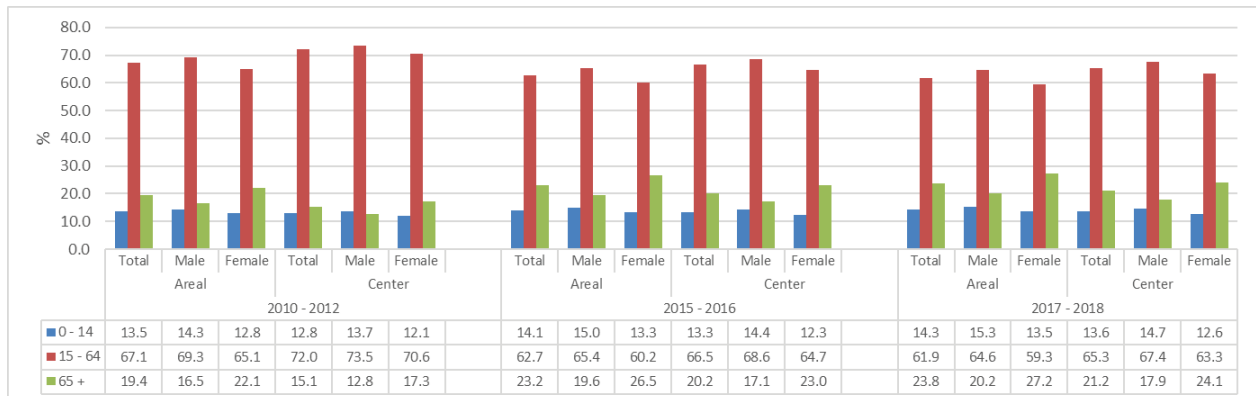


### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	22541	21521	21491
Population aged 15 - 64 years	111881	95750	92720
Population aged 65 and more	32260	35371	35682
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	13878	13155	13230
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	77804	65911	63677
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	16356	19983	20638
Mean age of areal population - years	43.4	44.8	45.2
Mean age of areal centre population - years	42.2	44.3	44.9

Areal population is ageing. Mean age is one of the highest in the country (45 years). Since 2010, working age population has decreased by more than 19 thousand or by 17%. In 2017 - 2018, share of areal working age population is among lowest in the country - 62%. Share of young population remains the same in last years, but its number decreases. Number of persons aged 64 and over increases by nearly 3 500 or 10.6% and in 2017 - 2018 it represents 24% of the areal population.

Demographic changes in the areal are mainly determined by demographic situation in its centre - city of Pleven. Age structure in the city is worsening. Number and share of population up to 14 years do not change considerably - both are low. Population aged 15 - 64 decreases by 14 thousand for the whole observed period and in 2017 - 2018 is 65% of the total city population. Population over 64 increases by 4 thousand and in 2017 - 2018 reaches 21%.



*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

Number of persons in dependent ages per 100 persons aged 15 - 64 in the areal increases by 12 and age dependency rate from 49% in 2010 - 2012 to 61.7%. Negative changes are predominantly due to burden of city elderly (65+) population.

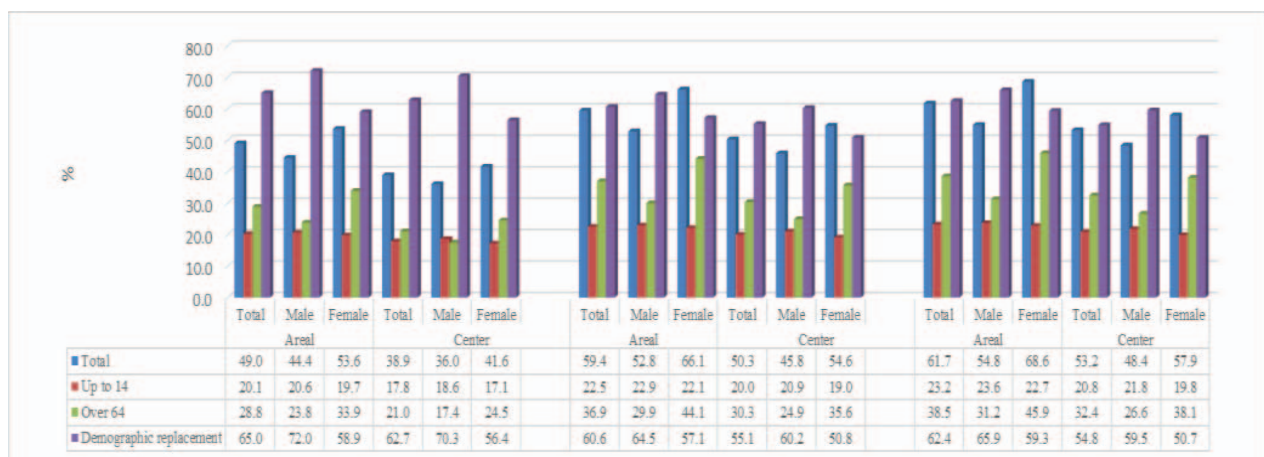
Ratio between persons entering working age and those exiting it also decreases. Demographic replacement rate in the areal decreases from 65% in 2010 - 2012 to 62% in 2017 - 2018 and in the city - from 63% to 55%.

Indicators above prove the crisis tendencies in demographic development of city of Pleven, one of big country cities, with population above 100 thousand up to 2015.

2010 - 2012

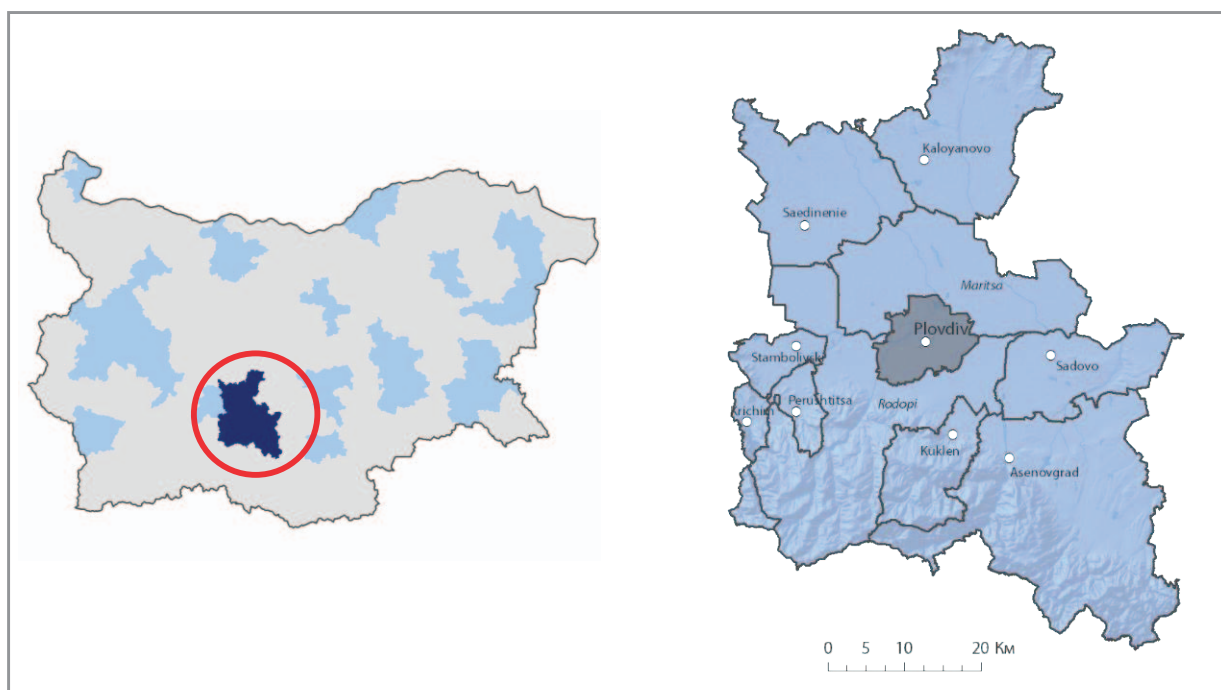
2015 - 2016

2017 - 2018





### Areal with centre city of Plovdiv



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012			2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
	Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
PDV01	Asenovgrad	665.4	64197	97	61993	93	61285	92
PDV12	Kaloyanovo	347.5	12022	35	11114	32	10825	31
PDV17	Maritsa	342.7	31938	93	31608	92	31205	91
PDV22	Plovdiv	102.0	343197	3365	342525	3358	345177	3384
PDV26	Rodopi	523.7	32091	61	31018	59	30569	58
PDV28	Sadovo	192.9	15543	81	14857	77	14642	76
PDV33	Saedinenie	298.0	10699	36	9981	33	9695	33
PDV39	Krichim	54.9	8429	154	8106	148	7991	146
PDV40	Perushtitsa	48.7	5089	105	4884	100	4805	99
PDV41	Stamboliyski	61.3	20631	337	20027	327	19852	324
PDV42	Kuklen	148.4	6453	44	6354	43	6338	43
BG002L2	Areal	2785.3	550289	198	542465	195	542384	195





### *Population natural growth*

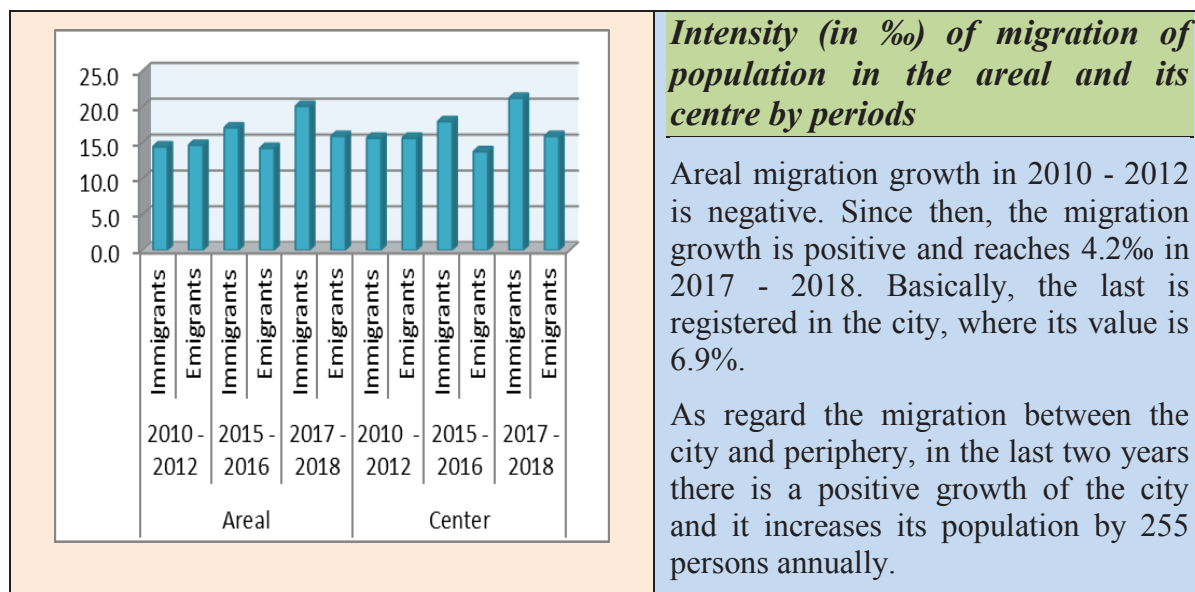
Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	550288	542465	542384
○ male	2648088	260728	260496
○ female	285480	281737	281888
Average number of live births	5626	5330	5231
Average number of deaths	7114	7415	7472
Absolute natural growth - number	-1488	-2085	-2241
Crude birth rate - ‰	10.22	9.82	9.64
Crude death rate - ‰	12.93	13.67	13.78
Natural growth rate - ‰	-2.70	-3.84	-4.13
Average annual population of the areal centre	343197	342525	345177
○ male	163544	162884	164014
○ female	179653	179641	181163
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	3804	3529	3434
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	3738	4036	4070
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	66	-508	-636
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	11.08	10.30	9.95
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.89	11.78	11.79
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	0.19	-1.48	-1.84

Areal of Plovdiv is well doing in respect economy. Depopulation up to 2015 - 2016 is only due to vital events development. Population decreases by nearly 8 thousand or 1.4%. During the last four years, population number do not changed considerably. Birth rate decreases insignificantly, while death rate increases. The negative natural growth increases and reaches minus 4.1‰, but is compensated by the high migration growth.

Population of the city of Plovdiv increases over the whole period, but due to migration. The decrease of birth rate and the death rate, considerably lower than the country average, lead to negative annual natural growth of 640 persons or minus 1.8‰ for the period 2017 - 2018.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	7936	9264	10888
Average annual number of emigrants	8059	7716	8615
Absolute migration growth	-124	1549	2273
Migration growth rate - ‰	-0.22	2.85	4.19
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	5367	6147	7319
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	5362	4711	4948
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	5	1436	2371
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	0.01	4.19	6.87



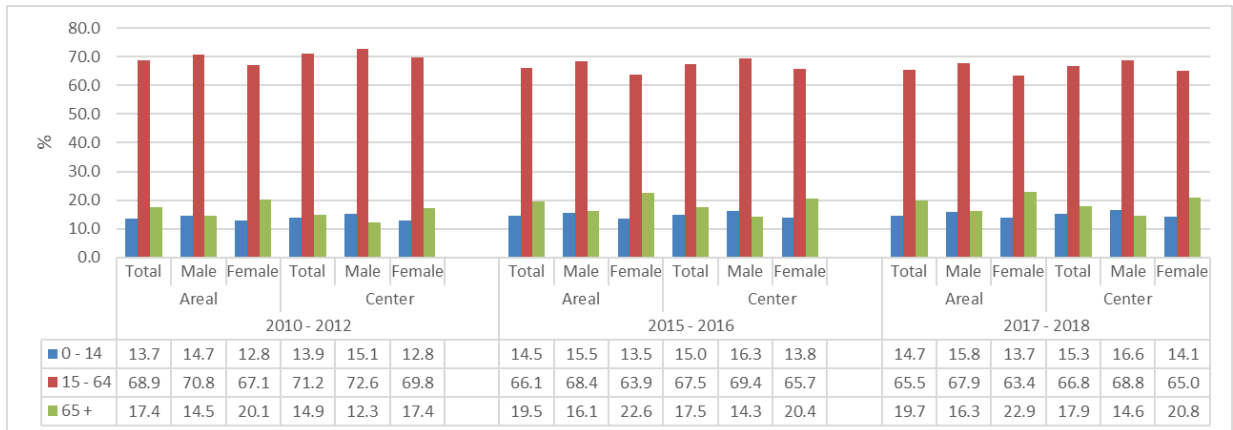
### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	75239	78483	79758
Population aged 15 - 64 years	379140	358334	355531
Population aged 65 and more	95909	105648	107095
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	47611	51325	52727
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	244285	231124	230655
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	51302	60077	61794
Mean age of areal population - years	41.8	42.7	42.9
Mean age of areal centre population - years	41.9	41.7	41.8

Number and share of youngest areal population increases (by 4 500 persons), but number and share of working age population decreases by over 23 thousand. Considerable, by more than 11 thousand is the increase of population over 65 years and in 2017 - 2018 it represents nearly 20% of total areal population.

Age structure of city population is almost the same. Youngest population increases by 5 thousand, population aged 15 - 64 slightly decreases in the last two years, but its share remains relatively high (67%), while oldest population increases to 18% of total city population in 2017 - 2018.

Mean age of areal population is 42.9 years or lower than the country average. The city population is one year younger.



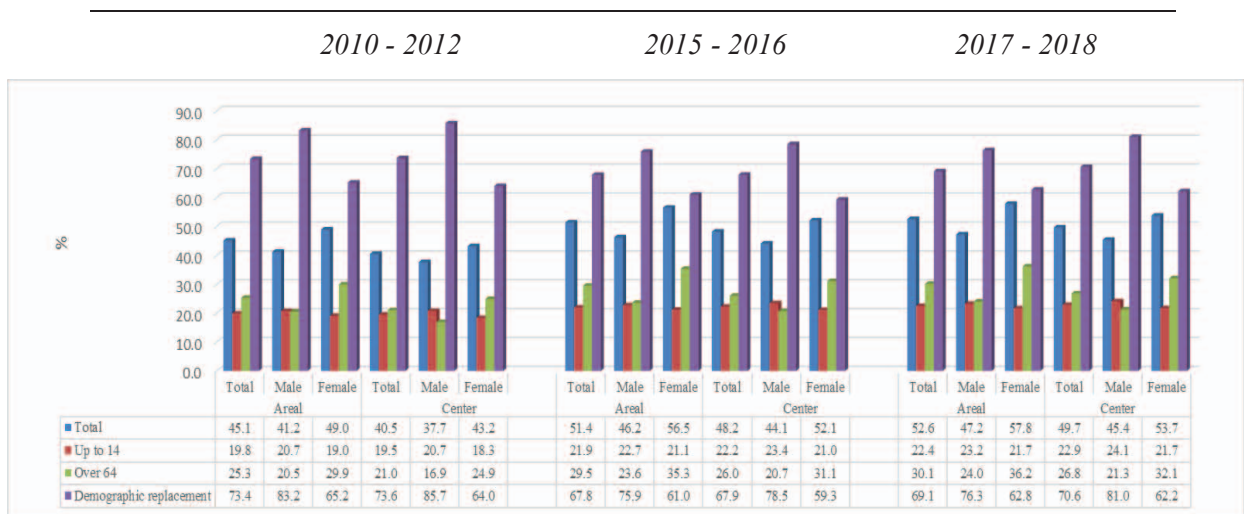
*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

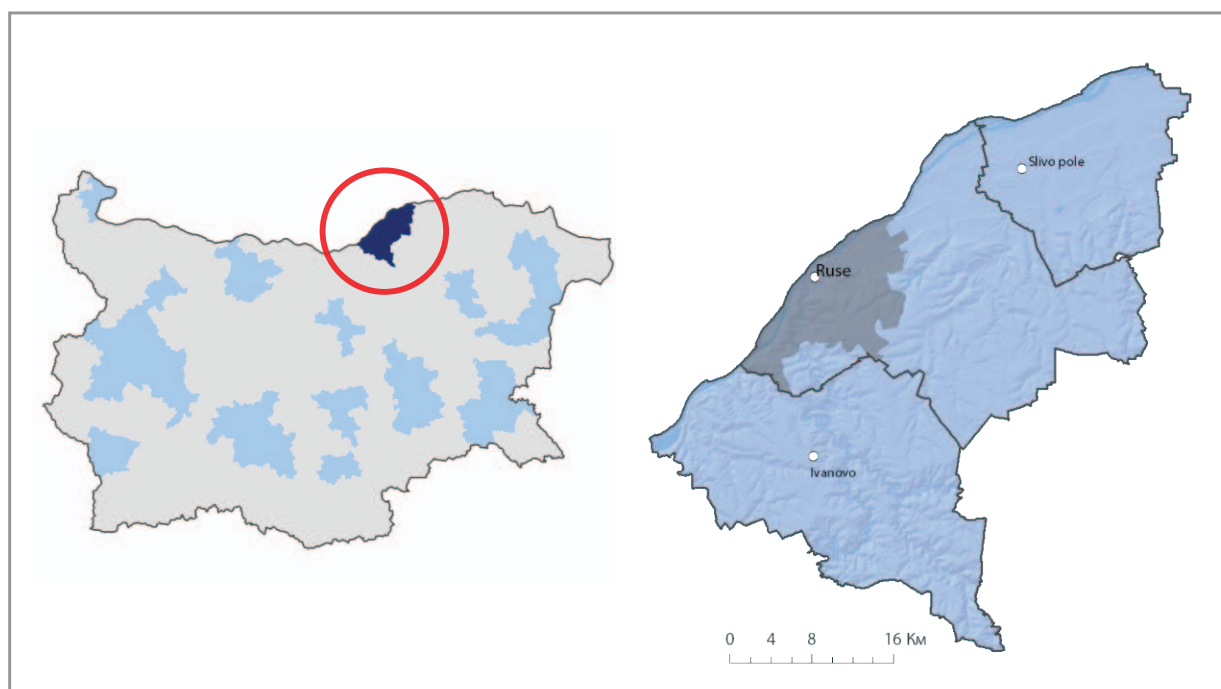
Regardless the relative stability in demographic development both of areal and city, the demographic dependency rate, lower than the country average, is increasing and for the last two years is 52.6%. For the whole period, the demographic burden by young population increased by 2.6, while by elderly - by nearly 5 persons per 100 in working age.

In areal centre, the respective figures are 3 and almost 6 persons.

Demographic replacement rates both in the areal and city decrease, but remain among highest compared to rest of the areal. In the last two years their value are 69% for the areal and 71% for the city.



### Areal with centre city of Ruse



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018		
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density	
RSE13	Ivanovo	490.7	9731	20	8638	18	8330	17
RSE27	Ruse	570.6	170602	299	162354	285	160687	282
RSE33	Slivo pole	276.8	11106	40	10163	37	9918	36
BG006L2	Areal	1338.2	191439	143	181154	135	178935	134

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	191439	181154	178935
○ male	92725	88240	87131
○ female	98714	92915	91804
Average number of live births	1581	1450	1383
Average number of deaths	2781	2788	2821
Absolute natural growth - number	-1200	-1339	-1438
Crude birth rate - ‰	8.26	8.00	7.73
Crude death rate - ‰	14.53	15.39	15.77

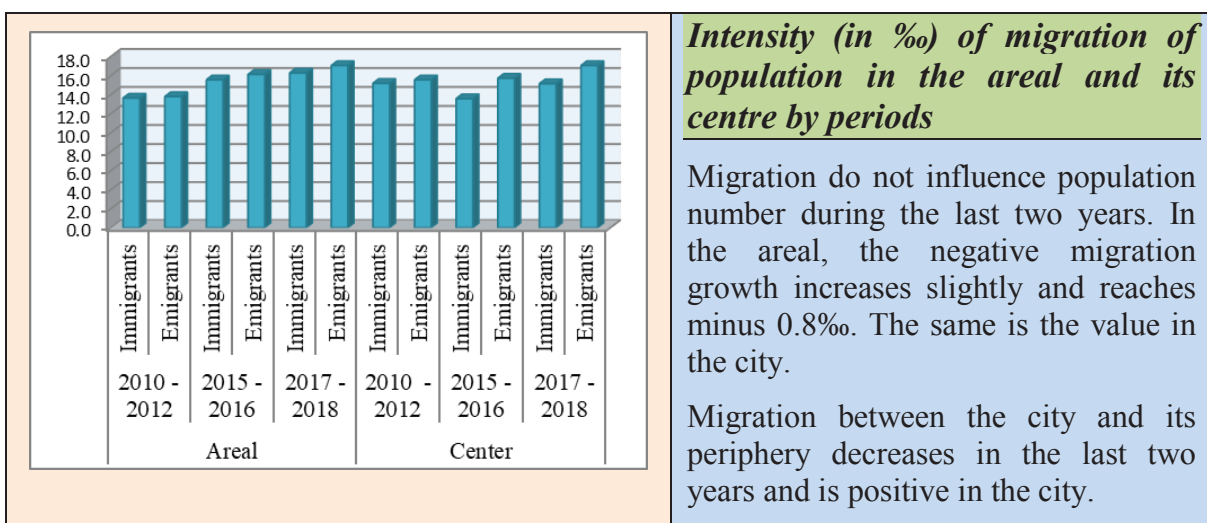
Natural growth rate - ‰	-6.27	-7.39	-8.04
Average annual population of the areal centre	152461	145351	143988
○ male	73587	70563	69889
○ female	78874	74788	74099
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	1309	1204	121
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	1950	1951	2019
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-641	-747	-898
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	8.59	8.28	7.78
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	12.79	13.42	14.02
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-4.20	-5.14	-6.24

Demographic development of areal with centre city of Ruse is negative. Birth rate is lower than the country average and continues to decrease. Its value in 2017 - 2018 is 7.7‰. Death rate also increase - 15.8‰ in 2017 - 2018. Negative value of natural growth increases to minus 8‰, level above the country average. Between 2010 and 2018 population decreases by 12 500 persons or by 6.6%. About 70% of the decrease is due to decrease of city population.

Birth rate in the city is low (7.8‰ in 2017 - 2018), and death rate high (14‰) compared to the rest areal. Negative natural growth of city population is increasing and reaches minus 6.2‰ in the last two years.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	2611	2818	2913
Average annual number of emigrants	2641	2922	3053
Absolute migration growth	-30	-104	-140
Migration growth rate - ‰	-0.15	-0.57	-0.78
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	2316	1974	2182
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	2372	2286	2301
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-56	-313	-119
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-0.37	-2.15	-0.83



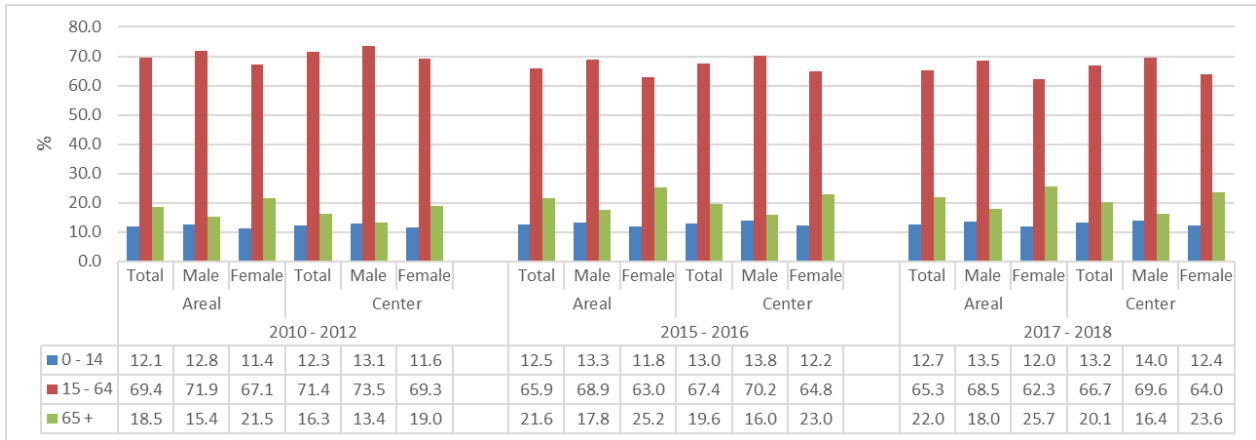
### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	23076	22733	22782
Population aged 15 - 64 years	132894	119378	116855
Population aged 65 and more	35469	39044	39298
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	18803	18865	18995
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	108782	97985	96034
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	24876	28501	28958
Mean age of areal population - years	43.0	44.3	44.6
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.1	43.5	43.7

Areal population aged 15 - 64 years decreases by more than 16 thousand. 80% of the decrease is due to decrease of city population at the same age. Share of youngest population remains almost the same during the whole 8-year period - below 13%. Due to population ageing, for 8-year period share of elderly population increases from 18% to 22% in the areal and from 16% to 20% in the city.

Mean age of areal population is high - 44.6 years in 2017 - 2018, or among highest compared to rest of areal. Mean age of city population is close to the country average - 43.7 years.



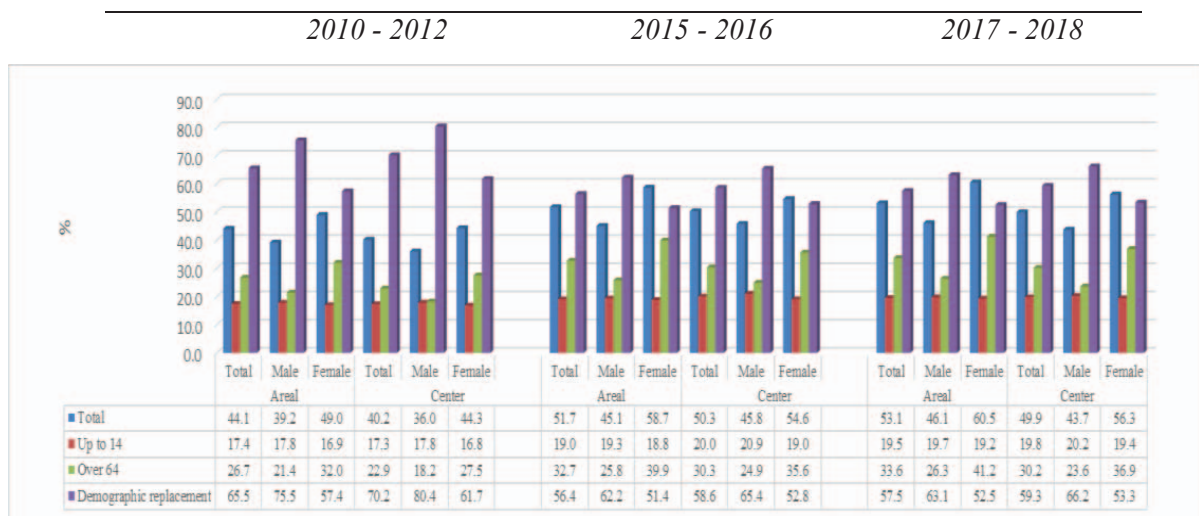


*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

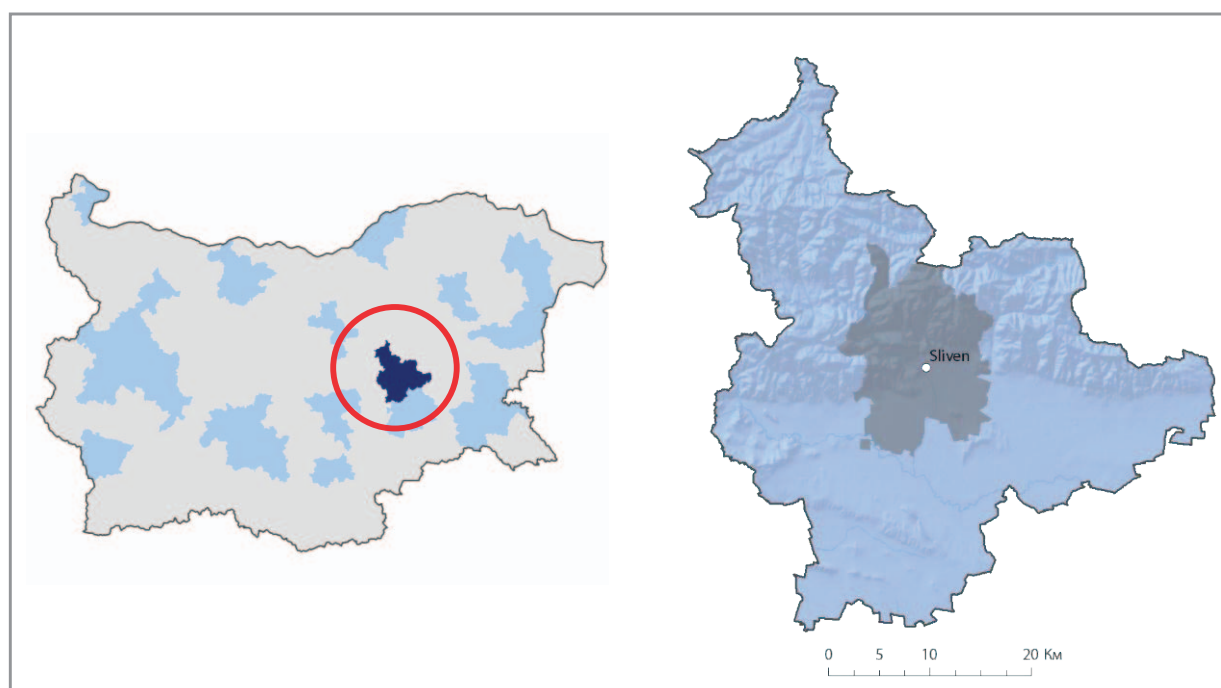
Demographic burden of working age population increases over the whole period, both in the areal and in the city. In 2017 - 2018, to each 100 persons aged 15 - 64 correspond 53 persons in inactive ages, or 9 more than in 2010 - 2012. The respective increase in the areal centre is 10 persons. Worsening of demographic dependency is due to worsened ratio between active and elderly populations.

Demographic replacement also shows negative development. Ratio between persons entering active age and those exiting it decreases from 66.5% in 2010 - 2012 to 57.5% in the last two years. Bigger decrease is registered in the city - from 70.2% to 59.3%.





### Areal with centre city of Sliven



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018		
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density	
SLV20 BG009L1	Sliven Areal	1366.6	125827	92	121020	89	119896	88

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	125827	121020	119896
○ male	60998	58603	57983
○ female	64830	62418	61913
Average number of live births	1501	1460	1433
Average number of deaths	1716	1732	1739
Absolute natural growth - number	-216	-272	-306
Crude birth rate - ‰	11.93	12.06	11.95
Crude death rate - ‰	13.64	14.31	14.50
Natural growth rate - ‰	-1.71	-2.24	-2.55
Average annual population of the areal centre	91871	87609	86887
○ male	44213	41941	41511
○ female	47658	45668	45376

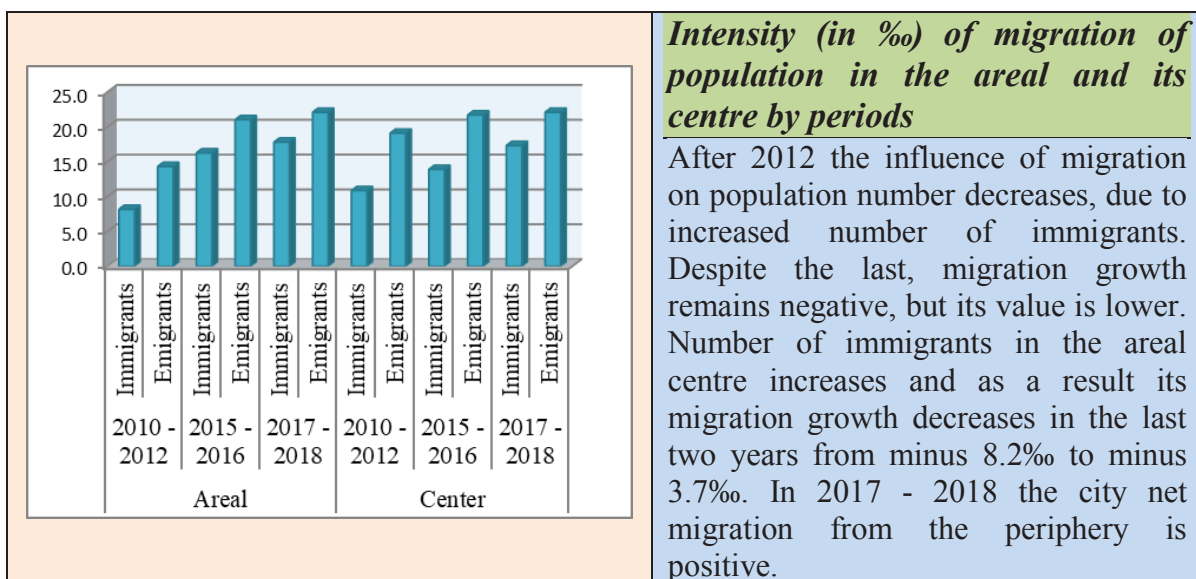
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	1009	962	940
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	1109	1150	1145
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-99	-188	-205
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.99	10.98	10.82
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	12.07	13.13	13.18
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-1.08	-2.15	-2.36

Areal population decreases by nearly 6 thousand (4.7%) and the last is mainly (83%) due to its decrease in the areal centre - city of Sliven, where in 2017 - 2018 lives 74% of the areal population. Areal birth rate is considerably higher than the country average and remains about 12‰. Death rate increases slightly, but remains lower than the country average - 14.5‰ in 2017 - 2018. Nevertheless, natural growth rate in the areal is negative (-2.5‰).

Birth and death rates in the city are lower than areal ones, but the natural growth is close to the registered in the areal (-2.4‰ in 2017 - 2018).

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	1029	1968	2135
Average annual number of emigrants	1801	2545	2649
Absolute migration growth	-773	-577	-514
Migration growth rate - ‰	-6.14	-4.76	-4.28
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	997	1218	1505
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1754	1902	1824
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-757	-684	-319
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-8.24	-7.80	-3.67

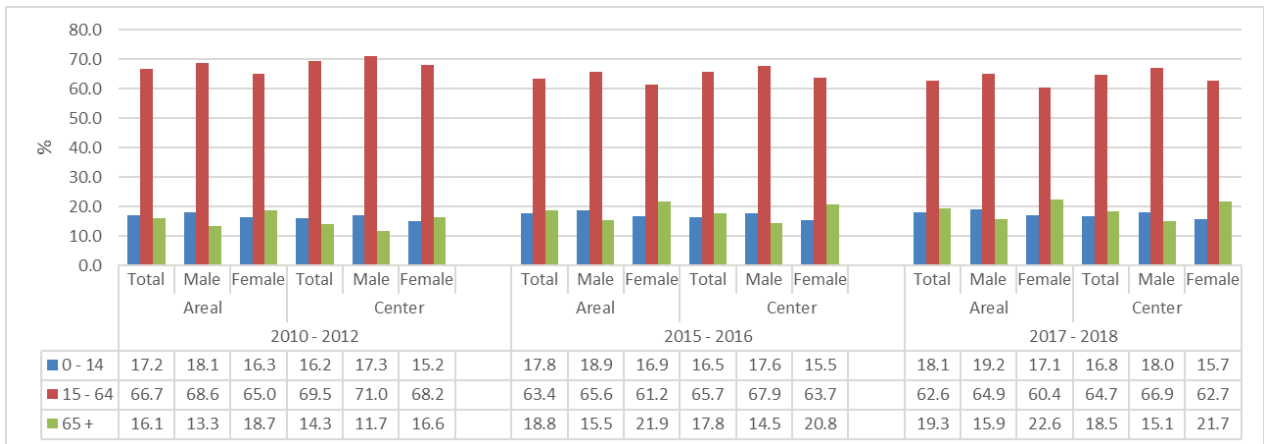


### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	21661	21598	21705
Population aged 15 - 64 years	83962	76682	75001
Population aged 65 and more	20204	22741	23191
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	14895	14467	14591
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	63878	57544	56215
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	13099	15599	16081
Mean age of areal population - years	40.3	41.5	41.6
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.6	41.8	42.1

In the period 2010 - 2018, the areal population aged 15 - 64 decreases by almost 9 thousand. The last is mainly due to the decrease in areal centre by 7 660 persons. Number and share of young people increases insignificantly. Share of elderly population increases by 3% in the areal and more than 4% in the city.

Mean age of areal population is 41.6 years, and of the city one - 42.1, values lower than the country averages.

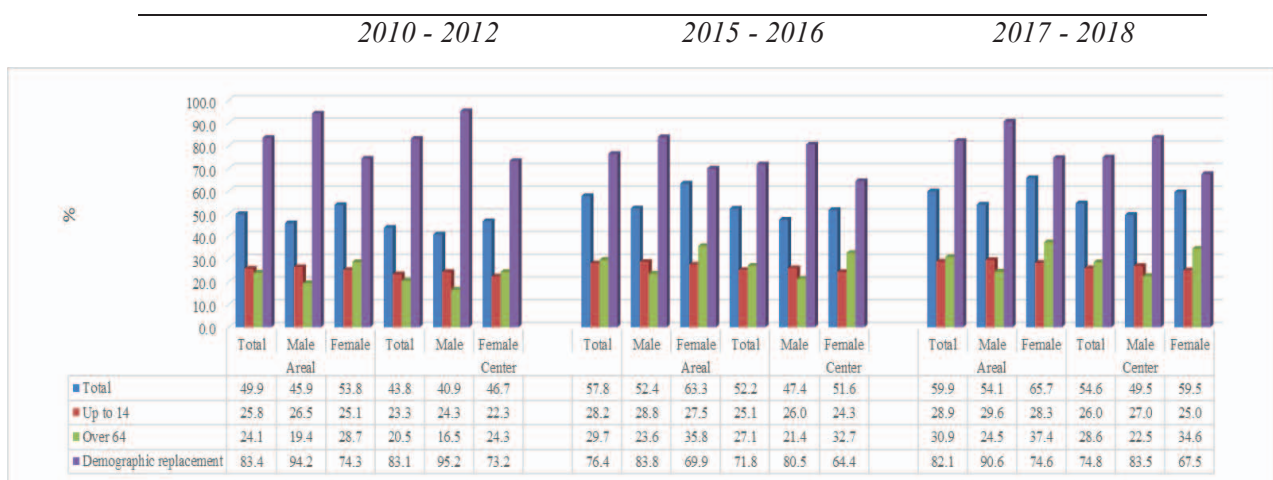


*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

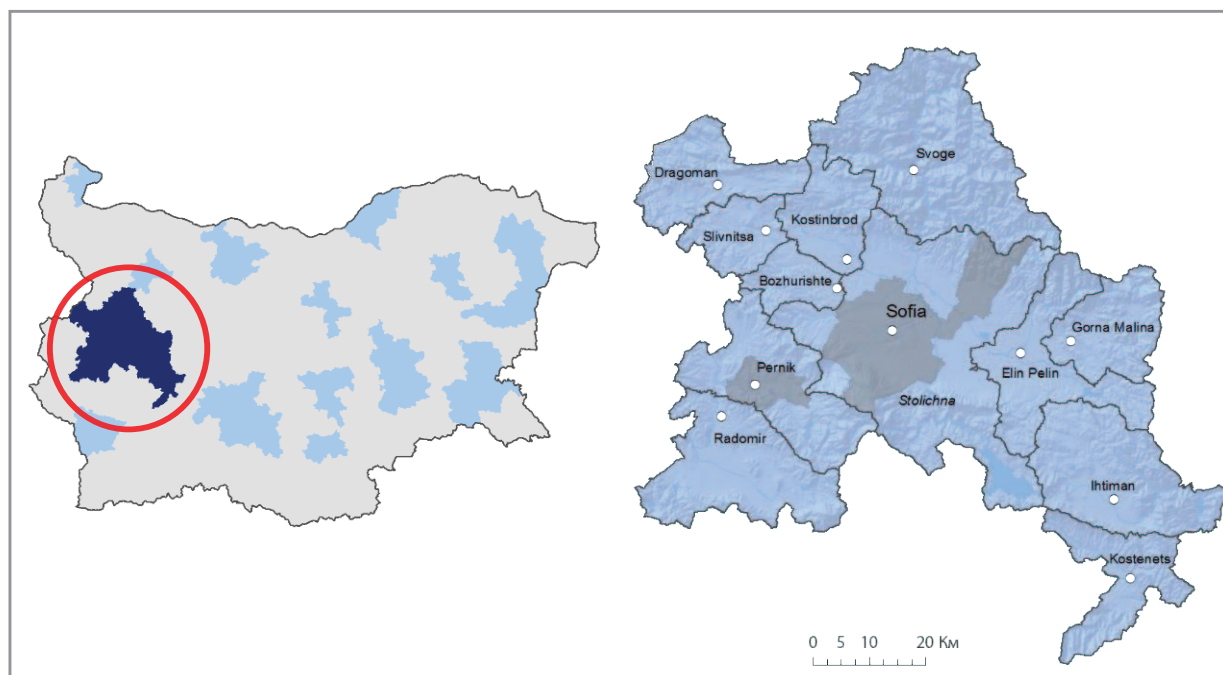
### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

Demographic dependency in the areal is higher than the country average. It increases from 50% in 2010 - 2012 to 60% in the last two years. The same is the increase in the city, but the burden of active population is lower - from 43.8% in the beginning of period it increases to 54.6% in 2017 - 2018.

Demographic replacement rate is considerably higher than the country average and rest of the areals. It decreases slightly and in 2017 - 2018 is 82%. Considerably bigger is the decrease in the areal centre - from 83 % to 75%.



### Areal with centre city of Sofia

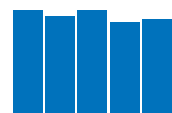


### Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018			
	Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density	
	PER32	Pernik	484.2	95523	197	90718	187	89410	185
	PER36	Radomir	540.5	20878	39	19131	35	18602	34
	SFO06	Bozhurishte	142.9	8288	58	8413	59	8367	59
	SFO10	Gorna Malina	277.2	6394	23	6759	24	6554	24
	SFO16	Dragoman	323.9	5458	17	4993	15	4826	15
	SFO17	Elin Pelin	451.3	22966	51	22180	49	22036	49
	SFO20	Ihtiman	541.8	18095	33	17244	32	17014	31
	SFO25	Kostenets	302.1	12802	42	11736	39	11443	38
	SFO26	Kostinbrod	254.4	17528	69	17073	67	16847	66
	SFO43	Svoje	868.6	22115	26	20195	23	19673	23
	SFO45	Slivnitsa	187.4	9469	51	9067	48	8904	48
	SOF46	Stolichna	1348.9	1277373	947	1321721	980	1325729	983
	BG001L2	Areal	5723.2	1516889	265	1549227	271	1549405	271

### Population natural growth

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	1516888	1549227	1549405
○ male	725339	744011	744755
○ female	791548	805217	804650
Average number of live births	15925	15221	15079
Average number of deaths	19245	19720	19529
Absolute natural growth - number	-3320	-4499	-4450
Crude birth rate - ‰	10.50	9.82	9.73
Crude death rate - ‰	12.69	12.73	12.60



Natural growth rate - ‰	-2.19	-2.90	-2.87
Average annual population of the areal centre	1190712	1234014	1238720
○ male	565651	589108	592223
○ female	625061	644907	646497
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	13390	12810	12638
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	13933	14399	14339
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-543	-1590	-1701
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	11.25	10.38	10.20
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	11.70	11.67	11.58
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-0.46	-1.29	-1.37

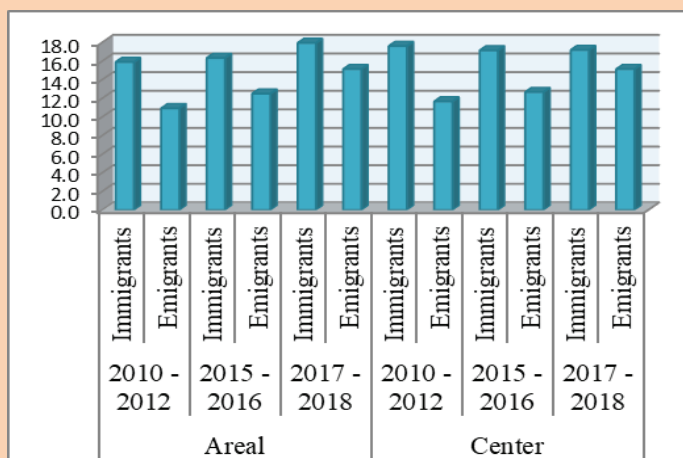
Area with centre city of Sofia is the largest in population number. In 2010 - 2018 period average annual number of the areal population increased by more than 32 thousand and in the areal centre - by 48 thousand. Relative growth is 2% and 4% respectively. Areal birth rate is higher than the country average and decreases, while the death rate is lower and remains at almost the same level. Natural growth is negative (-2.9‰), but lower than the country average.

Birth and death rates in city of Sofia are better, but the natural growth is also negative. Both birth and death rates do not change considerably and stay about 10.2‰ and 11.6‰. In the last two years city population decreases by 1 700 persons or by 1.4‰ due to vital events.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	24113	27738	27809
Average annual number of emigrants	16585	21236	23456
Absolute migration growth	7528	6503	4353
Migration growth rate - ‰	4.96	3.83	2.81
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	20972	21161	21294
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	13887	15635	16983
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	7085	5526	4312
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	5.95	4.48	3.48





### *Intensity (in %) of migration of population in the areal and its centre by periods*

There is no considerable changes in migration to and from the areal and its centre. Number of emigrants increases slightly, while the number of immigrants decreases. Both areal and city have positive migration growth over the whole period, but its value decreases by about 1‰. In 2017 - 2018, the growth is 2.8‰ and 3.5‰ respectively.

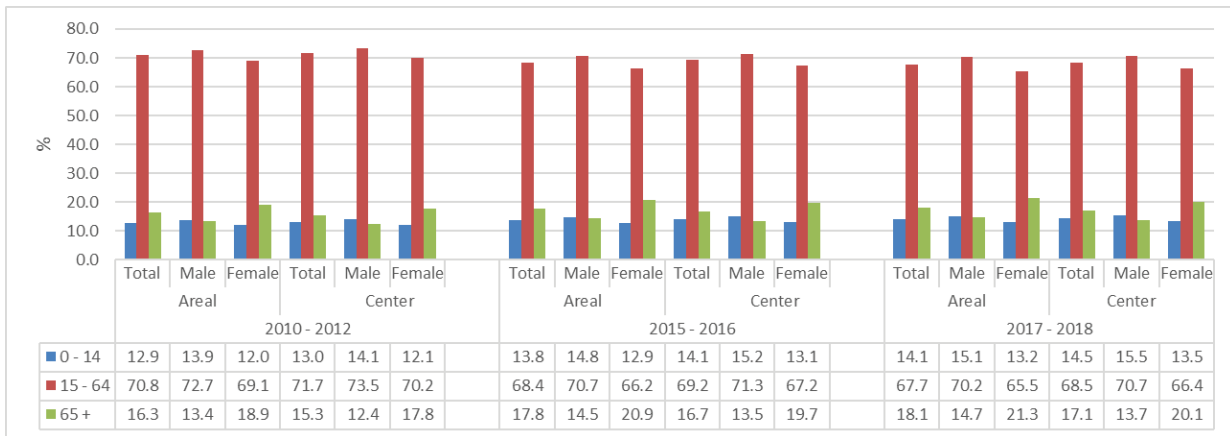
Migration between areal centre and its periphery decreases, but still the city has negative growth due to this migration - minus 0.5‰ in 2017 - 2018.

### *Age structure*

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	195612	213528	218886
Population aged 15 - 64 years	1074324	1059550	1049433
Population aged 65 and more	246952	276150	281086
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	155029	173723	179144
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	854083	853666	848262
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	181600	206625	211314
Mean age of areal population - years	41.3	41.8	41.9
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.6	40.9	41.1

Due to migration of young people to the areal centre, the number and share of population up to 14 years increase. For the 8-year period it increases by more than 23 thousand. Working age population in the areal decreases by 25 thousand (2.3%), and in the city - by 6 thousand (0.7%). In 2017 - 2018, the share of areal working age population is 67.7% and of the city - 68.5%. Oldest population increases by 37 thousand in the areal and 88% of the decrease is due to increase in the city. Share of oldest population increases by 2% both in the areal and the city. Mean age of areal population is 41.9, and of the city - 41.1 years, value lower than the country and rest of the areal averages.





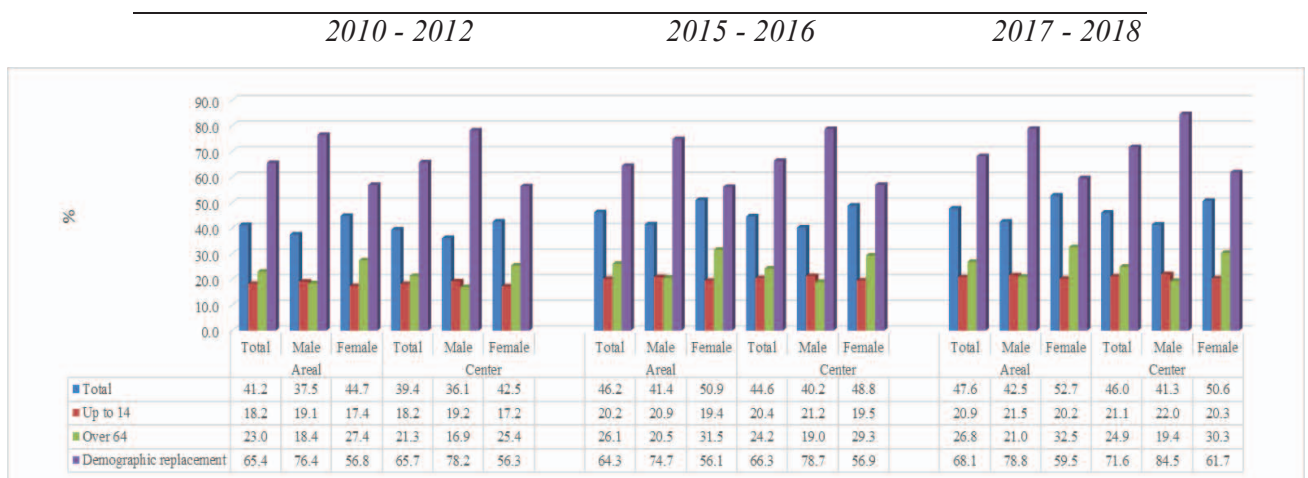
*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

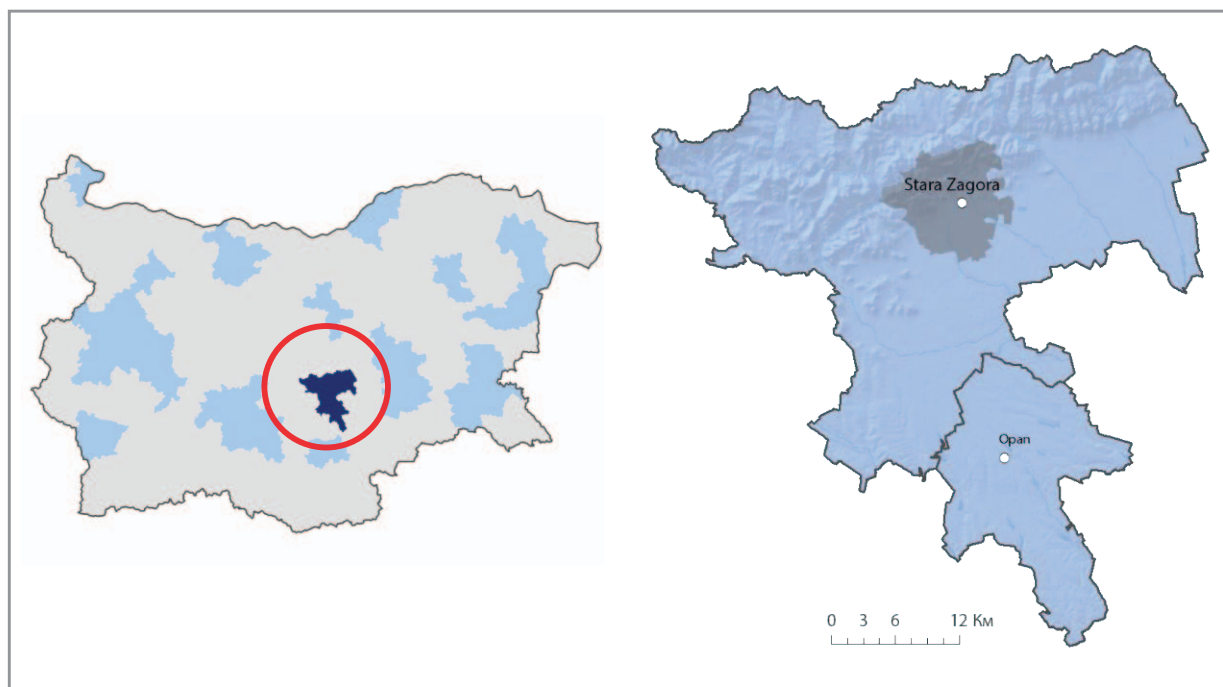
Demographic burden of active areal population increases by more than 6 persons. Nevertheless, compared to rest of areal and country average, the demographic burden rate is relatively low. In the last two years, the demographic burden rate is 47.6%, compared to 41.2% in 2010 - 2012. 42% of the total burden increase is due to increase of young people and 58% - to increased number of elderly.

The same are changes in the areal centre - from 39.4 to 46.0% for the whole period, but the influence of young population over the population aged 15 - 64 years is a bit higher.

Demographic replacement rate in the last two years increases by nearly 3% in the areal and by 9% - in the areal centre.



### Areal with centre city of Stara Zagora



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
SZR23 Opan	257.5	3178	12	2647	10	2543	10
SZR31 Stara Zagora	1063.4	161544	152	158413	149	157472	148
<b>BG008L2 Areal</b>	<b>1320.9</b>	<b>164722</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>161059</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>160015</b>	<b>121</b>

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	164723	161059	160015
○ male	79817	77599	76902
○ female	84906	83460	83113
Average number of live births	1649	1514	1438
Average number of deaths	2244	2231	2267
Absolute natural growth - number	-594	-717	-829
Crude birth rate - ‰	10.01	9.40	8.99
Crude death rate - ‰	13.62	13.85	14.17
Natural growth rate - ‰	-3.61	-4.45	-5.18
Average annual population of the areal centre	138778	136794	136268
○ male	67116	65713	65307
○ female	71662	71081	70961

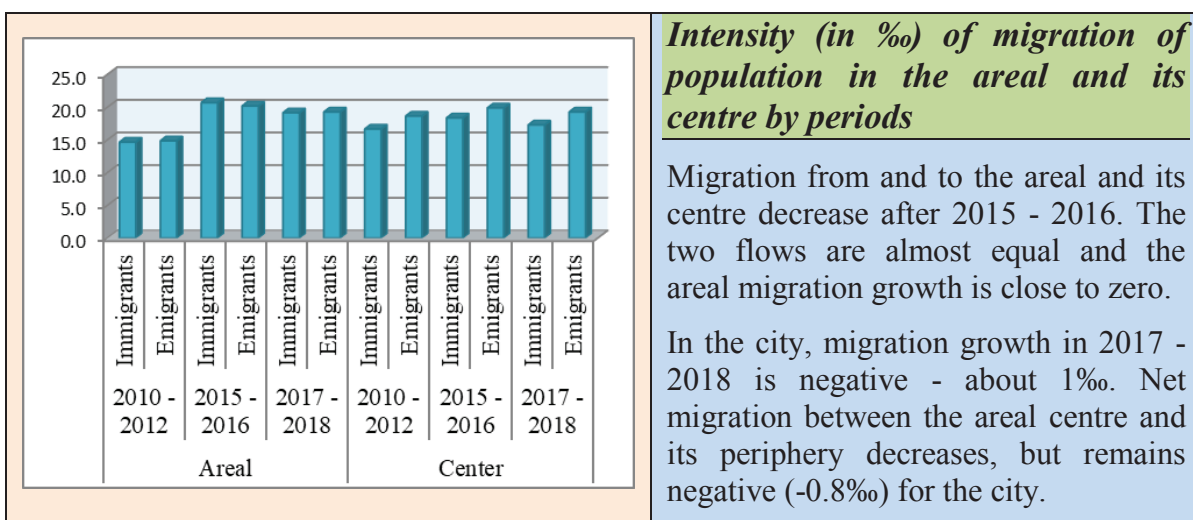
Average annual number of births in the areal centre	1428	1306	1249
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	1540	1571	1635
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-112	-265	-386
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.29	9.55	9.16
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	11.10	11.48	11.99
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-0.81	-1.93	-2.83

Areal population decreases by 4 700 persons or by 2.8% for the whole observed period, and more than half (2 500) is due to decrease of city of Stara Zagora population. Tendency of decrease of birth rate is registered in the areal - from 10‰ in 2010 - 2012 to 9‰ in the last two years. Death rate increases from 13.6‰ to 14.2‰ for the same period. The negative natural growth also increases and in 2017 - 2018 is minus 5.2‰.

Demographic tendencies in the city are the same, but at lower levels. Birth rate decreases from 10.3‰ to 9.2‰, and the death rate reaches 12‰. As a result, the natural growth is negative, and increases from minus 0.8‰ to 2.8‰ in 2017 - 2018.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	2416	3334	3066
Average annual number of emigrants	2449	3254	3086
Absolute migration growth	-33	80	-20
Migration growth rate - ‰	-0.20	0.50	-0.12
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	2315	2514	2358
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	2588	2723	2505
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-273	-210	-147
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-1.97	-1.53	-1.08



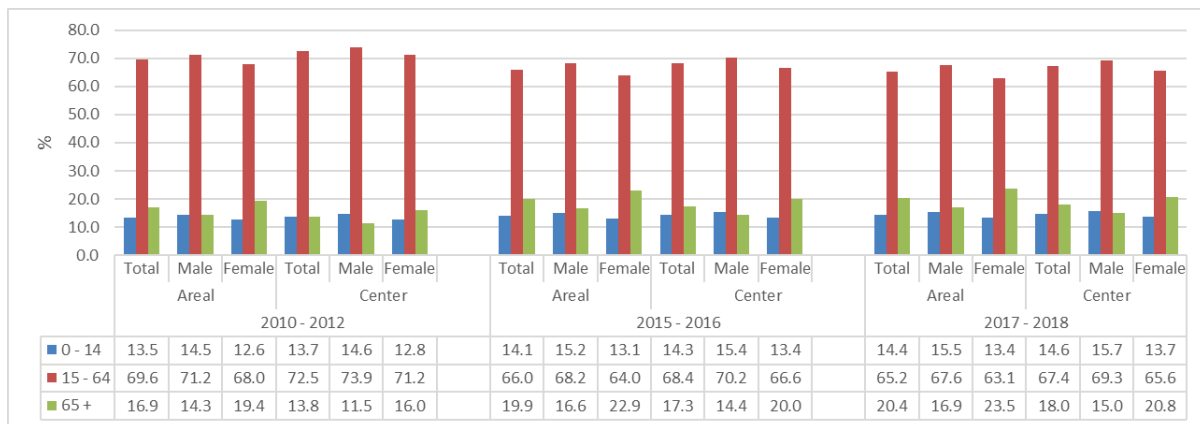
### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	22206	22708	23040
Population aged 15 - 64 years	114624	106353	104403
Population aged 65 and more	27893	31999	32571
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	18958	19595	19950
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	100638	93523	91815
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	19181	23677	24503
Mean age of areal population - years	42.1	43.1	43.6
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.8	42.5	42.7

Number and share of areal population up to 14 years increases by 830 persons or by 1%. The last is due to increased number of young people in the city. Working age population decreases by more than 10 thousand - 88% of the decrease is due to decrease in the city. Areal working age population is 65% of the total areal population in 2017 - 2018. Oldest areal population increases by 4 700 persons for the whole period.

As 83% of areal population lives in city of Stara Zagora, the pointed changes in the age structure are mainly due to changes of the city age structure - share of working age population is nearly 5% lower in the last two years compared to 2010 - 2012, while oldest population increases from 13.8% to 18%.

Mean age of areal population increases and in 2017 - 2018 is 43.6 years. City population is almost one year younger.



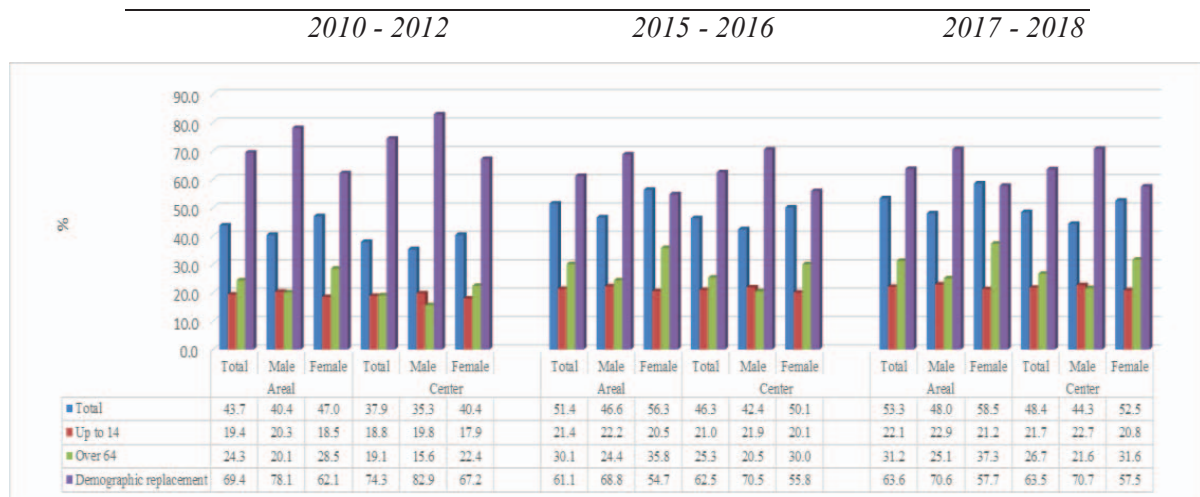
*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

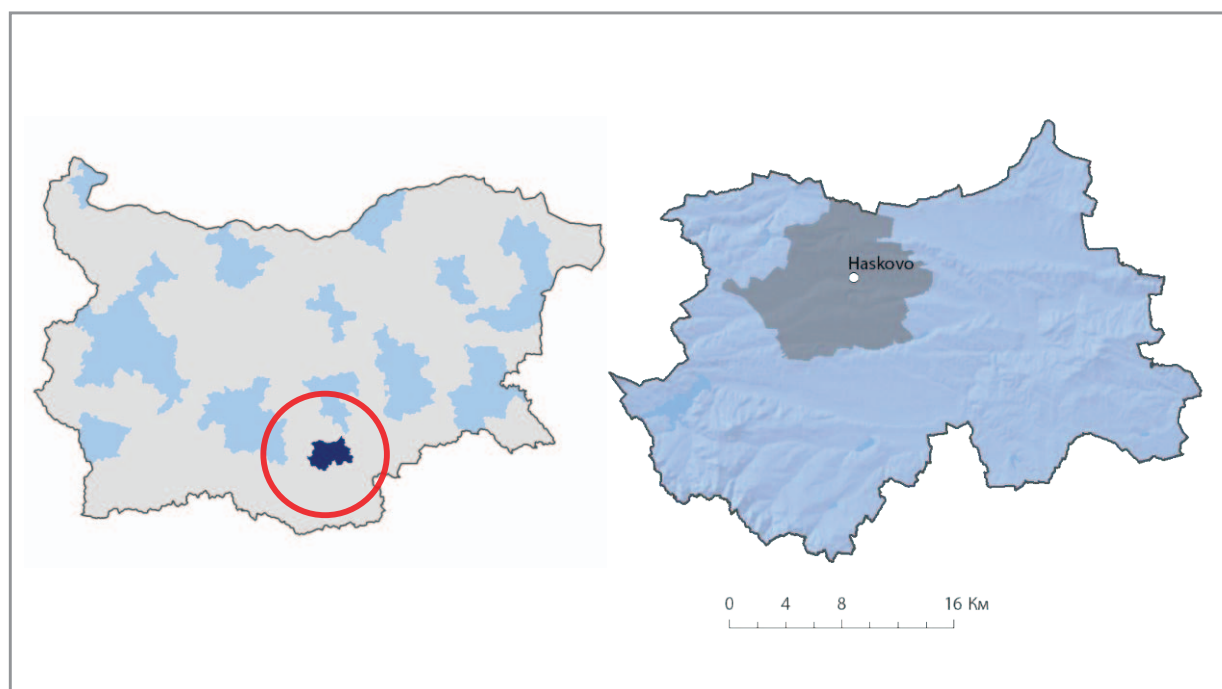
Age dependency ratio increases by more than 9 persons per 100, but remains lower than the country average. The last is mainly (72%) due to ratio between oldest and working age population.

A bit higher is the worsening of demographic dependency in the areal centre, but the last values are lower - 38% in 2010 - 2012 and 48% in 2017 - 2018.

The changes of age structure lead to worsening of replacement rate of working age population. In the areal, the demographic replacement rate decreases from 69.4% to 63.6%, while in the city - from 74.3% to 63.5% in 2010 - 2018 period.



### Areal with centre city of Haskovo



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018		
Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density	
HKV34	Haskovo							
BG014L1	Areal	739.8	94559	128	88907	120	87621	118

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	94559	88907	87621
○ male	45422	42667	41962
○ female	49137	46240	45659
Average number of live births	910	795	739
Average number of deaths	1178	1285	1264
Absolute natural growth - number	-269	-490	-525
Crude birth rate - ‰	9.62	8.94	8.43
Crude death rate - ‰	12.46	14.45	14.42
Natural growth rate - ‰	-2.84	-5.51	-5.99
Average annual population of the areal centre	76088	72011	71102
○ male	36297	34363	33848
○ female	39791	37649	37254



Average annual number of births in the areal centre	759	636	597
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	821	903	905
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-62	-267	-309
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	9.98	8.83	8.39
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.79	12.53	12.73
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-0.81	-3.70	-4.34

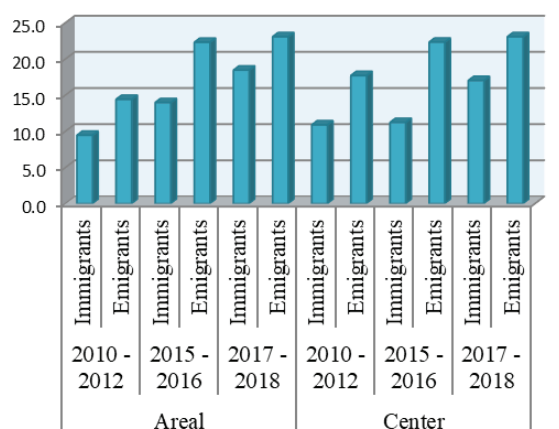
Areal population decreases by nearly 7 thousand or by 7.3%. Birth rate decreases and is below the country average - 8.4‰ in 2017-2018. Death rate is increasing and natural growth, being negative, increases more than twice compared to 2010-2012 period and is minus 6‰ in 2017-2018.

In the areal centre, birth and death rates are lower, but the natural growth increases from minus 0.8 to minus 4.3‰.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	895	1243	1618
Average annual number of emigrants	1364	1985	2023
Absolute migration growth	-469	-742	-405
Migration growth rate - ‰	-4.96	-8.34	-4.62
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	829	809	1211
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1348	1609	1543
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-519	-800	-332
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-6.82	-11.11	-4.66





### *Intensity (in %) of migration of population in the areal and its centre by periods*

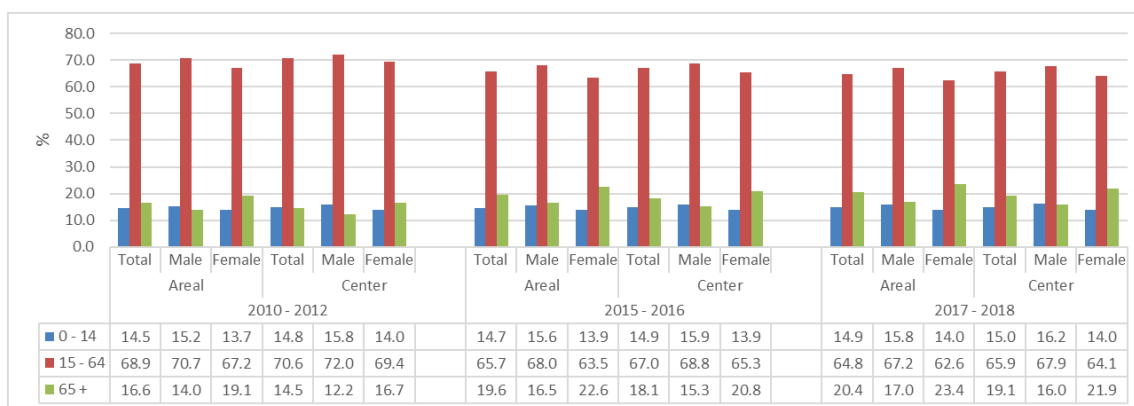
Number and intensity of migration flows (emigration and immigration) increase and the last also influences the population number both in the areal and in the city. After 2015 - 2016, the negative migration growth goes backwards to 2010-2012 level and in 2017 - 2018 is about minus 4.6‰, both in the areal and its centre.

The city population decreases due to migration to the periphery up to 2015 - 2016 by 1.1‰ annually, but in the last two years this migration is positive and the city population increases.

### *Age structure*

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	13667	13069	13022
Population aged 15 - 64 years	65153	58377	56754
Population aged 65 and more	15740	17461	17845
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	11286	10706	10685
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	53744	48238	46871
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	11058	13068	13546
Mean age of areal population - years	41.7	43.4	43.8
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.7	42.8	43.3

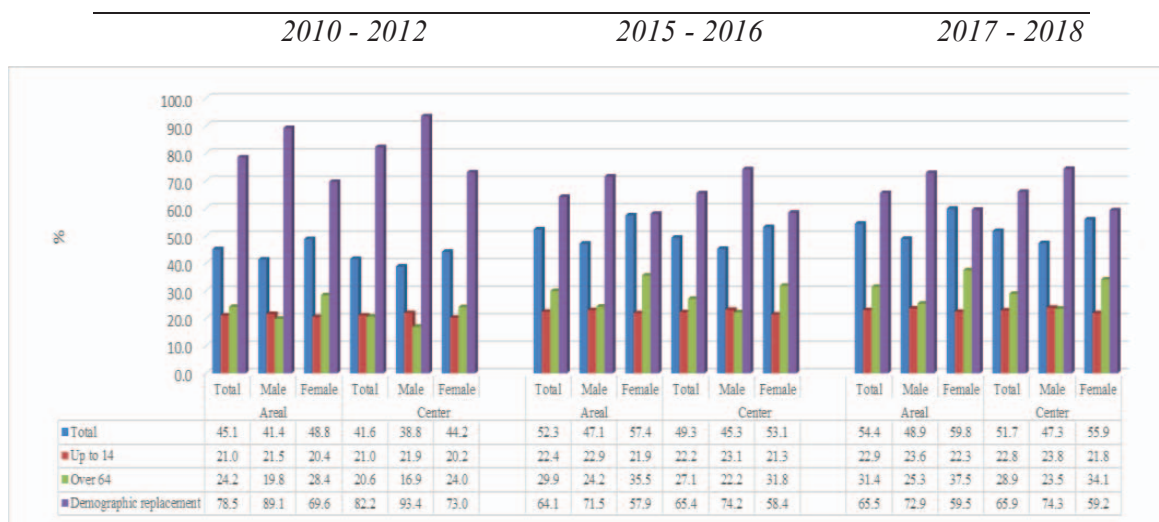
Depopulation of the areal changes population age structure. Share of youngest population remains the same, but its number decreases by more than 600 persons for the whole period. Considerably bigger are the changes in number and share of population aged 15 - 64 years. For the whole period it decreases by more than 8 thousand, of which 6.8 thousand - in the city. In 2017 - 2018 share of population aged 15 - 64 is 65% in the areal and 66% - in the city. Number and share of oldest population increase and shares in the areal and city are almost equal. Mean age of areal population is almost 44 years and of city one - 43 years.



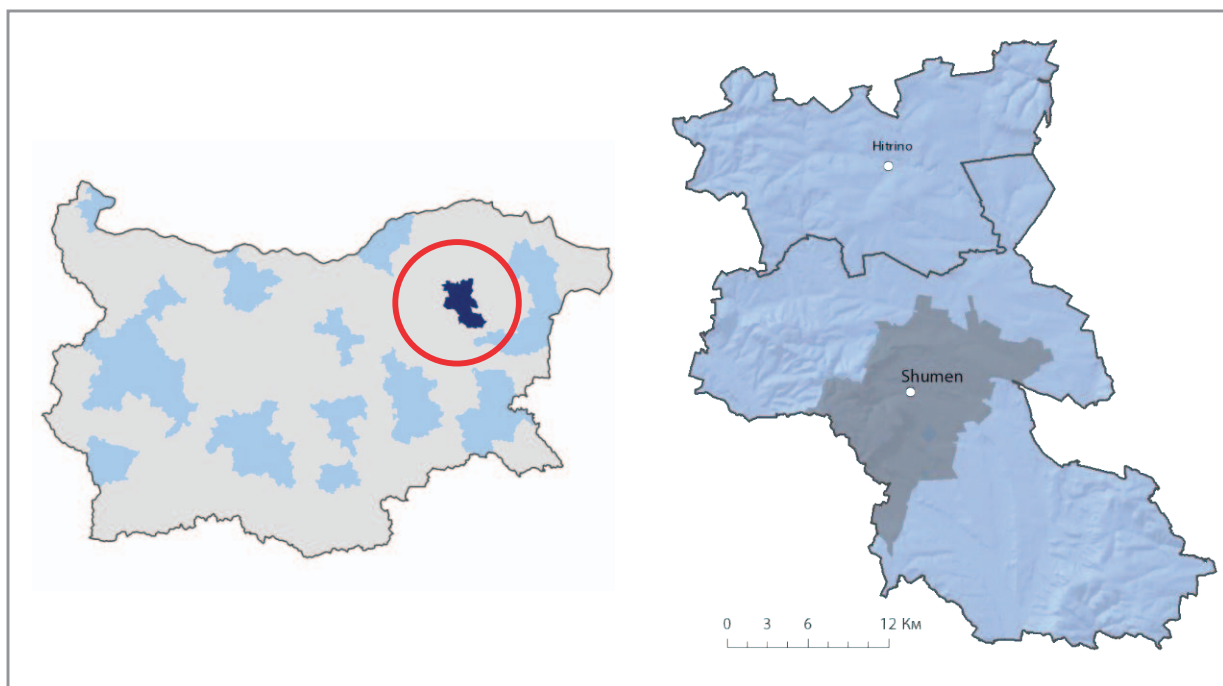
*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

Birth and death patterns, as well as migration worsen demographic dependency ratios. Compared to 45 in 2010 - 2012, in 2017 - 2018 54 persons in dependent ages correspond to 100 in independent ones. More unfavourable is the development of dependency ratio in the areal centre - increase for the same period is from 42 to 52. persons in dependent ages per 100 in independent ones. Demographic burden of active population is mainly due increased number and share of oldest population. Demographic replacement strongly decreases - from 78% to 65% in the areal and from 82% to 66% in the city.



### Areal with centre city of Shumen



### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012			2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018		
	Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density	
	SHU11	Hitrino	289.4	6271	22	6510	22	6647	23
	SHU30	Shumen	652.3	97044	149	89532	137	88032	135
	<b>BG011L1</b>	<b>Areal</b>	<b>941.7</b>	<b>103315</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>96042</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>94679</b>	<b>100</b>

### *Population natural growth*

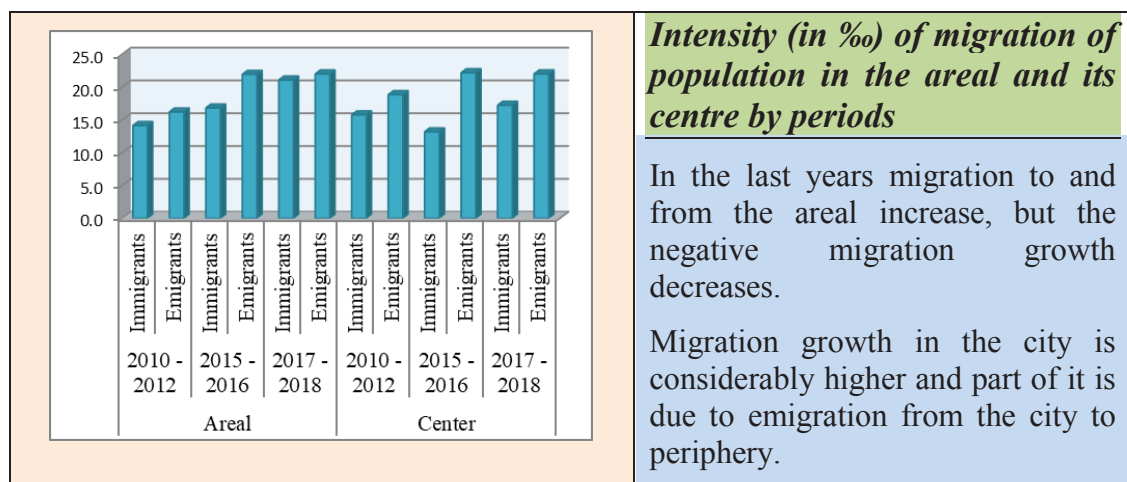
Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	103315	96042	94679
○ male	49721	46437	45772
○ female	53596	49605	48907
Average number of live births	965	856	732
Average number of deaths	1416	1389	1639
Absolute natural growth - number	-451	-533	-907
Crude birth rate - ‰	9.34	8.91	7.73
Crude death rate - ‰	13.71	14.46	17.31
Natural growth rate - ‰	-4.36	-5.55	-9.57
Average annual population of the areal centre	83428	77338	76101
○ male	39781	37033	36453
○ female	43647	40305	39648

Average annual number of births in the areal centre	808	707	607
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	998	969	1030
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-190	-262	-423
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	9.68	9.14	7.98
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	11.96	12.53	13.53
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-2.27	-3.39	-5.56

Areal population decreases by 8.6 thousand or by 8.4% since 2010, but 84% of the decrease is due to decrease of areal centre - city of Shumen - population. Birth rates both in the areal (7.7‰) and in the city (8‰) also decrease and are quite lower than the country average, lowest level, registered in areal of Ruse and Dobrich as well. Death rate increases and in 2017 - 2018 is over 17‰ in the areal and 13.5‰ in the city. Natural growth is negative and shows stable tendency of increase. In 2017 - 2018 it is extremely high in the areal - minus 9.6‰, while in the city it is minus 5.6‰.

### *Migration*

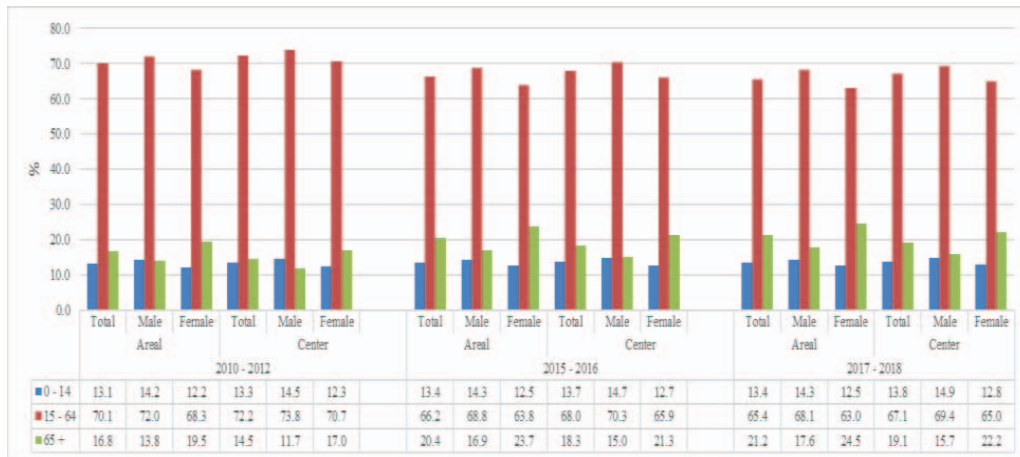
Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	1461	1616	1996
Average annual number of emigrants	1674	2107	2084
Absolute migration growth	-214	-491	-88
Migration growth rate - ‰	-2.07	-5.11	-0.93
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	1315	1020	1312
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1572	1716	1622
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-257	-697	-311
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-3.08	-9.01	-4.08



### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	13581	12826	12668
Population aged 15 - 64 years	72406	63586	61941
Population aged 65 and more	17328	19630	20069
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	11120	10590	10503
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	60253	52599	51080
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	12056	14150	14518
Mean age of areal population - years	41.7	43.8	44.5
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.6	42.9	43.6

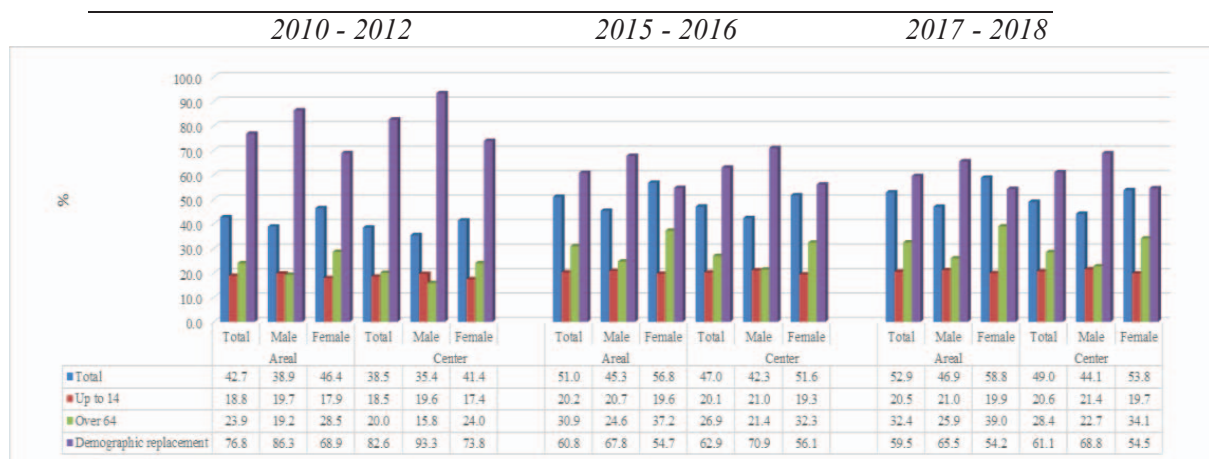
Decrease of population concerns young people and working age population mainly. For the whole period, share of areal population aged 15 - 64 decreases by more than 10 thousand or by 14%. The last is mainly due to decrease of areal centre population from 70% to 65% of the total population number. Number and share of oldest population increases. It represents 21% of areal population and 19% of the city one. Population ageing is proved by increase of mean population age. It increases by three years both in the areal and in the city.



Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre

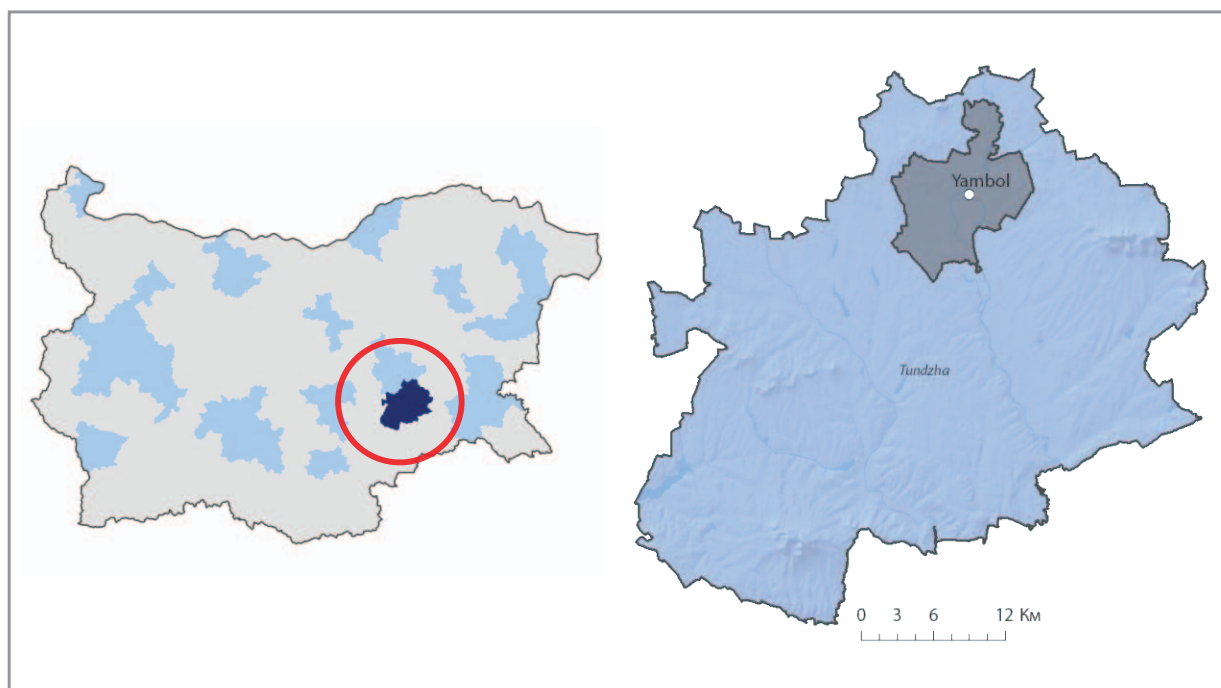
### **Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex**

Demographic dependency in the areal increases from 43 persons in dependent ages per 100 in independent ones in 2010 - 2012 to 53 per 100, but still is under the country average. The respective increase in the city is from 38 to 49 persons. Number of persons entering working age, 15 - 19 years, compared to those exiting it (60 - 64 years) decreases by 17 in the areal and by 21 - in the city.





### Areal with centre city of Yambol

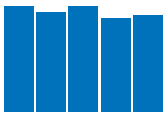


### *Municipalities included in the areal, area in sq. km, average annual population and density (per 1 sq. km) by periods*

		2010 - 2012			2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
	Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Density	Population	Density	Population	Density
	JAM25	Tundzha	1218.9	24963	21	22506	18	21851
	JAM26	Yambol	90.7	74662	823	69883	770	68821
	<b>BG013L1</b>	<b>Areal</b>	<b>1309.6</b>	<b>99625</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>92389</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>90672</b>

### *Population natural growth*

Average annual demographic indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual population	99625	92389	90672
○ male	48577	45102	44175
○ female	51048	47287	46497
Average number of live births	972	847	863
Average number of deaths	1577	1546	1512
Absolute natural growth - number	-605	-700	-649
Crude birth rate - ‰	9.75	9.16	9.51
Crude death rate - ‰	15.83	16.73	16.67
Natural growth rate - ‰	-6.07	-7.57	-7.16
Average annual population of the areal centre	74662	69883	68821
○ male	36199	33934	33340
○ female	38463	35950	35481

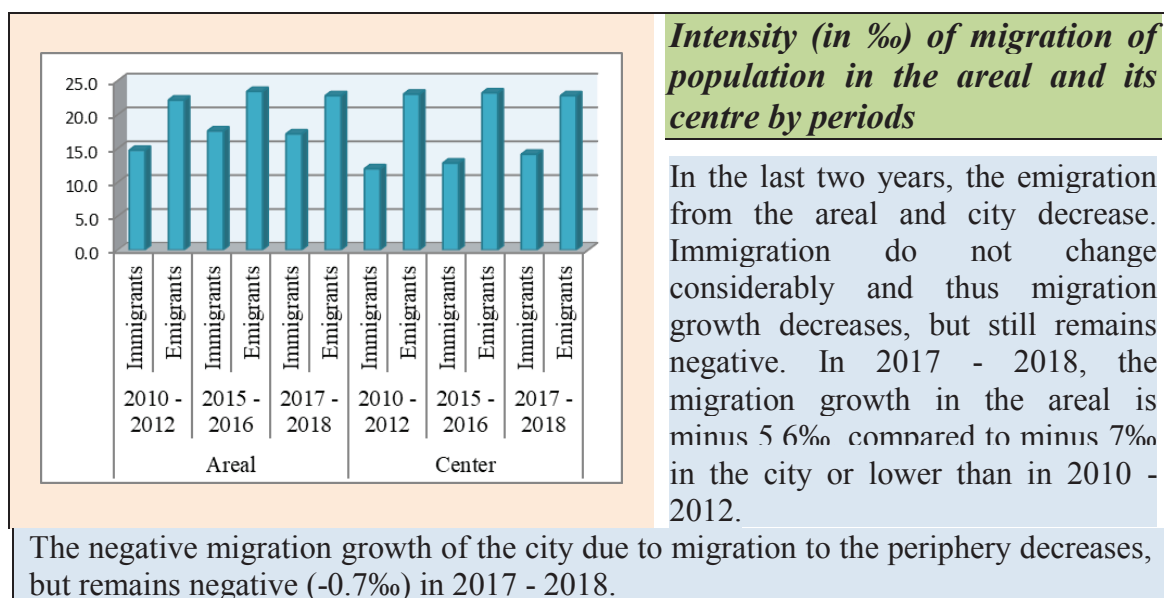


Average annual number of births in the areal centre	783	640	670
Average annual number of deaths in the areal centre	912	925	917
Absolute natural growth of the areal centre	-129	-285	-248
Crude birth rate in the areal centre - ‰	10.49	9.16	9.73
Crude death rate in the areal centre - ‰	12.22	13.24	13.32
Natural growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-1.73	-4.08	-3.60

Areal population decreases by nearly 9 thousand or by 9%. Birth rate do not change considerably over the whole period and stays close to the country average, about 9.7‰, both in the areal and in the city. Death rate in the areal increases from 15.8 in 2010 - 2012 to 16.7‰ in 2017 - 2018 and in the city - from 12.2‰ to 13.3‰. As a result, natural growth in the areal is minus 7.2‰, compared to minus 3.6‰ - in the city.

### *Migration*

Average annual migration indicators	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Average annual number of immigrants	1468	1626	1555
Average annual number of emigrants	2206	2165	2066
Absolute migration growth	-738	-539	-511
Migration growth rate - ‰	-7.41	-5.83	-5.64
Average annual number of immigrants in the areal centre	895	898	973
Average annual number of emigrants in the areal centre	1719	1622	1460
Absolute migration growth in the areal centre	-823	-725	-487
Migration growth rate in the areal centre - ‰	-11.03	-10.37	-7.07

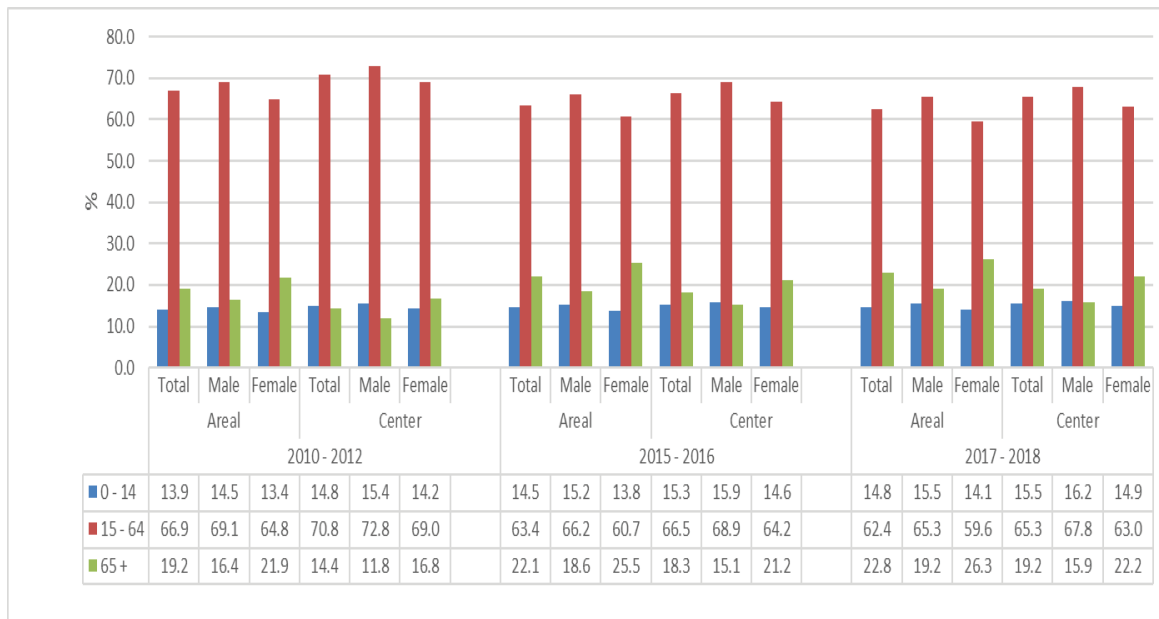


### Age structure

Average annual population by age	2010 - 2012	2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018
Population aged 0 - 14 years	13864	13384	13391
Population aged 15 - 64 years	66656	58558	56591
Population aged 65 and more	19105	20448	20690
Population aged 0 - 14 years in the areal centre	11035	10662	10676
Population aged 15 - 64 years in the areal centre	52890	46467	44959
Population aged 65 and more in the areal centre	10738	12755	13186
Mean age of areal population - years	43.2	44.5	44.7
Mean age of areal centre population - years	40.9	42.8	43.2

Number of youngest population slightly decreases, but its share increases a bit. Population aged 15 - 64 decreases by more than 10 thousand or from 67% to 62% in the areal and from 71% to 65% in the city. Share of oldest population increase and in 2017 - 2018 it represents 23% of the areal population and 19% of city one.

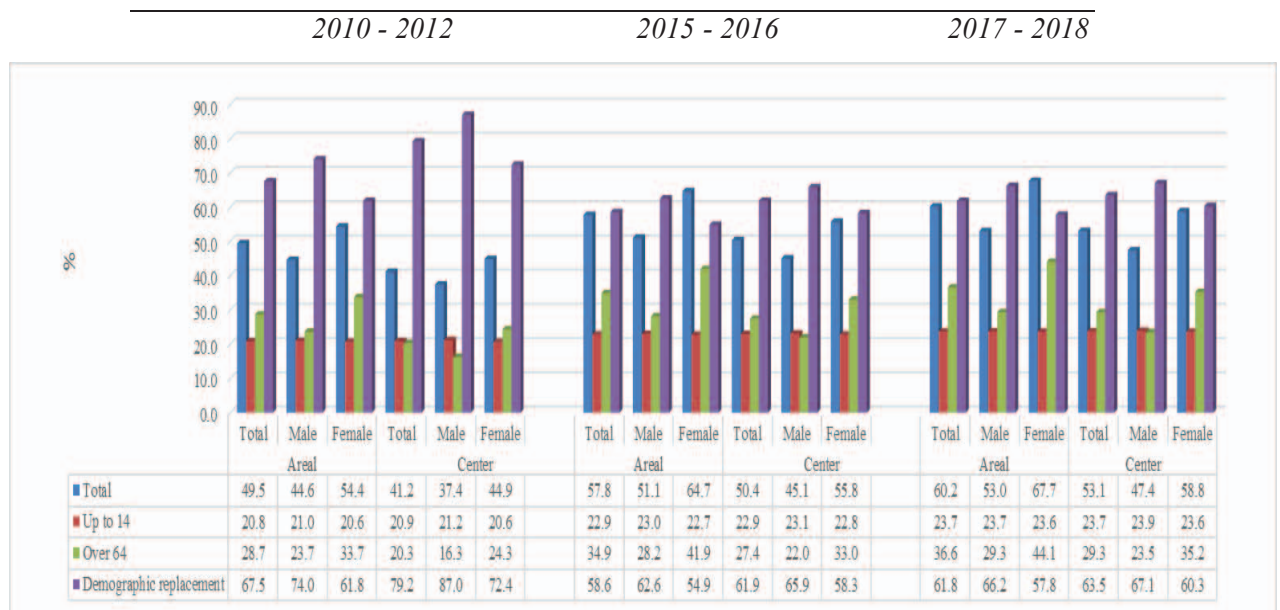
Mean age of areal population is among highest compared to the rest areal - 44.7 years, while in the city - 43.2 years.



*Age structure (in %) of the average annual population of the areal and its centre*

### ***Coefficients (in %) of demographic dependency and demographic replacement rate in the areal and its centre - total and by sex***

Number of persons in dependent ages per 100 persons in independent ones increases from 50 to 60 in the areal and from 41 to 53 in the city. Demographic replacement rate in the areal increase compared to 2015 - 2016 and in 2017 - 2018 is nearly 62%. In the city it also increases to 63.5% in 2017 - 2018, but decreases compared to 2010 - 2012, when has been 79.2%.

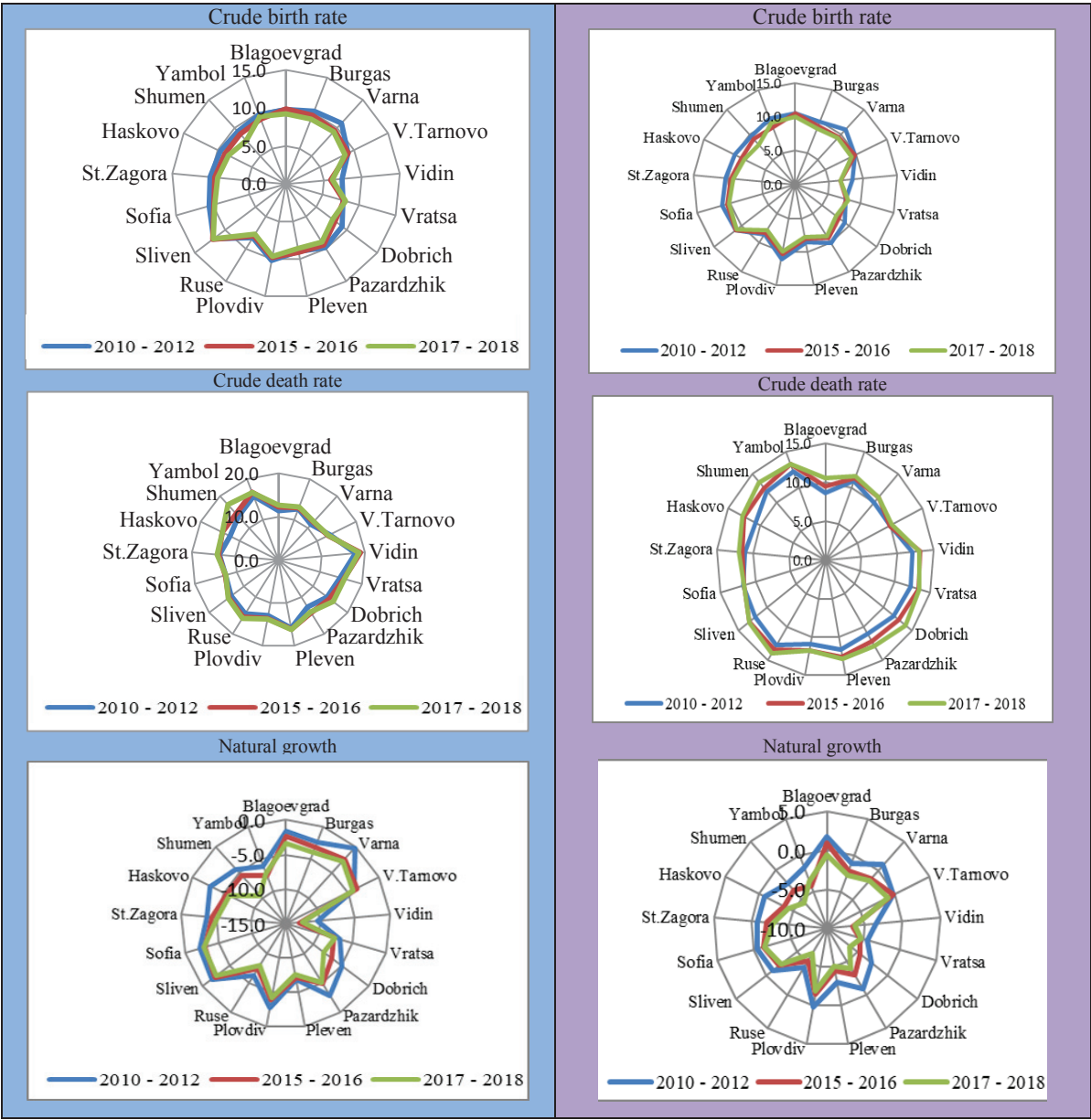


III. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AREAS AND THEIR CENTRES

Demographic development rates

Areas

Centres

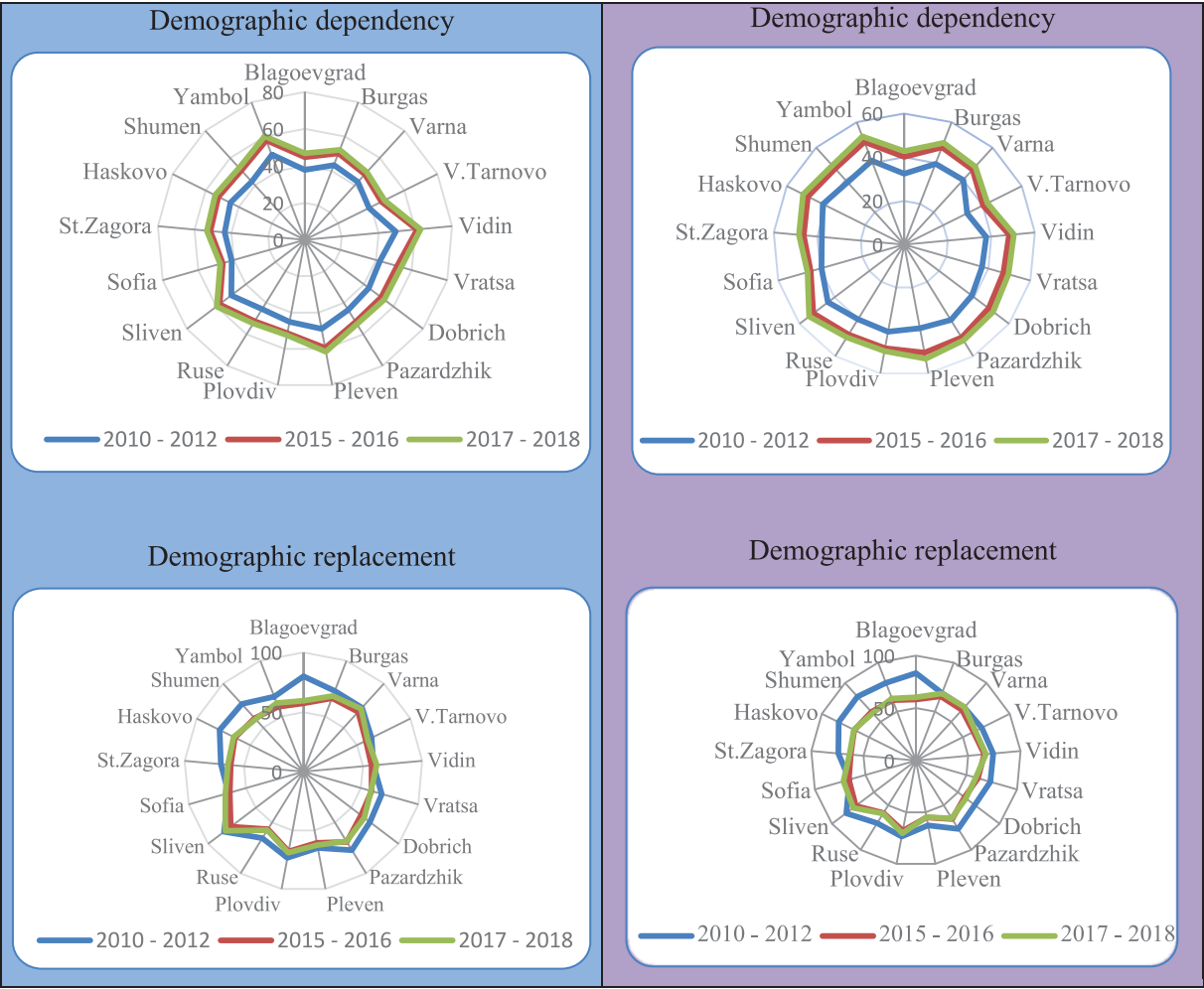


<p>Areas demographic indicators are determined by the same observed for the city centres - 76% of population is concentrated there. Compared to 2010 - 2012 period, greatest decrease (more than 1.5‰) in the birth rate is observed in areas of Shumen, Dobrich and Varna. The decrease in Shumen is mainly recorded in the last two years. More than 1‰ is the decrease of birth rate in Burgas, Vidin, Haskovo and Stara Zagora. The only area with slight increase of birth rate for the whole period is Vratsa - about 0.3‰. Insignificant increase is observed during the last two years in areas of Vidin and Yambol.</p> <p>Compared to the basic period, biggest is the increase of mortality rate in Shumen - by 3.6‰, Haskovo - by 2‰ and Dobrich - by 1.7‰. Increase of mortality in areas of Shumen and</p>	<p>Mortality rates in areas Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo and Burgas (lowest rates in the country), remain the same as in 2010 - 2012 period. In areas Vidin and Pleven the mortality is also unchanged, but mortality rates are too high. In all areas the natural growth is negative, but highest are the values in Vidin (-12.5‰), Shumen (-9.6‰), Dobrich and Ruse (-8‰). Lowest are the negative values in Sofia and Sliven - about 2.5‰.</p> <p>Birth rate decreases in all centres - by 1.5‰ in city of Dobrich, Varna, Shumen and Haskovo to 1.8‰ in Vidin. Mortality increases in all city centres, but highest is the increase in Pazardzhik, Blagoevgrad, Haskovo and Dobrich - from 1.8‰ to 2‰. Highest are the values of negative natural increase in cities of Vidin, Dobrich and Ruse - over minus 6‰ and lowest in Blagoevgrad - minus 0.6‰.</p>
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Age dependencies

Areas

Centres





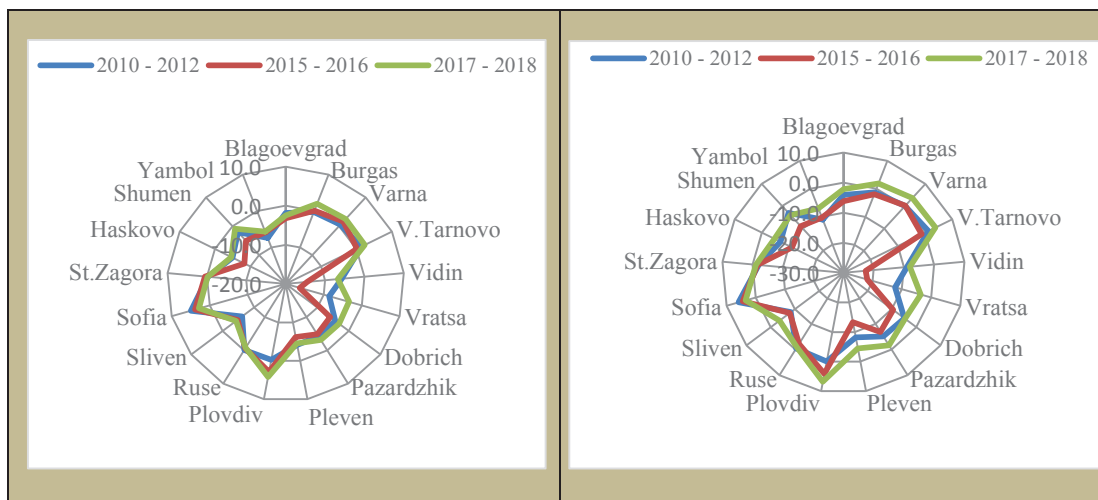
The country demographic development tendencies determine the uniform worsening of the ratio between number of population out of working age and working age (15 - 64 years) population in all areas. For the whole period since 2010 - 2012, the number of persons in dependent ages increases by 10 persons to 100 persons in independent ages. Highest is the increase in areas Vidin, Pleven and Vratsa. During the last two years, highest are the values in Vidin and Pleven - 63 persons in dependent ages correspond to 100 in independent ones, as well as in Yambol and Sliven - 63 to 100, but in Sliven, the demographic burden is mainly due to higher share of population below 14 years. In areas Blagoevgrad, Sofia, Varna and Veliko Tarnovo, the ratio dependent/independent population is 50 to 100.

For the whole period, lowest are the negative changes in the demographic dependencies in cities Sofia, Varna, Plovdiv and Ruse. In the last two years, demographic dependency ratio is lowest in cities Veliko Tarnovo and Blagoevgrad - 42 to 100, followed by Sofia - 46 and Varna - 48 inactive persons to 100 persons in active age. On the opposite side are cities Pleven and Yambol - 53 inactive to 100 active persons.

Negative demographic tendencies and the respective reproduction of population in working age are also seen if the demographic replacement of active population is reviewed. Most negative are tendencies in areas Blagoevgrad and Yambol where for the observed period the replacement of population aged 60 - 64 decreased by 20 and 17 persons aged 15 - 19 years. Unessential are changes of this indicator in areas Varna and Sliven, while in Sofia and Vidin it increases slightly. Highest are the values in Sliven (82 to 100) and Varna (72 to 100), but even there the reproduction of working age population is not ensured. In Vratsa and Ruse the ratio is below 60 to 100.

Highest is the decrease of demographic replacement indicator in cities of Blagoevgrad, Shumen, Haskovo, Yambol and Vratsa. At present, lowest is the demographic replacement in city of Pleven - 100 persons exiting working age are replaced are replaced by 55 persons entering working age (15 - 19 years). Below 60 to 100 is the ratio in cities of Vratsa, Dobrich and Ruse. Better are values in Sliven (75 to 100), Sofia (72 to 100) and Plovdiv (71 to 100).

Tendencies described are expected to continue as population natural and migration growth are negative, incl. in the areas under review.

*Areas and centres migration growth**Areas**Centres*

In the period 2010 - 2012, the highest positive migration rate is registered for the capital area with centre city of Sofia - close to 5‰. The migration growth for the city is bigger - nearly 6‰. Among the rest areas, small (less than 1‰) positive growth is observed in areas with centres Varna and Veliko Tarnovo. Their centres also have a positive growth. Low negative growth is observed in the areas of Plovdiv, Burgas and Stara Zagora. The highest negative migration growth is recorded in the areas of Vratsa, Yambol, Sliven and Vidin - over minus 5‰. The rest areas have lower negative growth.

Migration rates for cities are higher - more than minus 8‰ in the cities of Vratsa, Yambol, Vidin, Sliven and Pleven. Lowest (-0.3‰) negative growth is observed in the city of Ruse, while in Plovdiv and Varna - zero growth is registered.

In the period 2015 - 2016, the number of areas, in which the migration growth is positive, increases. The capital area has a positive growth, but it is smaller (3.8‰) than in the previous period. The city of Sofia also reduced its growth to 4.5‰. The migration growth of the area of Plovdiv (2.9‰) and the city (4.2‰) increased significantly. The area of Varna and its centre also have a positive growth. In the areas of Veliko Tarnovo and Stara Zagora migration growth is very low (less than 1‰) but their centres have a negative growth rate of up to minus 1.5‰. Out of the rest areas, with the highest negative growth are areas of Vratsa (-16‰) and Vidin (-14‰). The negative value of the areas of Haskovo, Pleven and Dobrich has increased significantly - the growth is from -6‰ to -8‰. In the remaining areas, migration growth also increases, but with smaller values.

Migration concerns mainly the areas centres. Migration growth of the cities of Vidin and Vratsa reaches minus 23‰. Very high is the increase of negative migration growth in Pleven (-13‰), while in the cities of Sliven, Dobrich, Shumen, Yambol and Haskovo the migration growth is between minus 8‰ and minus 11‰. Indirectly, these cities economic and social potential can not provide the necessary employment and living conditions, responding to the modern needs of the people.

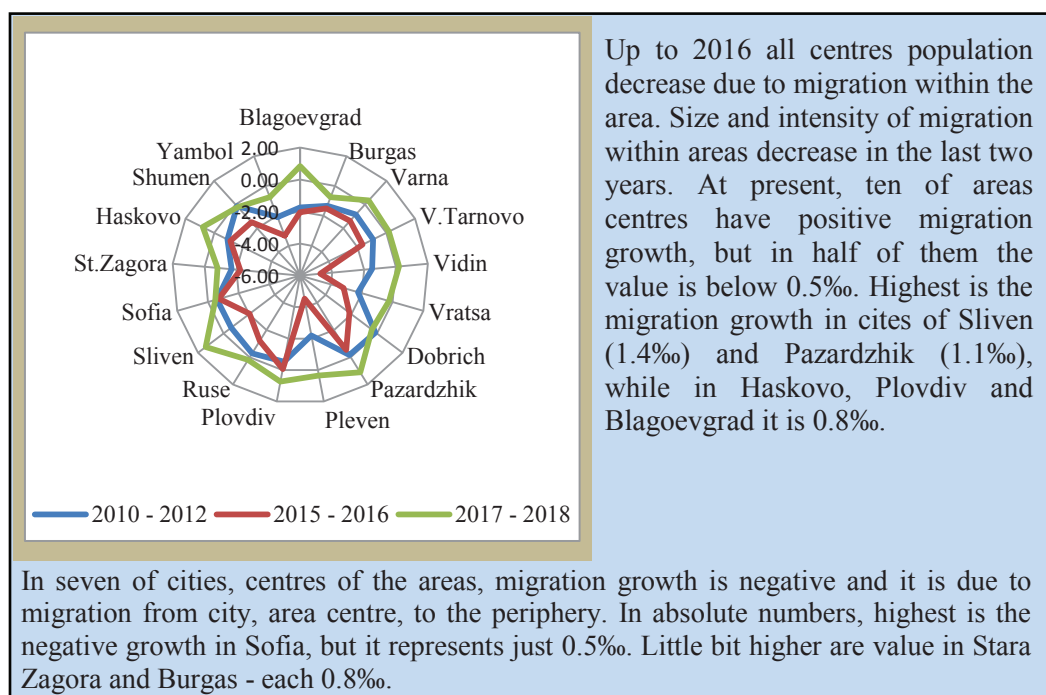
Improved economic potential and modern transport infrastructure in areas of Plovdiv, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo and Burgas influence the size of immigration processes and as a result, migration growth increased. In the last two years, it reached 4.2‰ for area of Plovdiv and from 2.0‰ to 2.5‰ for Burgas, Veliko Tarnovo and Varna. For the capital area, migration growth decreases, but still stays positive - from 5.0‰ in 2010 - 2012 to 3.8‰ in 2017 - 2018. Increased migration growth is mainly due to immigration to areas centres. Thus, population of Plovdiv increased due to migration by almost 7‰, and in Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo and Varna from 3.5‰ to 3.8‰.

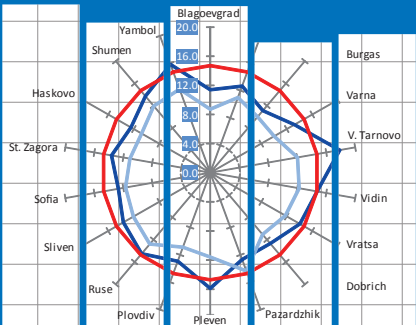
Lowest is the migration growth in areas of Pleven (-4.5‰), Haskovo (-4.6‰), Yambol (-5.6‰) and Vidin (-6.8‰). Population of these areas centres also decreases due to migration. Decrease in Pleven is -4.4‰, in Haskovo and Dobrich - -4.6‰. Higher decrease is registered in Yambol (-7.1‰) and Vidin (-8.1‰).

### III. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AREAS AND THEIR CENTERS

#### *Average annual population growth due to migration between the areas centres and periphery*

Areas centres (cities)	2010 - 2012		2015 - 2016		2017 - 2018	
	<i>Absolute growth - in numbers</i>	<i>Relative growth -‰</i>	<i>Absolute growth - in numbers</i>	<i>Relative growth -‰</i>	<i>Absolute growth - in numbers</i>	<i>Relative growth -‰</i>
Blagoevgrad	-123	-1.75	-142	-2.03	59	0.84
Burgas	-260	-1.32	-304	-1.50	-153	-0.75
Varna	-277	-0.84	-463	-1.38	118	0.35
Veliko Tarnovo	-62	-0.91	-113	-1.64	12	0.17
Vidin	-72	-1.49	-205	-4.75	9	0.20
Vratsa	-134	-2.24	-172	-3.18	-13	-0.24
Dobrich	-10	-0.11	-184	-2.14	-33	-0.39
Pazardzhik	-12	-0.16	-37	-0.53	76	1.11
Pleven	-238	-2.20	-450	-4.54	35	0.35
Plovdiv	-178	-0.52	-21	-0.06	255	0.74
Ruse	-73	-0.28	-174	-1.20	28	0.19
Sliven	-52	-0.60	-179	-2.04	123	1.41
Sofia	-692	-0.58	-890	-0.72	-112	-0.48
Stara Zagora	-235	-1.70	-306	-2.24	-591	-0.82
Haskovo	-70	-0.92	-82	-1.13	58	0.81
Shumen	-12	-0.14	-115	-1.49	-15	-0.20
Yambol	-155	-2.08	-233	-3.33	-51	-0.74





**CITIES AND THEIR URBANISED AREAS IN  
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
2010 - 2018**